

## NEWSLETTER OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

VIROQUA, WI DECEMBER 2019

*...where in Jesus Christ, God gathers all generations to serve in, witness to, and pray for our church, our community, and the world.*

### A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM

As the weather changes and the days shorten, December is a month filled with many different traditions. In our family, my children always enjoyed the feast of St. Nicholas, finding that he filled their shoes with nuts and candies on December 6th. I am anticipating sharing family traditions including making lefse and eating lutefisk!! And I'm looking forward to sharing in Advent and Christmas Eve Worship here with you.

This very busy season is a season of hope. I encourage you to take some time to reflect on the promises of the Christ Child, our Savior, Immanuel—God with us. For thousands of years, God had been trying to bring the Old Testament people into a relationship with God. We humans just kept being human and flawed. So, 2000 years ago, the Christ Child came to earth to walk in relationship with humans. We like this story. It is filled with angels, kings, stars, sheep and sleeping babies. As we share the joy of this season, we remember it is because of this baby, that we have been given the gift of Grace through the cross.

May you have a blessed Advent and very Merry Christmas.  
Peace!

~Vicar Michele

### OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED

Counting the weekly offering and gifts is a very important part of the church office life, as many tasks cannot be completed until counting is finished. We are currently seeking people to take on counting the weekly offering for two consecutive months, if possible. Please stop in the office if you are available for this volunteer position once a week, either on Sunday following worship or on Monday mornings at 8:15 am, for about 30 minutes. No experience needed, instructions are available for you to see if this is a fitting volunteer position for you.

## WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

**3<sup>rd</sup>**- 1 pm Mid-week Worship  
**4<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30 pm Advent Worship  
**8<sup>th</sup>**- 8:30 am PS150 & Choir at Worship  
**10<sup>th</sup>** - 1 pm Mid-week Worship  
**11<sup>th</sup>**-6:30 pm Advent Worship  
**15<sup>th</sup>**- 9 am Sunday School Christmas Program  
**17<sup>th</sup>**- 1 pm Mid-week Worship  
**18<sup>th</sup>**- 6:30 pm Caroling  
**22<sup>nd</sup>**- NO Sunday School  
**24<sup>th</sup>**- Christmas Eve 4 pm and 10 pm Worship  
**25<sup>th</sup>**- NO Christmas Day Worship  
**29<sup>th</sup>**- NO Sunday School



### YOU ARE INVITED.....TO TUESDAY WORSHIP!

Please join us at 1PM on Tuesdays of Advent (December 3rd, 10th and 17th for Communion and Advent Worship. Cookies and Coffee will be served after.

### ADVENT EVENING WORSHIP

Our youth will again be celebrating Advent Worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Our 9th Graders will be leading Holden's Evening Prayer on December 4th and our 7th and 8th Graders will be leading worship on December 11th. Dean Saner is planning and coordinating Community Caroling on December 18th. Please join us as we anticipate our Saviors Birth through Music and Story.

### COMMUNION

We will be sharing Communion every Sunday during Worship through Advent. Please sign up to serve Communion if you are able on the bulletin board in the entrance way. I am always willing to train people in the "what do I say? or how do I do that? Please just ask and we can set a time that is convenient.

### STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: Immanuel Lutheran  
Website: [www.immanuel-lc.org](http://www.immanuel-lc.org)

**DECEMBER MEETING**

Property: 16<sup>th</sup>; 6 pm

Council: 16<sup>th</sup>; 6:30 pm

**COUNCIL MINUTES**

October 21, 2019 6:30PM

The October Council meeting was called to order by President Karen Laabs. Members excused were Paul

Schmidt and Laura Mackey. Vicar Michele was attending Fall Ministerial conference. Karen lead us in devotion.

- The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved. Motion was made by Dick Wallin and second by Kevin Schlicht.
- The treasurer's report was given by Troy McKay. Mike Stephens made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Shelley Dobbe. Motion passed on a voice vote.

The committee reports followed:

- Education committee is working on Christmas Program. It will be Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. F.A.N. night was held Sunday with limited attendance. We will hold one more on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> then break for the winter.
- Personal committee had no report.
- Property committee is working on installing heat tape to protect the valleys in the roof. Council had approved this project. The property brothers are working on it. Rotted windows in the sanctuary are being replaced. Terry sent a garden wrap up report. Siding on the tower portion of the church will be fixed.
- Stewardship and Finance will be meeting Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Worship and Music will be meeting Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Old Business:

Committee Restructuring was finalized and will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

The council okayed a live Christmas tree for this year. A discussion about the cost of live tree vs. a large artificial tree was held. We will reconsider this in January.

They synod resolution about being a Sanctuary Church was discussed. It was referred to the Property Use committee to see how it fits into our policy. It will be discussed with the congregation at our annual meeting.

New Business:

Council discussed the need for an automatic door to make our building more handicapped accessible. Dick reported on the cost to install door openers on the main doors. The bid from Lacrosse Glass and Door was 5,263. That includes fixing the broken window in the entryway. Brit Role made a motion to accept the bid and pay for it from our anonymous gift account. It was seconded by Shelly Dobbe. Passed on a voice vote.

Vernon County Emergency services sent us a Memorandum of Understanding to serve as an emergency evacuation site. This is a renewal and council approved moving on with it.

