Immanuel News



June, July and August 2020 Summer Edition

Immanuel Lutheran Church Office: Monday—Thursday 9am-3pm | Phone: (715) 842-3644
Email: info@immanuelwausau.org | Website: www.immanuelwausau.org
This newsletter is available online: http://immanuelwausau.org: Click on *Newsletters*.

Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on Facebook: @ILCWausau

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

"How excellent and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

I think it is time for us as a congregation to face the fact that we are a divided congregation. We have cliques within the church. Some are louder than others. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the division. A few congregants, with a booming voice, threatened to leave the church when the church council or the pastor did not do what they wanted. If the pastor is the only thing that connects you to a church, your commitment becomes a very unstable thing. Lead pastors come and go, and they should not be the focal point of a

healthy church. All churches have congregants who are chronically angry and frustrated by the pastor. These congregants will continue to be angry no matter what the pastor does. If these congregants fundamentally dislike the pastor's personality or an aspect about them that is not going to change, they should explore other churches. Being unhappy in the church is not suitable for your spiritual growth.

Meeting with my colleagues has helped me to realize that they are facing the same issues. We shared our frustration and disappointments at a recent meeting. All my colleagues agreed that the division in our churches is a virus threatening the well-being of the church. Our church history is full of examples of how cliques within the congregation ruined the church.

Usually, clergy are blamed for the division. Culturally speaking, congregants blame the pastor for most of the problems in the church. My colleagues shared that bullying a pastor has become the norm. One of my colleagues shared that being a female pastor is a problem for some members of her church. Another colleague had to resign because of her sexual orientation. Many of her congregants do not like the ELCA. Other colleagues shared that a few congregants with louder voices want to fire their pastor and get another. Those with this attitude will do the same with the new pastor.

What many congregants miss is the ministry of a pastor is often full of heartache, disappointments, and also joy. During this coronavirus pandemic, clergy find themselves, much more than before, defending their ministry to those who doubt their motives. This is exhausting. My colleagues and I expressed concerns with each other about our well-being, mental health, and even our calling. Although we face criticism and feel overwhelmed, we try to keep looking on the bright side and focus on our ministry. Clergy are deeply affected and hurt by the division in the churches.

I did not expect to be writing about this issue. But the urgency to put an end to this division has compelled me to write this article. King David sings in Psalm

133:1, "How excellent and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" I hope one day, we will sing this Psalm together. When are we going to sing it? I do not know. Singing this Psalm requires each one of us to work together for the benefit of the whole church, not the benefit of the cliques within the church. Joining King David in singing this song involves holding each other accountable and not to fear to tell the truth, even though the truth would lead to losing a congregant of the church.

I am a pastor for all the congregants of our church. I am not, and I will not be part of a clique within the church. I need you to know that when your pastor does not do what you want, that may be because your pastor is trying to work with all the congregants within our church under the policies and procedures established by the ILC Council, the Synod and the ELCA. Your pastor cannot please everybody. I assure you I am committed to serve you all and to be honest with my ordination vows. I will continue to pray for you, for my colleagues, our Bishop, and the ELCA.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

ELCA Church Council Appoints Rev. Sarras to Task Force. The ELCA Church Council has appointed Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras to the ELCA task force charged with the development of a social statement on government, church, and civic participation. Eighty clergy and lay leaders applied to serve on this task force, but the ELCA Church Council selected 15 persons. Pastor Sarras will be part of an outstanding task force of knowledgeable, diverse, and dedicated church people. Each member brings unique gifts to the challenging responsibility the task force faces. The responsibility is to prepare a social statement that addresses significant theological, ethical, public, and pastoral challenges surrounding the social institution of government. The task force will serve until February 2025, when it delivers a Proposed Social Statement to the ELCA Church Council.



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.

Weekly devotional: Pastor Niveen shares a weekly devotional video each Wednesday. Find the devotional for this week on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osrPqPuo2ac&t=52s

Welcome Back!

In-Person Worship Services Resumed on June 21, 2020 (Masks Required).

Please visit our website to familiarize yourselves with our guidelines to worship-in person. http://www.immanuelwausau.org/home

In addition to in-person worship services, the following ILC services and ministries will continue to be online and Spectrum TV:

- ❖ Our Facebook Page: @ILCWausau
- ❖ Our YouTube Channel: Search "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc."
- Our Website: http://www.immanuelwausau.org (Click on Video Gallery)

Spectrum TV Cable Channel 980 at 11:00am on Sunday or online: Wausau Area Access Media: waam.viebit.com (Left side, scroll to Immanuel Lutheran.)

