

Immanuel News



March 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

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life." (Rom 6:3-4)

Lent has two principal elements: preparing for or recalling Baptism and Penance. Since the early church until now, Lent has been the time for preparing catechumens¹ for their baptism at the Easter Vigil. At the same time, the whole church anticipates Easter through acts of repentance and reconciliation.² The early church father, Irenaus of Lyons (130-200 A.D), wrote about Lent, which lasted for three days. It was not

¹ A catechumen is a person who is preparing for baptism in the Church for the first time.

² The First Sunday in Lent - Liturgy by TLW. <http://www.liturgybytlw.com/Lent/Lent1.html>

until the Council of Nicaea 325 A.D, that the church fathers discussed a 40-day Lenten season of fasting.³ Lent, wrote Pope St. *Leo the Great* (440-461 A.D), is “a holy retreat of forty days during which we are to regain the purity of soul.”⁴ Hence, Lent invites us to imitate Christ by going into a spiritual desert where we focus more intensely on self-examination and putting off the old sinful human to put on Christ and receive the graces that Easter promises.⁵

I will attempt to explain how we are going to incorporate confession and preparing ourselves for the renewal of our baptismal promises on Easter Sunday.

Confession:

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart ..." (Joel 2:12). This prophetic verse marks the beginning of Ash Wednesday and sets the tone for the entire season of Lent. God calls us to repent and to reconcile with God and our sisters and brothers. Following the tradition of the early church, we will confess our sins every Sunday—on communion and non-communion Sundays. Remember that the confession is not limited to Sundays. God calls us to examine our conscience every day and to prepare our hearts to receive our Lord and Savior in his glorious resurrection.

Confession is an essential element of our faith. Martin Luther wrote in the *Large Catechism*, “Therefore, when I exhort you to go to

³Ted Olsen, “The Beginning of Lent: Christian History”, accessed February 24, 2020, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/beginning-of-lent.html>.

⁴Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace*, Vol. 2 (n.p: Liturgical Press, 1953), 101.

⁵ Thomas Francis Foley, Andrew - St. James Church. http://stjamesrcchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/apr16_2017_stjames.pdf

confession, I am doing nothing but exhorting you to be a Christian.”⁶ I strongly encourage you to confess your sin not only in public confession *but also by confessing it to God alone in prayer or confess it personally to your pastor to receive pastoral care.*

Baptism

Lent is the church’s call to remember our baptism. Not all of us are catechumens, but Lent is a time to reflect on our personal baptism and to prepare ourselves for the renewal of our baptismal promises on Easter day. Each Sunday during Lent the liturgy and sermon will be related to the confession of sin and baptism. The dismissal will summarize our baptismal vocation.

Go in peace... live among God’s faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.⁷

I pray that the season of Lent helps you to focus on Jesus Christ, grow in faith and to reconcile with your neighbor. May the Lord answer my prayers. Amen.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

⁶ Robert Kolb, Timothy Wengert J., and Charles Arand P., "The Large Catechism," in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000), 479:32.

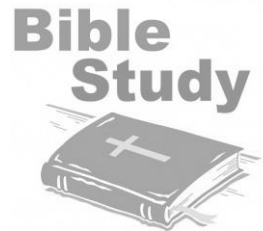
⁷ ELCA, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006), 236.

Lenten Bible Study: Fellowship Hall at 10:45am.

“No Wonder They Crucified Him: Discover why Jesus was a dangerous man.” by Christianity Today (Editor), Christian Bible Studies (Editor)

5 Session Bible Study

Of all the people admired in the world today, Jesus of Nazareth continually ranks at the top of the list. Even those who don't call themselves Christians regard Jesus as one of the wisest teachers and most loving leaders the world has ever known. He is still making the covers of magazines and being talked about in coffee shops with a popularity like no other person who has walked this earth. So why did his contemporaries kill him?



