

**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 2021 Newsletter

## 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](mailto:wiluth@wwt.net)  
Web Site: [www.wilsonimmanuel.org](http://www.wilsonimmanuel.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Bob Dahm  
Pastor Email: [PastorBob@wwt.net](mailto:PastorBob@wwt.net)

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

### JANUARY 2021: THE SEASONS OF CHRISTMAS AND THE TIME AFTER EPIPHANY

#### **Sunday, January 3 – Christmas 2**

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18: John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

#### **Sunday, January 10 – Baptism of Our Lord**

- ❖ Color: White
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11: Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

#### **January 6 – Epiphany of Our Lord**

The Christmas season concludes with the Epiphany ("manifestation") of Our Lord on Wednesday, January 6: a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. "In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all the world." (*Sundays and Seasons, Year B 2021, Augsburg Fortress*)

Readings for the Day: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

#### **Sunday, January 17 – Epiphany 2**

- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I with Holy Communion
- ❖ Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 138=91-6, 13-28; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- ❖ Holy Gospel: John 1:43-51: In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

#### **Sunday, January 24 – Epiphany 3**

- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20: Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

#### **Thursday, January 31 – Epiphany 4**

- ❖ Color: Green
- ❖ ELW Setting: Setting I
- ❖ Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- ❖ Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28: Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

## **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.

## **PASTOR'S THOUGHTS**

Whew! We made it or, at least by the time you read this we will have. A posting on Facebook noted at 12:01 a.m., January 1, 2021, hindsight will be 2020. Someone also noted that will be the only time in history we'll be able to say that. Others offered it's been a year worthy of forgetting.

Perhaps, but I hope there are some things we've learned from the past year we would do well to carry forward into this new one. Things like the importance of a hug to the receiver and the giver; that being church is not only gathering for worship, but being God's people, together or as one, in ongoing mission and ministry to our neighbor in need; the importance of our teachers, health care workers, first responders, and so many others on the front line; and simple things like the value of a handshake. I'm certain each of you can add to your own list.

2020 was, indeed, a difficult year. No doubt 2021 will have its share of trying times as well, but as we approach this new year, I see hope for the days, weeks and months ahead. In fact, I'd like to think of it as the "Year of Hope". Will you join me?

## **PARISH NEWS**

**Annual Meetings Postponed:** The annual meetings usually held in January will be postponed until such time as we are able to gather for an in-person meeting.

**Holy Communion:** We're committed to serving Outdoor Communion the first and third Sundays each month weather permitting, which means the absence of blowing snow, blizzard-like conditions, difficult travel conditions, or air temperatures / wind chills well below freezing. Immanuel will continue to serve from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., and Wilson from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

The routine will remain the same at Immanuel, entering on the east side of the church building and driving around to the west side doors, but we'll need to make some changes at Wilson.

The cemetery road is no longer available. So, instead of the parking lot next to the church building, we'll use the west parking lot as the gathering place. Just line up side by side across the front of the lot, along 310<sup>th</sup>. I'll bring communion to you there.

We never know what our weather is going to bring us, so watch your email, or check the parish web site at [www.wilsonimmanuel.org](http://www.wilsonimmanuel.org), for updates or cancellations.

**Vanco (GivePlus) Online Program:** The Vanco GivePlus Online Giving Program is now available to both Wilson and Immanuel members. GivePlus allows you to set up weekly and special offerings, 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 the "Give Online" link in the menu bar near the top of the Home page. You can also download the GivePlus app for Apple or Android smartphones.

**Food Pantry Support:** Please remember the area food pantries supported by the parish congregations. Wilson contributes to five food shelves during the year, one each month, including Baldwin, Elmwood, Glenwood City, Spring Valley, and Woodville. Immanuel supports the food shelves at Clear Lake and Glenwood City. More people are seeking help from food pantries than ever before, so your contributions are especially welcomed. Don't forget to include items like paper products and personal care supplies. Bring your donations when you come for Outdoor Communion, or drop them off at church during the week. Thank you for your continuing support of your neighbors in need.

**Thank You:** Thank for all the Christmas cards, emails, phone calls and gifts we received over the holidays. It was so very kind of you to think of us. Pastor Bob and Sue.

## WILSON NEWS

**Wilson WELCA:** WELCA meetings are cancelled until further notice.

**Wilson Council:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Thursday, January 14. All members of the church are welcome to attend.