*Pastor Niveen is in her church office Monday - Thursday, from 9am-3pm. Please email Pastor Niveen or call the church office to set up a time for a phone meeting.



From the Church Office...

The Summer 2020 newsletter is a bit smaller. I just had a few things I wanted to tell you.

- 1) There is a new section on the website titled "ILC History Hub." I will be including ILC history items that I receive from congregation members past and present.
- 2) Schedules for Summer services will not be included in this newsletter. I will publish the calendar and worship assistants' schedule once we have returned to full worship services.
- 3) I have the following devotionals at the office: Large print and pocket Christ in our Home and large print Portals of Prayer for July-September 2020.

¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Blessings, Jackie

Monday, July 6, 2020: The church office will be closed in observation of the Independence Day in United States.

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.

From President Henning and Vice President Hulstrom:

Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held when it is determined that it is safe to have the meeting. Please contact Linda Hulstrom, (715) 297-9067 if you would like to be nominated for any council position.

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

Greetings from our South African Companions

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I am sending greetings from Madikwe Circuit in the name of our triune God. I hope you are continuing to pray for all in these trying times. South Africa like the rest of the world is experiencing problems of COVID-19 pandemic. We have above 70 000 confirmed cases and 1420 deaths. It is winter and bitterly cold and therefore number of cases is rising drastically. We have just reopened schools on the 8th June 2020 for Grades 7 and 12 and we are worried children may be infected.

We have not yet reopened church service though the government has allowed for the reopening under strict regulations. the number of people to attend service at a time is limited to 50. ELCSA has however directed that services will reopen on 15 July 2020 and councils must begin to prepare thoroughly to comply with regulations.

We hope that your situation will change and improve as you are in summer. We keep you in our prayers.

With kind regards in His service

Benjamin

Please pray for our sister church, Lobatla Parish, in the Republic of South Africa. They do not have the technology and resources to have virtual worship. It is hard on the pastor to share the good news with the congregation due to COVID-19. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to support them financially, please do so by connecting with our church office.

Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities – To reduce the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau has cancelled all in-person meetings and activities until further notice.

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

- Men's Discussion Group Al Solomonson
- Dorcas Circle Claudette Harring
- All Women of Immanuel Vonnie Solomonson
- Sarah Circle Mary McDonell & Vonnie Solomonson
- ILC Quilters Kathy Knox
- Ringing for Christ Joanne Diestelhorst
- ILC Choir Judy Kort

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!

Making Masks. We still need your help to sew cloth face masks to help the ELCA reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities around the world. Lutheran World Relief is inviting us to join them in the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge. Our church can pledge to sew 200 face masks. The materials should be cotton fabric or quilting cotton. For more information about this Face Mask Challenge, please visit this link: https://lwr.org/masks. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the church office. Please let us know if you are interested in making masks or donating materials.

Happy Birthday! Happy Anniversary!

June 2020 Birthdays. The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in June. Happy Birthday to all of you! Joan Bonstead 06/03, Jacob Rajek 06/03, Mary Rolfson 06/03, Joy Karnitz 06/05, Kristin Kallio 06/10, Doug Christopherson 06/11, David Reinhardt 06/14, Neil Munson 06/15, Mike Mayer 06/23, Donna Neiter 06/24, JoAnne Cerny 06/29, Hannah Weir 06/29

June 2020 Anniversaries: Art & Deb Dellenbach (39 years) 06/06, Nancy & Doug Helling (51 years) 06/08, Harlan & Elaine Grinde, (58 years) 06/09, Roger & Donna Neiter (45 years) 06/13, Justin & Ashley Nickolai (12 years) 06/21

July 2020 Birthdays. The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in July. Happy Birthday to all of you! Grace Berg 07/07, Cody Tessmer 07/07, Deb Dellenbach 07/08, Ronald Beckman 07/10, Kyle Gilles 07/13, Kathy Groethe 07/16, Kira Spoehr 07/21, Ben Harring 07/24, Paul Reinertson 07/26

July 2020 Anniversaries. Erin & Brandon Lauersdorf (6 years) 07/19, Michael & Susan Schwede (45) 07/19, James & Marilyn Derubis (54) 07/23, Dale & Annabelle Kurth (60) 07/30

