



Join Us for
the Holidays!

December 2019

Immanuel Wisconsin Synod Lamplighter



John E. Seelman, Pastor

Office 233-1379; **Pastor's Cell 920-495-3259**

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

December 4 at 6:30 p.m.
December 11 at 6:30 p.m.
December 18 at 6:30 p.m.



Hebrews 12:1 *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us.”*

As you read this, there may still be memories of (and maybe some leftovers from) the Thanksgiving feast where you gathered with family, friends, co-workers or fellow residents. Thanksgiving Day marks the beginning of a very busy time of year, affectionately lumped under the heading ‘the holidays’. During these days, we can easily become distracted. Yesterday, in the middle of a conversation, my mind sort of went blank. So many dates, so many tasks, so many things to remember, that I actually forgot what I was talking about.



4:00 p.m.

Sunday School Children
Recite Christmas Story

Throughout ‘the holidays’ we get together, with those we love, to celebrate. This is one time of year that it’s hard to say ‘no’ to an invitation. We want to be surrounded by those things that bring us joy. Now, I’m not going to

tell you to avoid these opportunities for fellowship, however, at times, they may cause us to lose our focus on why this time is called ‘the holidays’. We lose the feeling that they are ‘holy days’. Times to reflect on God’s love for us. Times to study and hear his Word. Times to toss the burdens that trap us, and continue on the path our Savior has shown us to travel.

Our theme for the Advent/Christmas season is, “A great cloud of witnesses”. The mid-week Advent services, Christmas Eve/Day, and the following Sunday will focus on the many children of God that witnessed to the birth of the Messiah. As we join our loved ones, may we include the many that witnessed to Jesus’ love for us.

~Pastor



9:00 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRACTICE



Our Sunday School will hold two Christmas practices on **Saturday December 14th and 21st from 10:00 a.m. until noon.** Parts and music have already been handed-out to the children to begin learning their parts. Please make plans to have your child at these practices. **Their Christmas party will take place on December 21st noon to 1:00 p.m.** Each child should bring a \$5 gift for exchange.



Advent Offering Envelopes

Enclosed in your current offering envelope box is one Advent Offering envelope. Additional Advent offering envelopes are available in the entranceway of our church. Please remember to write your name or envelope number on the front so you can be appropriately credited. Thank you!



immanuel-oshkosh.org

Type this into the address line and discover cool stuff on our website.



Once again, we will be publishing our Annual Report in the middle of January. Included will be a copy of our *Church Directory*. Therefore, **if anyone has a change of address or phone number, please provide this information** to our church office by the end of December. Thank you!



Pathways to Christ... "A Friend Loves at All Times" Proverbs 17:17a

Mark your calendars!
March 13-15, 2020

Hawthorn Suites
& LaSure's Hall

More information will be coming in
January's Lamplighter.

Ladies' Guild Soup Sale

The soup sale is coming!
The soup sale is coming!

Mark your calendar for January 19. Ladies will be selling soup after our worship service. Anyone wishing to prepare their favorite soup recipe and donate to our sale is welcome.



Council Corner

Topics of discussion
from October 2019 Meeting

- * Pastor officiated marriage of Kristen Troutd and Ben Phillips on October 18.
- * 2020 Budget was reviewed
- * New front door and kitchen window for parsonage has been ordered.
- * New members Roger & Connie Jerman will be joining Immanuel.
- * Church heating system a concern and further discussion needed and recommendations will be forthcoming.
- * Plumber will be contacted to repair sink in Sacristy bathroom.
- * Next "official" CC meeting is scheduled for December 2.

BUDGET & ELECTION MEETING

Our Budget and Election Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing and voting on our 2020 budget. At our meeting we will also be electing a congregational Buildings & Grounds Chairman and Treasurer. If you would like to join our Church Council or would like to nominate someone for these positions, please contact Pastor Seelman or Marty Waite.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This year's sign-up is a little different. Twenty Christmas poinsettias have been ordered; 15 white and 5 pink to complement with the new Christmas theme. Simply sign your name on the list to as many plants you would like to sponsor. Cost per plant is \$15.00. Please make sure to designate if your poinsettia is in *memory* or in *honor* of your loved one(s).



