

**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.**

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



*Wilson-Immanuel Lutheran Parish*  
*401 310<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilson, WI 54027*  
*Phone: 715-772-3150*  
*Office Email: wiluth@wwt.net*  
*Web Site: wilsonimmanuel.org*  
*Pastor: Rev. Bob Dahm*  
*Pastor Email: PastorBob@wwt.net*

## AMAZING PEACE:

### *A Christmas Poem by Maya Angelou*

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes and lightning rattles the eaves of our houses. Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow to avalanche over unprotected villages. The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves. What have we done to so affront nature? We worry, God. Are you there? Are you really there? Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters, streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope, and singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air. The world is encouraged to come away from rancor, come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season. Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner. Flood waters recede into memory. Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us as we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children. It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunset. Hope spreads around the earth, brightening all things; even hate, which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper. At first it is too soft. Then only half heard. We listen carefully as it gathers strength. We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace. It is loud now. It is louder. Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence. It is what we have hungered for.

Not just the absence of war. But true Peace. A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies. Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.

We beckon this good season to wait a while with us. We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come. Peace. Come and fill us and our world with your majesty. We, the Jews and the Jainists, the Catholics and the Confucians implore you to stay a while with us. So we may learn by your shimmering light how to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ. Into the great religions of the world we jubilate the precious advent of trust. We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope. All the earth's tribes loosen their voices to celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers, look heavenward and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves and we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.

Peace, My Sister.

Peace, My Soul.

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

December 2019 –Seasons of Advent and Christmas  
Worship Times: Wilson – 8:30 a.m. / Immanuel – 10:30 a.m.

“While Advent has often been understood as Christmas’s Lenten counterpart – a season of preparation for a particular feast – our readings in this season serve a deeper liturgical purpose than simply helping us resist the commercialization of the holiday season and more reverently celebrate Christmas. Advent is indeed a season of anticipation, but also of revolution . . . The readings in Advent prepare us to receive not only a new baby, but a new world where God’s justice and mercy reign.” (*Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2017*)

### **Sunday, December 1 – Advent 1**

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:36-44: Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, unexpected event that will bring salvation or judgment upon people caught up in the usual affairs of daily life. He urges people to be alert and expectant.

### **Sunday, December 8 – Advent 2**

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12: Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

### **Sunday, December 15 – Advent 3**

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion (at Immanuel)
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11: John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

### **Sunday, December 22 – Advent 4**

- ❖ Color: Blue
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25: Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

### **Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20: God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

### **Tuesday, December 29 – Christmas 1**

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: ELW Setting IV with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23: Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and save his people from their sins.

### Parish Mission Statement

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### PARISH NEWS

**Pastor’s Medical Leave - Rescheduled:** Pastor Bob will begin medical leave on Tuesday, December 3, returning on Tuesday, December 23. During his absence, worship leaders have been scheduled as follows:

Date	Wilson	Immanuel
December 8	Rev. Dale Moe	Rev. Dale Moe
December 15	Becky Davidson, Lay Minister	Rev. Alice Urlich
December 22	Rev. Dale Moe	Rev. Dale Moe

In cases of emergency, please contact:

Wilson	Pastor Amelia Houdek	715-778-5935 (W)	612-850-3904 (C)
Immanuel	Pastor Alice Urlich	715-263-4237 (H)	715-571-6500 (C)

**New Member Sunday - Rescheduled:** Due to Pastor Bob’s medical leave, the New Member Sunday, originally planned for December 10, has been postponed to a date in January to be determined.

**Newsletter On-Line:** The monthly newsletter and calendar are available in PDF format on the parish web site located at [www.wilsonimmanuel.org](http://www.wilsonimmanuel.org). Click on the “Newsletter” and “Calendar” links in the menu bar at the top of the Home page. If you would like to receive links to the Web site versions of the calendar and newsletter by email each month, subscribe to the Parish Email List by completing “Subscribe for Updates” found on the lower right corner of the Home page.

**Blue Christmas / Longest Night Service:** As we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, join us for *Waiting for the Light - A Service of Healing and Hope*, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at Wilson Lutheran Church.

The Church’s ministry of healing emphasizes caring for the sick in the widest possible understanding of the term. The need for healing is not limited to those desiring help for a specific illness or injury. The Christian assembly at worship may embrace the gift of healing for emotional, spiritual, relational, and physical needs; whatever troubles your body, mind, and heart. The stress and pressures of the holiday season often highlight our need for healing. Likewise, Advent’s themes of waiting, repentance, reflection, and preparation may reveal hurts and brokenness that cry out for mending. With all creation we cry out for reconciliation, restoration, and wholeness. We wait in hope for the coming of the Christ child, the source of our hope and the light of the world.