August 2020 Birthdays. The following individuals are celebrating their birthday in August. Happy Birthday to all of you! Dan Westaby 08/02, Joseph Schwede 08/03, Marino Taylor 08/04, Jack Fabry 08/05, Stephen Feck 08/05, Judith Blanchfield 08/08, Tom McDonell 08/08, Don Smail 08/12, Pat Stricker 08/12, Mary Munson 08/15, George Klinker 08/16, Pat Stolen 08/16, Pattie Bricko 08/19, Meredith Westaby 08/19, Baylen Hulstrom 08/20, Brett Riehle 08/21, Erin Doede 08/23, Kasen Hulstrom 08/23, Erin Lauersdorf 08/23, Andrea Schafer 08/23, Mitch Scobell 08/24, Janice Reinhardt 08/25, Maria O'Keefe 08/26, Bob Henning 08/27, Mary Anne Klinker 08/30, Al Solomonson 08/31

August 2020 Anniversaries. Rick & Joyce Lohr (56 Years) 08/02, Vern & Joanne Diestelhorst (47 Years) 08/04, Don & Dwala Smail (56 Years) 08/08, Ben & Claudette Harring (56 Years) 08/09, Don & Bonnie Dern (53 Years) 08/12, Jim & Debbie Palmer (48 Years) 08/12, George & Mary Anne Klinker (64 Years) 08/18, Al & Vonnie Solomonson (59 Years) 08/20, David & Janice Reinhardt (63 Years) 08/25, Clarence & Sally Johnson (60 Years) 08/27, Dan & Holly Westaby (38 Years) 08/28

Letter from Pastor Duane C. Hoven dated June 5, 2020: Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church from 1961-1970. Dear Friends at Immanuel Lutheran. While I realize that not many of us have met, I do hope that a few of you will recall the years I served as

your Pastor. It is exactly fifty years ago that our family left Wausau for a new call.

For all of us living in a time of pandemic there seems to be ample time to reflect on days gone by and to reconnect with friends. This is precisely the purpose of this letter. The New Testament of God's Word contains a number of letters so it is a style of communication that endures.

The nine years spent with you in ministry were very formative for the balance of my pastoral work. Here are a few of my initial impressions. Wausau back then was a city of about 32,000. Immanuel had a baptized membership of 900.



The attractive church on Seventh and Adams had been

dedicated in 1949. The parsonage, located between the church and education center, had seen better days. Just across 7th Street was the Wausau Public High School.

Immanuel was still in a time of grief over the death of Pastor Fritjof Eikeland. He had endured a long struggle with cancer. Just prior to our arrival his widow, Corrine, and three children: Becky, Cathy, and Mark, had moved out of the parsonage as they continued to mourn their loss.

Read the remainder of the letter and see photos provided by Pastor Hoven on our website in the ILC History Hub:

http://www.immanuelwausau.org/letter-from-pastor-duane-c-hoven

Hear Our Cry by Rick Lohr

O Father,
Hear our cry, hear our cry,
As we suffer the epidemic of covid*19
And go through painful avoidance schemes
Help us avoid harmful political dreams

Forgive those using the epidemic to further their political ambitions.

O Father,

Hear our cry, hear our cry,
As our breathing lungs begin to fail us,
Anti-quarantiners ignore the virus,
There are people who do not care about the rest of us, Forgive them their malevolent desires.

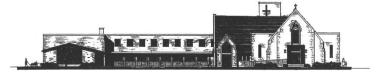
O Father,
Hear our cry, hear our cry,
As isolated patients suffer dying alone,
Heal their disease crazed-eyes
And quarantined dying cries
Forgive us for we know not how to heal.

O Father,
Hear our cry, hear our cry,
Through the confused politics of our day, Where some leaders, for political gain,
Attempt to redirect our collective conscience's pain, Save us from indifference in
this hour.

O Father,
Hear Our cry, hear our cry,
Help our economy survive,
From quarantine to re-entering our lives, May we build a more equitable future,
Guide us, and help our new humanity mature.

O Father,
Hear our cry; hear our cry,
We repent, for our country knows not what to do.
O forgive,
Light our path, heal us, and unite us anew.

