

The Image

February 2019



Artwork by:
Rev. Emmy Kegler

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Reconciled in Christ



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(Paul's second letter to the Corinthians 5:17-21)

Here in Paul's letter to the Corinthians we hear the good news of our faith. We are reconciled to God through the gift of Jesus Christ. In turn, we are given the ministry of reconciliation. In this ministry we are called to help reconcile others to God, and to each other. The word reconciliation means 'to bring together.' Once we felt separated from God because of our sin, and now we are reunited. Once we felt alienated from other people because of our sin, but now we are called to join together. Many things have separated us from God and other people including: hatred, judgment, prejudice, and selfishness among others. When God through grace restored our relationship, all that changed. We were made new! The sins that once held us back were shattered and the truth of our union and connection to God was made known.

Once we have been reconciled to God, we realize that God is loving and forgiving. God wants to be in a restored, new creation harmony relationship with us. God wants us to see the truth that love and kindness are all around us, and we can choose this over division and conflict. This truth sets us free to be peacemakers for all people. As peacemakers and reconcilers we share the good news that love and grace abound. We also work to restore human communities. We reach out especially to those who have felt excluded or lost and remind them that this good news is true for them as well. This ministry of reconciliation is what inspired our community of Immanuel to seek out the Reconciled In Christ designation for our ministry.

Reconciled in Christ is a program that seeks to embrace people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions. According to the 2018 LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) Youth Report, more than 70% of LGBTQ teens who were surveyed reported feeling hopelessness or worthlessness within that week. Most teens did not feel safe in their classrooms due to their sexuality or gender identity.¹ When teens and adults are experiencing depression and fear due to their identity, we as the church wonder how we can help. By designating our church as a safe space, we can provide a supportive and loving faith community for someone who truly needs it. When they see the rainbow sign on our website, door, or bulletin with the RIC designation they can look up the meaning and see that we are committed to being an inclusive space for all of God's children. They do not have to worry about stepping into our doors and facing discrimination, judgment or hatred.

As we discern this step as a congregation we might ask, "Why now?" We may wonder, "Why do we need this specific welcome? Aren't we already welcoming?" All of these questions are important. I'm

reminded of a quote by Martin Luther that reads, “*How soon not now becomes never.*” As your spiritual leader, I want you to continue to grow as an individual and as a congregation. Part of that growth involves moving forward. It means not putting off things that we feel are important. We seek to live into the ministry of reconciliation in real and meaningful ways. By joining with the Reconciled In Christ program, which includes 855 other Lutheran faith communities, we have access to training sessions and resources that can help us in our growth. Taking this next step will inspire us to be bold in our witness.

Immanuel is already a welcoming congregation. That is something that is deeply embedded in our culture and our spiritual values. We say we welcome all people, and we mean it! Many years ago when we realized some of our members had different intellectual and physical abilities, Pastor David Anderson began a *One in Christ* initiative to help the congregation live into its identity to be welcoming to people of all abilities. Recently, when we realized some of our older members suffered from dementia and memory loss, we held a training session and received a designation as being a “Dementia Friendly” congregation. There are many levels to being welcoming. RIC is one more way that we can live into this identity.

Because this is such an important step for our congregation, we want to make sure everyone has had time to learn about Reconciling Works and what it means to be an RIC congregation. We are going to take a little more time to offer more learning and listening sessions. Our newly organized core team is going to work on planning and visioning for this journey and develop a welcome statement for our church.

It’s my hope that you will prayerfully engage in this process. Check out the Reconciling Works website <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/> to learn more about the organization. Attend one of the RIC learning and listening sessions. Pray for our congregation. Consider joining the RIC core team. Be engaged! In doing so, we can move together to be reconcilers in this world. We can rejoice and celebrate diversity of all kinds and continue to evolve as people and a congregation. I’m excited for the future of Immanuel, and I feel blessed and humbled to be your pastor. People of Immanuel, you are a gift to Eau Claire and to the world. Keep shining your light!