**Food Shelf Program:** Thank you to everyone who has supported the parish Hunger Ministry by donating to the Food Shelf Program. A special thanks to Dan Cassellius for making the new Food Shelf Box at Immanuel.

We all know food items are in high demand, especially during this time of year, but there are other items not often thought of when we make donations. In addition to food items, consider the following:

- **Spices** - Think about it. People who rely on the food bank eat a lot of canned food, rice, oatmeal, white bread, etc. They also love spices, i.e. seasoned salt, cayenne pepper, chili powder, cumin, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, oregano, basil, and so on.
- **Feminine Products** - Can you imagine being worried about affording these? Pads, tampons, panty liners, etc.
- **Chocolate** - People don’t need it, but think about being in their shoes and how nice it would be to be given a chocolate bar or brownie mix along with your essentials.
- **Toiletries** - Grocery stores are great about donating surplus or unsold food, but they have no reason to donate toilet paper, tooth paste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc., and food stamps often don’t cover these items.
- **Canned Meats and Jerky** - This isn’t true of all food banks, but some struggle to give users enough protein.

- **Crackers and Tortillas** - They don't spoil and everybody likes them.
- **Baby Toiletries** - Diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, baby shampoo, baby soap, baby food, bottles, etc.
- **Soup Packets** - Sometimes you look at rice, beans, instant potatoes, and cans of vegetables and think, "What do I make with this"? Hearty soup is a complete meal.
- **Socks** - From a former homeless person: "Socks mean the world to you. They keep you warm, make you feel like you have something new, and just comfort you!"
- **Canned Fruit Other Than Pineapple** - Food banks get a lot of pineapple donated. Their clients love it when other kinds of fruit are available.

**Sunday School Christmas Programs:** Wilson and Immanuel's Sunday School Christmas Programs have been scheduled for Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. worship at Wilson, and 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel. Join our young people as they proclaim and celebrate the birth of our Lord.

**Upcoming Events**

- December 1 – Quilt Sunday at Wilson
- December 3 – Pastor's Medical Leave Begins
- December 15 – Sunday School Christmas Programs
  - 8:30 a.m. at Wilson
  - 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel
- December 18 – Longest Night Service 7:00 p.m. at Wilson
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship
  - 3:00 p.m. at Wilson
  - 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel

**WILSON NEWS**

**Wilson WELCA:** The next regular WELCA meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, December 12. All women of the church are invited to attend.

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

**November 13, 2019 Council Meeting Highlights:** (Complete minutes are available in the office)

- The fire extinguishers were inspected by the Spring Valley Fire Department. Two needed to be replaced and the 3<sup>rd</sup> serviced. Everything is now up to date.
- Donations of \$65.00 had been placed in the Veterans Jug during service. Chuck Lamb will take care of dispersing the donations.
- Sharon Bowell and Jerry Glampe have agreed to extend the positions they filled in for to serve a regular term starting in 2020.
- There is a new door latch on the front door of the church. There are keys available to those who need them.
- Mike made a motion to increase Pastor Bob's salary by 1.6% for 2020. Second by Jerry. Motion carried.
- Christmas gifts to the staff will be the same as last year.

<b>WILSON LUTERAN CHURCH 2019 / 2020 USHER SCHEDULE</b>		
December	Roger and Barb Kronholm	5 Sundays plus Christmas Eve
January	Barb Knopps and Ginny Overland	4 Sunday
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>		
December	Chuck Lamb	3 Sundays plus Christmas Eve
January	Jerry Glampe	4 Sundays
<b>ALTAR CARE SCHEDULE</b>		
December	<b>Help Needed</b>	5 Sundays plus Christmas Eve
January	Barb Lamb	4 Sundays

