

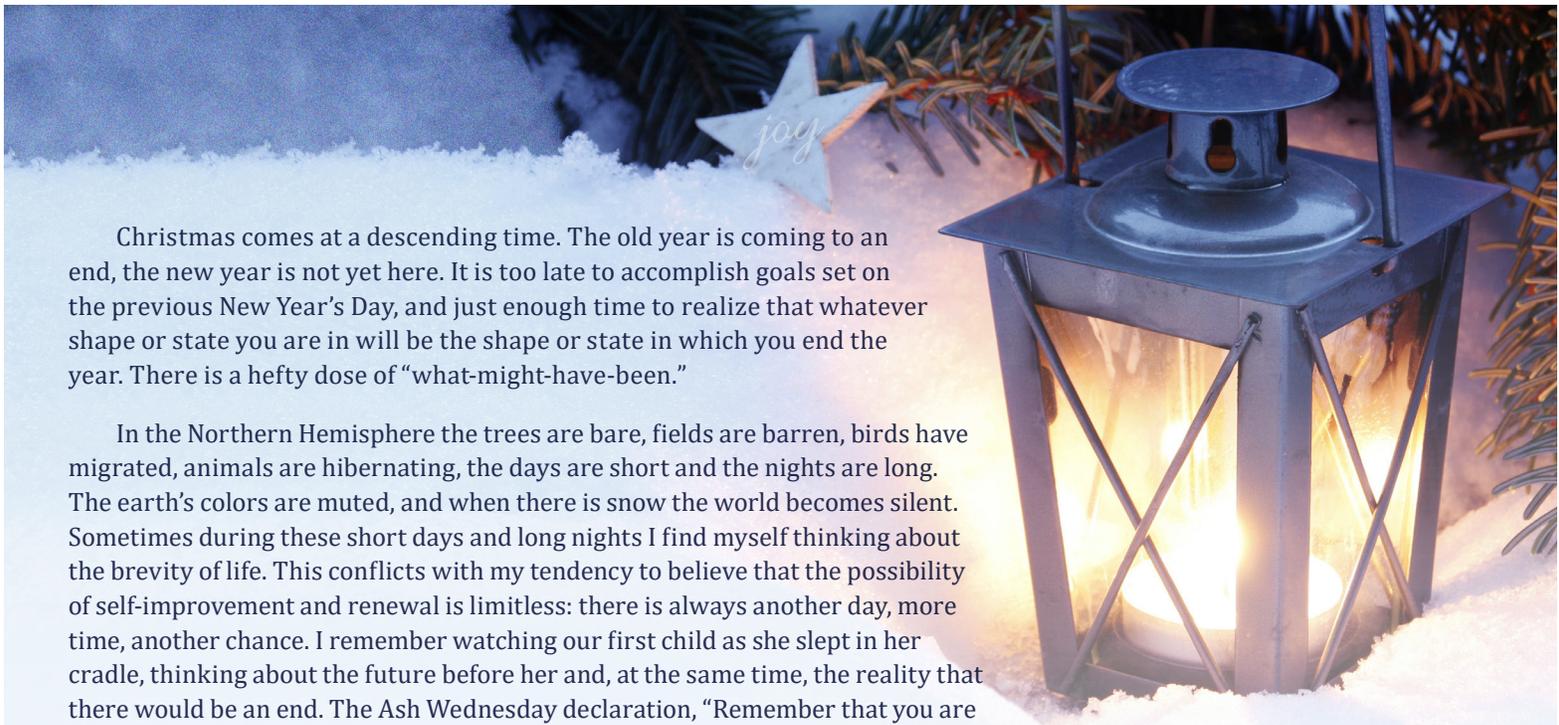
**Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish**  
**401 310<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Wilson WI 54027**  
**Address Service Requested**

**Mission Statement**

**Wilson - Immanuel Lutheran Parish serves to provide all people the opportunity to become disciples of Jesus Christ, encourage faith and obedience to Christ and, through diverse opportunities for evangelism, serve God's people in our communities, nation, and throughout the world.**

*January 2019, Newsletter for  
Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish*

*Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish  
401 310<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilson, WI 54027  
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Office Email: [wiluth@wwt.net](mailto:wiluth@wwt.net)  
Web Site: [wilsonimmanuel.org](http://wilsonimmanuel.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Bob Dahm  
Pastor Email: [PastorBob@wwt.net](mailto:PastorBob@wwt.net)*



Christmas comes at a descending time. The old year is coming to an end, the new year is not yet here. It is too late to accomplish goals set on the previous New Year's Day, and just enough time to realize that whatever shape or state you are in will be the shape or state in which you end the year. There is a hefty dose of "what-might-have-been."

