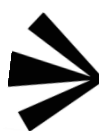


ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 6 - December 13, 2020



\*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\*  
ALL WORSHIP SERVICES & SMALL GROUP MEETINGS ARE "ONLINE" (using ZOOM) at least THROUGH DECEMBER 31st. AT THAT TIME, ANOTHER DECISION WILL BE MADE. STAY TUNED.

YOU CAN FIND ALL ONLINE INFORMATION REFERENCED BELOW

AT... [www.immanuelnegaunee.org](http://www.immanuelnegaunee.org)

Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am - Worship Service (online)
- 10:15 am - Zoom Coffee Hour
- Sunday School online any time (ALL VIRTUAL)
- 7:30 pm - AA Group Meets (men & women)
- NO OTHER ACTIVITY

Monday - 6:00 pm- Worship Service (online)  
- 7:00 pm - Virtual Confirmation online on Zoom

Wednesday - 10:00 am - Bible Study discussing this coming Sunday's Scripture online via ZOOM - - go to: [www.immanuelnegaunee.org](http://www.immanuelnegaunee.org) and click on button: "WED 10AM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM"  
- 6:00 pm - NO Bell Choir Practice

Thursday - 9:00 am - Decorate the Church Sanctuary (Come to help. Thank you!)  
- 10:00 am - NO Quilting  
- 6:00 pm - Bible Study - on Zoom (This topic is "4 Gospel Journey" & will include a 6-part series with Alexander J. Shaia, as he uses the great map of the four Gospels to guide us on the Christ journey, one of love, growth, and transformation.) Go to [www.immanuelnegaunee.org](http://www.immanuelnegaunee.org) & click on THURS 6PM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM. Follow instructions there.

Friday - OFFICE CLOSED  
- 10:00 am - Woman's AA Group Meets

Saturday - Sunday, December 12-13, Prayer Vigil, 8:00 am Saturday to 8:00 am Sunday  
Because of Covid-19, PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE AT YOUR HOME. TAKE THE TIME TO STOP & PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE AND HEALING AT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. GOD INVITES US. GOD LISTENS.

Sunday 3rd Sunday of Advent  
- 9:30 am - Worship Service (online)  
- 10:15 am - Zoom Coffee Hour  
- Sunday School is Virtual  
- 7:30 pm - AA Group Meets (men & women)

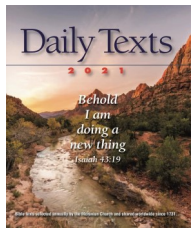


\*\* PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2021 ENVELOPE BOXES. \*\*  
THEY ARE FOUND JUST INSIDE THE FELLOWSHIP HALL DOORWAY.

Donations of diapers may be dropped off at Immanuel in the container near the Stewardship Center. Please sign in on the clipboard provided as you make your donation, OR you may send a financial donation to Immanuel OR by using the "GivePlus" app on your smartphone, designating "DIAPER DRIVE."

**+PROJECT KEEP KIDS WARM** You can still donate NEW jackets, boots, hats, & mittens for infants & youth up to 18 years old who live in western Marquette County for the *Keep Kids Warm Project*. A marked clothing box is near the Fellowship Hall to place your donations in. A financial contribution may also be sent to Wesley United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 342, Ishpeming MI 49849 noting Project KKW in the memo line. Please note that this year because of COVID 19 only new clothing items will be accepted.

**+THE 2021 DAILY TEXTS** is a unique devotional book with two Bible verses for each day - one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. These are followed by a prayer based on the TRIP - Thanks, Regret, Intercession, and Purpose - written by a different person each month. Scripture readings to read through the Bible in one year are also provided. Each Sunday has a Watchword for the week plus a hymn for the church season. The Small Catechism in prayer form is also included. Contact the church office for pick-up. Suggest donation is \$10.



