

# Immanuel-Trinity

Lutheran Church (ELCA)

*"Making Christ Known"*

20 Wisconsin American Drive  
Fond du Lac, WI 54937

Phone (920) 921-4545

FAX (920) 921-9015

[www.immanueltrinity.org](http://www.immanueltrinity.org)

**Our Mission  
Statement**



## THE BEACON



of Lutherans of Immanuel-Trinity

## December 2019

*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.*

**James 1:17-18 (NRSV)**

Dear Partners in Christ,

Why Church? That thought has been ruminating in my mind for some time now.

Why Church? It's an complicated question in a pluralistic society that continues to flounder away from the once inspirational institution. Why Church? As we approach the Christmas season, we will have that one time of the year that many people "might" reflect on the love that God showed humanity in the babe of Jesus. Why Church? Because the Church is still, I believe, God's salvation gift to the world to do the work of Christ in it's communities and families.

Over the last few months, I have been asked numerous times about "How the I-T is really doing?" I usually answer something like, "Things are going well!" or "The Gospel is being preached, the scripture is being taught." Immanuel-Trinity is blessed with gifted and talented people to continue the 140ish year's journey of this congregation in Fond du Lac. I am proud of the number of young people that still love their church and feel empowered in worship. I am confident that in worship, I-T brings people closer to the heart of Jesus. Yet, We do have our challenges. We have been transitioning over the last year from a staff run program congregation, to a volunteer run event congregation. We have felt both conflict and opportunity within that change. The Council and leadership continue to explore ways to use our tithes and offerings to best support and our ministries. Our reality is that our financial resources are dwindling. I fear that we have adopted an attitude that may sound like, "I'm not going to give anymore because the future of Immanuel-Trinity is uncertain." or "I'm not going to give anymore because the Ministry Fund will support the congregation." We forget that God has given us an opportunity to grow **Our Faith** with the disciple of giving of resources and ourselves in the service of our Lord. We have been greatly blessed, but in those blessings, God asks for us to be blessings in return.

In this season of the Christ child and new hope, continue to pray for the ministries of I-T. Pray for God to reveal God's purposes for our community of believers. Pray for the vision direction of Immanuel-Trinity's council and leadership. Pray for the people of this body of Christ to step up and continue it's long lived traditions of relevant ministry in the Fond du Lac area.

Let us be the Christ child's beacons of light where God has planted us.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

PASTOR Tom



# Have you heard the news?

## ***I-T's newsletter is going digital NEXT Month!***

So, we need your email address because the newsletter will be coming to you in your inbox, which makes it a great time to update all your information. Please fill out the form and put it in the offering plate, bring it to the church office or you can fill it out online at

**[www.immanueltrinty.org](http://www.immanueltrinty.org)**. Hard copies will still be available for shut in's and in the church for you to pick up.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Angel Tree Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated items to the Angel Tree ministry. You have made the Christmas for many young children special with your generous donations. Have a Blessed Merry Christmas!



## Christmas Worship 2019

Come and worship Christ the Lord!

Christmas Eve - 3:30 p.m.

Spark, Connect Kids &  
Nancy Morris Singing

Christmas Eve - 5:30 p.m.

Choir Singing

Christmas Day - 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion with Bells



## Advent Schedule:

*A time of  
preparation &  
celebration of the  
nativity of Jesus.*



**Come join us Wednesdays  
during Advent  
12/4, 12/11 & 12/18**

- ◇ 10:30 a.m. Worship with  
soup luncheon to follow
- ◇ 5:00 p.m. Soup supper with  
worship to follow at 6:00 p.m.

## Celebrate the Christmas Season with Music!

### **Children's Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 8th  
9:30 a.m.



### **Christmas Cantata "The Winter Rose"**

Sunday, December 15th  
8:30 a.m. at Immanuel-Trinity  
10:30 a.m. at 1st Presbyterian Church



## **WELCA News**

December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> are the dates for our Cookie Walk this year after each service. We hope you will consider baking or making some candy to donate and then buying someone else's creations to try! Cookies and candy are sold by the pound so you can pick out a dozen or a few of just the ones you like. We always have a nice variety that you provide. Deborah Circle will be on hand to help this year and all the proceeds again go to giving back to our community.