ILC History Hub



IMMANUEL HISTORY – BUSY WOMEN

Immanuel's new building was finished in 1950. The women of Immanuel continued a long tradition of maintaining a Ladies Aid Society. The Ladies Aid and its smaller units called circles were really busy in 1950. A new kitchen and a large meeting space, now called Fellowship Hall, were available. There was even a stage on the south end. The Ladies Aid had 28 meetings during 1950, although some were for Bible Study. The women served many meals, not all church related. Records show that they served:

- A noon lunch and afternoon lunch for the Elmer Nelson funeral.
- A reception for the St. Olaf Choir.
- A turkey dinner for the Employers Mutual Insurance Girls Club.
- Monthly dinners for the Mens' Club of Immanuel.
- A lutefisk and meat ball supper in February and another one in November.
- A father and son banquet.
- A smorgasbord for Employers Mutual Insurance Company.
- A Lutheran Brotherhood rally dinner.
- A Luther League banquet.
- And hosted a bazaar in November.
- Other dinners for Employers Mutual Insurance groups, Kiwanis Club, a golden wedding and two wedding receptions.

The Ladies Aid made enough money to pay for a new cupboard in the kitchen with a Formica top for the counter, a new refrigerator, two electric roasters, and one pop-up toaster. In an age where professional caterers were rare, Immanuel provided both the catering function and used the new basement as a serving and meeting venue. They probably didn't realize that they were also providing a service to the community. Historically, the women, through the Ladies Aid, had been an important financial asset to the congregation – and a nice outlet for socializing too. But in 1950 they really worked hard! -- Al Solomonson

Thank You!

Rev. Doug Helling for reading the scripture and gospel for the online video service.

Bob Henning! For creating the sneeze guards for Jackie and Pastor Niveen. They are perfect and just as good or better than those store-bought ones. Also, for reading!

Kathy Knox for tidying up the flowers on the church grounds. The plants needed your special touch.

Mary McDonell. Thank you for consistently arriving on each Monday morning since the COVID-19 started to process the contributions. Also, for being a reader!

Jill Preston for keeping our church spick and span during the COVID-19 quarantine. We all appreciate knowing that we will be attending church in a sanitized environment because of you!

ILC Congregation for your generous donations for the "ILC Saucy Food Drive." Pastor or I will deliver the food to the Neighbor's Place on July 1st.



Gifts of Stamps are always appreciated.

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		
Bell Tower Residence	Primrose Retirement Community	Carolyn Viergutz		
1500 O'Day St	2100 Townline Rd	N114 W17117 Cove Ct		
Merrill, WI 54452	Wausau, WI 54403	Germantown, WI 53022		
▶ Barb Peterson, Rm 313 (715) 539-5539 ▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307 (715) 359-0197 Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401 ▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207 (715) 675-4073 Colonial Manor 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Norm Winterhoff (715) 675-6256	 ▶ 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 	Pat Stricker 1403 Stark Street Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1304 Jeanette Petterson 605 Eagle Nest Blvd. Apt. 208		
	Autumn Lane Family Care 384 Lyons Rd. Birnamwood, WI 54414 • Jeff Groethe (715) 449-3444 Heritage House of Portage	Rothschild, WI 54474 (715) 359-0449 Dale & Ann Kurth 2806 Polzer Drive Wausau, WI 54401 (715) 298-1942		
	2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901			
	Esther Osterby, #43			

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2020 Income vs Expenses

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Depost
January	\$13,557	\$14,915		(\$1,358)	\$909	\$14,466
February	\$27,289	\$6,903		\$20,386	\$447	\$27,737
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				\$0		0
July				\$0		0
August				\$0		0
September				\$0		0
October				\$0		0
November				\$0		
December				\$0		

Totals \$92,445.74 \$52,364.60 \$40,081 \$6,018 \$98,464

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Thursday May 21, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

Members present: President Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, treasurer Matt Munson, financial secretary Patti Busche, secretary Mike Steltenpohl, Pastor Niveen Sarras, education Judy Nickolai, evangelism Janci Treutel, properties Jerry Nickolai, stewardship Rick Lohr, worship Judy Kort