**+SUNDAY SCHOOL 2020-21** Sunday School IS ALL VIRTUAL. Sunday School is for Age 3 through 5th Grade. Packets include activities for ALL ages. The packets are posted EACH SUNDAY. You can respond to this invitation by: (1) Go to Immanuel Website: <https://immanuelnegaunee.weebly.com/Sunday-school.htm/>; (2) Call Immanuel's Office at 475-9161 and leave a message with the information; (3) Fax Immanuel's Office at 475-9403; (4) Mail to Immanuel at 520 E US 41, Neg. MI, 49866.



**+STEWARDSHIP** If you haven't already done so, please prepare your Time and Talent Sheet and an Estimate of Giving for financial offerings that was sent in the mail last week. They can be mailed to the church or completed online at: [www.immanuelnegaunee.org](http://www.immanuelnegaunee.org). Look for "A Stewardship Celebration". God's Word does light the way!

**+GIVING YOUR OFFERINGS** - Thank you for continuing to financially support our ongoing congregational mission. Electronic giving is available on our website.



**+LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION** for 2021 is now being advertised. Go to our website & find under SYNOD LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION the topics and schedules for your registering.

**+BIRTHDAYS**

HAPPY 81st BIRTHDAY to *Mary Ann Laukka* on December 11th.

**+ANGEL TREE CHILDREN** If you are one of the *Angels* providing gifts for children of incarcerated persons, please bring your gifts to the church ASAP so they can be sent out in the mail. Thank you for participating in this *Angel Tree Project*. Thank you for your contributions.

**+UP CITY SERVE** Go to [www.upcityserve.org](http://www.upcityserve.org) to find out how you can help and / or receive help during this world-wide pandemic.

**+IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

is seeking a part-time Custodian. Follow this link for a complete job description and how to apply.

<https://immanuelnegaunee.weebly.com/apply-for-job.html>

**+DIAPER DRIVE** Now through December 31st, diapers will be distributed locally through The Care Clinic. Sizes needed are 3, 4, 5, 6, & pull-ups.





**PRAYER CONCERNS OR OTHER NEEDS? Call Pastor Steve at (906) 458-2145 or click on "Share My Needs & Hopes" button at [www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org](http://www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org)**

# DECEMBER'S MONTHLY MISSION

**IN DECEMBER, our mission emphasis is, 'Room at the Inn: Caring for Our Homeless Neighbors'.**



When Room at the Inn opened in 2007, there was a handful of guests housed in local churches, staffed by all volunteers. But as the years progressed, the number of homeless guests increased and it became apparent that our community needed a more permanent solution, a shelter that did not require the guests to move to a different location every week, and a shelter that did not stress the space of many of the churches.

The Room at the Inn Board spent years looking for a space for a permanent housing for an emergency shelter. Meanwhile, our community learned a lot about homelessness. Many of our guests struggle with addictions, mental illness, brokenness, chronic poverty and homelessness. Moving our guests out of homelessness is not an easy fix. Guests need the security and the stability of a permanent "home" to have the strength to move forward. A couple of years ago the current director, Nick Emmendorfer, suggested using the Warming Center building, a building many guests view as home, as an emergency shelter.

The need to have a permanent place has become increasingly urgent with COVID, to be able to keep the guests in a central location to prevent the spread of COVID to guests and the community.

Immanuel's monthly mission in December is Room at the Inn. Messiah Lutheran is matching any funds up to \$20,000 given to the building project of Room at the Inn. The construction at the Warming Center building has started, converting the upstairs into a dormitory that will house 24 guests and converting the downstairs backroom into overflow and a space for guests unable to navigate the stairs.

To support the RATI building project, make your check out to Immanuel Lutheran and write "Messiah Match " on the for line. Or give electronically using the "Give to Immanuel" page on our church website or the GivePlus app on your smart device, designating "Monthly Mission Emphasis." Immanuel will donate all money so indicated to the RATI building project. This is a big step for our community, a commitment to the homeless, a recognition that homelessness requires us to reach out in love to a population in our country that is broken and in desperate need of support.