In Christ’s reconciling love,
Pastor Jamie Brieske

¹2018 LGBTQ Youth Report, Human Rights Campaign 2017, www.hrc.org

Reconciled in Christ Learning and Listening Sessions

Sunday, February 17th

Learning Hour RIC Session 1

Biblical interpretation: Dealing with difficult texts and Lutheran biblical interpretation

Sunday, March 3rd

Learning Hour RIC Session

Hearing stories of faith & learning the meaning of LGBTQI+

Wednesday, February 27th

7:30-8:30 p.m. RIC Night Session

This night session will provide a brief summary of the Sunday sessions





Have lunch after church Feb 24 at the annual Chili cook-off. Many Immanuel chefs (many be you?) hope that you will vote that their chili is the best. Taste each chili, vote for the one you think is the best, and if you are still hungry you can have a big bowl of your favorite! The free-will donations will support travelers to Malawi from Immanuel on the planned 2019 trip. The event is by our ZIP group (Zomba-Immanuel Partnership), which works to keep the ties between us and our Malawi companions strong. Join us in Luther Hall to enjoy this fun event. Travelers to meet after the cook-off.

Northwest Synod of WI

Hello, Friends in Ministry!

You are invited to join us for our annual Walking Together event! March 9th, 7AM -4 PM UWEC Davies Center

This year's theme is "Holy Experiments" and there will be many workshops to choose from that include best practices for worship, social justice, faith formation, leadership, congregational vitality and more!

We will be trying a "Holy Experiment" during the event by hosting Walking Together in tandem with Christ Jam, our annual middle school event. We will begin our time together with a large group, cross-generational opening, including conversation, an activity, and TED-type talks about innovation, and trying new things. This will be followed by 5 workshop opportunities and lunch, as usual, during this event.

All are welcome to this event. Contact the office for more info.

The Blessing Box!

The Blessing Box is an extension of Immanuel's Food Pantry. The intention is to fill it with everyday essentials that may make a huge difference in someone's life. The Blessing Box is located outside, near the corner of the building along the Preschool entrance. Over the next few weeks, we will be working to acquire the first set of supplies to fill the box. Once we have a good stock of supplies, we will be assembling kits to go in the box.

Donations are needed. See the list below for ideas. Or donate cash, and we will do the shopping! We will have a donation bin is by the bulletin board in the hallway.

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouth rinse, floss, washcloths, soap, shampoo, deodorant, comb or brush, nail clippers, feminine hygiene products, Chapstick, lotion, socks.

The Tradition Continues! 16th annual "A Night With the Oscars®"



Sunday February 24 6:00 PM.
Bring a dish to pass.

Be sure to join in the fun, food, festivities and community. Participate in the "Pick the Winners" contest for a chance to win a big prize. There will be door prizes, entertainment, trivia and of course Oscar®.

Serving at Beacon House March 25th—31st

No experience required to serve!

There are opportunities to cook a meal, serve a meal and to stay overnight.

Beacon House is a shelter for families who are experiencing homelessness. Beacon House is a non-profit agency and relies on volunteers to support their paid staff.

If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Curt Carlson at 715-559-7888

Are you a Thrivent Member?

You may qualify for Action Team dollars! We have used your dollars to purchase food for our Food Pantry fundraiser, to buy t-shirts for the Youth Gathering team, to purchase flowers for our beautification project, and to buy products for the blessing box.

Contact your agent to see if you qualify for Action Team dollars and help us to do more for our church! Let Alyssa or Janet know if you qualify!

A simple way to set up e-giving. Scan the QR code to link with our e-giving site.