**December 10, 2020 Council Meeting Highlights:** (*Complete minutes are available in the church office.*)

- Immanuel did agree to stop in-person services. The Presidents of each congregation will communicate when services will start again at the same time
- Outdoor Communion and how it would be served was discussed. Pastor will continue out door drive by for the 20<sup>th</sup> and after that there will possibly be a portable hut/shack set up in the handicap parking area depending on the weather
- Christmas Eve Worship will be a video service with special music from Matt and Chandra Lamb
- Virtual Poinsettias can be purchased for \$9 each - with the gift going to support our local five food pantries given in memory or honor of a loved one and displayed in the church window
- 2021 Annual meeting will be the last Sunday in January
- A motion was made by Barb Knopps to approve 1.2% increase in Pastors wages for 2021, Mike second. Motion carried
- Louanne made a motion to give the same amount of money as last year for Christmas gifts to Pastor and working staff, second by Sharon. Motion carried
- After reviewing the 2021 Ministry Statement Chuck Walz made a motion to approve the budget, second by Jerry. Motion carried
- Thrivent Choice Dollars have been contributed to the food pantry

**Tuesday Community Supper:** Members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church will be handing out bag suppers from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on January 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Gethsemane parking lot. Drive through to pick up Tater-Tot hotdish, coleslaw, bun and dessert.

The Tuesday Community Supper is served the first Tuesday of the month at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 1350 Florence Street, Baldwin, Wisconsin, 54002. This is a free meal open to anyone in the community. Area churches, businesses and organizations take turns preparing and serving good nutritious food. We will not be serving during the months of February and March. Look for us getting back on track in April.

**Blood Drive:** A blood drive has been scheduled for Friday, January 15, from Noon to 6:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 221 Lockwood Street, Woodville. To make an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-723-2767), or visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Zion Lutheran Church in the search box.

## VIRTUAL POINSETTIAS



WOW!! What a huge success! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Virtual Poinsettias. Your generosity resulted in a contribution of \$140 to each of the five food pantries Wilson supports: Baldwin, Glenwood City, Elmwood, Spring Valley and Elmwood. Blessed to be a blessing!

### 2020 Virtual Poinsettia Donations for Local Food Pantries

From:	In Memory Of:
Doug and Mary Brandt	Ralph and Lucille Brandt
	Roger Brandt
	Frank and Fern Olsen
	John Olsen
Pastor Bob and Susan Dahn	Fred, Eva and Jeff Warland
	Robert F. and Vera Dahm
	Ronald Dahm
	Bennie and Carrie Ferm
	Robin Messick
Chuck and Barb Lamb	Don and Frances Gunderson
	Merton and Louise Lamb
	Alice Bennett
	Noah Lamb
	Thomas L. Kingston
Flossie Hughes	Bob Hughes
	Hugh and Harriet Cardiff
	Arnie Cardiff
Jerry and Vicki Glampe	Arlis, Bud, and Mark Timm
	Avis and Harry Glampe
	Mary Overby
Leslie Larson	Karen Larson
	Richard Larson

Jill Menk	Andy Menk
Janelle Timm	Dennis (Denver) Timm
Susan Faber	Those Who Have Gone Before Us
John and Ginny Overland	Melvin and Betty Dolalie
	Dale and Audrey Overland
Charles and Sharon Bowell	Vera Bowell
	Fred and Betty Bartko
	Larry and Margaret Ziehme
Darlene Dehkes	Bob Dehkes
	Don and Vera Baker
Mike and Sherry Ellefson	Erling Moldenhauer
	Lloyd Ellefson
Karen Keck	Dorothy Kerr
Roger and Barb Kronholm	Ed Kronholm
	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Peterson
	Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kronholm, Sr.
	James J. O'Keefe
	James H. O'Keefe
Dave and Linda Powers	Marilyn Hoyt
Evelyn Spielman	Dale Spielman
Jim, Sandy, Jeramiah and Eli Spielman	Maynard Eitland
	Avis Eitland
	Dale Spielman
Mary Timm	Rodney Timm
	Emil and Evelyn Timm
	Denver Timm
Louie and Deb Tolvanen	Timothy Monio, Jr. (Grandson)
	Helvie Pelkola (Deb's Mother)
Dean and Tracy Davis	Ramona Hanson
Robert and Sue Ross	Oscar and Dorothy Brandvold
	Bob and Bette Brandvold
Don and Junalee Hogenson	Ernest and Dorothy Moe
	Dale and Loren Moe
	Donnalle Danovsky
	Henry and Mary Hogenson
	Arlene Dobbs
	Dorothy Hogenson
Lyle and Babe Jacobson	Our Parents
	Our Son Larry Jacobson
Fred and Jean Witter	Our Son Bill
<b>From:</b>	<b>In Honor Of:</b>
Jill Menk	Those in Need
Janelle Timm	My Family
Karen Keck	Evie Spielman
	Pastor Bob and Susan Dahm
Dean and Tracy Davis	Pastor John Hanson

