

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13 - December 20, 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

- Sunday** 3rd 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
- Tuesday** -9:30 am - Miriam AND Abigail Circle meeting on Zoom. The Bible study uses the *Gather* magazine. A short WELCA general meeting will follow the Bible study.
- 6:00 Executive Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Church Council Meeting (pick up your packet) (Both the Executive Committee & Council are on Zoom.)
- Wednesday** - 10:00 am - Bible Study discussing this coming Sunday's Scripture online via ZOOM - - - go to: www.immanuelnegaunee.org and click on button: "WED 10AM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM"
- 6:00 pm - NO Bell Choir Practice
- Thursday** - 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 & click on THURS 6PM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM. Follow instructions there.
- Friday** - OFFICE CLOSED
- 10:00 am - Women's AA Group Meets
- Sunday** 4th Sunday of Advent - Nativity of our Lord
- 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.

+THREE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be available on Immanuel's website: a kid-friendly telling of Luke 2; a candle-light service, and a synod-wide service. The latter will also air on TV6 both Christmas Eve and Day. Check your TV guide.

+DIAPER DRIVE Now through December 31st, diapers will be distributed locally through *The Care Clinic*. Sizes needed are 3, 4, 5, 6, & pull-ups. 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 smart-phone, 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. Call the church if you do not know how to participate.



+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. 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.



+SYMPATHY & GOD'S PEACE TO:

- John Strom on the loss of his long time companion, **Katherine Marie 'Kat' Liuha**, on Monday, November 30th. Also, condolences to all of the Liuha Family.
- Lori (Kevin) Bell, Suanne (Brian) Debski, and Donald (Shana Thornton) Larson, on the loss of their mother, **Judith Corinne 'Judy' Larson**, on Friday, December 4th. Also, condolences to her husband, William 'Bill' Larson, grandchildren Jeremy & Jason Bell, and all of the Larson Family.

+ANGEL TREE CHILDREN Thank you to those who participated in the *Angel Tree Project*. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

+UP CITY SERVE Go to 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>



+ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA(S) NOW The deadline for ordering is Thursday, December 17th. Call the office or fill out an order form. (There are some in the hallway of the church & 1 in your last Beacon.)



PRAYER CONCERNS OR OTHER NEEDS? Call Pastor Steve at (906) 458-2145 or click on "Share My Needs & Hopes" button at 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" 3rd Sunday of Advent A Change in Tone

John the Baptist, just last week crying out in the wilderness with a voice unmistakable and bold, has dramatically changed his tone. Now imprisoned by Herod, he has abandoned his confident pitch that pulsed at the river Jordan's banks. His confidence tottering and proclamation fading, John now implores about his cousin Jesus, "Is he the one?"

A stream of hope had run through the crowds on the Jordan's banks. It had flowed through those who rushed from the water, dripping with baptismal verve and ready for the kingdom of heaven John announced. But now it was drying up. John was filled with misgivings, his hope having evaporated inside the prison walls. Where is justice for the prophet? What of mercy for John? A prison cell was his reward for proclaiming heaven's kingdom come, for unlocking a conclusive truth at the portals of a warping empire.

Malicious bars of injustice imprisoned him, hammered in a forge of vengeance: this man called by God, the first of two miracle children born of wonder foretold by angels, the ascetic in the desert, arouser of hope, baptizer of Jesus himself—held in chains! All the glowing hope looked to be a fading tale told by a disappointing martyr.

Life. Who has lived it and managed to escape injury and heartache of expectations lost, fair due denied, the prize withheld? We each experience tragedies immense and minute, discouragements that sting and pass, despair that aches and endures. How thin the air of promise can feel.

Jesus offers transcendent hope when he answers John. It is hope that sees beyond short-sighted optimism, hope that prevails against searing evidence to the contrary, hope that exceeds the pace of setbacks and remains persistent when, like John, we cannot help but ask, "Are you the one . . . , or are we to wait for another?" It is Advent hope.



Next Week's Reading: First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm (alternate): Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27; Gospel: Luke 1:26-38.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **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 \$ 610.00 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 !!!**