

# Immanuel News



## February 2021

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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.

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### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you. January was a tranquil month in the church because it begins the transition from Christmas to Lent. February will be a busy month as we are together preparing for Ash Wednesday and the Lent season. I remember that last year we could not attend Lent midweek services because of the lockdown due to the spread of COVID-19; however, we were able to participate in the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service. I pray that the Lent of 2021 will give us a chance to worship in person. The church council and I are working together to provide you with an opportunity to worship in-person in a safe environment. I will continue to offer you virtual worship services, and I am willing to meet with you in person for prayer and spiritual counseling while we maintain social distancing. Meanwhile, my friends, I strongly encourage you to meditate on the word of God and to continue praying. The apostle Paul encourages each one of

us to “Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” ( 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

In the United States, we have an excellent opportunity to worship God freely, and we have all the spiritual and biblical resources to enrich our spiritual life. Christians in many countries do not have these privileges. My calling as your Pastor is to teach you about your faith. What you do with your faith and this teaching is up to you. I cannot strengthen or weaken your faith because your spiritual life is a private matter between you and God. To strengthen your faith, you always need to pray and dwell on the word of God and be in fellowship with other believers.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Ph.D

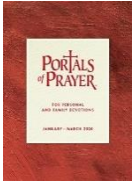
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**Holy Communion is now available at ILC.** This table is located by the front office. Each package contains the Body of Christ and a prayer. Pastor Niveen has blessed each one. All the packages were assembled using the highest sanitizing measures.

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

**Noisy Offering.** Just a reminder that there is a large silver bowl by the church office entrance for your noisy (coin) offerings. Thank you in advance for doing this.

**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!



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

## **ILC Worship In-Person Update**

Letter to the Congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wausau.

Date: January 29, 2021

Subject: In-person Worship Update

From: Robert J. Henning, President

At the last council meeting on January 19, 2021, The majority of the ILC Church Council decided to return to in-person worship services. This decision is effective Sunday, February 21, 2021, following Ash Wednesday, with two services: one at 9:00 AM with masks required and one at 10:30 AM with masks optional. Pastor Sarras will offer ashes at both services with Holy Communion, being as this is the third Sunday of the month. These two services will be held the first Sunday of every month as we advance. The remaining Sundays of the month will be according to the schedule below:

- **Sunday, February 21, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required, 10:30 AM masks optional.


- **Sunday, February 28, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required.
- **Sunday, March 7, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required, 10:30 AM masks optional.
- **Sunday, March 14, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks optional.
- **Sunday, March 21, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required.
- **Sunday, March 28, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks optional.
- **Sunday, April 4, 2021, 9:00 AM** masks required, 10:30 AM masks optional.

Future dates and options will be published in the newsletter and posted on our web site.

All Lenten Services will be virtual with the option of a virtual Sunday Service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Henning", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Bob Henning, President ILC

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### **Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021**

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 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.

For those of you who received the weekly bulletin or newsletter in the mail, you will receive ashes and the body of Christ in small separate bags.

We will have only one virtual Ash Wednesday service.

**Virtual Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service.** Our church will join Grace United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church in observing Ash Wednesday. Five pastors will lead the service: Rev. Dr. Niveen Ibrahim Sarras, Rev. Rebecca Voss, Joy Nelson-Jeffers, Rev. Rachel A. Wann and Rev. Julie Goranson.

You will have an opportunity to watch the service on Charter Cable Channel 980 at 1:30 PM or on YouTube.

**Sunday, February 21, 2021**, you will have an opportunity to receive ashes on your forehead during Sunday service at 9 AM and 10:30 AM.