Members absent: None

- 1. Devotions were led by Pastor Niveen at 6:05pm. Discussion from John 17: 1-11
- 2. The meeting was called to order by Bob Henning at 6:24pm.
- 3. Pastor's report: We hired someone for pest control for \$125. Todd will come on Tuesday 6/26 to do the work.
 - Faye Schwarm has decided to join her sister's church at Mount Olive Lutheran Church a Missouri Synod church.
 - Dennis Mueller had knee surgery and he is recovering.
 - We continue to have worship service online. Pastor Niveen continues to do her weekly devotion. Her last
 devotion was on the ascension of the Lord.
 - Crossways has cancelled all summer camps.
 - Pastor Niveen's annual report has been submitted to Jackie.
 - Pastor Niveen keeps checking on her congregation by calling and e-mailing them. She has received good
 responses from the congregation. This has helped her know who needs bulletins to stay in touch. Not all
 members have access to the internet or have cable.
 - On Wed May 27th Pastor Niveen will lead a committal service for Joan Lind. This will take place at Pine Grove Cemetery at 11:30am for the immediate family.
 - Barbara West's house was burned. Several people have suggested to help her to start over, but she insisted
 that she needs nothing. If she needs help that will be sometime in October and November. She will be in
 touch with Pastor Niveen by that time to tell us what she needs.
 - Pastor Niveen is working with the executive committee to prepare guidelines to reopen our church for public service. As soon as she has a draft done, she will share it with the executive committee for review. We based our our guidelines on the ELCA "Considerations for returning to in-person worship: being the church together during the covid-19 pandemic". We need to form a committee to help prepare the church for worship.
 - The caring tree committee is on hold. Pastor Niveen believes that they can play an important role in helping our congregation to become familiar with our reopening guidelines.
 - Strong Bones has requested to move from the old nursery to the fellowship hall. The executive committee
 decided yesterday that Strong Bones can move to the gathering room.

4. Church officer reports

- a. Secretary report The April Secretary Report was previously e-mailed to all council members. A motion was made by Rick to accept the minutes as printed. A second was made by Janci. Motion passed.
- b. Treasurer report Matt noted that the \$4800 PPP loan has been received. Matt submitted the April Income and Expenses report, the ILC Current Position and Designated Funds report, and the YTD Profit & Loss Budget Performance Report. A motion was was made by Linda to accept and hold the treasurer reports for audit. A second was made by Rick. Motion passed.

- c. Financial secretary report Patti submitted the April Financial Secretary Reports. A motion was was made by Janci to accept and hold the financial secretary report for audit. A second was made by Judy Kort. Motion passed.
- d. Vice-President report Correction to the April minutes in that Kristin Kallio will NOT be taking on the Youth chairperson position. Linda noted that there is \$11,785 remaining on the parking lot loan. The dining room carpet has numerous stains throughout that will probably not come out with cleaning.
- e. President report Bob built clear separation shields at a cost of approximately \$42 for Jackie's and Pastor Niveen's desks.

5. Committee reports

- a. Education Still planning on giving out bibles.
- b. Evangelism The next phase of calling tree calls has begun.
- C. Properties Larry noticed some shingles missing on the roof. The furnace needs to be checked out.
- d. Social Concerns No report.
- **e.** Stewardship The committee is in a holding pattern for now.
- f. Youth No report.
- **Q.** Worship Judy thanked Pastor Niveen and Jackie for providing the weekly services and devotions.

6. Unfinished Business

- **a.** Audit committee We will try to recruit a third member to replace Jackie on the audit committee, so that they can review the 2019 financial documents.
- 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 A preliminary draft was written for the procedure for selling church owned or donated items. We will ask Bob Reinertson for review.
- **d.** Discussion continues on installing doors in the lower and upper hallways to separate the west wing from the rest of the church. This could allow an opportunity to rent or lease some of that unused space.

7. New Business

- a. The tentative church reopening is planned for June 21st. The following key points are being considered:
- Only every 3rd pew open.
- Singles on each end of pews.
- Families can sit together.
- Masks must be worn.
- No coffee / social hour after service.
- Remove hymnals and bibles from the pews.
- No singing.
- Modifications for communion.
- Chairs removed in the gathering space.
- Coat hangers to be removed.

Many other area churches are opening in June or July.

A vote was taken to reopen on June 21st: 2-no / 2-obstain / All others-yes

8. A motion was made by Linda to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Patti. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm. Closing devotion was held by members saying the Lord's Prayer.

IMMANUEL News Summer 2020

Immanuel Lutheran Church 630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403



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

Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on Facebook: @ILC Wausau

Worship Services:

Sunday—9:00am

TV Worship Services:

Charter Cable Channel 980 11am Sunday 5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15am Thursday