WILSON LUTERAN CHURCH 2021		
USHER SCHEDULE		
January	Chuck and Barb Lamb	5 Sundays
COMMUNION SERVERS		
January	None Scheduled	5 Sundays
ALTAR CARE SCHEDULE		
January	Barb Lamb	5 Sundays
Please arrange for another person if you are unable to serve as scheduled.		

### IMMANUEL NEWS

**Immanuel Luther Church Council Meeting Minutes:** The December meeting was cancelled due to COVID concerns and a lack of business.

**Correction: “Thank You to Jan Anderson” from November Newsletter:** Thank you to Jan Anderson for your memorial to the Rhea DeBoer Family in memory of Rhea's brother, Dale Bliese, who passed away on April 5. It was applied to the congregation's God's Work, Our Hands project, and used to purchase additional chicks and a piglet through the ELCA's Good Gifts Program.

**Wreath Sale:** A special thank you to Rick and Tiff for organizing this year's wreath sale, and for personally delivering all the orders to make certain they got to people in a timely manner.

Tiff reports 85 orders were received, which is comparable to previous years, resulting in a total of \$854 being raised. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's fund raiser.

**Austin Buhr Mailing Address:** In the November newsletter we shared the mailing address for Austin Buhr, who was scheduled to be deployed to Kuwait. That deployment did occur, but we recently learned he has been moved to a different base in Kuwait, which means his address has changed. Soldiers always appreciate hearing from the folks back home. Austin's new address is:

Austin Buhr  
SOJFT-OIR-J4  
APO-AE 09306

### ARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – January 2021

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
Wilson	Immanuel	Wilson	Anniversaries	Wilson	Anniversaries
Jan 6	Roger Kronholm	Jan 2	Julie Wheeler	Jan 13	Ken & Pam Finder
Jan 6	Doug Brandt	Jan 2	Laura Lee Goodrich		
Jan 9	Roxann Peterson	Jan 5	Kim Rosen		
Jan 10	Flossie Hughes	Jan 6	Isaac Voeltz		
Jan 13	Eric Eidem	Jan 7	Waylon Dorsey		
Jan 13	Barb Kronholm	Jan 8	Patrick Steinberger		
Jan 14	Vickie Glampe	Jan 10	Noelle Voeltz		
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		

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### Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

*Anonymous*

Take a heap of childlike wonder  
 that opens up our eyes  
 to the unexpected gifts in life  
 each day a sweet surprise.

Mix in some fond appreciation  
 for the people whom we know.  
 Like festive Christmas candles,  
 each one has a special glow.

Add some giggles and laughter,  
 and a dash of Christmas food.  
 It's amazing how a piece of pie  
 improves our attitude.

Stir it all with human kindness.  
 Wrap it up in love and peace.  
 Decorate with optimism  
 and our joy will never cease.

If we use this healthy recipe,  
 we know we will remember  
 to be in the Christmas spirit  
 even when it's not December.