## "Gospel Message" 2nd Sunday of Advent Name Your Wilderness

Name your wilderness. Do not read on yet. Name it now, this moment. No one else needs to describe it for you. It is *your* wilderness. Aches. Burns. Howls. Shadows. Echoes. Fears. Shames. Hungers. Jeers. Memories. Futures. Scars. Catastrophes. Wastes. Falls. These may comprise your wilderness.

In Judea, the wilderness is dusty, dry, rocky, and hot. The land is rugged and steep, dangerous and threatening. But it is not a hopeless place. When the wadis, where the rivers run, fill up with rainwater, the brown, broiled-crisp hillsides dress in green, and flowers emerge as if scraps of rainbows have dappled the earth. In a seemingly desolate place, grace startlingly appears.

Name your wilderness.

John the Baptist was in the wilderness. He went there with a message. It takes courage to cry out to the occupiers of the wilderness with a vision of hope. He did it with nerve, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

The crowds were there from all regions. It seems they came hoping for hope. Naming their wilderness, the crowds found the courage to "repent, for the kingdom of heaven [had] come near."

"Repent": John's persistent refrain in the wilderness. He was "crying out," the gospel tells us, not whimpering or gently prompting. The word *repent* muscles and presses, carving a new path where all the other occupiers leave drought and ruin. The river Jordan flows in the wilderness; in its current the Spirit moves, the call "Repent!" carried in its quickening flow. The message is both warning and promise. In naming your wilderness, you discover not desolation but opportunity for new life. Name your wilderness. See the grace flower and spring into abundance. The one who is coming—the embodiment of the kingdom of heaven come near to us—offers repentance and grace.



**Next Week's Reading:** First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm: Psalm 126; Psalm (alternate): Luke 1:46b-55; Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28.

### ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Keep in Your Prayers ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Pray For:** Merry & Jay Bengry, Billy Jo, Glen Binoniemi, Kari Borchert, Emily DeMarois, Cheryl & Greg Dix, Elizabeth, Anna Laurila, Connie Lindblom, Jean Manginen, Yvonne Marcom, Wendy Niemi, Linda Ogea, Ray, Jessica Roberts, and all COVID patients.

**Our Shut-ins:** Bettie Ahola, Phil Carlson, Rudy Gagnon, Annette Jahimski, Arlene Kivela, Charlene Kivisto, Timothy Kjellman, Betty Lukkarinen, Robert Mager, Butch Pynnonen, Lillian Rivers, Dave Stromquist, Lynne Tossava. **Members in the Armed Service:** Luke DeWitt, Dennis Koski, Adrianna Gustafson, Michael Gustafson, Hunter (Jessica) Hetrick, Jacque Kurian, Mark (Samantha) Makela, Tanner Romback, Trevor Romback, Michael (Lauren) Sedlock, Ethan Wallner, Jason Wallner, and all Armed Services Families.

We send a THANK YOU to Bob Sylvester (known as the 'Cross Guy'), for supplying the many folks with his hand-carved crosses. He has supplied every child who received a Vacation Bible School packet with a cross, all confirmation children with crosses, and, for this Christmas, he has made available his hand made pocket crosses to a deployed National Guard Unit through PFC Hunter Hetrick. He has handed out crosses to many, many members of the congregation, has a collection in a dish for people to pick up if needed or desired, and shares this love of God throughout our community. Thank you, Bob, for this gift of spreading God's love to the world. ❤️

**Thank you for giving \$ 580.00 in November to Lutheran Social Service (LSS). The recipients will be richly blessed with your generosity! Thank you!**

**Serving in Worship: Pastor Steve Solberg  
Organist/Pianist/Musician: Online Music  
Worship Services: Sunday & Monday, are online  
Office Hours: 8 am-2 pm, Mon.-Thurs. (or by appt.)**

**ASSISTING IN THE SERVICE:  
NO ONE IS ASSIGNED TO ASSIST  
AS WE DO NOT HAVE IN-PERSON SERVICES  
FOR THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER & DECEMBER, 2020.  
A DECISION WILL BE MADE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.  
STAY SAFE !!!**