**WILSON LUTHERAN CHURCH****2020 Usher Schedule***(If you are unable to serve, please find your replacement)*

<b>JANUARY</b>	Barb Knopps and Ginny Overland <i>(Epiphany)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Chuck and Barb Lamb	4 Sundays
<b>MARCH</b>	Chuck Walz and Gary Peterson <i>(Daylight Savings Time Begins)</i>	5 Sundays
<b>APRIL</b>	Doug and Michelle Larson <i>(Palm Sunday – Good Friday – Easter)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>MAY</b>	Dean and Linda Rambo <i>(Mother's Day – Memorial Day)</i>	5 Sundays
<b>JUNE</b>	Louanne Anderson and Doug Faber <i>(Father's Day)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>JULY</b>	Dave and Linda Powers <i>(Parish Picnic)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>AUGUST</b>	Jerry and Vicki Glampe	5 Sundays
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Mike and Sherry Ellefson <i>(Labor Day)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Duane and Pat Butler	4 Sundays
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Dwight and Karen Johnson <i>(All Saints Sunday – Veterans Day – Thanksgiving – Advent – Daylight Savings Time Ends)</i>	5 Sundays
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Roger and Barb Kronholm <i>(Christmas)</i>	4 Sundays

**WILSON LUTHERAN CHURCH****2020 Communion Servers***(If you are unable to serve, please find your replacement)*

<b>JANUARY</b>	Jerry Glampe <i>(Epiphany)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Linda Powers	4 Sundays
<b>MARCH</b>	Evan Peterson <i>(Daylight Savings Time Begins)</i>	5 Sundays
<b>APRIL</b>	Xen Larson <i>(Palm Sunday – Good Friday – Easter)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>MAY</b>	Emma Lamb <i>(Mother's Day – Memorial Day)</i>	5 Sundays
<b>JUNE</b>	Ally Lamb <i>(Father's Day)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>JULY</b>	Louanne Anderson <i>(Parish Picnic)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>AUGUST</b>	Pat Butler	5 Sundays
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Dean Rambo <i>(Labor Day)</i>	4 Sundays
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Ginny Overland	4 Sundays
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Sue Faber <i>(All Saints Sunday – Veterans Day – Thanksgiving – Advent)</i>	5 Sundays
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Gary Peterson <i>(Christmas)</i>	4 Sundays

## IMMANUEL NEWS

### **Immanuel Luther Church Council Meeting Minutes:**

**Date of Meeting:** November 12, 2019

**Start Time:** 7:05 p.m.    **End Time:** 8:03 p.m.

**Attendees:** Monica Eggert, Ranae Demulling, Laura Briesemeister, Roger Ohman, Dena Cress, David Rosen, Pastor Bob Dahm  
**Absent:** Trish Swanepoel, Brad Voeltz, Geoff Phillips

### Agenda

1. Pastor's Report
2. Treasurer's Report- Roger made motion; Dena seconded; motion carried
3. Secretary's Report-David made motion; Monica seconded; motion carried
4. Sunday School Committee Update:
  - a. Meeting was held on 10/24/2019, all four committee members were present. Christmas program was discussed. Halloween themed craft discussed.

### Old Business

1. The fall joint parish officers (president and treasurer) meeting was held on 10/22/2019 at 5 p.m. The officers discussed increasing the Cost of Living salary by 1.6%. Laura made a motion to increase Pastor's Cost of Living salary by 1.6%; David seconded; motion carried.
2. God's Work our Hands event was held at 9:00 a.m. before the 10:30 a.m. church service on 11/10/2019. It was a good turnout, with 300 sandwiches made for the Love One Another Mission. Ranae and Joyce delivered the sandwiches.
3. The October children's donation jar was designated to the Love One Another Outreach.

### Unfinished Business

1. Electronic communication. There was a discussion on having the newsletter and other items being offered electronically. Laura and Ranae will discuss this process.
2. Ladies Aide— invite the ladies of the church to a round table talk about reviving Ladies Aide. Consider inviting Laurie Wells to come and speak about the topic.
3. Consider having one Sunday a month to be a contemporary service. Pastor informed group that this should be discussed with the worship committee.
4. New council members. Roger and Ranae's terms end in January. They are not renewing their terms.
5. 30 feet of land to the west of the church; discussion to be tabled until the spring. Roger had an update for the group. The eastern field driveway will be fixed in the spring.
6. First Communion at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Possibly starting January 2020.
7. The November children's donation jar will be designated to the Clear Lake and Glenwood City food pantries.

### New Business

1. Pastor mentioned that Wilson has Ahern (out of Menomonie, WI) coming in to assess the fire extinguishers. He questioned if Immanuel should have the same. At Wilson, Ahren is charging \$62.85 for a once a year checkup/maintenance of fire extinguishers and staying in compliance with the fire code. Dave made a motion to have Immanuel use Ahern for fire extinguisher services; Roger seconded; motion carried.
2. Pastor informed group of Pastor Alice's request to join the Immanuel parish. Monica made a motion to accept Pastor Alice as a new member; Dave seconded; motion carried.