In the Northern Hemisphere the trees are bare, fields are barren, birds have migrated, animals are hibernating, the days are short and the nights are long. The earth's colors are muted, and when there is snow the world becomes silent. Sometimes during these short days and long nights I find myself thinking about the brevity of life. This conflicts with my tendency to believe that the possibility of self-improvement and renewal is limitless: there is always another day, more time, another chance. I remember watching our first child as she slept in her cradle, thinking about the future before her and, at the same time, the reality that there would be an end. The Ash Wednesday declaration, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," became more pointed and more poignant. The cradle-to-grave progression is our path; the inevitable decline of our strength.

"As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more" (Psalm 103:15).

Maybe this is why the Christmas season can be so fraught. Of course, there is anticipation and celebration, but there is also pressure and stress. Perhaps we are trying to greet the Lord's birth with our best efforts (when I was a girl, Christmas preparations were not complete until the silver was polished, and that job fell to me), but desperation can creep into the urgency to get Christmas right, to hold back the night. "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" (ELW, 279). This is freight that Christmas can't carry when Christmas depends on us.

But Christmas also comes at an opportune time. God did not come to us that first Christmas when we were at the top of our game or when the world was perfect. Even the circumstances of Jesus' birth were a sharp reminder that all was not well – forced migration to Bethlehem, no room for the young family, born in a stall. Emmanuel – God with us – came to us and comes to us precisely at the time when our need is greatest. Our attempts to bring about perfection actually get in the way of receiving the gift. When we try to fit into an unrealistic ideal of who we ought to be instead of welcoming God into our real self, no matter how messy, then what is left on the 13th day of Christmas? Fatigue, certainly, but also the dull acceptance that life moves from cradle to grave.

On Christmas, God has reversed the cradle to grave progression. The angel announced to the shepherds:

*"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: for to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."*

Here is the new reality. Here is the truth. Our lives are not a meaningless trudge from cradle to grave, but a joyful journey – true and lasting joy – from grave to cradle. All our brokenness and death meet life and healing and hope in the child in the manger. His cradle defeats the grave. We are loved. We are alive. Now we are free to greet this holy season.

*Merry Christmas, dear church.*

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Month: December 2018 – Season after Epiphany  
Worship Times: Immanuel – 8:30 a.m.; Wilson – 10:30 a.m.

### **WORSHIP NOTE:**

Worship times change on January 20 due to the annual meeting at Immanuel.  
Wilson: 8:30 a.m. / Immanuel 10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday, January 6: Epiphany of Our Lord**

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12: God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

### **Sunday, January 13: Baptism of Our Lord**

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22: The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

### **Sunday, January 20: Epiphany 2**

- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11: Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

### **Sunday, January 27: Epiphany 3**

- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV
- ❖ Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 4:14-21: Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

### **PASTOR'S NOTE**

“The time after Epiphany is the shorter of the two ‘green’ seasons of the liturgical year that are noted by their location ‘after’ a particular festival (the other is the time after Pentecost). With the joy and excitement of the Christmas season, some may view this time as a low point in the liturgical cycle, just filler until the season of Lent appears. Yet this time after Epiphany serves an important role in continuing what was introduced during the Christmas season, focusing on the means through which God is made manifest in the world in Jesus Christ.” . . . each Sunday worshipers glimpse again the totality of Christ through readings . . . bodily in the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper . . . [and] in baptism through the water and word that claims new daughters and sons.” (*From Sundays and Seasons, Year C 2019, Augsburg Fortress*)

### **Parish Mission Statement**

Wilson – Immanuel Lutheran Parish serves to provide all people the opportunity to become disciples of Jesus Christ, encourage faith and obedience to Christ and, through diverse opportunities for evangelism, serve God's people in our communities, nation, and throughout the world.

### **PARISH NEWS**

**Thank You:** Thank you for all the cards and gifts we received over the Christmas holidays. You continue to bless us with your thoughtfulness. May you experience the joy and blessings of Christmas, the coming of our Lord and Savior, throughout the year. Pastor Bob and Sue.