This five-session study examines Jesus as not simply meek and mild, but as a dangerous man because he was and is the God who is dangerously good. Take a fresh look at Jesus' call to action.

Session One: March 8, 2020 - Get Off the Fence

Jesus won't accept neutrality.

Matthew 12:22–32

We have to buck life in a fence-walking world. Ground yourself on God's side of the fence through spiritual disciplines.

Session Two: March 15, 2020 - Complete the Circle of Grace and Works

Sometimes Jesus sets conditions on grace.

Luke 6:37–42

As Christians, we know that we get to spend eternity in heaven, not because we're such great people, but because Jesus is. Yet, what does that mean as we respond to the remarkable grace God has shown us in Christ?

Session Three: March 22, 2020 - Check Your Bags

What are you dragging around with you?

Matthew 19:16–30

All of us carry loads that are often of our own making. Lent is a great time to look at those loads and see what needs to be repacked and what needs to be tossed.

Session Four: April 5, 2020 - Come Die with Me

Sometimes Jesus is really scary.

Matthew 16:21–28

There are few words Jesus ever spoke that are scarier: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

Session Five: April 19, 2020 - Follow Me

Jesus invites us to breakfast and beyond.

John 21:1–25

Jesus conquered death and rose from the dead! It's the most joyous news ever announced. After his resurrection, he stayed around to have breakfast with his most faithful followers.

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 and Thursday, from 9am-3pm. She visits Homebound Parishioners on Tuesday during the Lenten season. 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 Sundays 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 at 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, Floyd Hallberg & Al Solomonson, for shoveling the sidewalks for the congregation and the church staff. We sure do appreciate you!

Thank you, Linda Hulstrom and Bob Doede, for preparing a wonderful Fat Sunday breakfast.

Thank you, Joanne Diestelhorst, for re-arranging the chapel so that it is more functional and beautiful. It looks like a completely different space.



You Yang and Josh Nickolai (Jerry & Judy Nickolai) were married in the Chapel at Immanuel Lutheran Church on February 20, 2020 at 2:20pm. Thank you, Rev. Doug Helling, for officiating this beautiful service. Congratulations to the couple. May God grant you all of life's blessings and love's joys.

Mark Your Calendars!

Midweek Lenten Series: Making Change. Services will be at **1:00 pm** in the sanctuary and **6:00 pm** in the chapel. The schedule of round robin is as follows:

Date	Pastor
Wed., 3/4/20	Pastor Phil Bogen, St. Peter Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church: <i>Change of Habit</i>
Wed., 3/11/20	Pastor Dan Sire, St. John Lutheran Church: <i>Change of Circumstances</i>
Wed., 3/18/20	Pastor Erik Olson, First English Lutheran Church: <i>Change of Season</i>
Wed., 3/26/20	Pastor Niveen Sarras, Immanuel Lutheran Church: <i>Change of Heart</i>
Wed., 4/1/20	Pastor Niveen Sarras, Immanuel Lutheran Church: <i>Change of Plans</i>

Thursday, April 2, 2020: An ecumenical Lenten service at St. Anne Catholic Church, 700 W. Bridge St., Wausau, WI. Pastor Niveen Sarras will preach and teach. Here is a summary of the sermon/Bible study: God commands us to accompany the oppressed, disadvantaged, poor and marginalized people. Jesus Christ's ministry was directed to the underprivileged whom the Romans oppressed

economically and politically. As part of the Lenten series, we will focus on the poor and disadvantaged in the Old Testament. This session of Lent will provide you with an overview of how the subjects of poverty and the poor are treated. Following the overview, we will study Zechariah 7:4-8:8, which talks about true fasting that entails accompanying the underprivileged. Throughout the Old Testament, God is depicted as the defender of the poor. The session will end by giving temporary examples of how to accompany the poor and defend them.

St Michael Catholic Church and Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church are also participating. The time is to be determined.