LADIES' GUILD

Our December gathering is planned for Saturday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m. in our church kitchen. A noon luncheon is planned afterwards. All ladies of our congregation are invited to join us for this fun event. Ladies' Guild members will be packing Christmas cookies for our shut-ins and selling Christmas cookies on Sunday, December 15th after our worship. Anyone wishing to donate their yummy Christmas cookies for this event is invited to do so. Please have your contribution to the church kitchen by 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning (12-14-19). Thank you!



LWMS

On October 26, over 175 people attended the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society rally at St. Peter Lutheran church in Sturgeon Bay, co-hosted by Zion en Egg Harbor.

We started the day with "Lift High the Cross" and a devotion based on Mark 5:18-20 with a reminder that no one is too far from God and we should not judge people. The business meeting was held and the updated Mission offering was \$8,887.26. We then heard updates on the Hmong mission in Anchorage, the One Africa team and the staff minister serving The Word in Stevens Point. Attendees learned that there are four new home mission congregations this year in Houston, TX; Folsom, CA; Wesley Chapel, FL; and Martin Luther, Oshkosh where the synod is funding a third pastor for campus ministry. Mount Calvary, Menasha, is starting services in Stockbridge.

Our speaker was Pastor Jasper Sellnow serving in Adams, Wisconsin. He calls his mission "An Island in the Midwest" and has been there since the beginning of 2018. He and his wife, Sarah, gave a very interesting presentation on the poverty and unchurched in the Adams area. There are in the process of building a church. He currently has 11 weekly Bible classes and an average of 60 participants per week for worship.

The Spring 2020 rally will be on April 18th at Riverview in Appleton. All women of Immanuel are members of LWMS and are welcome and encouraged to attend for a morning of Christian fellowship and learning. The 2020 International convention will be in Athens, Georgia. Information is available on the LWMS web site and will be updated monthly. Following the closing devotion and "God's Word is our Great Heritage", we enjoyed lunch before traveling home.

Joan Radtke, LWMS reporter

2020

Available in the fellowship hall beginning Sunday, December 15th.



Schedule



Schedule



Offering Envelope Reminder. . .

Please do not begin using your new envelopes until the **first Sunday of 2020**. Also, remember to write your offering amount clearly on the line provided. Thank You!



ALTAR FLOWER OPTIONS For 2020

As you may have noticed in the last few months, our altar flowers are "different". A few of our members have volunteered to make fresh or artificial silk arrangements *in place of* the floral arrangements from House of Flowers. This is an



option for those of you that wish to sponsor flowers for a special occasion. We can still order from House of Flowers if you desire. New, revised sign-up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hall. If you have

any questions, please talk with Darlene Zepczyk or Ruth Reiter.

In Loving Memory of...

Belle Ader

\$600.00

For Organ Fund

From Ader Family

Memorial Gifts

WLA CHOIR

The Winnebago Lutheran Academy Choir will be here at Immanuel on Sunday, January 12. Please plan on seeing (and hearing) them enhance our worship!

Refreshments will be served immediately following our Worship Service. Feel free to stay and greet the WLA Choir members.



A Special THANK YOU

- ♥ Mary Troutd for faithfully decorating our bulletin board.
- ♥ Everyone that decorated our church for Christmas.
- ♥ Everyone that contributed to the Parkview Christmas gift collection.
- ♥ Mark & Pam Juedes for keeping our church tidy and neat.
- ♥ Timothy Krause for mowing and mulching our lawns.
- ♥ Our Church Council for carrying-out and continually addressing the needs of Immanuel.
- ♥ John & Edie Nieman for donating Christmas decorations for our new 2019 Christmas theme.
- ♥ Everyone that plans to purchase an OCM card in support of the WLA bus.
- ♥ Clair Kentopp for designing, constructing and donating a banner storage apparatus in our basement.
- ♥ Dave Leatherman for assembling and donating shelving in the basement for banner supplies.
- ♥ An Immanuel non-member for designing and constructing our television stand in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♥ Pastor Seelman for faithfully *shepherding* the Immanuel flock.