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

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Briesemeister, Church Council Secretary

**Christmas Shopping? Don't Forget Amazon Smile:** AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. However, 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, with 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 ([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. On the "Give Online" page, click on the AmazonSmile logo You will be taken 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.

**Assisting with Worship at Immanuel**

Month	Alter Care	Usher	Cleaning	
December	Gin DeBoer and Tiff Bonte and Family	Gin DeBoer and Tiff Bonte and Family	Gin DeBoer	5 Sundays plus Christmas Eve
January	<b>Help Needed</b>	<b>Help Needed</b>	Monica Eggert and Laura Briesemeister	4 Sundays
Please arrange for another person if you are unable to serve as scheduled.				

**PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – December 2019**

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Wilson		Immanuel		Wilson	
Dec 2	Trenton Faber	Dec 1	Matthew Main	Dec 4	Sandy & Terry Thorsen
Dec 5	Dalton Faber	Dec 1	Verdell Voeltz		
Dec 5	Arlan Hague	Dec 3	Joe Swanepoel	<b>Immanuel</b>	
Dec 15	Gary Peterson	Dec 5	Jodi Voeltz	Dec 1	Devin & Brandee Swenby
Dec 15	Curt Gregg	Dec 5	Lauren Cassellius	Dec 5	Roger & Joyce Ohman
Dec 19	Barbara Knopps	Dec 8	Barb Voeltz		
Dec 20	Kent Butler	Dec 10	Vera Steinberger		
Dec 20	Nicole Spielman	Dec 10	Samantha Phillipps		
Dec 21	Dave Powers	Dec 11	Rick Steinberger		
Dec 21	Braden Gregg	Dec 12	Gail Voeltz		
Dec 30	Joni Finder	Dec 14	Joshua Melstrom		
Dec 30	Bradyn Lamb	Dec 16	Michael Mortenson		
Dec 31	DeeAnn Rambo	Dec 17	Elijah Eggert		
		Dec 17	Vickie Haglund		
		Dec 17	Christopher Main		
		Dec 20	Henry Tellijohn		
		Dec 22	Andrew Blaser		
		Dec 26	Laura Briesemeister		

**PASTOR'S NOTE**

The Christmas poem, *Amazing Peace* by Maya Angelou, which began this newsletter, appeared on my desk some time ago. I no longer recall who gave it to me (my apologies to whomever that was), but, reading it again, I found it so resonated with me I decided to share it with all of you. I hope you find as much “Amazing Peace” in it as I did.

**About Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou was an acclaimed American poet, storyteller, activist, and autobiographer. She had a broad career as a singer, dancer, actress, composer, and Hollywood’s first female black director, but became most famous as a writer, editor, essayist, playwright, and poet. As a civil rights activist, Angelou worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. She was also an educator, and served as the Reynolds professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. She served on two presidential committees, for Gerald Ford in 1975 and for Jimmy Carter in 1977. In 2000, Angelou was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Bill Clinton. In 2010, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the U.S., by President Barack Obama. Angelou was awarded over 50 honorary degrees before her death in 2014. One of her most well know books is *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*. (From the Poetry Foundation Web site.) Additional information can be found at mayangelou.com.

