

Immanuel News



February 2020

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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

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

When I became the pastor at our church, several people told me that they had never heard of a Palestinian Lutheran. They never knew that the Lutheran Church exists in Palestine. I assume not many of you know that the Lutheran Church exists in Russia. When we talk about Christianity in Russia, we immediately think of the Eastern Orthodox Church. I read an article in the Living Lutheran issue of January, 2020 titled *Fighting the Odds: How the Lutheran Church in Russia Continues to Evolve*. I found the article very interesting and it provided important information. I am going to offer you more information about the Lutheran Church in Russia. Let us explore the story of faith and resilience.

In the middle of the 16th century, the Tsar, Ivan The Terrible, was the first Tsar to invite Germans to Russia to modernize the Russian army.¹ Many of those Germans were Lutherans. They settled in Moscow. “Later in the 17th to 19th centuries, more Lutherans settled in Russia, Ukraine and the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia, with two-thirds of all settlers being Lutheran.” The reason behind increasing the population of Lutherans was due to the marriage of Tsars with Lutheran princesses. This led to establishing the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia by a few parishes of Finnish and Sweden immigrants. In 1703, Peter the Great gave permission to the Lutheran church to open a new parish in St. Petersburg, which is St. Mary’s Cathedral Church of Ingria to this day.

Lutherans were not allowed to worship in the Russian language and their membership was restricted to non-Russian nationalities. “Until the 1905 Edict of Toleration, Lutherans were not permitted to perform the liturgy in the Russian language.” After the Communist revolution in 1917 that resulted in persecuting the church and executing almost 90% of the pastors and priests, the Lutheran church and seminary ceased to exist. The war between the Soviet Union and the Nazis made the Lutherans’ life in the Soviet Union intolerable. Stalin ordered the deportation of approximately 1 million Germans to Kazakhstan and Siberia.

In 1956 the first Evangelical Lutheran congregation was registered in Astana, Kazakhstan. In 1964 Soviet Germans were allowed to go back to their original places of residence, and by 1980, 80 Lutheran churches had reopened.

The first postwar German churches that appeared were Lutheran Brethren communities. Despite persecution, they remained faithful to the faith. They held prayer meetings up to five times a week. Because they did not have pastors, lay leaders were allowed to read printed sermons. To this day,

¹ I based my information on Sorokina, Valeria "Lutherans in Russia." East-West Church & Ministry Report 11 (Spring 2003).

Lutheran Brethren communities refuse to integrate into any Lutheran body in Russia.

Today there are two major Lutheran churches in Russia. The progressive one is represented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Central Asia (ELKRAS) and the conservative one is represented by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR). The difference between the two church bodies is like the difference between the ELCA and the Missouri Synod. ELCIR has two seminaries: one in St. Petersburg and a new one in the city of Krasnoyarsk. ELKRAS is growing in Central Asia (up to 30%) and has around 600 parishes with a particular presence in Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg and one seminary in Novosaratovka. “ELKRAS and ELCIR produce Finnish and Russian bilingual magazines..., And a joint news bulletin... Both churches have been members of the Lutheran World Federation.”

Besides ELKRAS and ELCIR, several other Lutheran denominations and missions are present in Russia. They have their own seminaries which were mostly established by Finnish and Swedish missionaries.

The ELCA has a strong relationship with ELKRAS and ELCIRN. The Northwest Washington Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod and Central States Synod are establishing companion relationships with ELKRAS and ELCIRN. The ELCA has a presence in Russia through the Global Mission. Rev. Bradn Buerkle, an ELCA missionary, lives in St. Petersburg, teaches seminars and provides distance learning for pastors and lay leaders across the vast territory of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

Church Schedule

Worship Service at 9:00 am each Sunday
and an additional service at 11:am in the chapel on the 1st Sunday of each month.

***Pastor Niveen** is in her church office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am-3pm. She visits Homebound Parishioners on Wednesday. Friday is Sermon Day. Saturday is the Pastor's Sabbath. Please email Pastor Niveen or call the church office to set up a time for a meeting.

***Noisy Offering** - Save all your change for the first Sunday of each month. Social Concerns uses the money to help feed the needy in our area.

