

Immanuel News



May 2020

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

Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church on Facebook: [@ILCWausau](https://www.facebook.com/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

Dear beloved church,

Grace and peace to you,

I believe you are tired of the lockdown and social distancing. You may be anxious about your health and future. You see the sunshine, and you are hesitant to go out to enjoy it. You might question your faith and wonder where God is in your struggle. You hear about people dying from COVID-19, and that 1.1 million people are infected by it in the United States. As of now, we have no vaccine. This is alarming news. The mystery of suffering is unanswerable. So, what shall we do in this challenging time? Where to go to gain strength? I expect that many of you would answer, go to Jesus Christ. Yes, this is very true. Our Lord Jesus Christ gives us strength and wisdom to manage our life in this disturbing time.

I would like to talk to you about spiritual perseverance. All of us need to persevere while we are walking through the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:4). What does perseverance mean? Perseverance means “persisting in, or remaining constant to a purpose, task or belief in spite of obstacles and opposition. It is the ability to endure pain, disappointment, and discomfort without quitting or letting down.”¹ The New Testament Greek word for perseverance, *Hupomone*, suggests “energetic resistance, steadfastness under pressure, and endurance in the face of trials.”² Perseverance is like a person who keeps on walking despite bearing a heavy load on his/her shoulders. Sometimes, the Bible translates perseverance as endurance and steadfastness.

Suffering and trials are around us from the moment we are born. No one is immune to hardship and turbulence. Experiencing trials and hardship does not make you any less of a Christian. Most sincere and faithful Christians have endured trials in their lives. The best example is the apostle Paul, who endured hardship for the sake of the gospel.

But as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true;⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed;¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything (2 Corinthians 6:4-10 NRSV).

¹ Ken Herbruck, “Perseverance” in *Facing Issues*, accessed May 4, 2020, http://www.globalreach.org/english/images/DA2102EN_L04.pdf

² Handley Dunelm, “Perseverance,” *Bible Study Tools*, accessed May 4, 2020, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/perseverance./>

The apostle Paul overcame all these trials and became victorious because he persevered. God does not enjoy seeing you suffer. God allows you to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, like COVID-19, to help you to grow in faith and to produce good character. God molds you to become a better Christian. God walks with you through the valley of the shadow of death. The apostle James teaches in James 1:2-4 NRSV

² My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴ and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

How are you going to understand what faith and mercy are without facing suffering? Persevere in your faith during the COVID-19 trial and open your heart to welcome God to develop God's qualities in you. Hold on to your faith. Because without your faith, you will not pass this trial. God is testing your faith using COVID-19.

Be aware of the devil's lies. The devil whispers to your ears and tells you that you are neglected, God does not care about you and the world, you are doomed to destruction, or you will die without anyone beside you. The devil is eager to make you anxious and fearful. The only way to dismiss the devil's lies is to trust in God's promises through Jesus Christ. These promises are revealed in Scripture. So, draw near to God and God's word. Your faith gives you the power to persevere. The apostle Paul says, "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17 NRSV). You need your Bible. Use it, and do not leave it on the shelf.

Hold on to God's promises every time the devil whispers lies to your ears. As you need the word of God to remain steadfast in the COVID-19 trial, you need your church family to strengthen and encourage you. So, call one another to share your story of faith. Your story of faith can lift up the spirit of your anxious and suffering neighbor. We need each other to persevere in this difficult time.

Please, my friends, do not hesitate to talk to me if you need spiritual care. I will make myself available.

Yours in Christ,

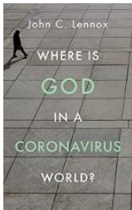


Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras, Ph.D

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



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 will share a weekly video devotional on our website in the Video Gallery each Wednesday based on the book, “Where is God in a Coronavirus World?” by John C. Lennox. These devotionals will be comforting and each one will offer hope for the challenges we face. Each devotional will be about 10 minutes and will last for six weeks.