Thank You


Please turn in all *Lamplighter* articles by Friday, December 20th.
Thank You!

STEWARDSHIP

Date	Worship Attendance	Communion	Sunday School	Grief-Share	Sunday Doctrine Study	Tuesday Bible Study	Total Offerings
11-3	92	N/A	N/A	10	11	12	\$3,833.00
11-10	83	76	6	13	9	13	\$2,601.80
11-17	88	N/A	6	11	14	11	\$2,292.00
11-24	78	70	5	N/A	13	N/A	\$12,153.35

Report of Offerings 11/01/19 thru 11/26/19

Description	Amount
General Offering	\$20,279.00
Plate Offering	\$79.15
WLCFS	\$130.00
Thanksgiving	\$25.00
Flowers/Bulletins	\$112.00
Initial Offering	\$5.00
Other Special Gift	\$105.00
Improve/Maint. Fund	\$145.00
Total	\$20,880.15

Immanuel Savings Accounts	
Interest-ytd (2019)	\$ 910.89
Tuition Assistance/Christ. Ed. Supt. Fund	\$ 6,303.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 33,995.95
Improvement Fund	\$ 32,701.71
Choir Memorial Fund	\$ 694.62
Organ Fund	\$ 40,317.22
Thrivent Choice \$	\$ 974.00
WLCFS	\$ 140.00
Missions (Mission Fest)	\$ 1,295.00
Parsonage update/improvements DESIGNATED	\$ 9,893.51
GriefShare DESIGNATED	\$ 235.00
Ware Memorial Balance DESIGNATED	\$ 1,601.00
Oaks Memorial Balance DESIGNATED	\$ 1,190.00
Member Assistance DESIGNATED	\$ 1,000.00
Stieg Memorial Balance	\$ 538.96
Lohry Memorial Balance	\$ 250.00
Hoffmann Memorial Balance	\$ 785.00
Neuenfeldt Memorial Balance	\$ 5,000.00
Special Gift (Estate) \$15,000 transferred to Organ Acct. in April 2019	\$ 4,000.00
Total of "Undesignated Memorials"	\$ 10,573.96
Balance 10/31/2019	\$ 141,825.86
Stock (260 Coca Cola)	\$ 28,196.23



Immanuel
Lutheran Church

338 N. Eagle Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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Altar Guild and Usher Schedule for



2019

December 1	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Blue Advent	Karl Luft, Jim Daubert, Marty Waite & Tom Gregory	
December 4 Advent Service	Jan Nelson, Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Blue Advent	John Hornig, Matt Fink & Larry Stowe	
December 8 Communion	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Blue Advent	Timothy Krause, Mark Juedes, Mike Juedes & Pam Juedes	John Nieman
December 11 Advent Service	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Blue Advent	Dave Schroeder, Dave Leatherman, Gary Troudt & Dennis Troudt	
December 15	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Blue Advent	Jessie Reiter, Jeff Reiter, Jacob Reiter & Ruth Reiter	
December 18 Advent Service	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Blue Advent	Mark Andersen, Mady Andersen, Randy Montgomery & Amy Montgomery	
December 22 Communion	Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter	Blue Advent	Karl Luft, Jim Daubert, Marty Waite & Tom Gregory	Doug Zellmer
December 24 Christmas Eve	Barb Luft, Ann Gosdeck & Julie Treichel	Non-Communion White	John Hornig, Matt Fink & Larry Stowe	
December 25 Christmas Day	Rachel Freerking, Kay Kohfeldt & Edie Nieman	Non-Communion White	Timothy Krause, Mark Juedes, Mike Juedes & Pam Juedes	
December 29	Dave & Judy Zarter & Jan Zellmer	Non-Communion	Dave Schroeder, Dave Leatherman, Gary Troudt & Dennis Troudt	