***Holy Communion** is celebrated the first and third Sunday of each month. Please remember to sign the Friendship/Attendance sheet that is in each pew when you are taking communion. This information is entered into the office computer.

*TV Worship Services : Charter Cable Channel 980 5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday or online:
Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran)*

Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. The address is: c/o Moruti (Pastor) Rev. G.M. Nkale, P.O. Box 160, Motswedi 2870, Republic of South Africa. Pastor Nkale's email address is nkalesto@gmail.com

Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship not only makes the journey enjoyable; it also helps keep us healthy.

Men's Discussion Group - Al Solomonson. The Men's Discussion Group meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30 A.M. in the Koinonia.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Harring. Meets at 9am on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson. You are always welcome to join our group.

Sarah Circle - Mary McDonell & Vonnie Solomonson. Meets at 1pm on the fourth

Thursday of the month.

Are you a quilter or would you like to learn? Join the ILC quilters each Thursday at 9:00am. They meet on the 2nd floor in the education wing. If you have questions, contact Kathy Knox.

Ringling for Christ. We would love to have new members in the Bell Choir. Come play bells to praise the Lord! Bell Choir Practice is 5:30 pm every Tuesday. You may hear us play the fourth Sunday each month through May 19, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-573-7379.

Choir

Judy Kort is our choir director. Please come sing with us. All are welcome! We sing, we laugh, we praise the Lord and enjoy each other's fellowship! **Music is an outburst of the soul.**



Thank you, Judy Nickolai, for refreshing our soda in the soda machine. Or is it pop in our pop machine? Which ever it is, we appreciate you and thank you for doing that.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, February 9, 2020: Adult Forum on *How Do We Distribute Holy Communion in the ELCA?* Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras will be using two ELCA documents: 1. Worship Resources: Frequently Asked Questions and 2. Principles for the Worship. This adult forum will allow us to ask questions about our Immanuel Lutheran Church practices and traditions on how to distribute Holy Communion. The discussion will take place at **10:30am in the Fellowship room.**

Sunday, February 16, 2020. Altar Guild Meeting after the service in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, February 16, 2020: LSS Sunday. Our guest will be Sarah Halstead, Church Relations Liaison for Lutheran Social Services. Sarah will share with

us how your donations to Lutheran Social Services impact so many lives. Sarah tells us “I believe that every day we have an opportunity to share Christ’s love through LSS’s mission. There is no more important work than helping each person get a glimpse of their infinite worth and identifying their part in supporting our communities.” Sarah will preach and lead adult forum in the fellowship hall at 10:30am.

Tuesday, February 18 – Friday, February 21, 2020: Pastor Niveen will be in San Diego, CA attending Congregational Vitality Training. If you need any assistance, please call the office.

Sunday, February 23, 2020: We are having a Fat Sunday this year instead of a Fat Tuesday. Fat Tuesday falls on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It is called Fat Tuesday because Tuesday is the last day to enjoy all the meaty and fatty delicacies you can muster up. Pancakes will be served. Volunteers needed.



Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Wednesday, February 26th, is the beginning of the Lenten season. Christians all over the world will be gathering with their church communities to mark the start of this year’s journey through the wilderness and preparation for baptism. You are invited to attend the Service of Worship for Ash Wednesday at **1:00 PM** in the sanctuary. We will have The Distribution of Ashes and celebrate Holy Communion.



Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service with Distribution of Ashes and Holy Communion. Please join us at Grace United Church of Christ, 535 S 3rd Ave, Wausau, WI 54401, at 7:00 PM. Our church is joining Grace United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church in observing Ash Wednesday. Four pastors will lead the service: Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Rev. Jayneann McIntosh, Rev. Rachel A. Wann and the host pastor, Rev. Julie Goranson.

Thursday, February 27, 2020: 5:30pm Executive Committee Meeting.
Council Meeting follows at 6:05pm.

Monday, March 23, 2020 – Thursday, March 26, 2020. Jackie will be on vacation during this time. Would you like to volunteer between 9am-3pm to cover the church office during those days? Please let Jackie know. Thank you!