### **Annual Meeting Dates**

Please put these important dates on your calendar and plan on attending.

Immanuel Lutheran Church: Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 a.m.

Wilson Lutheran Church: Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 a.m.

### **Important Wilson Annual Meeting Business**

Wilson will be voting on proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws of the congregation which will bring the document in line with the ELCA model constitution. A continuing resolution establishing the working parameters of the Wilson Lutheran Endowment Fund will also be offered for adoption. Copies of the proposed constitution and bylaws, and the continuing resolution, will be available at church in early January.

### **WILSON NEWS**

**Wilson WELCA:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, January 10. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

**Wilson Council:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Thursday, January 10. Meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

**December 13, 2018 Council Meeting Highlights:** (Complete minutes are available in the office)

- Pastor Erin Nelson requested her salary as supply pastor on December 16 be donated to the Synod Candidacy Committee. Motion made by Chuck Lamb and seconded by Dean Rambo to approve her request. Motion carried.
- Replacement hymnals have been ordered and have arrived.
- Immanuel's annual meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup>. Chuck Walz made a motion and was seconded by Barb Lamb to switch worship times with Immanuel that date. Motion carried.
- Discussed date for Wilson's annual meeting. Motion made by Dean Rambo and seconded by Luanne Anderson to hold the meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> after 10:30 worship.
- Reviewed the proposed 2019 budget. Motion made by Chuck Lamb and seconded by Mike Ellefson to approve the budget. Motion carried.
- Reviewed Ongoing Resolution 01-2019 with changes made by the Endowment Fund Committee. Motion was made by Chuck Lamb and seconded by Luanne Anderson to recommend the resolution to the congregation for approval at the Annual meeting.
- The Constitution and Bylaws have been approved by the Council and will be recommended to the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.
- Discussion held regarding unisex sign on the bathrooms. Motion was made by Chuck Lamb and seconded by Mike Ellefson to keep the signs indicating Men's and Women's and not use unisex signs.

**Wilson Endowment Fund Committee Notes:**

Meeting Date: Sunday, December 2, 2019

Present: Dennis Blegen, Kari Deppa, Doug Faber, Pastor Bob

Unable to Attend: Sue Faber, Linda Powers, Joan Bartz (Thrivent)

The committee reviewed the draft of the document establishing the purpose and mission of the endowment fund.

Funding categories were identified, including missions, youth, and education. It was agreed to add a fourth category so other requests consistent with the mission and purpose of the fund could be considered.

Successors to the fund, in the event Wilson Lutheran Church would cease to exist, were identified as Luther Point Bible Camp and Luther Park Bible Camp.

It was agreed the committee would establish a procedure for receiving applications to fund projects consistent with the fund’s mission and purpose.

Pastor Bob will revise the document into a continuing resolution format for presentation and action at the congregation’s annual meeting in January.

A future meeting date will be established after the first of the year.

Prepared by:

Pastor Bob Dahm

<b>WILSON LUTERAN CHURCH 2019 USHER SCHEDULE</b>		
January	Chuck and Barb Lamb	4 Sundays
February	Charlie and Sharon Howell	4 Sundays
March	Chuck Walz and Gary Peterson	5 Sundays
April	Doug and Michelle Larson	4 Sundays – <i>Good Friday, Easter</i>
May	Andy and Jes Lamb	4 Sundays
June	LouAnne Anderson and Doug Faber	5 Sundays
July	Dave and Linda Powers	4 Sundays – <i>Parish Picnic</i>
August	Jerry and Vicki Glampe	4 Sundays
September	Mike and Sherry Ellefson	5 Sundays
October	Duane and Pat Butler	4 Sundays
November	Dwight and Karen Johnson	4 Sundays
December	Roger and Barb Kronholm	5 Sundays – <i>Christmas Eve</i>

**Tuesday Community Supper:** There will not be a Tuesday Community Supper in January, 2019 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church because the first Tuesday falls on New Year’s Day. The next supper will be served Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank You:** Thank you to everyone for the memorials, kind words of understanding and prayers on the recent passing of Roger’s brother, Andrew Kronholm. Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated. Roger and Barb.