Serving during worship

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Assisting Minister	Kitty Rahl	Dave Langhus	Marianna Gilbertson	
Lectors	Marianna Gilbertson	Ray Koch	Diane Kaufmann	Becky Ihle
Ushers	Don & Dee Schlieve	Donna & Dave Lehmkuhl	The Chris & Michelle Johnson Family	Marc & Lauren Likkel
Greeters	David & Andrea Schaffer	The Drier Family	Nikki & Jason Cox	Jim & Karen McCrady
Bread and Wine	Jim & Karen McCrady	Sue and Ray Koch		Curt & Janet Carlson

Interested in serving during worship?

Contact the office or the coordinator.

Assistant Ministers: Andrea Schaffer-715-514-7284

Lectors: Becky Wilcox-715-835-9784

Ushers and Greeters: Barb Hokanson-715-835-1524

Bread and Wine: Melissa Tarpenning-715-858-1190

Fellowship sign-up

We all enjoy our fellowship time after worship with a little coffee and snack. There is always an open invitation to make coffee and provide a simple snack with your Immanuel friends. The sign-up is in Narthex by the front door.

Dear Trust Fund Board,

Six months ago you entrusted the Ecumenical Inclusive Ministry in Eau Claire with a grant for \$1200. We were just starting our monthly services. Now that we've had six months of services, it's time to say thanks and let you know what your money has done and is doing.

So far we've spent \$420 on sign language interpretation and wheelchair-accessible transportation. This is much lower than expected. Providers of these services have been generous to us and given us discounted and free services. The church services are warm joyous opportunities for people with cognitive and other disabilities, their families and caregivers and volunteers to celebrate the love of God.

Thank you for your support and please come join us some time, the third Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at Lake Street Methodist Church. In April the service will be April 14 instead of 21 so we don't compete with people's Easter afternoon family gatherings.

Katherine Schneider, Ph.D., Senior Psychologist, Emerita
Counseling Service, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
schneiks@uwec.edu

Author of *Occupying Aging: Delights, Disabilities and Daily Life*, *To the Left of Inspiration: Adventures in Living with Disabilities* and a children's book *Your Treasure Hunt: Disabilities and Finding Your Gold*

Faith Formation Ministry

Bible Milestone

On Sunday, February 10 we will be marking an important milestone in the lives of our 2nd grade youth. On this day, we will be gifting our 2nd graders with the Word of God. Again this year, for the 2 weeks preceding the milestone, the bibles they are to receive will be placed out in the narthex. We would invite you to write in these bibles – mark a favorite verse, write a special message, anything you would like to pass on to the youth receiving the bible. On February 10, these youth will receive a special blessing and their Spark bible during worship, along with some helpful information for their parents, to help guide their children in using the bible they receive. Please join us in praying for, and congratulating the following young people: Atticus Haus, Deacon Haus, Marissa Neidermire, Griffin Fey & Abby Drier.

Winter Retreat

Our Winter Retreat is almost here! All are welcome to this family-friendly weekend at Luther Park. Come for a day, or come for the weekend! February 15-17. Registration forms & details are located in the Narthex.

Middle School Youth – Christ Jam is coming!

Saturday, March 9 will be the date of the gathering, which is going to look a little different this year. The event is going to be combined with the adult gathering called “Walking Together,” and will happen at UW-EC. Registration forms will be sent home...watch for them! Forms will also be available in the Narthex or by talking to Alyssa.

Our March Family Fun Event will be a day at the theatre!

All are invited to join us to see the Eau Claire Children’s Theatre production of “Beauty and the Beast” at the Pablo Center. We will attend the show on Sunday, March 17 at 1:30 pm. We are able to get reduced price tickets through group sales, but I need to order them no later than March 1 – so, sign up by February 28 if you’re able to join us! Prices will be: \$18 adults, \$8 children.

Pastoral Care Update:

If you would like a visit from Pastor Brieske, please call the church office during office hours or the pastor’s cell phone after office hours. We do not receive updates from the hospital about our members due to privacy concerns. Please leave info about the hospital and room number and your condition and if you have with the person or an immediate family member. The pastor will make every attempt to see you in the hospital or at home.