Mike Stephens made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Troy Mckay. Passed on a voice vote.

**MEMORIALS**

(October 21<sup>st</sup>- November 17<sup>th</sup>)

**Undesignated:**

Ilene Rose	\$25
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**Thank you for your generous gifts to our capital campaign and support of our regular budget!**

Please stay regular with your weekly or monthly giving.  
Use a form of electronic giving if that would be helpful to you.

**Mission Support Update**

Regular Income for November thru the 17 <sup>th</sup> :	\$8,598
Actual Expenses as of 11/18/19:	\$6,742
Estimated end-of month payroll & bills:	\$4,500
Estimated total expenses:	<b>\$11,242</b>
Building Saving Fund:	\$34,208

***Thank you for your support of Immanuel in so many ways!***

**LEGACY GIVING**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. After worship, Matt Iverson and Heath Gilkes from Thrivent will be with us to share how to set up or begin to think about Legacy Giving.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	USHERS	READER	FELLOWSHIP	TECH
1 <sup>st</sup>	Weston	Marilyn K.	OPEN	Weston
8 <sup>th</sup>	Weston	Danelle W.	OPEN	Weston
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School	Christmas	Program	OPEN
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Schmidt	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
24 <sup>th</sup>	Anderson	OPEN	4:30 pm	OPEN
24 <sup>th</sup>	Lee	OPEN	10 pm	NONE
29 <sup>th</sup>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

*Communion assistants and basket holders- please volunteer!*

1<sup>st</sup>- OPEN    8<sup>th</sup>- OPEN    22<sup>nd</sup>- OPEN    24<sup>th</sup>- OPEN  
 24<sup>th</sup>- OPEN    29<sup>th</sup>- OPEN

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will be Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-10:45 am. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

## CONFIRMATION

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation is scheduled for all Wednesdays in December at 3:30 or 5 pm; except for the 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

*December 11<sup>th</sup> ALL 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students are asked to meet at 3:30 pm for the Shop-Wrap- Give Service Project. Following Confirmation, the students will be leading the 6:30 pm Advent Worship Service.*

9<sup>th</sup> grade will meet on the first Wednesday of December, the 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to lead the Advent Worship Service.

## PROPERTY BROTHERS & OTHERS

This group will be meeting on Wednesdays, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am for coffee and donuts, work time starting at 8 am. If you are unable to work, you are still welcome and encouraged to join for coffee and donuts!



## SHOP-WRAP-GIVE

Thank you to everyone who supported the Confirmation Annual Baked Potato Dinner on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds totaled \$796! Special thanks to Kickapoo Corners/Cary Family for the wonderful donation of food and Thrivent for their Action Team funds. The Confirmation class will be shopping on December 11<sup>th</sup> to purchase items for families in need this Christmas. 9<sup>th</sup> Graders and other High Schoolers will shop during youth group on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## CIRCLES & QUILTING

- Quilters meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December at 9 am.

- Ruth Circle will meet on at 9 am on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

-Martha Circle will be meeting at Deb Clark's house (214 N. Washington St.) on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m. A brunch will be served. We will be doing a Christmas Ornament exchange. Any questions, please contact Deb Clark 637-3882. \*Martha Circle will not meet in January 2020.

## CHOIR & PS150

Choir will meet every Wednesday at 6:30 pm, except the 25<sup>th</sup>. Choir is scheduled to sing at Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month, December 8<sup>th</sup> and at the 4 pm Christmas Eve Worship. Caroling of the Choirs will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm.

PS150 will begin meeting to practice on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. PS150 is performing at the 8:30 am worship on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## OFFICE HOURS

Please call ahead if you would like to make sure the building is open 637-3983.

~ Chentel: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8 am-2:30 pm.

~Michele: Monday-Thursday: 9 am-4:30 pm. Day off- Friday.

In case of an emergency Michele can be reached by phone at (608) 632-2360 or email [pastor@immanuel-lc.org](mailto:pastor@immanuel-lc.org)

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!!

Our records are not up to date! Many people are now using cell phones and no longer have a LAN line, also we do not have email for many people.

Starting February, **we are changing our newsletter distribution.**

As more people rely on technology versus mailings, we will be emailing an electronic copy of the newsletter to those who provide an email and note that they prefer receiving it by email. We will have printed copies available for pickup at the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship Service each month. (So, the February newsletter will be available on January 26<sup>th</sup> for pickup). We will also mail to those who are homebound or in long term care facilities, as well as, those who indicate that they wish to have the newsletter mailed. It is our hope to communicate with all our members in the way they wish to receive information and save resources.

Please complete the information below and return to the office as soon as possible.

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Members residing in the home:

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Main Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please email text a link continue to mail newsletters and church information.

Return to Chentel at [office@immanuel-lc.org](mailto:office@immanuel-lc.org) or in the offering.

6" Red Poinsettias will be available for you to order to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas from *Quillin's Floral.*

Through the church, you may purchase a plant for \$12.00  
Be sure to remit the money directly to  
Immanuel Lutheran Church.



To order a poinsettia, please use the form below, email or call the church office by *December 11<sup>th</sup>*.  
[office@immanuel-lc.org](mailto:office@immanuel-lc.org) or 637-3983.

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I would like to provide a Poinsettia for Christmas

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

If the plant is to be (please circle one) in memory  
or in honor of someone, please list that  
information below.

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