Cookies and candies may be brought in between 8:30 and 12:30 on Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, or 9 and 12 on Saturday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. You may place them on the back counter (east side) of the kitchen where there will be a sign. Saturday the WELCA women will be there to get the trays ready for the sale.

Sunday is our annual Cantata so we will have company here. They may like to try your cookies and candies as well. So please consider baking or making some candy to share and thank you again for all of your support.

Your WELCA Board Marion, Audrey, Lu, Martie, Caryl







## Garden of Readin'

This September Bob and I traveled to Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter. When we first learned about this several years ago, I knew I wanted to experience it. You just can't imagine the overwhelming emotion when you first see this incredible replica of the Ark. After touring the inside of the Ark, I decided to put some books in the library to share the story of Noah and his incredible faith. The books I purchased are a trilogy of Noah. They are: "Noah - Man of Destiny"; "Noah - Man of Resolve"; and "Noah - Man of God".



Two other new additions to the library are: "The Case For Faith" by Lee Strobel and "God's Hostage" (a true story) by Andrew Brunson.

A new addition for the children is a "Veggie Tales" DVD entitled "The Best Christmas Gift". The Veggies are preparing for their first Christmas show and things aren't going well. When they go back to the very first Christmas where times were tough, and things didn't seem to be working out they all learn the promise of Christmas.

There are also books relating to Advent that you may want to check out. Some of the books have activities for each week of Advent. These are things you can do as a family. Happy Reading!!!

## Are You Ready?

How many times have you said or have you heard someone else say "Are you ready?" It might have been for that immediate time right then; or the next day, week or month. But are you ready for that last day or hour of your life? It can happen at any time. How many times have you read or heard where someone young or old were taken out of this life by some unfortunate way? We all know this is something we don't like to talk about, but it is something that is going to happen to everybody some-day. When, we don't know. We see people treat this world like it was a permanent home. It's Not. You see people pour time and energy into life like it will last forever. It won't. You see people so proud of what they have done that they hope they will never have to leave this life. They will. You might say we are in TRANSIT. Life being on a plane or train- at some time you have to get off. You will find that if you get yourself ready for that day you can enjoy life more now and know everything was meant to be, knowing God is in control. This message was not to scare or to depress anyone. It was to remind people what Jesus said in John 10:25 "I am resurrection and life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." Stephen Ministers are always ready to listen to anyone; at anytime; in any place. If you want to know more about Stephen Ministry get in touch with:

Dorothy Hoff: **920-583-3231** Ruth Auchtung: **920-922-9282** or  
Pastor: **920-921-4545**



## Home Communion 2020 Schedule

If you are interested in helping serve or receive home communion please call church at 921-4545



- ⊕ **January 5**
- ⊕ **February 2**
- ⊕ **March 1**
- ⊕ **April 5**
- ⊕ **May 3**
- ⊕ **June 7**
- ⊕ **July 5**
- ⊕ **August 2**
- ⊕ **September 6**
- ⊕ **October 4**
- ⊕ **November 1**
- ⊕ **December 6**

*Please cut out and save for future reference!*

## Loaves & Fishes

Our next time to serve is:

**Monday,  
February 10**



**Future dates will be:**

- Mon, April 20
- Mon, July 6
- Mon, October 19

Arrive by 4pm at Church of Peace, 158 S Military Rd, FDL to volunteer to help serve. Come join us for fun, fellowship and a feeling of fulfillment.



**Sunday,  
December 15**

**In Loving  
Memory**

*Rev. John Steinbrecher*

Given by.....Pat & Jordon Hansen, Judy & Dale Jerguson, Daniel Luebke, Norm & Caryl Thielman, Bob & Audrey Greenwood, Eileen Barber, Dennis Barber, Len & Debbie Mallas, JoAnn DeVoe, Mary Jo Kellar

**In Loving  
Memory**

*Beverly Meilahn*

Given by.....Norman & Caryl Thielman, Chuck & Carla Kenas





## **Poinsettias (and Non-Poinsettias) for Christmas**



Only 25 poinsettias will be ordered for Immanuel-Trinity. Cost is \$20.00 per poinsettia. The order will be placed and payment made through church.