Add Pastor’s phone number to your contacts or have her card in your wallet in case of emergencies. Contact info is on the Website too. Pastor Jamie: 715-563-3145



Preschool Registration!

Registration opens for all of our pre-school classes (Camp Create & Create-A-World) on Monday, February 4. If you know a 2, 3 or 4 year old who would love our program, please pass the word!



Lay School of Ministry

This is an educational outreach of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA). This program is designed to lead lay people to a deeper Christian identity and increased participation in the mission of the whole church.

Any adult can attend Lay School! Courses are intended to help develop a deeper understanding of the Bible, worship, spirituality, and Lutheran theology.

Many Immanuelites have attended Lay School. For more information talk to Janet in the office or go to www.layschoolofministry.org

All tuition and materials are paid for by the Immanuel Trust Fund.

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open	2
3 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Annual Meeting Supervised movie for the children in the youth room	4 5:30-6:30 PM Food Pantry Open 6:30 PM H3 5-9 PM Synod Candidacy mtg. Preschool	5 9:30 AM H3 6:30 PM Immanuel Yarners 7 PM Wholly Yoga	6 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Noon-Material Witnesses Quilting 5:15 PM WoW meal 6:00 PM WoW worship 6:30 PM Learning for all 6:45 PM SHYN! 7 PM 9th graders mtg 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	7 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open	8 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open	9 8:30 AM Men's Discussion Group
10 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship Bible Milestone 10:30 AM Fellowship Learning for Children Book Group	11 6:30 PM H3	12 9:30 AM H3	13 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Noon-Material Witnesses Quilting 5:15 PM WoW meal 6:00 PM WoW worship 6:30 PM Learning for all 6:45 PM SHYN! 7:30 PM Adventure Trip Meeting	14 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open	15 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open Winter Retreat @ Luther Park Bible Camp	16 Winter Retreat @ Luther Park Bible Camp
17 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship RIC Learning No Learning for children Return from Winter Retreat	18 6:30 PM H3	19 9:30 AM H3 7:00 PM Church Council	20 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Noon-Material Witnesses Quilting 5:15 PM WoW meal 6:00 PM WoW worship 6:30 PM Middle/High School movie night No Learning time 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	21 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open No School	22 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open No School	23 8:30 AM Men's Discussion Group
24 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Learning for Children Chili Cook-off The Oscar Party	25 6:30 PM H3 No School	26 9:30 AM H3	27 Serving @ Community Table 10:15 AM Sr. Bible Study Noon-Material Witnesses Quilting 5:15 PM WoW meal 6:00 PM WoW worship 6:30 PM Learning for all 6:45 PM SHYN! 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30-8:30 PM RIC Learning	28 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open	1 9-11 AM Food Pantry Open	2

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, December 18, 2018

Members attending: Curt Carlson, Lang Jacobson, Al Ludwig, Vicki Fankhauser, Mindy Rosenberger, Peggy Blumenberg, Jerry Hanson

Absent: Sabrina Hegstrom, Sara Hegde, Keith Martin, Dave Schaffer, Pastor Jamie

Meeting called to order at 1900

Devotion: Al gave a devotion

Reports

To start the meeting, Casper Haas presented version 2 of the 2019 budget. Spreadsheet sent to council previously. Version 2 has a few changes/updates.

- 1) Pastor Jamie's salary increased but overall package decreased – changes in childcare. 2018 budgeted pastors total package: \$81,590. 2019: \$80,765
- 2) Audit expense deferred, reduced budget by \$1500. Should do audit every 5 years

Peggy moved to accept the budget, Lang seconded, motion carried.

Finance: Casper also presented the finances for the month. We predict a roughly \$1200 deficit for 2018 in total depending on December revenue and expenses. Deficit as of November is about \$9700 Had a net gain of \$2478 in November, expenses less than predicted. Electricity bill has been higher, Kyle Niedermeyer is on finance committee now and reports this is a community wide trend.