*(Thanks to Flossie Hughes for sharing this piece.)*



**Revised Common Lectionary**

**Daily Readings – Year B**

**January 2021**

Date	Day	Psalm	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
1	Friday <b>New Year's Day</b>	Psalm 8	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Revelation 21:1-6a	Matthew 25:31-46
2	Saturday	No Psalm	Proverbs 1:1-7	James 3:13-18	
3	Sunday	Psalm 147:12-20	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
4	Monday	Psalm 110	Proverbs 3:1-12	James 4:11-17	
5	Tuesday	Psalm 110	Proverbs 22:1-9		Luke 6:27-31
6	Wednesday <b>Epiphany Day</b>	Psalm 72:1-7;10-14	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
7	Thursday	Psalm 29	1 Samuel 3:1-21	Acts 9:10-19a	
8	Friday	Psalm 29	1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Timothy 4:11-16	
9	Saturday	Psalm 29	1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12		Luke 5:1-11
10	Sunday <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>	Psalm 29	Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
11	Monday	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 4:1-12	
12	Tuesday	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Exodus 30:22-38	Acts 22:2-16	
13	Wednesday	Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Isaiah 41:14-20		John 1:29-34
14	Thursday	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Judges 2:6-15	2 Corinthians 10:1-11	
15	Friday	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Judges 2:16-23	Acts 13:16-25	
16	Saturday	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Samuel 2:21-25		Matthew 25:1-13
17	Sunday	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Samuel 3:1-20	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
18	Monday	Psalm 86	1 Samuel 9:27-10:8	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1	
19	Tuesday	Psalm 86	1 Samuel 15:10-31	Acts 5:1-11	
20	Wednesday	Psalm 86	Genesis 16:1-14		Luke 18:15-17
21	Thursday	Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 19:1-15	Revelation 18:11-20	
22	Friday	Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 20:7-13	2 Peter 3:1-7	
23	Saturday	Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 20:14-18		Luke 10:13-16
24	Sunday	Psalm 62:5-12	Jonah 3:1-5,10	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
25	Monday	Psalm 46	Genesis 12:1-9	1 Corinthians 7:17-24	
26	Tuesday	Psalm 46	Genesis 45:25-46:7	Acts 5:33-42	
27	Wednesday	Psalm 46	Proverbs 8:1-21		Mark 3:13-19a
28	Thursday	Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 3:23-29	Romans 9:6-18	
29	Friday	Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 12:28-32	Revelation 2:12-17	
30	Saturday	Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 13:1-5		Matthew 8:28-9:1
31	Sunday	Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Prayer Ventures**

**January 2020**

**1** Give thanks and praise that God knows intimately our complexities, failures, accomplishments, questions, goals and hopes, and still looks upon us with loving kindness, newness and a desire for us to thrive as individuals and communities.

**2** Pray for our companion churches and international leaders as they confront multiple waves of the pandemic. Ask the Spirit to fill them with hope, resilience and reassurance that our faith in the presence and love of God, which we share as siblings in Christ, will unify us in caring for one another and in doing God's work in the world, using our diverse gifts, cultures, languages, resources and perspectives in every circumstance.

**3** Give thanks and praise to God that we are children of God, knowing and testifying to the good news that Jesus Christ became flesh and lived among us, and that we have seen the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth for the world.

**4** *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* We remember and pray for victims of sex trafficking, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and forced labor in our nation and around the world, and we ask God's guidance in caring for victims and actively working to end this abuse, injustice and oppression.

**5** Pray for Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, members of the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. Give thanks for their humble service, their faith in Christ, their leadership and gifts, and their commitment to wrestle with difficult decisions and issues for the sake of the church and the world.

**6** *Epiphany* As people of faith, we are not immune from wondering about God, Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Pray that God will be patient with us, illuminating the truth of who we are as baptized children of God and the reality and certainty of the good news of Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, our Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and teacher.

**7** As the pandemic continues, pray for doctors, nurses, emergency responders and health care workers who need renewal, strength and our gratitude and recognition as they continue to serve at great personal risk and sacrifice for the sake of our health and well-being.

**8** Give thanks for the people in our lives who inspire hope, faith and courage, and whose words and actions touch us, teach us the meaning of grace and move us to become bearers of mercy in the world.

**9** In Christ we have received forgiveness of our sins and salvation through God's unfathomable grace, showered upon us every day. Praise God!

**10** Give thanks for God's love and forgiveness in baptism, which marks the beginning of our journey with our siblings in Christ to share the good news, serve all people, grow the church and strive for peace and justice in the world.

**11** Pray for parents, students, employees and business owners whose plans and routines change day by day and week by week due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, that they might be hopeful, resilient and able to adapt, change and endure.

**12** Pray for our faith-based schools, early childhood education programs and day care centers as they provide experiential education, social interaction, stability and calm for the youngest of our children, who are often most vulnerable during times of uncertainty and anxiety.

**13** God is mighty, majestic and eternal throughout the universe, generously sharing strength and blessings with us. Give glory and thanks to God, and shout for joy!

**14** Ask God to help us practice justice, generosity and care for creation, sharing our resources with others who have few or who have lost resources or productive land as a result of natural and human-caused disasters.

**15** Pray for the young adults who have applied for a yearlong journey in international service with our companion churches and organizations through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, which will resume in 2021-2022 after a time of sabbath during the pandemic.

