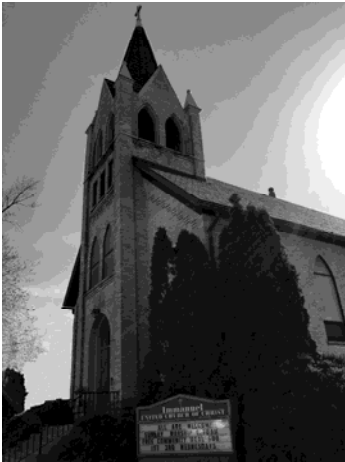


Immanuel United Church of Christ

118 Oak Street
Neenah, WI 54956-3034



DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



December Birthdays

Heather Hessler Dec 2
Gary Joosten Dec 6
Scott Erdmann Dec 9
Matthew Sell Dec 11
Jody Hoppe Dec 16
Ronald Wege Dec 25
Larry Schroeder Dec 27
Leonard Blank Dec 30
Brenda Wege Dec 31

December Anniversaries

Joe and Carol Campbell Dec 5



**Immanuel United
Church of Christ**
118 Oak Street, Neenah, WI 54956
Church email: iuccneenah@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (920) 722-0381
Web site: www.iuccneenah.org

Dear friends in Christ-
It is my prayer for you that this holiday season brings you blessings. Advent season begins with the start of December. The word, Advent literally means "the coming". While we welcome the baby Jesus at Christmas, we remember that Christ came, not only one Christmas a long time ago, but Christ continues to come into our lives and into our world every day: every time we bring a blessing to someone, Christ comes; every time someone blesses us, Christ comes; every time justice is accomplished, Christ comes; every time we welcome the stranger, Christ comes; every time someone feeds the hungry, clothes the poor, shelters the homeless, Christ come.
As we prepare to hear the Good News of Christ's birth, I pray that you see signs of Christ's presence in your daily life. They say "Jesus is the reason for the season." I always want to shorten that so it just says, "Jesus is the reason." Jesus is the reason all year long, the reason to celebrate, the reason to give, the reason to bless. May Christ always come into our world and our lives with the Good News of God's love.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Jen



Prayer List
Angel Lord,
Margaret Lord,

Scrip Fundraiser



Thank you to everyone who ordered Scrip in Oct! Our next order will be submitted by Bob in **Dec.** Encouraging all members to participate in this fundraising program. Scrip gives IUCC a percentage back – will not cost you anything more!

Are you planning a vacation? Cards are available for restaurants (Burger King, Applebee's, Cracker Barrel, Chili's, Dunkin' Donuts, etc) and gas.

Birthday parties, baby showers, or bridal showers? We have many retail stores available as well!

Please, if you haven't already, consider applying for a Kwik Trip credit card and naming IUCC as the beneficiary of the non-profit compensation program. See Bob for details.



EMERGENCY AND PASTORAL CARE PHONE NUMBER

If you are in need of emergency Pastoral Care please call Pastor Jen at church 920-722-0381, or her cell phone 920-642-3050. Please leave a detailed message. On the message, talk slowly and leave: 1. Your name and phone number; 2. Which hospital and who the person is and room number; 3. Anything else necessary that would help her understand the situation. If you wish to leave a confidential message for Pastor Jen, please call her cell at 920-642-3050. Pastor Jen's email address is jjczar@gmail.com. For any other business matter, call Bob Vande Hey at 920-740-6177.



IUCC Community Meal

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of Every Month

5:00 – 6:30 PM

The IUCC/New Hope Lutheran Community Meal Program is a non-profit 501c3 under IUCC and all donations are tax deductible. Send your donations payable to: IUCC (note on memo line “Community Meal”) and mail to IUCC 118 Oak St., Neenah, WI 54956. Donations are always welcome. We always need paper products (toilet paper, plates and napkins, garbage bags-large black), and cleaning supplies. Also, beef and chicken broth, V8 juice, fruit juices, tuna, peanut butter, soups, and box meal mixes. We also accept frozen meat products such as turkey, chicken, ham, stew meats, etc. Contact the office before dropping off (920-722-0381).

