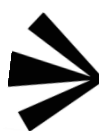


ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK
1st Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2020 - January 3, 2021



***** 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 - 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 OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS

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 NEW YEAR'S EVE
OFFICE IS CLOSED AT NOON TODAY - Happy New Year
- 6:00 pm - NO Bible Study tonight

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

Sunday 2nd 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.

➤ **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.



➤ **SYMPATHY & GOD'S PEACE TO:** Joyce & Jim Anderson on the loss of their son/step-son, **Kenneth Joseph Saarela**, on Friday, December 18th. Also, condolences to Ken's dad, Jeffrey Saarela and all of the Saarela 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>



➤ **THANK YOU FOR YOUR POINSETTIA ORDERS!!**

➤ **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 "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.

➤ **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.**



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" 1st Sunday of Christmas Home for the Holidays

Did you celebrate Christmas at home this year? As Perry Como popularly sang, our culture tells us that "there's no place like home for the holidays." Yet, not everyone has a place that feels like home. While some people have lived in the same town or even in the same house for many decades, others have moved year after year, or find "home" to be unsafe or precarious. Still others have had to leave home behind under threat of violence, natural disaster, or political persecution.

Today, Matthew's gospel reminds us that Jesus' life was marked more by movement and displacement than by a settled existence. Even shortly after his birth, Jesus faced threats that caused his family to flee their home and country. Later in his life, Jesus warned an eager would-be follower about the risks of a life of discipleship, saying, "The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Matt.—8:20). But Jesus' goal was not to find home for himself; instead it was to become a resting place for those who struggle to find one in this world.

In this Christmas season, the story of Jesus proclaimed in Christian assemblies calls us to look around for those who feel unwelcome in this world. We are called to seek out those who have no home, or who have lost their home in physical or emotional ways. How is your community serving those without a home? Is there a homeless shelter in your community, a youth refuge, or an organization that assists refugees and asylum seekers? Led on by our God who often had no comfortable resting place, the Christian community is called to witness to the home we experience in Christ's love by serving those who seek one.




Next Week's Reading: First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14; First Reading (alternate): Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20; Psalm (alternate): Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21; Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14; Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **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 !!!**