

Immanuel News



December 2020

Our Mission: Immanuel Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers committed to live and share God's love by serving our community and the world.

Our Vision: We gather as believers who seek to grow in faith through worship, education and welcoming fellowship. We seek to share God's love with the community through word and deed. We extend Christ's love in service to our community and our world.

From the Pastor's Desk

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The word "Advent" derives from the Latin word *adventus*, "coming or arrival," which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*, "the Second Coming of Christ." The first mention of Advent occurred in the 4th century A.D at a church leaders meeting called the Council of Saragossa. The practice of creating advent wreath begun in the 19th century. "As the story goes, in 1839, a Lutheran minister, [Johann Hinrich Wichern, who worked] at a children's mission in Germany, created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. The minister placed 20 small red candles out the outer ring of the wheel and four larger white candles

inside the ring, lighting the red candles on weekdays and the four white candles on Sundays as a way for the children to countdown the days until Christmas."¹

We know that Advent is a time of anticipation and expectation of Christ's birth and his final return. The Advent Wreath is a symbol of our anticipation and waiting for our Lord to come.

The symbolism of Advent Wreath

1. The Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life.
2. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and eternal life.

Advent Week 1: Prophecy Candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Advent Week 2: Bethlehem Candle, symbolizing Christ's manger and represents love. "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12, NIV).

Advent Week 3: Shepherds Candle represents joy. "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10, NIV)

Advent Week 4: Angels Candle represents peace. "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'" (Luke 2:13–14, NIV).

¹ <https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/advent-wreath-candles-understanding-the-meaning-history-tradition.html>

Christmas Eve: Christ Candle represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity.

Advent Wreath Candles Color.

In European and Palestinian Protestant Churches, many advent wreaths have red candles. However, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, born April 16, 1927, had red candles on his advent wreath at the Vatican. Maybe because he is German and missed his German tradition.

Purple has traditionally been the primary color of Advent, but it symbolizes repentance and fasting for Lent. It is also the color of royalty and the kingship of Christ. The color demonstrates the anticipation of the coming King the Messiah. Many churches like ILC have replaced purple with blue as a means of distinguishing Advent from Lent.

Pink or rose represents joy and reveals a shift in the season of Advent away from anticipation and toward celebration.

A Household Tradition

Families often use Advent wreaths in the home. A family gathers at night to pray and meditate on the Bible and light a candle.

My friends, I encourage you to take time to reflect on the second coming of Christ. I am always available for you when you need me. The church has Advent meditation resources for you to use.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Ph.D

Pastor Niveen's has had another article published in the December 2020 Living Lutheran edition. The title of the article is, "A Message of Solidarity."



Church Seat Reservations Now Open and Required for Christmas Eve Services, Thursday, December 24, 2020.

The church council met on Monday, November 23, 2020, and discussed Christmas Eve Services. Here is their decision:

Seat Reservations are now open for our two Christmas Eve **in-person** services—4 PM & 7 PM. If you are planning to attend, please call the church office at (715) 842-3644 and provide the following information:

1. Indicate whether you are attending the 4 PM or 7 PM service.
2. Indicate how many persons of your household and friends are attending.
3. Leave your phone number.

Reservations are due by Monday, December 21, 2020, 3 PM.

No Christmas Day service.

We will have limited capacity due to CDC regulations and social distancing. Reserve your seat as soon as possible! **Mask is required.**

Blessings!

ILC Church Council

A Letter from the ILC Church Council President:

Update to the congregation.

Peace and grace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At the council meeting on Monday, November 23, 2020, two items came up that the council asked me to share with you.

The first is how we are going to handle the Semi-annual Meeting scheduled for January and the budget for 2021. Because of the pandemic, we are planning on not having the meeting. Because this is the meeting at which we approve a budget for the upcoming year, we have decided on the following plan. The council will at the December meeting review and recommend a 2021 budget. This budget will be posted and sent to all members for their review. We will not be asking for approval at this time. If you have any concerns, please let me know. We will begin using the budget January 1, 2021 and if things with Covid-19 improve, we will plan for the next Semi-annual meeting in May, 2021. At that time, we will be asking you to approve the actions of the council and the 2021 budget.


Again, if you have any concerns please let me know.