ILC Outreach in the Wausau Area. ILC Members prepare meals and serve the meals at First Presbyterian Church. Our members help the guests have a warm and friendly experience. ILC does this outreach work four times a year. Would you like to help out? Here are the dates for 2020: April 26, 2020, June 28, 2020, August 23, 2020 and October 25, 2020.

AmazonSmile! Immanuel Lutheran Church is now listed on AmazonSmile!

When you shop from this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0848220>, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Thank you for supporting Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Olive Oil is Here! A new shipment of Canaan Fair Trade olive oil has arrived. 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!

Birthdays

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday this month.



February 2019

02/02	Brittney Riehle	02/18	Franklin Lewitzke
02/05	Art Dellenbach	02/21	Serenity Hulstrom
02/10	Annabelle Kurth	02/22	Kristen Hulstrom
02/14	Wayne Kallio	02/24	Bill Cerny
02/14	Brandon Wierzba	02/25	Nancy Helling
02/16	Jim Stolen	02/25	Carolyn Viergutz



Anniversary Wishes to these Special Couples
 The following couples are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

2/13 Norm & Joan Winterhoff 55 Years

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 ▶ Barb Peterson, Rm 313 ▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307</p> <p>Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207</p> <p>Colonial Manor 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Norm Winterhoff</p>	<p>Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101 ▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215 ▶ Judy Blanchfield, Apt #132 ▶ Faye Schwarm, Apt #133 ▶ Kathy Groethe, Apt #219</p> <p>Heritage House of Portage 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901 ▶ Esther Osterby, #43</p>	<p>Carolyn Viergutz N114 W17117 Cove Ct Germantown, WI 53022</p> <p>Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p>Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208 Rothschild, WI 54474</p> <p>Dale & Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401</p>

DID YOU KNOW?

The Status of Women at Immanuel. By at least 1923, women had the right to vote and hold office at Immanuel. This was highly unusual in the Norwegian Lutheran male centered tradition, a circumstance that was engrained in other Christian congregations as well. Bertha Pearson was elected secretary in 1923 and held that position for many years. She was an influential leader both in the congregation and in the community.

Most leadership positions, however, still were held by men through the first century of our history until Vonnie Henning, the late wife of our current president, Bob Henning, became the first female president in 1984. Many women have held that office since. Under the old constitution the pastor named members to the board of deacons, an esteemed position in the church polity. Thelma Bursik was the first female to be named a deacon in 1971. Confirmation age boys were used as acolytes until girls also began to light the altar candles in the late 1960s. In that decade also the practice began of using laymen to read the lessons of the day during worship services. Soon women assumed that duty as well. A few years ago Immanuel had an all-female church council guided by a female pastor, the only congregation in the area (and possibly the synod and beyond) to hold that distinction. What an amazing change from Immanuel's earlier history. -- Al Solomonson

News & Events Outside of ILC

Friday & Saturday, February 14-15, 2020. First United Methodist Church has invited our youth to the Youth Lock-In (Grades 6-12). Arrive 5:30-6:30m, Friday, February 14, 2020. Dinner will be at 6:30pm. Possible activities may include Nerf battle, role-playing games and cookie decorating. Specific activities are pending. There will be breakfast served on Saturday morning with devotional time after the meal. Depart between 11am-11:30am on Saturday. The cost is FREE. Please contact Pastor Niveen if you are interested in attending. The deadline to sign up is Friday, February 7, 2020.

FREE!!! 2019 Income Tax Preparation for low-to-moderate income taxpayers; Emphasis on age 60+. Call (715) 298-5734 from 1/9/20-4/2/20. The complete schedule with dates, time and locations are on the bulletin board.