**Assisting with Worship at Wilson: January and February**

<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
January: Help Needed	January: Chuck and Barb Lamb
February: Help Needed	February: Charlie and Sharon Bowell

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please find a replacement and notify the church office.  
**Altar Care sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex. Your help will be appreciated.**

**Wilson 2018 Poinsettia Gifts**

<b>FROM</b>	<b>IN MEMORY OF:</b>
Duane and Pat Butler	Clarence and Helen Jacobson
	Richard and Louise Butler Pinch
Pastor Bob and Sue Dahm	Fred, Eva and Jeff Warland
	Robin Messick
Pastor Bob, Sue and Ron Dahm	Robert F. and Vera Dahm
Mike and Sherry Ellefson	Lloyd Ellefson
	Erling Moldenhauer
Dean and Susan Timm	JR and Elaine Timm
	Beverly Hirby
Charlie and Sue Ross	Members of the Branvold Family
Doug and Mary Brandt	Ralph and Lucille Brandt
	Frank and Fern Olsen, John Olsen
Don and Julalee Hogenson	Henry and Mary Hogenson
	Ernest and Dorothy Moe
	Arlene Dobbs
	Donnalee Danovsky
	Dale and Loreen Moe
Lyle and Babe Jacobson	Our Parents
	Our Son Larry Jacobson
Dwight and Karen Johnson	Adrian Johnson
And and Jess Lamb	Our Grandparents
Leslie Larson	Karen Larson
	Richard Larson
David and Linda Powers	Marilyn Hoyt
Mary Timm	Rodney Timm
	Emil and Evelyn Timm
	Dennis Timm
<b>FROM</b>	<b>IN HONOR OF</b>
Louanne Anderson	Susan Faber

**IMMANUEL NEWS**

**Immanuel Luther Church Council Meeting Minutes:**

Date of Meeting: December 11, 2018

Start Time: 7:05 pm End Time: 8:00 pm

Attendees: Pastor Bob Dahm, Matt Main, Monica Eggert, Roger Ohman, Brad Voeltz, Ranae Demulling, Laura

Briesemeister Absent: Trish Swanepoel, Jodi Voeltz, David Rosen

### Agenda

1. Pastor Bob opened with devotional followed by Pastor's Report.
2. Treasure's Report-Matt provided verbal update.
3. Secretary's Report-Roger made motion; Monica seconded; motion carried.

### Old Business

1. Wreath sales yielded \$800.
2. Children's offering jar Oct 22-December-WestCap in GC and Christmas for Children of Clear Lake; Brad made motion to supplement funds so each organization receives \$100; Laura seconded; motion carried.
3. Merged Spirit Squad and Sunday School checking accounts to be named Youth Fund.
4. Offering from Children's Christmas Program will go into the Youth Fund.
5. Council accepted Pastor Bob Dahm's 2019 Compensation Package.
6. Established 2019 proposed budget; Set the annual meeting for January 20, 2019.
7. Christmas Eve Service for Immanuel remains at 4:00 this year, however time may change next year.
8. Alter care and usher duties will be posted at church and on the church website-Ranae will post.

### Unfinished Business

1. Ramp memorial plaque/dedication ceremony will occur in Spring of 2019.
  - a. Size options: 14x14 or 16x16, \$465, it will list those who donated in memorial of someone.
2. The louvers on the church roof will be repaired, date TBD in spring 2019.
3. Cemetery Policies-Laura presented her research, council discussed policies applicable for Immanuel, council will prepare and present policies at annual meeting in January. Matt will contact Scott and Rita Buhr for their input.
4. Trish called Pest Control-no response-Tiffany Bonte has reached out to new agency.

### New Business

1. Donation for Pastor Nelson-council agreed to donate sub pastor payment amount (\$75) to the Candidacy Committee per Pastor Nelson's suggestion.

Roger made motion to adjourn the meeting; Monica seconded; motion carried.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ranae Demulling, Church Council Secretary

### **Assisting with Worship at Immanuel: January 2019**

<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>
January: Help Needed	January: Help Needed	January: Help Needed

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please find a replacement and notify the church office.  
**Please check the sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin board. Your help will be appreciated.**

**Give Online:** Immanuel members have an online method for making weekly and special offerings. Give Online allows you to set up regular contributions as well as special one-time donations. Contributions may be made to the General, Benevolence, Memorial, or Building Funds. Contributions to the Memorial and Building Funds may be designated for specific projects.

MasterCard, Visa, and Discover are accepted. You can also contribute using your financial institution's debit card, checking, or savings account. Visit our Web site at [www.wilsonimmanuel.org](http://www.wilsonimmanuel.org) and click on "Give Online" link in the menu bar near the top of the Home page.