The second item has to do with the Noisy Offering. Some members have been collecting a lot of loose change and would like to put it to use. So, we will be placing a container in the office for the purpose of collecting the Noisy Offering. Just bring it with you whenever you come to church on an errand.

Blessings and a Merry Christmas to each and every one of you.

Bob Henning, President
ILC Council

Mitten Tree: The Mitten Tree is set up. It will available through the end of January.

 You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put

under the tree. The items collected will be taken to the Neighbor's Place. Please contact Janci for additional information.

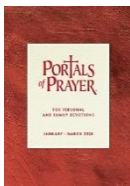
Pastor's Lip Balm is once again available. Each one is created using only organic ingredients. Only \$2 for each lip balm. Proceeds from the sale of the lip balm will go toward the Genesis Fund.

Holy Communion is now available at ILC. This table is located by the front office. Each package contains the Body of Christ and a prayer. Pastor Niveen has blessed each one. All the packages were assembled using the highest sanitizing measures.

Secured Mailbox for Offerings: There is one installed next to the church office. It is on the outside the building on the wall. You are encouraged to drop your offering there.

Olive Oil is Here! Canaan Fair Trade olive oil is available in the church office. The 500 ml bottles are available in the church office for \$15.00. The purchase of this excellent olive oil supports the Palestinian farmers who are part of the cooperative. In addition to using it for your own purposes, it also makes a wonderful gift to give someone!

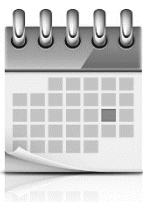
Mel Sandquist will be celebrating his 100th birthday on December 11, 2020. We are going to be taking a cake, poster and all the cards you send to him. So, let's flood him with lots of love in the form of cards. Please drop off or send your cards to Immanuel Lutheran Church and include Mel's name on the card. If you have any questions, please talk to Mary McDonell.



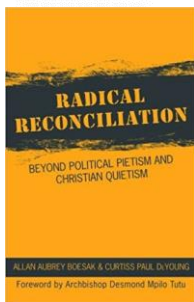
The devotional books Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home for January-March 2021 have arrived. They will be on the pew near the office entrance. If you would like to have one or both mailed to you, please call the church office.



Shop ELCA Good Gifts this Christmas for 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. Have you ever selected a gift for someone in need from a display in a store or shopping mall? Now you can do the same thing here to support ELCA Good Gifts. Be sure to visit our Gift Tree at the church.



Mark your calendar!



Sunday, December 6, 13 & 20, 2020 at 10am. Interactive Zoom Adult Forum for Advent season. We will study *Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism and Christian Quietism* by Allan Boesak and Curtiss Paul DeYoung. Pastor Sarras will send you zoom link. You simply click on zoom link to join the meeting.

Wednesday, December 2, 19 & 16, 2020. Virtual Mid-week Advent Service. You will receive a link through email as each service is uploaded online.

Monday, December 22, 2020 – 6pm. ILC Church Council Meeting (Virtual)

Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Virtual Blue Christmas Service. You will receive a link through email as each service is uploaded online.

Thursday, December 24, 2020. In-Person Christmas Eve Service at 4pm & 7pm. Please see details above.



Thursday, December 24, 2020: Church Office Closed – Christmas Eve.

Friday, December 25, 2020: Christmas Day. No Worship Service.

Monday & Tuesday, December 28 & 29, 2020. Pastor Niveen will be taking a few days off. Please call the church office if you need any assistance.

Wednesday, December 30, 2020. Year End Giving Deadline: Members contributions for the 2020 Tax Year must be submitted by this date.



Judy Kort for your assistance with the bulletin each week.

Mary McDonell for counting each week.

Jill Preston for Awesome Cleaning!



Breaking News! The stewardship committee says thank you to all the members of the congregation who have sent in their 2021 estimate of giving cards! We would also encourage those members who have not sent their cards in yet to do so as soon as possible. The 2021 budget is being assembled and your cooperation will be of help in that process.

For the anonymous donation of the new church vacuum cleaner. I know we all appreciate this gift, but especially Jill.

We are looking for 1 item for ILC: A 24" or 30" circular rug for the Gathering room to go under the plant as watering has caused a stain in the carpeting, if you have one you could donate.