Peggy moved to accept the finance report, Lang seconded, motion carried.

Property: Jerry presented. Nave still needs painting. Bricks out front need work when weather permits. Pipe organ down payment made to Levsen. This is to hold the summertime date for work. Kim is going on vacation for about 2 weeks after Christmas, need back up custodian 2-3x/year when this occurs. Jerry suggested bulletin announcement.

Stewardship: Stewardship committee did not meet.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jamie submitted written report. Hannah Olson will be back up depending on her recovery. 4 baptisms, 1 funeral, 1 wedding over last month. Birthdays to be taken out of prayers, no hospitality committee to help with this currently, Janet blamed when people left out.

Thank You Notes: Loren Anderson for his electrician work.

Prior Meeting Minutes: October minutes reviewed, motion made by Mindy to approve, seconded by Jennifer, motion passed. November notes reviewed.

New Business

- 1) Future church council elections/membership discussed. Jerry and Vicki are off in 2019. Mindy and Jen will serve on nominating committee to contact potential candidates for church council. After 2 terms, church constitution says there must be a 1 year hiatus.
- 2) Congregation members have asked about the organ, and will it be fixed. Peggy will make an announcement during service.
- 3) Thinking ahead, Al asked the question, do we need the sprinkler system? For Feb-March agenda, Peggy mentioned adding lawn care package discussion, with an budgetary savings.

Old Business

1) Projection Project: Al working hard. Picked up 2 TVs, working on set-up. Don helping as well. Camera phase pending.

Peggy moved to adjourn, Mindy seconded, motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15th 2019 at 1900

February Birthday's

01 Leon Salander
01 Mindy Rosenberger
02 Isaac Tucker
03 Linda Lodaht
05 Rachel Wilcox
05 Jacob Waits
06 Jared Barnhardt
06 Tammy Barnhardt
11 Zan Degen
11 Emma Larson
12 Rachel Neidermire
13 Jo Stolp
13 Bronson Long
14 Rhea Malac
15 Janice Heitkamp
15 Michelle Johnson
16 Larry Lundeen
16 Dean Johnson
16 Ashlyn Neidermire
18 Tim Fehr
18 Julie Benware
19 Don Schlieve
20 Gay Fehr
20 Emrey Rassbach
22 Keharnon Bogstad
23 Verna Scholze
23 Darin Weber
24 Sean Tarpennig
24 Sarah Larnson
24 Meghan Kavanagh
25 Frank LoRusso
27 Richard Bresina
28 Dee Schlieve
29 Melissa Glynn

Anniversaries

16 Don & Dee Schlieve
18 Jill & Ed Chapman –August
28 Ron & Sue Waits

Community Events

Valley Gospel Choir

February 2nd, 2:00 PM

Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd

All donations to support the Eau Claire Street Ministry. Serving those who are homeless.

Lutheran Nordic Choir

February 8, 7:30 PM

Hope Lutheran Church

2226 Eddy Lane

Part of the Great Lakes Tour.

Tickets \$20; \$15 for Seniors

Joy Day-Triniteam Caregivers

Fun, Fellowship and Food for persons who are 60 or older, or who have disabilities, and their caregivers

February 7, 1:30 PM

Peace Lutheran Church

501 E. Fillmore Ave

Inclusive Ministry Church

February 17, 3:00 PM

Lake Street Methodist Church

Worship, Activity, and fellowship meal

Serving people with or without disabilities, just as you are.

Opioid Crisis-You Can make a difference

There is not one congregation and probably not one family that has not been affected tragically by the disease of addiction, whether that is by opioids, alcohol, tobacco, food, gambling, sex or computer/game/l-phone addiction.

February 19, 10:00 AM

Luther Park Bible Camp

No cost workshop!

Register with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Liz Bartsch

715-859-6810

lbartsch@nswi.org

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The Image

A publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church
"Church without Walls"

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Northwest Synod of the ELCA*