The first Wednesday of the month members of IUCC will handle serving and clean up and the third Wednesday of the month New Hope will serve and clean up. IUCC will still have a few members there to assist with security, operating the lift, building lock up and to be a source to help people locate items. We have a sign-up sheet on the front pew in church. **We invite you to sign up a month in advance to take a Wednesday meal time to help serve.**

Copier upgrade

IUCC is currently in need of upgrading the copier in the office. We received a grant from the Wisconsin Conference, as well as a generous gift from several of our members. Our goal is to raise the full \$3,900 necessary before the old one gives out. We currently have \$2,850. Would you be willing to give towards this purchase over and above your normal giving? Please see our ongoing progress on the bulletin board by the entrance to sanctuary.



<u>IMMANUEL UCC OFFICE HOURS</u>		
<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PERSON(S)</u>
<u>Monday</u>	9 am – 12 pm	Heather
<u>Wednesday</u>	10 am – 2 pm	Heather
<u>Wednesday</u>	1 pm – 5:00 pm	Pastor Jen
<u>Thursday</u>	9 am – 12 pm	Heather
<u>Friday</u>	9 am – 1 pm	Pastor Jen



If you can't serve the week indicated, please exchange with someone else and call the church office Wednesday morning before 10:30 a.m. We list the names in the bulletin and request you wear your name tag to acknowledge your help and also help others, especially guests and infrequent attendees, to get "names and faces" together.

Dec - Jan, 2017- WORSHIP TIME 8:30 A.M.

GREETERS	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3	Dec 10
Doty Street	Lois Hoppe 722-0488	Judy Joosten 810-2962	Chuck Wolf 725-9036	Lois Hoppe 722-0488
Oak Street	Jody Hoppe 729-5715	Gary Joosten 810-2962	Angel Lord 205-4596	Jody Hoppe 729-5715
Ushers	Jessica Anderson 850-0573	Larry Schroeder 268-7741	Bob Vande Hey 740-6177	Jessica Anderson 850-0573
Ushers	Chuck Wolf 725-9036	Gary Joosten 810-2962	Jean Vande Hey 989-3101	Cindy Anderson 727-4820
Reader	Chuck Wolf 725-9036	Larry Schroeder 268-7741	Jean Vande Hey 989-3101	Cindy Anderson 727-4820
Teacher				
Communion Set Up	Cindy Anderson			

GREETERS	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31	Jan 7
Doty Street	Judy Joosten 810-2962	Cindy Anderson 727-4820	Lois Hoppe 722-0488	Jessica Anderson 850-0573
Oak Street	Gary Joosten 810-2962	Jessica Anderson 850-0573	Jody Hoppe 729-5715	Judy Joosten 810-2962
Ushers	Larry Schroeder 268-7741	Bob Vande Hey 740-6177	Angel Lord 205-4596	Gary Joosten 810-2962
Ushers	Gary Joosten 810-2962	Jean Vande Hey 989-3101	Cindy Anderson 727-4820	Chuck Wolf 725-9036
Reader	Larry Schroeder 268-7741	Jean Vande Hey 989-3101	Cindy Anderson 727-4820	Chuck Wolf 725-9036
Teacher				
Communion Set Up	Cindy Anderson 727-4820			

Please check the sign-up sheet and sign up to be a communion assistant the first Sunday of each month for Communion Sunday.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Dec 3	8:30 am – Sunday Worship Communion – First Sunday of Advent. Isa 64:1-9, Ps 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:24-37
Wednesday, Dec 6	5:00 pm – Community Meal. Thank you to those who continue to bring canned goods and items for our food pantry.
Sunday, Dec 10	8:30 am – Sunday Worship – Second Sunday of Advent. Isa 40:1-11, Ps 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Pet 3:8-15a, Mk 1:1-8
Sunday, Dec 17	8:30 am – Sunday Worship Third Sunday of Advent. Isa 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps 126, 1 Tess 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Wednesday, Dec 20	5 pm Community Meal. 6 pm – Council Meeting
Sunday, Dec 24	3 pm Christmas Eve Communion – Fourth Sunday of Advent. 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16, Ps 89:1-4, 19-26, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38
Monday, Dec 25	Christmas Day!
Sunday, Dec 31	8:30 am – Sunday Worship – First Sunday after Christmas Isa 61:10-62:3, Ps 148, Gal 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

This calendar contains all information received by the church office as of Nov 20th.