Revised Common Lectionary  
Daily Readings – Year A  
December 2019

Date	Day	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
1	Sunday	Psalm 122	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
2	Monday	Psalm 124	Genesis 8:1-19	Romans 6:1-11	
3	Tuesday	Psalm 124	Genesis 9:1-17	Hebrews 11:32-40	
4	Wednesday	Psalm 124	Isaiah 54:1-10		Matthew 24:23-35
5	Thursday	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 4:2-6	Acts 1:12-17,21-26	
6	Friday	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 30:19-26	Acts 13:16-25	
7	Saturday	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 40:1-11		John 1:19-28
8	Sunday	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
9	Monday	Psalm 21	Isaiah 24:1-16a	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	
10	Tuesday	Psalm 21	Isaiah 41:14-20	Romans 15:41-21	
11	Wednesday	Psalm 21	Genesis 15:1-18		Matthew 12:33-37
12	Thursday	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 1:6-18	2 Peter 3:1-10	
13	Friday	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 4:13-17	2 Peter 3:11-18	
14	Saturday	Psalm 146:5-10	1 Samuel 2:1-8		Luke 3:1-18
15	Sunday	Psalm 146:5-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
16	Monday	Psalm 42	Isaiah 29:17-24	Acts 5:12-16	
17	Tuesday	Psalm 42	Ezekiel 47:1-12	Jude 17-25	
18	Wednesday	Psalm 42	Zechariah 8:1-17		Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34
19	Thursday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:1-17	Galatians 3:23-29	
20	Friday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:18-22	Galatians 4:1-7	
21	Saturday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:23-29		John 3:31-36
22	Sunday	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
23	Monday		2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29	Galatians 3:6-14	Luke 1:46b-55
24	Tuesday	Psalm 96	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
25	Wednesday	Psalm 97	Isaiah 62:6-12	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20
26	Thursday	Psalm 148	Wisdom 4:7-15	Acts 7:59-8:	
27	Friday	Psalm 148	Proverbs 8:22-31	1 John 5:1-12	
28	Saturday	Psalm 148	Isaiah 49:13-23		Matthew 18:1-14
29	Sunday	Psalm 148	Isaiah 63:7-9	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23
30	Monday	Psalm 20	Isaiah 26:1-9	2 Corinthians 4:16-18	
31	Tuesday	Psalm 20	1 Kings 3:5-14		John 8:12-19

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Prayer Ventures  
December 2019**

1 *First Sunday of Advent:* Lift up prayers of thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, remembrance and celebration of Jesus Christ — God’s awesome gift of love and redemption for all humanity.

2 Pause each day to reflect prayerfully on the symbols, traditions and practices — ancient and new — that we see and experience throughout Advent and Christmas. Give thanks for everything that centers our attention on the good news of Jesus Christ, deepens our faith as loved and redeemed children of God, and inspires and guides our baptismal journey.

3 Today has become known as Giving Tuesday, a day for encouraging generosity and charitable giving. Pray that the Spirit will always inspire us to be generous with our resources, money, gifts and time for the sake of our neighbors in need.

4 Pray that we awake each day, putting on Jesus Christ and shining as a light in the world, a brilliant light that shines with good news, love, justice, compassion and peace.

5 Remember in prayer Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) and the other hospitals in East Jerusalem. AVH is owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation and supported by several of its member churches, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Pray that our government will restore funding vital to the safe and effective operation of the East Jerusalem hospitals as soon as possible so that patients — especially children, who are particularly at risk — will continue to receive the treatment and care they need.

6 Give thanks for the young people who have served or are currently serving as Young Adults in Global Mission, working alongside our global companions to share the gospel, grow the church, care for people in need and strengthen communities in the name of Christ. Pray that these young adults will inspire others to respond to God’s call to ministry and service — locally and globally.

7 When you see an Advent wreath, reflect on the circle of evergreen branches and give thanks for the gift of eternal life we have in Jesus Christ — the promised Messiah, born for the sake of the world.

8 Pray for clarity and faith in the lifelong baptismal journey for which the Holy Spirit calls, renews and equips us — a journey for the sake of the world.

9 The “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent” is a public apology offered by our church in the context of the quadricentennial remembrance of slavery in this country. With faith in God’s forgiveness and mercy, pray that we will be unconflicted in our repentance, committed to understanding injustice and racism, and bold and persistent in working to end racism and white supremacy wherever they exist, including in the church.

10 Give thanks that we are freed by our faith to serve our neighbor and affect change in our communities, nation and world — change that is grounded in the gospel and God’s vision of justice, compassion, healing and peace for all people.

11 Pray that God’s righteousness, justice, peace and compassion for the poor and oppressed will flourish in the world, and that we will be bold and persistent in doing God’s work together.

12 Remember in prayer people, especially women and children, who live in refugee camps and immigration detention centers. Pray that they will soon return home or move to a community or country where they are welcome and safe, able to reunite with family and reestablish their lives. Give thanks for our church’s and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service’s commitment to advocate and care for refugees and immigrants everywhere.

13 Remembering that we have been welcomed without hesitation into the body of Christ, pray that we will exercise, without judgment or partiality, grace and hospitality toward our neighbors — friends, antagonists and strangers alike.

14 Give thanks to God for the gifts, service and ministry of women as we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

15 Give thanks for being reminded and reassured — through the word of God, the sacraments and the witness of one another — that Jesus is the promised Messiah, our savior, teacher, life and hope.