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### **Midweek and Holy Week Lent Services**

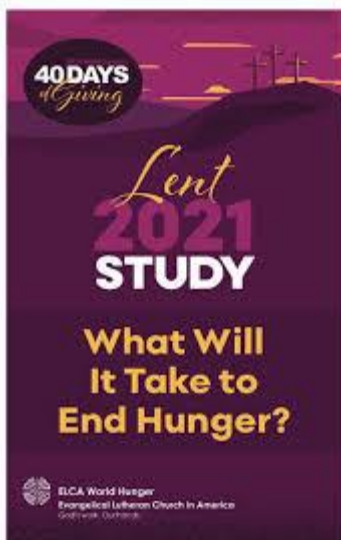
All the midweek Lent services will be virtual unless you hear otherwise.

The theme for the midweek and the Holy Week Lent services is “RETURN TO THE LORD.”

During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme “Return to the Lord” and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God’s grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God’s wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to “turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him” (Joel 2:14). Each service in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. Each service emphasizes how we have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and rejoice in God’s call for us to return to God with all our heart.

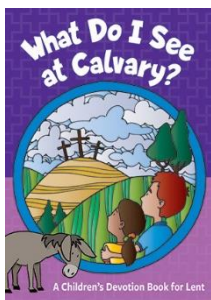
- Wednesday of Lent 1: "Return to Prayer."

- Wednesday of Lent 2: "Return from Betrayal."
- Wednesday of Lent 3: "Return from False Witness."
- Wednesday of Lent 4: "Return from Denial."
- Wednesday of Lent 5: "Return to the Kingdom of God."
- Holy (Maundy) Thursday: "Return to the Table."
- Good Friday: "Return to Truth."
- Holy Saturday / Easter Vigil: "Return to the Church."
- Easter Sunday: "Return and See."



The series I am using for Lent on Sundays is from the ELCA World Hunger; *what will it take to end hunger?* I have ordered 25 copies of the study booklets with 25 calendars. You are encouraged to pick up your copy from the church.

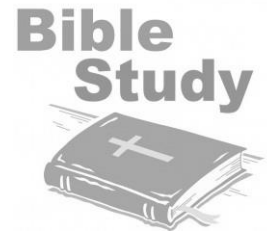
The church council have decided to launch a campaign to donate money for the ELCA World Hunger. As part of our Lent spiritual practices, you are encouraged to set aside every single day the amount of money you choose to designate for the ELCA World Hunger. For example, set aside \$2 every day until Easter Sunday, which will be \$80 and then write a check to ILC and put in the memo ELCA world hunger.



**Sunday School Children** will receive Lent materials in the mail to guide them through the Lenten Journey. These will be mailed during the second week of February. Parents/Grandparents are encouraged to work with the children in their studies.

## ***4 Virtual Session Bible Studies at 10:30 AM***

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: February 28, 2021 - 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 14, 2021 - 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 21, 2021 - 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: March 28, 2021 - 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."

**Our Virtual Synod Assembly will be** on Friday and Saturday, May 14th & 15th, 2021. Al & Vonnie Solomonson will represent ILC.

**Ruby's Pantry.** Ruby's Pantry is for anyone that is looking to extend their monthly grocery budget. For a \$20 bundle donation, you will receive an abundance of groceries. There is no income or residency requirement. This event is held the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month at Thrive Church, 400 Grand Ave., Wausau, WI from 10:00am-11:45am (or until food is gone). For more information visit [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org)

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*Thank You*

**Mary McDonell for counting each week, week after week.**

**Jill Preston for Awesome Cleaning.**

**Matt Munson for keeping the Church's finances in order.**

*Thank You*

**Thanks from Barbara West:**

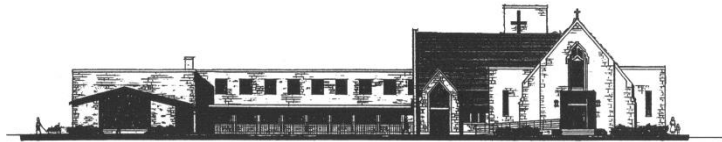
I would like to thank everyone that has assisted Denny and me since our house fire last April. The kitchen supplies were really needed and I appreciate your donation of those items. Here is a current update. We are back in our home since the end of October. We moved in without our stove/oven, with a missing exterior window in one of the



rooms, a furnace that did not work, the outside wasn't complete, and other items weren't correct or weren't working. It was almost like camping. I am still having workers come in to fix things. I never knew they could pour concrete or paint items when it was below freezing. Hopefully all of the interior items will be completed by the end of February and the exterior items should get done in April and May. Thank you again for your prayers and gifts.