**Amazon Smile:** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. There is no additional cost to the purchaser.

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a charitable organization of choice. To make an Amazon Smile contribution go to the parish web site at [www.wilsonimmanuel.org](http://www.wilsonimmanuel.org) and click on the "Give Online" link in the menu bar near the top of the Home Page. That will take you to the Give Online page. Clicking on the AmazonSmile logo on the Give Online page will take you to the AmazonSmile website, with Immanuel Lutheran Church selected as your organization of choice for donations. Immanuel Lutheran Church should appear in the "Supporting" line in the upper left corner of your screen. Then, simply make your Amazon purchase as you always do. Amazon Smile will calculate the amount of your donation and add it to the Immanuel account.

You need to make this choice only once. Whenever you shop on Amazon Smile in the future a donation will be made to Immanuel.

**PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – DECEMBER 2018**

<b>Birthdays</b>				<b>Anniversaries</b>	
<b>Wilson</b>		<b>Immanuel</b>		<b>Wilson</b>	
Jan 6	Roger Kronholm	Jan. 1	Kristine Scherz	Jan 13	Ken & Pam Finder
Jan 6	Doug Brandt	Jan. 2	Julie Wheeler		
Jan 9	Roxann Peterson	Jan. 2	Laura Lee Goodrich	<b>Immanuel</b>	
Jan 10	Flossie Hughes	Jan. 5	Kim Rosen	None we know of!	
Jan 13	Eric Eidem	Jan 6	Isaac Voeltz		
Jan 13	Barb Kronholm	Jan 7	Waylon Dorsey		
Jan 14	Vickie Glampe	Jan 8	Patrick Steinberger		
Jan 14	Kamdyn Stahl	Jan 12	Isabelle Blaser		
Jan 15	Charles Lamb	Jan 13	Joshua Forsblade		
Jan 19	Tammy Gregg	Jan 14	Colton Marlett		
Jan 21	Chris Blegen	Jan 16	Bill Voeltz		
Jan 23	Jill Menk	Jan 17	Adam Melstrom		
Jan 23	Jimmy Brandvold	Jan 19	Monica Eggert		
		Jan 19	Tracie Steinberger		
		Jan 20	Austin Buhr		
		Jan 24	Abigail Main		
		Jan 28	James Cuper		
		Jan 28	Donnette Steinberger		
		Jan 28	Christine Forsblade		
		Jan 28	Annette Miller		

**PASTOR'S EMAIL BAG**

- What did the big flower say to the little flower? *Hi Bud!*
- I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting bigger. *Then it hit me.*
- What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? *It gets toad away.*
- What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? *Same middle name.*
- What's worse than raining cats and dogs? *Hailing taxis!*
- Where do beef burgers go to dance? *The meatball.*

Revised Common Lectionary  
Daily Readings – Year C  
January 2019

Date	Day	Psalm	Old Testament	Epistle	Gospel
1	Tuesday	Psalm 8	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
2	Wednesday	No Psalm	Proverbs 1:1-7	James 3:13-18	
3	Thursday	No Psalm	Job 42:10-17		Luke 8:16-21
4	Friday	No Psalm	Isaiah 6:1-5	Acts 7:44-53	
5	Saturday	No Psalm	Jeremiah 31:7-14		John 1:1-18
6	Sunday <i>Epiphany</i>	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
7	Monday	Psalm 72	Daniel 2:1-19	Ephesians 4:17-5:1	
8	Tuesday	Psalm 72	Daniel 2:24-49	Ephesians 5:15-20	
9	Wednesday	Psalm 72	Numbers 24:15-19		Luke 1:67-79
10	Thursday	Psalm 29	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	
11	Friday	Psalm 29	Ecclesiastes 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 2:1-10	
12	Saturday	Psalm 29	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	1 Corinthians 2:11-16	
13	Sunday <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	Psalm 29	Isaiah 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
14	Monday	Psalm 106:1-12	Judges 4:1-16	Ephesians 6:10-17	
15	Tuesday	Psalm 106:1-12	Judges 5:12-21	1 John 5:13-21	
16	Wednesday	Psalm 106:1-12	Numbers 27:1-11		Luke 11:33-36
17	Thursday	Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 3:1-5	Acts 8:18-24	
18	Friday	Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 3:19-25	1 Corinthians 7:1-7	
19	Saturday	Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 4:1-4		Luke 11:14-23
20	Sunday	Psalm 36:5-10	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
21	Monday	Psalm 145	Isaiah 54:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	
22	Tuesday	Psalm 145	Song of Solomon 4:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:3-17	
23	Wednesday	Psalm 145	Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1		Luke 5:33-39
24	Thursday	Psalm 19	Isaiah 61:1-7	Romans 7:1-6	
25	Friday	Psalm 19	Nehemiah 2:1-10	Romans 12:1-8	
26	Saturday	Psalm 19	Nehemiah 5:1-13		Luke 2:39-52
27	Sunday	Psalm 19	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
28	Monday	Psalm 119:89-96	Jeremiah 36:1-10	1 Corinthians 14:1-12	
29	Tuesday	Psalm 119:89-96	Jeremiah 36:11-26	2 Corinthians 7:2-12	
30	Wednesday	Psalm 119:89-96	Jeremiah 36:27-32		Luke 4:38-44
31	Thursday	Psalm 71:1-6	2 Chronicles 34:1-7	Acts 10:44-48	