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2019 Income vs Expenses

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
January	\$10,357	\$14,651		(\$4,294)	\$2,094	\$12,451
February	\$10,253	\$12,308		(\$2,055)	1441.56	\$11,695
March	\$15,304	\$15,018		\$286	\$774.00	\$16,078
April	\$17,384	\$13,164		\$4,221	\$1,229.01	\$18,613
May	\$9,368	\$12,563		(\$3,195)	\$1,645.09	\$11,013
June	\$12,492	\$12,761		(\$268)	\$1,947.00	14439.25
July	\$12,747	\$12,513		\$234	\$816.20	13563.2
August	\$10,058	\$11,799		(\$1,741)	476.71	10534.71
September	\$16,728	\$10,921		\$5,807	552.06	17280.28
October	\$9,644	\$14,177		(\$4,533)	442.47	10086.57
November	\$12,861	\$11,344		\$1,518	1588.5	14449.95
December	\$47,335	\$10,945		\$36,390	987.3	48322.6

Totals	\$184,532.58	\$152,163.72		\$32,368.86	\$13,993.61	\$198,526.19
				\$32,369		

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Tuesday January 7, 2020

Members present: President Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, treasurer Matt Munson, financial secretary Patti Busche, secretary Mike Steltenpohl, Pastor Niveen Sarras, stewardship Rick Lohr, worship Judy Kort.

Members absent: Janci Treutel, Judy Nickolai, Jerry Nickolai

1. Devotions were led by Rick Lohr at 6:05pm
2. The meeting was called to order by Bob Henning at 6:08pm.
3. Pastor's report
 - a. There is an ELCA grant of \$10,000 available to feed the hungry. Linda will contact the school district and/or The Neighbors Place to see who would be the most willing to partner with ILC to apply for this grant.
 - b. Pastor Niveen has contacted First English, St. Stephen and St. Andrew churches and found out that none of them have a written policy regarding same sex employees, members or marriage. Pastor Niveen will contact the ELCA to get recommendations and guidelines in helping ILC establish our own same sex policies.
4. Church officer reports
 - a. Secretary report - The December Secretary Report was previously e-mailed to all council members and a motion was made by Rick to accept the minutes as printed. A second was made by Linda. Motion passed.
 - b. Treasurer report - Matt submitted the December and YTD Profit & Loss Budget Performance Report. A motion was made by Patti to accept and hold the treasurer report for audit. A second was made by Rick. Motion passed.
 - c. Financial secretary report - Patti submitted the November and the December Financial Secretary Reports. A motion was made by Mike to accept and hold the financial secretary report for audit. A second was made by Matt. Motion passed.
 - d. Vice-President report - There is approximately \$12,000 remaining on the loan for the 629 Hamilton lot.
 - e. President report - Bob presented information and discussion on ILC participating in Scrip. The topic was tabled for now. A reminder was made the Thrivent Choice Dollars can be designated to ILC.
5. Committee reports
 - a. Education - no report.
 - b. Evangelism - no report.
 - c. Properties - no report.
 - d. Social Concerns - no report.

- e. Stewardship - The time and talent sheets will be handed out at church on Sunday January 12th.
- f. Youth - no report.
- g. Worship - Ash Wednesday will be February 26th. Afternoon service will be at ILC, and evening service will be at United Church of Christ.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Audit committee - nothing has been done to date.
- b. Policies are still needed for the following items:
 - same sex members or employees
 - same sex marriage requests
- c. Regarding church owned or donated items..... many historical items are already on display in the Koinonia room. We may need an additional display cabinet or have one built for any additional items. An inventory will be developed of items that are no longer used in our church. The items will be listed in the newsletter and members will have time to claim them before they are sold or donated.
- d. Regarding financial aid to members and non-members..... we will first refer those people with needs to organizations such as Catholic Charities or The Neighbors Place who we support in their efforts of community assistance. Requests made to ILC in amounts larger than \$250 would be discussed with Pastor Niveen and our President and Vice-President.

7. New Business

- a. Budget - The budget was approved by the church council for presentation to the congregation for final approval at the congregational meeting on Sunday January 26th.
- b. The next council meeting will be on Thursday January 27th. The executive committee meeting will be at 5:30pm and the full council will meet at 6:05pm.

8. A motion was made by Rick to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Linda. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

9. Closing devotion was held by members holding hands in a circle while saying the Lord's Prayer.

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Worship Services:
Sunday—9:00am
1st Sunday of the Month—9:00am & 11am
Fellowship Hour:
Sunday—10:15am
TV Worship Services:
Charter Cable Channel 980
5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15am Thursday