ILC History Hub

IMMANUEL HISTORY –



MAKING OUR PLEDGES PRIVATE

The recent stewardship campaign brings to memory the methods of raising money years ago at Immanuel. Members of Immanuel have made a yearly pledge throughout most of the history of the congregations. Offering envelopes have been used since 1922 and members generally met what they said they would pay except for some years during the depression when job losses made it impossible for some. The 1940s also saw instances where pledges were not paid. Generally, members were expected to pay what they pledged. Information about member giving was readily available because the amounts paid by members were published in the annual reports. It could be quite embarrassing to have other members see that one's payments were insufficient for the size of the family unit and the type of job one had. Pastor Quello, who served from late 1941 to 1945 thought that the pledge became a church tax, a method of collecting he did not like. Congregations in the synod, such as Immanuel, did not give up the practice easily. Pastor Eikeland who served from 1951 to 1960, persuaded the congregation to give up the practice of printing the amounts given. The new procedure, put into effect in 1956, would consider a member's pledge to be a goal and not a tax or fee. It would also be completely private. The late Roald Rolfson told me that he was on the church council at that time, and the treasurer was convinced that the congregation would never make its budget if the payment amounts were not printed in the annual report. Fortunately, that did not happen. But isn't there a small part of all of us that would like to know what other members give?

--- Al Solomonson

November 23, 2020



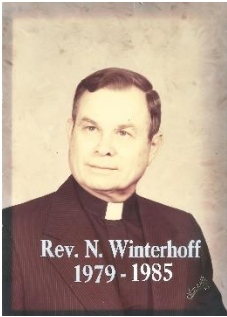
Dear Pastors, Deacons, and Lay Leaders, The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. This week begins a time of transition, both in the Church Year and in this office of bishop. The First Sunday of Advent is approaching and the next day, November 30th, will be my last in office as bishop of this synod. The Rev. Anne Edison-Albright will begin serving as bishop of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin on December 1. She and I have been meeting on a weekly basis during this time of

transition. Please read the remainder of Bishop's message on our synod website: ECSW.org.




The Rev. Anne Edison-Albright started her new position of Bishop of the synod on December 1, 2020. Please pray for her and her family as she serves in this position.

She previously served as the Director of College Ministries and College Pastor at Luther College in Decorah, IA. She has also served the Luther College community since 2016. She previously served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Stevens Point, WI, her first call, from 2010-2016.





With our most profound sorrow, we inform you of the death of our beloved friend and former pastor Norm Winterhoff, 98, who died on Sunday, November 29, 2020, at Colonial Manor. Due to COVID-19, a service for Norm will take place at a later date. Please keep Joan in your prayers.



 A brand new contemporary Christian artist, Jacleen Marie Hess, is offering a pre-recorded virtual concert fundraiser in support of Stable Hands Equine Therapy Center, Wausau. Available through December 15, 2020. For more information and tickets, please visit www.stablehandstherapy.com.

Caring Corner

Psalm 71:9 "Do not cast me off in the time of old"

 Here are our church friends who are not able to come to church as often as they would like. They would love to hear from you or receive cards in the mail. Please call the church office if someone should be added to list. 

| Facility | Home | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Bell Tower Residence 1500 O'Day St Merrill, WI 54452 ▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307 (715) 359-0197</p> <p>Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207 (715) 675-4073</p> <p>Heritage House of Portage 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ Esther Osterby, #43</p> <p>Stone Crest Residence 805 Parcher St Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Joanne Cerny, #7</p> | <p>Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101 (715)297-1785 ▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215 (715) 298-9421 ▶ Judy Blanchfield, Apt #132 (715) 845-3744 ▶ Kathy Groethe, Apt #219 (715) 841-0130</p> <p>Autumn Lane Family Care 384 Lyons Rd. Birnhamwood, WI 54414 ▶ Jeff Groethe (715) 449-3444</p> | <p>Carolyn Viergutz N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p>Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304</p> <p>Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449</p> <p>Dale & Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942</p> |



Happy Birthday!