Bible Study

Pastor Niveen has completed a Bible study on Martin Luther’s article, “Whether One May Flee from A Deadly Plague.” It is available in video on our website, our YouTube channel and Facebook. Pastor Niveen would love to hear any questions you may have about the Bible study.



Church Schedule

To reduce the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau has cancelled all in-person services until further notice. During this time, ILC will move all services and ministries online:

- Our Facebook Page: **@ILCWausau**.
- YouTube Channel: **Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau Wisconsin, Inc.**
- TV Worship Services : **Charter Cable Channel 980: 9am on Sunday.**

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

- 1) Schedules for May and June will not be included in this newsletter. When we can worship together again, I will publish the calendar and worship assistants' schedule.
- 2) I still have the following devotionals at the office: 1 large print and 3 pocket Christ in our Home. To assist with devotional life during this time, Augsburg Fortress is offering a limited-time complementary email subscription. Sign up and they will deliver the daily devotional to your email at 4am Central Time through June 30, 2020. Sign up here: <https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription>

Pastor Niveen and I miss seeing you. Stay safe, stay strong and stay mighty.

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

Blessings, *Jackie*

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.

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 – 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! 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!



ILC Outreach in the Wausau Area. We will be serving the next Community Dinner on 5/17/20. The good news is it only takes 2 or 3 people to handle these prepared meals. Our hands, God's work. Any questions call Linda Hulstrom.

Pastor Niveen, Linda Hulstrom and Bob Henning served 50 individuals on 4/26/20. Photos from the April 26, 2020 Community Dinner:



Making Masks. We 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>. Are you a Thrivent member? Members can apply for funds to engage in the activity of making face masks:

<https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/>

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.

Crossways Camping Ministries Update. The Crossways Board met on May 4 to sift through expert information, our faith, best practices, and gut feelings. We tried to think our way out of this reality with creativity and hope. In the end, our highest concern is for the safety and well-being of all of God’s people. So to best care for our camps and our community, the board voted unanimously to cancel all summer programming for 2020. All day camp programs for Summer 2020 are also canceled.

Thank you for sharing Easter plants to beautify the Altar area.

<p><u>Tulips</u> Dan & Holly Westaby in memory of Eve, Dale & Nancy Westaby (1)</p>	<p><u>Hyacinths</u> Dan & Holly Westaby in memory of Eve, Dale & Nancy Westaby (1) Mike & Lisa Steltenpohl (1)</p>	<p><u>Daffodils</u> Vern & Joanne Diestelhorst in memory of Jo Beckman (1) Dan & Holly Westaby in memory of Eve, Dale & Nancy Westaby (1)</p>
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Paul & Jane Reilly-Smith in loving memory of our Parents (2) Neil & Mary Munson (1) Harlan & Elaine Grinde (1) Arzelee Drown (1) Judy Kort (1) Bob & Sue Doede (1) Bob Henning (1) Jerry & Judy Nickolai (1)	Pattie Bricko (2) Bruce & Kathy Knox (1) Jackie Loos in loving memory of Fred McCutcheon, her Dad (2) Norm & Joan Winterhoff (1) Mike & Sue Schwede (1) Janci Treutel (1) George & Mary Anne Klinker (1) Jerry & Judy Nickolai (1)	Neil & Mary Munson (1) Mike & Lisa Steltenpohl (1) Harlan & Elaine Grinde (1) Arzelee Drown (1) Bruce & Kathy Knox (1) Judy Kort (1) Norm & Joan Winterhoff (1) Mike & Sue Schwede (1) Janci Treutel (1) Don & Swala Smail (1) Bob & Sue Doede (1) Bob Henning (1) Linda Hulstrom (1)
<u>Lilies</u> Vern & Joanne Diestelhorst in memory of Jo Beckman (1) Dan & Holly Westaby in memory of Eve, Dale & Nancy Westaby (1) Clarence & Sally Johnson (1) Floyd Hallberg (1)		

April 2020 Birthdays. The following individuals celebrated their birthday in April. Happy Birthday to all of you!