If you would like to order a poinsettia, please complete this form in the "poinsettia plant donation" section indicating your dedication and return the form with your payment payable to Immanuel-Trinity by Sunday, December 8. Once our number is reached you can donate towards a "non-poinsettia".

Poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Day services or you may indicate if you wish them to be distributed to shut in's.

For those who don't want a plant, we're offering a non-poinsettia option. You may donate a "non-poinsettia" for a suggested donation of \$20.00 which will go to the Debt Reduction fund. Complete this form indicating a "non-poinsettia" donation. Then, indicate the number of non-plants you want to donate and the dedication which will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. Please return this form with your payment by Sun, Dec 8. Thank you!

### **Non-Plant Donation for the debt reduction**

\_\_\_\_ **Non- Poinsettias Gift for Christmas** (Suggested donation \$20.00 payable to Immanuel-Trinity)

◇ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

◇ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

◇ To the Glory of God

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

### **Poinsettias Plant Donation**

\_\_\_\_ **I signed up for a Poinsettia Plant** Donation \$20 payable to Immanuel-Trinity.

◇ In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

◇ In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

◇ To the Glory of God

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will pick up my plant.      \_\_\_\_ No, I will not pick up my plant.

## Christmas Greetings from SHYG (Senior high youth group)!

We started the season early by ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Festival Foods on 11/20. We are also hosting a "Baby Jesus Shower" which will benefit the Family Resource Center of Fond du Lac County. It will follow the Advent service, approximately 6:35pm, on Wednesday 12/18. There will be a cake and beverages for all to enjoy! Their biggest need is diapers, sizes 4,5,& 6 and baby formula. Other needs are diaper wipes, changing pads, general cleaning supplies and paper products. We hope you can join us for this JOYous event! Watch the bulletin insert for more details regarding the baby shower.

Have a blessed Christmas season!

Lori Jurgensmier

Ljur13479@gmail.com



## **Christian Education Christmas Break**

**There will be no SPARK on: Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29.**

**There will be no Connect, Confirmation & SHYG on: Christmas Day (December, 25) & New Year's Day (January, 1).**

***Wednesday night classes will resume on January 8 @ 6:30 pm.***

***SPARK will resume the weekend of January 4 & 5 at regular class times.***

## **Christian Education**

**Christian Education has been busy. The end of October brought us to Confirmation. There was a total of 15 kids in all that were confirmed this year: Colton Amundson, Emma Hansen, David Hurtgen, Grady Kellar, Jenna King, Jonathan Korb, Isabelle Neal, Dylan Nery, Kaleb Pagel, Riley Plato, Cole Rottman, Zachary Shepro, Payton Wartenberg, Carter Wendt and Allison Wright.**



**The Spark classes have been practicing for the Christmas Program. Christmas may be over a month away for some, but our program will be happening on Dec 8th at 9:30am. We will gather in the gym this year for the program between Church Services. Come and see the kids tell us "The Christmas Story Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts"! Then the Spark and Connect kids will be singing at the 3:30pm Christmas Eve Service with Nancy Morris!**

**The SHYG helped out the community and rang bells for the Red Bucket Campaign on Nov 20th at Festival Foods.**

**The beginning of November was our annual Butter Braid sale. Thank you to all who bought the delicious pastry's. All proceeds earned will go towards Quake, the Middle School/High School event that is held in Wisconsin Dells in March 2020.**

**And to top it all off, at our last meeting on November 5th, the 2020 VBS program was picked!! Bring on warmer weather as we head to the "Rocky Railroad"!**

**The Christian Education Team**

**Marie Scannell**

**Megan Keller**

**June Bahr**

We invite all who are interested to please join us; new ideas and volunteers are always welcome. We will be planning music for January- May. As we enter the Christmas season, we look forward to the Children's Christmas program on Sunday 12/8 at 9:30am in the gym. We are also anticipating the Cantata, WINTER ROSE, which will be on Sunday 12/15. It will be at ITLC at 8:30am and at First Presbyterian Church at 10:30 am. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions.