Thursday, March 26, 2020: 5:30pm Executive Committee Meeting. The Council Meeting follows at 6:05pm.

A Season of Hope. This Lent, we're joining Lutheran World Relief in A Season of Hope to announce to the world the HOPE of Christ. Our conference is going to be collecting nail clippers starting March 1, 2020 through May 10, 2020. Our delegates, Mary and Tom McDonell, will deliver them to the Synod Assembly on May 15, 2020. (attached file optional – remove packaging). If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Niveen.

Sunday, March 29, 2020. Healing Service with Holy Communion.

Help beautify the altar area Easter morning. Flowers offering for 2020: Lilies \$10.00 each 6.5" pot, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths \$7.00 each 6" pot. Sign-up sheet in Narthex or Call Jackie in the church office at (715) 842-3644. Order must be placed by **March 9, 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!

Volunteer for Meals on Wheels! You can make a difference for homebound, older adults in your community. Volunteers deliver meals Monday-Friday from about 10:15am to 11:45am. Help deliver weekly, once every other week or once a month. Call ADRC (715) 261-6070 or visit online at adrc-cw.org.

Our Wisconsin River Valley Conference has decided to lift up in prayer each Sunday from March 1, 2020 to December 6, 2020 all the ministers of our conference and the ministries in the ELCA.



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? Here are the dates for 2020: April 26, 2020, June 28, 2020, August 23, 2020 and October 25, 2020.

ELCA News

The National Census Day is April 1, 2020, at which time all homes should have been invited to complete the census. For your neighbor and yourself — encourage your community to be counted!

ELCA Partners With the 2020 Census: The ELCA is an official partner of the 2020 Census as we work toward a just world where all are fed and further our commitment to greater justice in public policy and the electoral process. More than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities is based on census data. An accurate count determines electoral maps and ensures that resources more justly go where they are needed most, including to vital programs that combat poverty and hunger and support people in need.

News & Events Outside of ILC

Friday, February 28, 2020 – Friday, April 10, 2020: Fish Fry, St Patrick's – Halder. Fridays, during Lent, serving deep-fried or baked haddock and shrimp from 4-8pm. All meals include French fries, homemade potato salad, coleslaw, rye bread, and dessert. 136058 Halder Drive, Mosinee, WI. Carry outs available: Cash or check only. Phone: (715) 693-2765.

Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm, The University of South Dakota Chamber Singers will be in concert at Zion Lutheran Church, 709 Sixth Street, Wausau, WI. A free-will donation will be received.

The Open Door, Serving with Compassion, is located at 319 4th Street Suite 2, Wausau, WI 54403. Their mission is to provide charitable and educational services to meet the immediate needs of individuals who are incarcerated and/or who have been released from jail or prison. The

Open Door needs the following items: Coffee, creamer, sugar, money, socks, adult clothes, toiletries (especially hotel size), paper products, cleaning supplies & office supplies. Visit: opendoorofmarathoncounty.com

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.

Ecumenism at Immanuel

DID YOU KNOW?

During the 1960s Pastor Duane Hoven instigated many contacts with other Christians and with the Rabbi and members at Mt. Sinai Temple. His friendship with the Rabbi allowed him to speak at the synagogue and in turn the rabbi contributed insight to one of the Bethel Bible Study classes. Hoven organized the first clergy association in the area, a group that included nearly all the clergy in the area. He was its first chairperson.

Taking a cue from Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council where more openness to other Christian points of view was encouraged, Pastor Hoven and Father McGarty of St. Matthew's Catholic parish enlisted a core group of members from each of the congregations to meet in small groups in member homes. These groups consisted of three couples from each parish with the intent of discussing the commonalities and differences found in our respective beliefs using a book called Living Room Dialogues. It was deemed successful by all who took part in the two-year program. Hoven also lectured at St. Anthony Seminary near Marathon and was invited to the ordination of deacons at St. Mary's parish in Marathon. In 1970 he was invited to participate in an evening liturgical service at St. Mary's Catholic in Wausau, the first non-Catholic in Wausau to preach from a Catholic pulpit.