Babs Fabry (4/5), Joan Winterhoff (4/8), Thelma Bursik (4/10), Vinca Westaby (4/10), Maria Wierzba (4/10), Donny Busche (4/14), Linda Knott (4/16), Olivia Hulstrom (4/18), Stephen Weir (4/20), Nicki Busche (4/23), Wayne Rajek (4/24), Patti Busche (4/25), Margy Mayer (4/25), Bob Reinertson (4/26), Michael Schwede (4/29), Ruth Struck (4/30)

April 2020 Anniversaries.

- Neil & Mary Munson (4/15), 53 years
- Michael & Heather Gilles (4/29), 31 years

May 2020 Birthdays. The following individuals are celebrating their birthday this month. Happy Birthday to all of you!

Vonnie Solomonson (5/1), Sally Sciento-Reinertson (5/8), Thomas Mueller (5/9), Floyd Hallberg (5/11), Barbara Peterson (5/11), Judy Nickolai (5/15), Reuben Roehl (5/15), Emily Kallio (5/20), Grace Kallio (5/20), Arzelee Drown (5/21), Leora Mitchell (5/21), Maggie

Westaby (5/21), Mollie Munson (5/24), Claudette Haring (5/25), Janci Treutel (5/26), Michael Gilles (5/27), Sheri Mueller (5/27), Lyla Lauersdorf (5/29), Austin Schmidt (5/29)

May 2020 Anniversaries.

- LeRoy & Margaret Johnson (5/27), 70 years



Happy Mother's Day (Sunday, May 10, 2020) to all moms, grandmas and those special women in our lives. There's a beautiful story about a mother and child in the Old Testament. The child wasn't even the mother's child; she was her daughter-in-law. But Ruth still set an example for us to follow, learning to love our mothers the way God wants us to. To learn more about this story read Ruth 1:6-17.



Let us remember... Memorial Day (Monday, May 25, 2020) is the day that is set aside to remember with gratitude and pride all those who served and died for our country and our freedom. May your day be filled with memories and peace. God Bless America.



Thank you to our ILC Calling Tree Team. Thank you, Phyllis H., for your leadership in this team. Pastor Niveen and I hear every day how important your ministry is from those you are calling. The recipients of these calls tell us that they look forward to your calls and some are just thankful that they have someone to talk to.

Message from the ILC Church Council: In an effort to convey important information accurately and completely to the congregation, it would be in our best interest to have all reports, articles, memos, etc. that we want added to weekly bulletins or monthly newsletters written by the committee chairperson or whoever wishes to submit the information. Our administrative assistant, Jackie, will certainly have your report, article, memo, etc., added where you wish, but please be respectful of her time and not request that she write it for you. Thank you for your understanding and anticipated cooperation in this matter. Mike Steltenpohl – Secretary, on behalf of the ILC Church Council

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. Committee chairpersons please have your information to the church office by **Monday, May 18, 2020** so the booklet can be available online before the meeting. Please contact Linda Hulstrom, (715) 297-9067 if you would like to be nominated for any council position.

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 (715) 539-5539 ▶ 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>Colonial Manor 1010 E. Wausau Ave Wausau, WI 54403 ▶ Norm Winterhoff (715) 675-6256</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 ▶ Faye Schwarm, Apt #133 (715) 842-7553 ▶ Kathy Groethe, Apt #219 (715) 841-0130</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 (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>

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	\$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				\$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	\$52,595.06	\$41,637.60		\$10,957	\$2,213	\$54,808

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Thursday February 27, 2020

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, worship Judy Kort, Members absent: Rick Lohr

Guests present:

Members of the ushering volunteers

1. Devotions were led by Pastor Niveen at 6:19pm. Readings from Matthew chapter 6 and discussion on fasting for lent.
 2. The meeting was called to order by Bob Henning at 6:26pm.
 3. The CART team (Crisis Assessment Response Team) was asked to join the council meeting and have discussion so that we would be better prepared to deal with those having mental health issues, suicidal tendencies, drug and alcohol issues, and child behavioral issues.
 4. Pastor's report
 - a. Pastor Niveen had 3 services on Ash Wednesday - Primrose, here at ILC, and at Grace United Church of Christ.
 - b. Pastor Niveen attended a conference in San Diego that had 380 participants.
 - c. Pastor Niveen will be presenting the sermon and a bible study at St. Annes Catholic Church on Thursday April 2nd.
 - d. Our conference is collecting new nail clippers from March 1st through mid-May.
 - e. Pastor Niveen will be having bible study starting April 8th at 10:45 in the fellowship hall.
 - f. It was suggested that we consider having a pizza sale to raise money for confirmation camp scholarships.
 5. Church officer reports
 - a. Secretary report - The January Secretary Report was previously e-mailed to all council members. There is a correction regarding item 4.d. where it was noted that the remaining loan amount for 629 Hamilton was approximately \$12,000 where in fact it is over \$14,000. A motion was made by Jerry to accept the minutes as printed. A second was made by Patti. Motion passed.
 - b. Treasurer report - Matt submitted the January 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 Janci. Motion passed.
 - c. Financial secretary report - Patti submitted the January Financial Secretary Reports. A motion was made by Judy K to accept and hold the financial secretary report for audit. A second was made by Jerry N. Motion passed.
 - d. Vice-President report - On Saturday May 16th we will have an antique sale here at ILC from 10am to 4pm with the funds being used for Crossways Scholarships. The nominating committee needs to know which positions will need to be filled. The next community dinner hosted by ILC will be on April 26th.
 - e. President report - The \$10,000 grant was received to be used to further our mission. A portion of that will be dispersed to LSS, Lobatla Parish, and to Christians for Middle East Peace.
 6. Committee reports
 - a. Education - Sunday School meets every other Sunday with normally 5-6 students.
- Considering bibles to be given to the 3rd grade students.
- b. Evangelism - no report.
 - c. Properties - Recent properties items completed; snow removal in parking lot, heating system pump repair, cleared snow and put heat tape on flat roofs, and air filters were purchased for air handlers. Special thanks to Dan and Holly Westaby and to Jorden and Justin Nickolai for helping with properties activities. Future items needing attention; walls and window in nursery, ceilings in the gathering space and the stairway to the choir loft, Jerry will be speaking with Art Dellenbach to have outlets put on the roof for heat strips, and Jerry will review wireless microphones for pastor and the assistant minister.
 - d. Social Concerns - no report.
 - e. Stewardship - no report.
 - f. Youth - Bob attended the sleepover at United Methodist Church
 - g. Worship - 22 people were in attendance at the afternoon Ash Wednesday service at ILC. Midweek Lenten services will be held at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary and at 6:00pm in the chapel. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00pm. Good Friday service will be at 1:00pm. Saturday service will be at 7:00pm. Easter Sunday service will be at 9:00am.
7. Unfinished Business
 - a. Audit committee -The Audit Committee report was received for 2018. A motion was made by Janci to accept the report. A second was made by Mike. Motion passed. We will try to recruit a third member to replace Jackie on the audit committee.
 - 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.
8. New Business
 - a. The next council meeting will be on Thursday March 26th. The executive committee meeting will be at 5:30pm and the full council will meet at 6:05pm.
 - b. The semi-annual congregation meeting will be on Sunday May 31st.
9. A motion was made by Patti to adjourn the meeting. A second was made by Janci. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.
10. Closing devotion was held by members holding hands in a circle while saying the Lord's Prayer.
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Follow Immanuel Lutheran Church
on Facebook: **@ILC Wausau**

All services and meetings cancelled until further notice.

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