## **ILC History Hub**

### **IMMANUEL HISTORY –**



## **THE DECADE OF THE SIXTIES AT IMMANUEL Part One**

The recent death of our former pastor, Duane Hoven, who served Immanuel from 1961 to 1970, brings to mind the issues of that tumultuous decade of the 1960s. President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and before the decade had ended his brother, Robert, and civil rights leader, Martin Luther King also fell to assassins. Two contentious issues stand out: the cry for civil rights for African Americans, especially in the south, and the American entry into the war between North and South Vietnam. Pastor Hoven often used the gospel to speak to the injustice of racial segregation and the Jim Crow laws that effectively kept the black population in the south from participating in our democracy and tended to keep them impoverished economically. Politically, blacks fared better in the north, but there still were many examples of discrimination in the northern states as well. Wausau was still lily white and known previously as a “sun down town,” meaning that Afro American visitors were expected to leave before sundown. Hoven worked with Evelyn Osswald, the owner of the Central Hotel on Scott Street and a voice for civil rights, to bring young men of African American Heritage from the Blackwell Job Corps Center for an overnight stay at the hotel and arranged for Immanuel members to host them on Sunday. Many Immanuel members readily volunteered, and it turned out to be a successful project. Hoven was appointed by Mayor

Kannenberg to head the first Commission on Human Rights in Wausau. He was active in many aspects of the Wausau community and held several leadership positions.

The U.S. participation in the Viet Nam war became increasingly contentious in the second half of the decade. The congregation had a number of young men serving in Viet Nam, and Pastor Hoven wrote to them frequently. From them he learned how dangerous the wartime conditions were. He also was alarmed by the criticism the mostly young protestors of the war were encountering. This prompted him to join with local members of the clergy to pay for an ad concerning the war, the thrust of which was that voicing opposition to the war was not unpatriotic.

Pastor Hoven gave me a copy of an account of his years in Wausau. He appreciated the congregational support during his nine years at Immanuel, but he did offer that there were members who thought his sermons were too political. He remarked on this as follows: “My Sunday sermons frequently made reference to racial concerns, discussion of the so-called Generation Gap, and growing frustration with American forces fighting in Vietnam. . . . I soon became aware of voices in the parish that were disturbed and upset by my sermons and comments.”

Many members of the clergy were confronted by the dilemma facing them. Should they respond to the issues confronting society or should they take the safe way out and avoid controversy in their sermons and other messages to their parishes. Pastor Hoven was convinced the gospel should be preached and that many of Christ’s messages to His followers were directed at the injustices in the world that face Christians. Pastor Hoven did not retreat from facing the issues. He was not being political but preached the need for a scriptural response to injustice in the world. Pastor Hoven frequently reminded the congregation that Christians are not “of” the world but are “in” the world. Our Christian faith should not be confined inside the walls of Immanuel on Sunday morning only. The dissenters in the parish did not get much traction and had only minimal effect. He definitely left a mark on the congregation of Immanuel, an imprint that lasted for decades. Pastor Hoven did not preach to complacency. (To be continued)

Al Solomonson

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



## Happy Birthday!

### February 2021 Birthdays

Brittney Riehle	02/02
Art Dellenbach	02/05
Annabelle Kurth	02/10
Wayne Kallio	02/14
Brandon Wierzba	02/14
Jim Stolen	02/16
Franklin Lewitzke	02/18
Serenity Hulstrom	02/21
Kristen Hulstrom	02/22
Nancy Helling	02/25
Carolyn Viergutz	02/25
Karma Nickolai	02/26