**16** Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

**17** Jesus invited Philip to follow him as a disciple, and Philip, in turn, invited Nathanael. Ask God to help us be faithful followers, students and, at the same time, disciples eager to invite others to join in God's good work in the world.

**18** *Martin Luther King Day* Today we remember the life, ministry, sacrifice and activism of Martin Luther King Jr. Pray that his life and the legacies of others who have fought for civil rights and social reform will inspire our own commitment and persistence in working for racial justice, dismantling racism and combating white supremacy.

**19** We may argue about what is legal, what we are entitled to or what we have the right to do with our bodies and lives. But Paul reminds us that we have been made one with the body and spirit of Christ; we "were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." Pray that the Spirit will guide us to live with humility and deference for who we are in Christ and in obedience to the ways and desires of God.

**20** *Inauguration Day* As members of society and the church who represent varied political affiliations and perspectives, pray together for our nation's newly elected president and vice president, that the Spirit will grant them wisdom, strength, commitment to serving all people, a deep understanding of justice and mercy, and the courage to enact change for the well-being of our communities and nation.

**21** Pray for the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering, an online event happening right now that gathers ELCA World Hunger leaders for learning, networking, sharing ideas and planning for our common ministry to address hunger and its root causes.

**22** Pray for reconciliation, understanding and renewal in our divided nation so that we might work together for justice, compassion and generosity, serving our neighbors in need and the well-being of our communities as they struggle with vexing, deep-rooted problems. Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our lives so that our values, decisions, actions and words reflect the gospel, the teachings of Jesus and the ways of God, who is good, gracious, merciful and just.

**23** Praise God that, as small and insignificant as we might be in the vast universe, we are wonderfully made and God knows every little thing about us and our human ways.

**24** In Scripture we read about Jesus' simple, personal and compelling invitations to Simon, Andrew, James, John and the other disciples to drop everything and follow him. Pray that when God calls us to follow and serve, we will respond with faith and trust, even if we do not yet know where God is leading us or what God is calling us to do.

**25** Pray for ministries, nonprofit organizations and agencies that serve the daily needs of communities, families and individuals; pursue justice and equity; build resilience to cope with disasters and crises; accompany immigrants and refugees; and bring the hope and love of Christ where there is despair and weariness.

**26** When, like Jonah, we are reluctant to forgive, practice mercy or share the gospel with those we deem undeserving, ask the Spirit to help us discern God's ways, grace and mercy for all people, and to act boldly without personal bias.

**27** *Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith* Praise God for the witness and ministry of women of the early church. Give thanks for women of all ages and backgrounds who, responding to God's call, continue to use their gifts, life experiences, knowledge and passions to grow the church, serve all people and be bearers of hope and healing in the world.

**28** Give thanks for the Lutheran liturgy and worship practices that equip us for daily life, helping us to praise God, listen to God's word and experience unity in the body of Christ.

**29** Give thanks for the self-sacrificing generosity of people who demonstrate their gratefulness for God's gift of life and their concern for their neighbors' well-being by donating blood, plasma and even organs.

**30** Remember in prayer those who continue to struggle with unemployment, underemployment and job searching as a result of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19.

**31** Though our creeds do not speak of Jesus' teachings, miracles or example, give thanks that, through Scripture, the Spirit reveals Jesus to be the source of our redemption and a trustworthy guide, instructing us how to live with one another, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world today.

# JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 	2
3 9:00 Immanuel Outdoor Communion 10:30 Wilson Outdoor Communion	4 <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	5 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Together Synod Zoom Meeting	6 <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 6:00 p.m. Wilson 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Zoom Confirmation	7	8	9
10 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>	11 <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	12 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Together Synod Zoom Meeting 7:00 p.m. Immanuel Council Meeting	13 6:00 p.m. Immanuel 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Zoom Confirmation	14 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting at Wilson	15	16
17 9:00 Immanuel Outdoor Communion 10:30 Wilson Outdoor Communion <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	18 <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	19 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Together Synod Zoom Meeting	20 6:00 p.m. Wilson 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Zoom Confirmation	21	22	23
24	25 <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	26 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Together Synod Zoom Meeting	27 6:00 p.m. Immanuel 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Zoom Confirmation	28	29	30
31	February 1 <b>Pastor's Sabbath</b>	2 <b>Presentation of Our Lord</b> 10:00 a.m. Tuesday Together Synod Zoom Meeting	3 6:00 p.m. Wilson 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Zoom Confirmation	4	5	6