December 2020 Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Lisa Steltenpohl | 12/03 |
| Lisa Scobell | 12/04 |
| Bruce Knox | 12/07 |
| Carol Hazen | 12/08 |
| John Burk Sr | 12/11 |
| Mel Sandquist | 12/11 |
| Megan Loquist | 12/12 |
| Charlotte Traeger | 12/12 |
| Glenn Rusch | 12/13 |
| Holly Westaby | 12/15 |
| Rebecca Case | 12/18 |
| Doug Helling | 12/19 |
| Carol Hettinga | 12/21 |
| Niveen Sarras | 12/21 |
| Jane Reilly-Smith | 12/23 |
| Ken Strasser | 12/24 |
| Mike Dellenbach | 12/27 |
| Linda Swenson | 12/27 |
| Joyce Lohr | 12/30 |
| Mary McDonell | 12/31 |

Happy Anniversary!

to these Special Couples

*The following couples are celebrating
their Wedding Anniversary this month:*

12/13 Scott & Andrea Schafer 12 years



*May your heart and
home be filled with
Peace and Joy this
Christmas Season*

From the Staff at Immanuel

| Month | Income Received | Expenses Paid | Notes | Difference | Spec Funds income | Total Deposit |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| January | \$13,557 | \$15,160 | | (\$1,603) | \$909 | \$14,466 |
| February | \$27,289 | \$6,321 | | \$20,968 | \$487 | \$27,777 |
| March | \$11,749.00 | \$19,607.55 | | (\$7,858.55) | \$856.48 | \$12,605.48 |
| April | \$26,650 | \$5,524 | | \$21,125 | \$2,065.00 | \$28,715 |
| May | \$13,201 | \$5,415 | | \$7,786 | \$1,740.00 | \$14,941 |
| June | \$13,587 | \$12,340 | | \$1,247 | \$1,250.00 | \$14,837 |
| July | \$11,729 | \$6,188 | | \$5,541 | \$2,244.00 | \$13,973 |
| August | \$11,976 | \$5,615 | | \$6,361 | 1050 | 13026.1 |
| September | \$12,322 | \$4,177 | | \$8,145 | \$1,830.00 | \$14,152 |
| October | \$10,242 | \$4,439 | | \$5,803 | 2524.48 | \$12,766 |
| November | | | | \$0 | | |
| December | | | | \$0 | | |
| Totals | \$152,301.84 | \$84,785.92 | | \$67,516 | \$14,957 | \$167,259 |

BULLETIN

**Service of the Word-- Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 6, 2020**

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Canticle of Praise

“Glory to God”

pg. 204

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

#240 vs. 2

Advent prayer

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Opening Hymn | “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” | # 254 |
| First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 | | |
| Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | | |
| Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a | | |
| Gospel Acclamation | | pg. 205 |
| Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 | | |
| Pulpit Hymn | “On Jordan’s Stormy Bank I Stand” | # 437 |
| Sermon | | Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras |
| Hymn of the Day | “Light Dawns on a Weary World” | # 726 |

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. After each petition, please respond with **“Your mercy is great.”**

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience.

Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord we lift up before you all who are in need of your help. We pray especially for Thelma, Esther, Kathrine-Sylvia, Abber, Jezel, Joelle, Odeh, April, Brianna, Alice, Charissa, Scott, Phyllis, Mary, Ashley, Laura, David, Sara, Jeff, Edie, Joan, Jamie & Mike, Ted, Pastor Mark (Dixie Burk's Brother), Maggie Westaby, and Sonya. We also pray for our sister Parish Lobatha in South Africa asking you to sustain them in this difficult time. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Norm Winterhoff*). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

#247

Offertory Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn

“Fling Wide the Door”

#259

Dismissal

In-Person Worship Service has been suspended until further notice. The following ILC services and ministries will continue to be online, via telephone and Spectrum TV: * Our Facebook Page: @ILCWausau

- Our YouTube Channel: Search “Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc.” on Sunday afternoon.
- Our Website: <http://www.immanuelwausau.org> (Click on Video Gallery)
- Spectrum TV Cable Channel 980 at 11:00AM Sunday, 5:45 PM Tuesday & 9:15 AM Thursday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran.)
- 📞 **Dial-a-Sermon is Live. Dial 1-715-200-9495.** Pastor Niveen's weekly sermon is now available on any telephone.

IMMANUEL News December 2020

Immanuel Lutheran Church
630 Adams St
Wausau, WI 54403



Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. The address is: c/o Justice Pule, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office
info@immanuelwausau.org
Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm
Phone: (715) 842-3644
For emergency call 510-355-4352
Website: www.immanuelwausau.org



Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church
on Facebook: **@ILC Wausau**

Online Worship Services:
Sunday Afternoon on YouTube
(check your email for link)

TV Worship Services:
Charter Cable Channel 980
5:45 PM Tuesday & 9:15 AM Thursday