This ecumenical tradition continued at Immanuel to the present day. The

congregation has joined in the past with Catholic and other protestant congregations in worship, concerts, and youth education. We have enjoyed especially good relations with our neighbor to the north, St. Michael's parish where we have shared thanksgiving services, Palm Sunday marches, and vacation Bible schools. Pastor Sherry Billberg of Immanuel is likely the first female pastor to give the homily in a Catholic church. We also have had joint meetings with members of the Mt. Sinai synagogue. Indeed, Immanuel has not been a closed-minded congregation.

--- Al Solomonson

Birthdays

The following individuals are celebrating their birthday this month.



3/1 Jessica Case	3/10 Judi McGill	3/21 Barb West
3/3 Deborah Case	3/11 Karen Rajek	3/22 Dale Kurth
3/4 Kari Solomonson	3/12 Andrew Kallio	3/22 Jerry Nickolai
3/5 Sam Reinertson	3/12 Ruth Riehle	3/28 Matthew Munson
3/8 Joan Bergeth	3/16 Judith Beckman	3/28 Brandon Riehle
3/8 Justin Nickolai	3/18 Don Dern	3/31 Rick Lohr



Anniversary Wishes to these Special Couples

The following couples are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary

03/06	Franklin & Connie Lewitzke	33 Years
03/06	Paul & Jane-Reilly Smith	21 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</p> <p>▶ Barb Peterson, Rm 313</p> <p>▶ Carol Hettinga, Rm 307</p> <p>Riverview Terrace 540 E. Thomas St. Wausau, WI 54401</p> <p>▶ Joyce Lohrey, #207</p> <p>Colonial Manor 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p>▶ Norm Winterhoff</p>	<p>Primrose Retirement Community 2100 Townline Rd Wausau, WI 54403</p> <p>▶ Thelma Bursik, Apt #101</p> <p>▶ Charlotte Traeger, Apt #215</p> <p>▶ Judy Blanchfield, Apt #132</p> <p>▶ Faye Schwarm, Apt #133</p> <p>▶ Kathy Groethe, Apt #219</p> <p>Heritage House of Portage 2685 Airport Road Portage, WI 53901</p> <p>▶ 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>

2020 Flower Instructions published by the Altar Guild:

The Altar Flowers are a welcome offering to our worship. They are a symbol of new life in Christ. For all these reasons, we appreciate everyone who is moved to give flowers on a Sunday. People have given flowers in thanksgiving to God, for a family member's birthday, wedding anniversary or other blessing. They are also given in memory of a departed loved one or friend.

1. The flower chart will no longer be posted in the Narthex. We encourage members to bring flowers from their garden, order them to remember a special occasion or just to brighten the sanctuary.
2. You may contact one of the Altar Guild members or contact the secretary at (715) 842-3644 to let her know that flowers will be brought for the service.
3. If you wish to place a notice in the bulletin, you will need to let the secretary know by Tuesday.
4. Members may order them and bring them to church prior to the service.
5. If the arrangement or flowers are already in a vase, they can be placed behind the altar on the flower stand.
6. If a vase will be needed, the altar guild can place a vase filled with water outside of the sacristy.
7. At the close of the service, please pick up the flowers and take them home.
8. There are no flowers placed on the altar during Lent.

Immanuel Lutheran Church 2020 Income vs Expenses

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
January	\$13,557	\$15,127		(\$1,570)	\$909	\$14,466
February				\$0		\$0
March				\$0		\$0
April				\$0		\$0
May				\$0		\$0
June				\$0		0
July				\$0		0
August				\$0		0
September				\$0		0
October				\$0		0
November				\$0		
December				\$0		
Totals	\$13,557.01	\$15,126.79		(\$1,570)	\$909	\$14,466

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Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church
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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