God Bless,  
 Lori Jurgensmier  
 Ljur13479@gmail.com

## December Birthdays

### December 2

Emily Rozell

### December 4

Alek Giese  
 Samuel Wright

### December 5

Deanna Jacobs  
 Nancy Nell  
 Linda Barth

### December 7

Rachel Schroeder  
 Jeffrey Wolff

### December 8

Saphyre VanLoo

### December 11

Sandy Kastenschmidt  
 Roger Belling

### December 12

Mitchell Triatik

### December 13

Rachel Mastellar

### December 14

Deb Hubbard

### December 16

Daniel Fox

### December 17

Samuel Skorik  
 Missy Seider  
 Melody Mastellar  
 Constance Palkovich

### December 18

Robert Kahl  
 Irene Roehl  
 Kathy Brost

### December 19

Luna Biessman  
 Nicholas Dilling  
 Michelle Gray  
 Greg Belling

### December 20

Jaxson Cleland

### December 21

John Steinbrecher  
 Tristan Brooks

### December 22

Jacob Dilling  
 Ashley Hall  
 Parker Veness  
 Magdalena Rentmeister  
 Colbie Dalton

### December 24

Beth Krause  
 Jackson Myers

### December 25

Richard Solamita

### December 26

Joyce Drennan  
 Jazmine Mastellar  
 Susan Ringer  
 Carla Brown  
 Ruth Auchtung

### December 27

Samson Hamburg  
 Jacob Waller  
 Lauren Kellar  
 Michael Nanna

### December 28

Jackson Waldschmidt

### December 29

JoAnn Roehl

### December 31









Stephanie Fox  
 Gail Gosdeck

**If you don't see your birthday listed, please contact the office at  
 920-921-4545 to update our Church records.**





~ December 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Home Communion 8:30a Worship with Communion 9:30a Adult Ed 10:30a Worship with Communion 4p Advent Fest 	<b>2</b> 6p Facility Action 6p Faith in Action	<b>3</b> 6p Christian Ed 6p Worship & Music 6:15p Ministry Fund 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>4 Angel Tree Gift Deadline</b> 10:30a Worship with Soup Luncheon to Follow 5p Advent Soup Supper 6p Advent Worship Service 6:30p Book Club 6:30p Cantata Practice @ 1st Presb 6:30p SHYG, Connect, Confirmation	<b>5</b> Yoga Classes 1p Deborah Circle	<b>6</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>7</b> 9a Children's Christmas Program Practice 5p Spark 5:30p Worship
<b>8 Poinsettia Deadline</b> 8:30a Worship 9:30a Children's Christmas Program 10:30a Worship 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6p Exec Comm 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Council 7p Trinity Bells	<b>11</b> 10:30a Worship with Soup Luncheon to Follow 5p Advent Soup Supper 6p Advent Worship Service 6:30p Book Club 6:30p SHYG, Connect, Confirmation 6:45p Cantata Practice @ I-T	<b>12</b> Yoga Classes	<b>13 Newsletter Deadline</b> 8:30a-12:30p Cookie Drop Off Pastor's Day Off	<b>14</b> WELCA Cookie Walk after Service 9a-12p Cookie Drop Off 9:30a Cantata Dress Rehearsal @ 1st Presb 5p Spark 5:30p Worship 
<b>15 Annual Report Deadline</b> WELCA Cookie Walk after Services 8:30a Worship with Christmas Cantata 9:30a Adult Ed 9:30a Spark 10:30a Cantata @ 1st Presb 10:30a Worship  	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>18</b> 8:30a Dorcas Quilting 10:30a Worship with Soup Luncheon to Follow 5p Advent Soup Supper 6p Advent Worship Service 6:30p Book Club 6:30p SHYG, Connect, Confirmation 6:35p Baby Jesus Shower 6:45p Choir 	<b>19</b> Yoga Classes	<b>20</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>21</b> Noisy Offering 5p Spark 5:30p Worship with Communion and Choir
<b>22 Noisy Offering</b> 8:30a Worship with Communion 9:30a Adult Ed 9:30a Spark 10:30a Worship with Communion 2:30p Boy Scouts	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  3:30p Christmas Eve Service with Spark & Connect Kids & Nancy Morris Singing 5:30p Christmas Eve Service with Choir Singing	<b>25</b>  9a Christmas Service with Communion and Bells	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Pastor's Day Off	<b>28</b> 5:30p Worship
<b>29</b> 8:30a Worship 10:30a Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Notes:</b>			



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# THE BEACON

of Lutherans of Immanuel-Trinity

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## DECEMBER 2019