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

#### The Gift of Love

<sup>13</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,<sup>[a]</sup> but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly,<sup>[b]</sup> but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Immanuel Lutheran Church      2020 Income vs Expenses**

Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference	Spec Funds income	Total Deposit
January	\$13,557	\$15,160		(\$1,603)	\$909	\$14,466
February	\$27,289	\$6,321		\$20,968	\$487	\$27,777
March	\$11,749.00	\$19,607.55		(\$7,858.55)	\$856.48	\$12,605.48
April	\$26,650	\$5,524		\$21,125	\$2,065.00	\$28,715
May	\$13,201	\$5,415		\$7,786	\$1,740.00	\$14,941
June	\$13,587	\$12,340		\$1,247	\$1,250.00	\$14,837
July	\$11,729	\$6,188		\$5,541	\$2,244.00	\$13,973
August	\$11,976	\$5,615		\$6,361	1050	\$13,026.10
September	\$12,322	\$3,948		\$8,374	\$1,830.00	\$14,152.00
October	\$10,242	\$4,439		\$5,803	2524.48	\$12,766.48
November	\$10,933	\$7,261		\$3,672	978.62	\$11,911.73
December	\$29,055	\$5,483		\$23,572	1174	\$30,229.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$192,289.95</b>	<b>\$97,301.79</b>		<b>\$94,988.16</b>	<b>\$17,109</b>	<b>\$209,399.30</b>

**Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – Monday, December 28, 2020**

Meeting via Zoom

Members present: Pastor Niveen Sarras, President Bob Henning, vice-president Linda Hulstrom, Treasurer Matt Munson, financial secretary Patti Busche, stewardship Rick Lohr, worship Judy Kort and Sally Scinto-Reinertson, Properties. Members absent: Judy Nickolai

Devotions were led by Bob based on Matthew 18:3 – Continuous conversion. We should continue to turn to God as His children. God holds us accountable when we refuse to convert ourselves. We should convert towards the spirit of God.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Bob Henning.

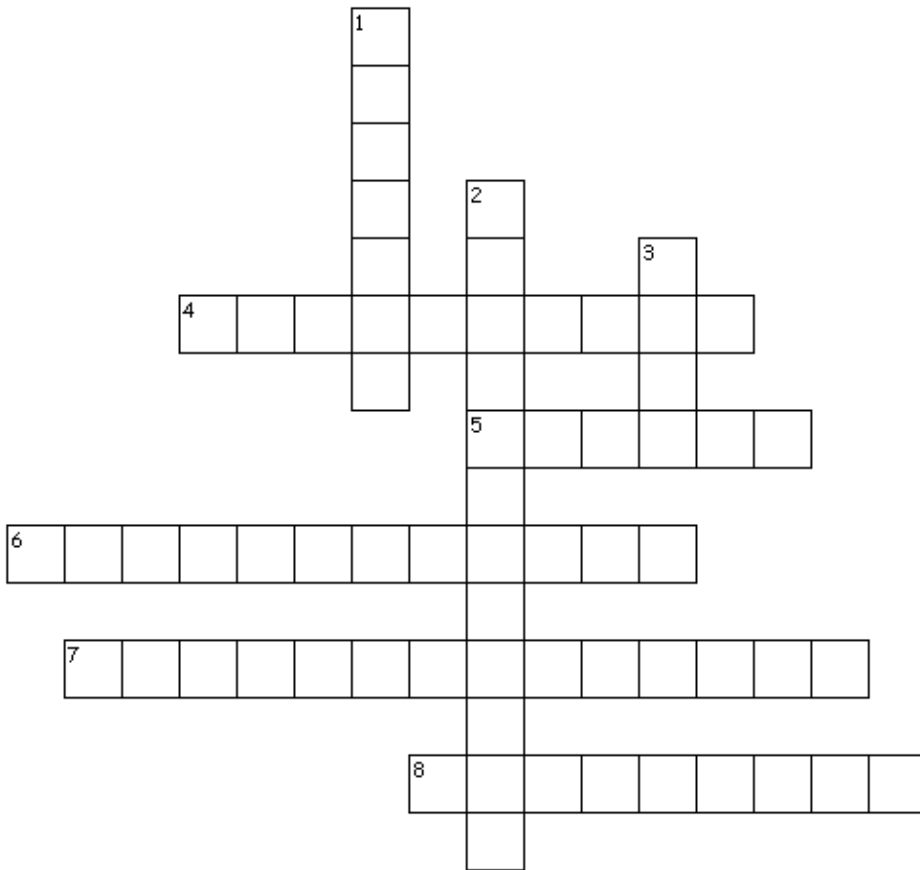
1. Discussion of In-Person Worship
  - a) Need to determine when to resume in-person worship based on current COVID situation.
  - b) Bob recommends starting after 2/1. Others felt 3/1 or 4/1. Will need to analyze on month-by-month basis but no decision made at this time.
  - c) Pastor needs 2-week notice before in-person is started up again to do necessary preparations such as notifying the congregation.
  - d) Ash Wednesday is 2/17/21 and will need to make a decision about that service.
  
