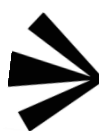


ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK
4th Sunday of Advent
December 20 - December 27, 2020



***** NOTICE *****
ALL WORSHIP SERVICES & SMALL GROUP MEETINGS ARE "ONLINE" (using ZOOM) at least THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2021. AT THAT TIME, ANOTHER DECISION WILL BE MADE. STAY TUNED.

YOU CAN FIND ALL ONLINE INFORMATION REFERENCED BELOW AT... www.ImmanuelNegaunee.org

- Sunday** 4th Sunday of Advent - Nativity of our Lord
- 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** BEACON DEADLINE FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY
Please get your info to the office ASAP. Thank you.
- 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 and click on button: "WED 10AM BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM"
- 6:00 pm - NO Bell Choir Practice
- Thursday** Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Eve
OFFICE IS CLOSED AT NOON TODAY - Merry Christmas
- 6:00 pm - NO Bible Study tonight
- Friday** - OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY
- 10:00 am - Women's AA Group Meets
- Sunday** 1st Sunday of Christmas
- 9:30 am - Worship Service (online)
- 10:15 am - Zoom Coffee Hour
- Sunday School is Virtual
- 7:30 pm - AA Group Meets (men & women)

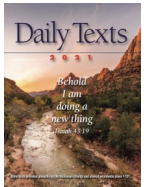


** PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2021 ENVELOPE BOXES. **
THEY ARE FOUND JUST INSIDE THE FELLOWSHIP HALL DOORWAY.

financial donation to Immanuel OR by using the "Give Plus" 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.



+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.

+SYMPATHY & GOD'S PEACE TO:

- Gina (Justin) Debelak on the loss of her step-grandmother, **Carol Ruth Johnson**, on Wednesday, December 9th. Also, condolences to step-great-grandchildren, Owen & Reyna Debelak, and all of the Johnson Family.
- Bonny Koski on the loss of her mother, **Lorraine Cecelia St. Onge**, on Monday December 14th. Also, condolences to grandchildren: Byron (Wendy) Koski & Eric (Shari) Koski; great-grandchildren: Ethan & Landin Koski, and all of the St. Onge Family

+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 NOW! Call the office if you want a form filled out today!

+THREE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES will be available on Immanuel's website: a kid-friendly telling of Luke 2; a candlelight 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



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" 4th Sunday of Advent Where Mercy is Courage

There is a starched-spine courage in what Joseph did—courage that risks public derision. There is tender courage needed for Joseph to be gentle with an abrasive truth, to face shame for the sake of another's honor. There is a willing-to-be-wrong courage revealed by Joseph, who dares to believe an improbable dream.

Before any innkeepers' doors shuttered along Bethlehem's still streets, before a cattle stall doubled for a nursery or shepherds abandoned their flocks to a sky full of angels, before silent night broke into something joyful and triumphant and herald angels sang glory, there was quiet, courageous mercy in Nazareth.

To be merciful to Mary, who Joseph must have believed had betrayed him; to be merciful to a community that, of course, would ridicule him; to be merciful in the face of a future that appeared forever spoiled—this demanded courage. Mercy will forever require courage. All Joseph had to proceed with was the mind-boggling gift of the phrase "Do not be afraid."

Many are the regrets that harrow us, not for what we have done but for what we have failed to do; not for where we wandered but for where we refused to venture; not for what we chanced but for what we guarded, all because we have been afraid. Fear binds us from acting with mercy and courage.

"Do not be afraid" is God's constant refrain, beginning with scripture's earliest stories in Genesis and continuing until the Bible closes in Revelation: "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last" (Rev. 1:17). God's empowering litany gives merciful courage to Joseph in a dream and to shepherds in the fields. It is found in the miracle of Bethlehem, the merciful Word born in Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid.



Next Week's Reading: First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3; Psalm: Psalm 148; Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7; Gospel: Luke 2:22-40.

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

Pray For: Glen Binoniemi, Kari Borchert, Bryon Butterfield, Wayne Connors, Greg Dix, Elizabeth, Rodney Laituri, Anna Laurila, Connie Lindblom, Billy Jo Kaufman, Yvonne Marcom, Wendy Niemi, 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 DECEMBER & JANUARY, 2020-21.
A DECISION WILL BE MADE AT THAT TIME.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
STAY SAFE !!!**