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Prayer Ventures

January 2019

**1** *New Year's Day* We join all creation in praising God and pray that everything we do and say reflects God's glory and wonder-filled love.

**2** *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* We remember and pray for those who are victims of sex trafficking, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and forced labor in our nation and around the world, and we ask God to guide us in caring for victims and taking an active role in ending this abuse, injustice and oppression.

**3** Ask God for the strength and patience we need to move forward with and accomplish new goals and endeavors; give thanks for the people in our lives who offer support, encouragement and wisdom, and who reassure us of God's grace and forgiveness when we feel like we are failing or struggling.

**4** Remember in prayer people who have lost their homes and places of shelter as a result of recent natural disasters; pray they receive assistance — including emotional and spiritual care — and resources needed for rebuilding their lives and homes; pray we are generous in our support of Lutheran Disaster Response's work of bringing God's hope, healing and renewal to people and places suffering loss and disruption.

**5** We come to God in prayer with grateful hearts, curiosity and awe that, as insignificant and small as we seem in comparison to the universe, God is mindful of us and cares for us.

**6** Pray the Holy Spirit is at work in us expanding our vision of whom we include when we think and speak of "neighbors," that our prayers, concerns and actions consider people and situations beyond our congregations, social circles, communities and nation.

**7** Give thanks for the generous support of donors to *The Campaign for the ELCA* that has enabled the ELCA's International Women Leaders initiative to grow in its accompaniment and support of international women leaders through educational seminars, south-to-south exchanges, in-country study programs and degree programs at ELCA colleges and universities.

**8** Pray for newly elected leaders, judges and officials across our nation, that they be filled with wisdom, compassion, a deep sense of justice, and a desire to build relationships where schisms exist — for the well-being of all people and communities, especially where there is poverty, hardship and inequality.

**9** Give thanks for faith communities, church leaders, Christian educators, friends and mentors who help us understand the mystery of Christ and the gospel, leading us to greater boldness and confidence of faith.

**10** Pray for our elders, especially those who are homebound or living alone, that we will seek ways to keep them connected and cared for through our congregations and communities during the long winter months and throughout the year.

**11** There is no greater advocate, defender and deliverer of the poor and oppressed than God. Pray we are faithful, unwavering partners in God's work of bringing justice, healing, hope, relief and peace to the world.

**12** Pray for the ELCA Disability Ministries Team and its work of advocating, equipping congregations and synods, and supporting new and existing ministries for the sake of all who live with mental illness, their families, and people who offer care, support and treatment.

**13** Ask that the Holy Spirit shape our words, teachings and actions to enable us to be clear and articulate witnesses of who Jesus is: Son of God, the promised Messiah, our true salvation and hope.

**14** Pray for J-term students returning to colleges and universities, that their experiences, new perspectives, knowledge and renewed faith help clarify, enrich and equip them for their vocations and discernment of what God may be calling them to.

**15** Give thanks that God is with us in every situation, disaster, uncertainty and difficulty and that we can trust God's promise and reassurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

**16** As many of our Christmas gifts fall into disuse, break, lose their appeal or are regifted, we ask God to remind

us of the gifts and blessings in our lives that give us joy and are lasting — day after day.

**17** Ask the Holy Spirit to help us support, pray for, encourage and accompany those who are new Christians and beginning their journey of faith following Jesus.