2. Reviewed minutes from the 11/23 meeting. Need to correct the spelling of Guild in Pastors report. Motion made to approve by Linda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy K. Motion approved.
  
3. Treasurer report. Matt provided his report. We are still doing fine financially. We are still waiting for the invoice on Pastor’s salary but have the funds needed for that. The Intercity application for the loan forgiveness has been approved. We can also reapply for more funds. Additional information will be coming. The check has been sent to Augusta Victoria Hospital and \$500 to Neighbors Place. Motion made by Linda to receive and hold for audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy Kort. Motion approved.

4. Financial Secretary report. Patti provided her report. We did receive payment for the October wedding of the non-members. Motion made by Rick to receive and hold for audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt. Motion approved.
5. Stewardship report by Rick Lohr. Follow up pledge card reminders sent out. Received 57 pledges for total of \$101344. Council felt the committee did a great job on this year's stewardship campaign. Status of annual contributions were normally sent out in November but didn't get sent this year. Will need to put as a task on the 2021 calendar so they are sent next November. Contribution statements for 2020 should be run this week. They will be available for pick up for a couple of weeks and then any remaining will be mailed out.
6. Worship report by Judy Kort. The Christmas Service and the Blue Christmas services were well done. Council complimented Pastor on the services as well as putting together the Bible studies.
7. Internet Connection for Sanctuary. Spectrum confirmed there will not be any additional cost for this as we are on their business program. The cost is a one-time fee. Need to confirm if we will be able to live stream from the projector room downstairs. Motion to approve the purchase made by Rick and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sally. Motion carried. Matt will take funds from Special Miscellaneous now and then we will apply for funds from the Endowment Committee in the fall.
8. Budget discussion: Reviewed the preliminary budget put together by Matt. If Council approves, the plan is to put this budget in force on January 1. Then at the May congregational meeting, the budget can be reviewed and any adjustments made if needed. Congregation approval will be asked then. Motion made by Patti to accept the budget for 2021 to be put in place 1/1/21 and take to congregation for approval in May. Seconded by Rick. Motion carried. Rick will provide Matt with updates to the pledges as more come in.

Motion to adjourn by Linda; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Busche  
Financial Secretary

# ILC Monthly Puzzle



## Across

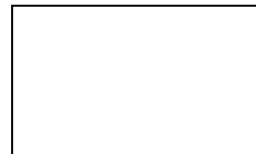
4. Pastor who served at ILC from 1961 to 1970.
5. The day of Jesus Christ's Resurrection.
6. History Writer for ILC Newsletter.
7. Alternative to Worship In-Person.
8. Special day for sweethearts.

## Down

1. You will call your doctor to get this.
2. The beginning of Lent.
3. The name of the 40 days of fasting.

**IMMANUEL News February 2021**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
630 Adams St  
Wausau, WI 54403



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

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



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

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

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