16 Pray for ELCA missionaries and young people serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program who are

separated from their families and home congregations during the holidays yet celebrate the good news and gift of Jesus Christ with our companion churches and brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

17 Pray that wherever the weather turns cold and damp, all people will have the warmth and safety of shelter, and that where shelter is absent or difficult to find, the love and generosity of God dwelling in us will move us to create and open shelters in our congregations, community spaces and homes.

18 Give thanks for ELCA Good Gifts, an opportunity to support ELCA ministries and programs in nearly 80 countries around the world, including the United States. These funds and gifts support work being carried out by our congregations, companion churches and ecumenical partners.

19 Over 47,000 people in the United States died by suicide in 2017, and there were approximately 1.4 million suicide attempts. Pray for hope, relief from suffering and skilled, compassionate care for people who struggle with loneliness, isolation and depression, especially during the holidays. Ask that the Spirit will move us to see and respond to the people around us and to engage in and support suicide-prevention efforts such as the work of the Suicide Prevention Ministry, an independent Lutheran organization.

20 Give thanks and praise to God, who lifts up those bowed down and oppressed, watches over strangers and sets free the bound and imprisoned.

21 Remember in prayer the many people who work and serve during the holidays, including first responders, care providers, law enforcement, medical personnel, pilots and attendants, truck drivers, men and women serving in the military, seafarers, social service staff, and people serving in stores, restaurants and hotels.

22 In the story of Mary, Joseph and the humble birth of Jesus, we sense God's love for humanity and God's understanding of the diverse contexts in which we live. Praise God for loving us as we are and for reaching into the world in ways that we can relate to, understand and embrace.

23 Ask that we will be strengthened and inspired by the Holy Spirit for sharing the story of God's love and mercy — the story of Jesus — in today's world and culture.

24 *Christmas Eve:* What draws you to Jesus? What are you looking for in God's promises? Give thanks to God for revealing to us through Jesus Christ the gifts of fullness of life and the one true light that illuminates God's ways and truth.

25 *Christmas Day:* Join with our sisters and brothers around the world and with all creation in lifting up prayers and songs of praise and thanksgiving for God's gift of love and life, manifested in the birth of Jesus Christ — a light in the darkness that cannot be overcome.

26 "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things." Pray for enthusiasm and courage in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions each day.

27 Remember in prayer people who struggle to meet the costs of living, students and seminarians graduating with long-term student loans, and people experiencing ongoing or unexpected medical expenses. Ask God to help us exercise understanding, empathy and generosity in our support and care for people struggling with financial debts and needs.

28 Pray that the good news, joy and faith that live in us will not diminish with the passing of the holidays and special celebrations but will grow deeper and pervade every aspect of our life.

29 Reflect on Mary and Joseph fleeing one country for another with the baby Jesus; lift up in prayer all people who suffer injustice and persecution and have become refugees and immigrants seeking safety and acceptance.

30 Pray that God will bless the experiences of college and university students participating in J-term courses and service-learning experiences, and that these will enrich their faith, knowledge, wisdom and discernment of vocation.

31 On the threshold of a new year, ask that the Spirit will instill in us a sense of time and life that is unrushed, observant and appreciative of the people, community, creation and gifts given by God for our sustenance, use, enjoyment and sharing.

# DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Quilt Sunday at Wilson</b> 8:30 @ Wilson 9:30 SS @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel 9:30 SS @ Immanuel	<b>2</b> Pastor's Sabbath Day	<b>3</b>  <b>PASTOR'S MEDICAL LEAVE</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 p.m. Wilson Confirmation at St. John's	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30 @ Wilson 9:30 SS @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel 9:30 SS @ Immanuel  <b>PASTOR'S MEDICAL LEAVE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting at Immanuel	<b>11</b> 6:00 p.m. Wilson Confirmation at St. John's	<b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. WELCA Meeting at Wilson 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting at Wilson	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:30 @ Wilson 9:30 SS @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel 9:30 SS @ Immanuel <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>PASTOR'S MEDICAL LEAVE</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15 p.m. St. John's Confirmation Meets at Wilson  7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service at Wilson	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 @ Wilson 9:30 SS @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel 9:30 SS @ Immanuel  <b>PASTOR'S MEDICAL LEAVE</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00 p.m. at Wilson 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> 8:30 @ Wilson 9:30 SS @ Wilson 10:30 @ Immanuel 9:30 SS @ Immanuel	<b>30</b> Pastor's Sabbath Day	<b>31</b>	January 1	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>