**18** *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* We are one in the body of Christ. Pray for our ecumenical partners, global church companions, and our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere that God will draw us closer to one another and bless our work together for the purpose of building up Christ's church in the world.

**19** The voice of God can be sensed throughout all creation and in every nation. Pray we are attentive to God's voice that it will assure us of God's glory and power, give us strength and bless us with peace.

**20** In the miracle of turning water into wine for wedding guests to enjoy, Jesus demonstrates the power and presence of God in our everyday lives and situations. With joy and humility, give thanks for God's ability to accomplish the unimaginable for the sake of the world.

**21** *Martin Luther King Jr. Day* Give thanks for the life, vision and sacrifice of Martin Luther King Jr. and all those who have worked tirelessly and at great personal risk throughout history for justice, peace, freedom and equality for all people, especially the oppressed and poor.

**22** Give thanks for the service and witness of ELCA federal chaplains who work with members of the military, patients, families and staff at Veterans Affairs medical centers, and among the staff and inmates of federal prisons.

**23** Pray for those who are cold and homeless this winter that they find warm, safe shelter and for the work of congregations and community programs that offer temporary shelter, meals and assistance for individuals and families in need of long-term, affordable, safe housing.

**24** Though we have many and sometimes uncommon spiritual gifts and abilities, we pray we are always mindful that they are gifts from God to be used for God's glory and to uplift and complement each other to be bearers of the good news in the world.

**25** Pray we take comfort and encouragement in knowing we are not measured by our successes or failures or whether or not we achieve our goals and resolutions, but by our identity as baptized children of God, we are loved, forgiven, renewed and set free to share our faith, spread hope, serve our neighbor and do good in the world.

**26** Pray for the ELCA Peace Not Walls Young Adult Initiative and its trips to the Holy Land for young adults of color to explore issues of faith, justice and culture through awareness-raising experiences, relationship building and practicing accompaniment in Palestine and Israel.

**27** Give thanks for the word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit that strengthens our faith and understanding of the work, purpose and truth of Jesus Christ — the light of truth, salvation and hope in the world.

**28** Pray our long-standing congregations grow, adapt and thrive for God's work in the world; ask that the Holy Spirit inspire, equip and renew their leadership and members for ministry and service in the midst of everchanging social, cultural, economic and technological contexts.

**29** Pray for participants, including leaders from the ELCA, gathered in Udon Thani, Thailand, for the Asian Lutheran International Conference, a network supported by the ELCA Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders.

**30** Thank God for the special relationship we have with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009; pray for their church, its members and leaders, and that together we find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

**31** Our diverse gifts, experiences and perspectives are brought together with purpose in the body of Christ. Pray our differences do not divide us, but instead enrich our lives and faith communities for mutual care and encouragement, doing God's work in the world and sharing the good news of our salvation and unity in Jesus Christ.

# JAUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2	3	4	5
6 <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:30 @ Immanuel SS: 9:30 @ Immanuel 10:30 @ Wilson	7 Pastor's Sabbath Day	8 9:30 a.m. St. Croix Conference Meeting at Eidsvold 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting at Immanuel	9 6:00 Confirmation at Immanuel 6:00 Wilson Confirmation at St. John's	10 9:30 a.m. WELCA Mtg. at Wilson 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting at Wilson	11	12
13 8:30 @ Immanuel SS: 9:30 @ Immanuel 10:30 @ Wilson SS: 9:45 @ Wilson	14 Pastor's Sabbath Day	15 10:15 a.m. Worship at Glenhaven	16 6:00 Confirmation at Immanuel 6:00 Wilson Confirmation at St. John's	17 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee at Immanuel	18	19
20 <b>Holy Communion</b> 10:30 @ Wilson SS: 9:45 @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel SS: 9:30 at Immanuel <b>11:30 Annual Meeting at Immanuel</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21 Pastor's Sabbath Day	22	23 6:00 Confirmation at Immanuel 6:00 Wilson Confirmation at St. John's	24	25	<b>26</b>
27 8:30 @ Immanuel Baptism at Immanuel SS: 9:30 at Immanuel 10:30 @ Wilson SS: 9:45 at Wilson <b>11:30 Annual Meeting at Wilson</b>	28 Pastor's Sabbath Day	29	30 6:00 Confirmation at Immanuel 6:00 Wilson Confirmation at St. John's	31		