Spiritual Gifts Survey:

We are excited to invite the congregation to learn more about themselves and God's purpose for their lives through understanding each person's Spiritual Gifts. **We are pleased to inform you that Olga Knight and Larry Schroeder have volunteered to work with Pastor Jen in completing the program by the end of the year.** The first step of this process is to ask as many members as are willing to take a Spiritual Gifts inventory. You can do this online by using the link below. Paper copies of inventories are also available at both churches.

Please use this link for all your inventories: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ecuhqiteipo3v6ni/start>. The second step is to have an interview with Pastor Jen and evaluate your inventory. The third step is a follow up discussion on you can use your spiritual gifts to help our church ministry.

Membership note:

Additional parking for services at IUCC is available behind the Masonic Temple on Doty Street, next to the law offices. *“Permit parking only”*. To be used only on weekends.

	October	YTD/2017
General Fund Income	\$6,209.08	\$49,474.58
General Fund Expenses:	(\$7,451.28)	(\$ 73,105.20)
Net Income/Loss	(\$ 1,242.20)	(\$ 23,630.62)
Change in investments:	\$6,923.71	+\$17,928.17
Scrip on hand:	\$ 000	\$ 000
Community Meal balance:	\$607.65	\$
Holiday Fair-Nov	\$2,264.40	

**See detailed financial report on bulletin board across from Secretary's office. See Treasurer with questions.*

**IUCC Council Meeting Highlights
November 15, 2017**

Staff reports

Motion to approve minutes from council meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 with the following correction (Discuss the possibilities of joining with another church (Congregational Church) vs partnership with St. Johns if we are unable to meet our financial obligations with the St. Johns shared ministry agreement. Bob stated that we are better off financially today then we were January 1st pointing out that our net worth went up about \$17,000. In preparation for the 2018 budget Bob asked that the next council meeting we review Pastoral/church activities from the last year (2017) and plan projects for (2018). Everyone should have a list of improvements that need to be made and things that are going well. Then we will decide if we want to make changes.)***made by Angel Secoded by Judy. Motion carried***

Pastoral Activities

Pastoral Activities for 1/2 October and 1/2 November: October 14-20, I was able to work 30 hours. October 21-27, I again worked about 30 hours. As of October 28th, I have been

back to full time. For documentation purposes, this constitutes an additional 1/2 week of sick leave, putting my total accident sick leave at 2 3/4 weeks. I anticipate no further leave due to the accident. I have used 2 1/4 weeks of sick leave to date. During my part-time hours, I have tried to keep up on the most important functions, including preaching and tending to emergencies. As of October 30th, I have kept regular office hours and am working very hard to catch up on all that was left unattended. While I've been limited, I have done the following: preaching, teaching all existing groups (prayer group and Bible Study at St John's, Wednesday Education Hour at Immanuel, Women's retreat for both churches) attending to hospitalizations, emergencies (including the house fire of a regular attendee) and deaths, attending meetings as able. Worked with the unexpected food donation and expanding the food pantry accordingly. Planned and led All Saints Sunday services for both congregations. Worked on catching up on shut in visits.

Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Funerals: 1 at St. Johns: June Stamborski, as mentioned last month.

Upcoming

- Dec 2: food pantry distribution
- Dec 17: Children's Program at St. Johns
- Suggested Christmas Schedule (needs council approval at IUCC...St. John's has approved it)
 - No Christmas Eve morning services (Christmas Eve is a Sunday)
 - 3 pm Christmas Eve at Immanuel (same as last year)
 - 5 pm and 7 pm Christmas Eve at St. Johns (same as last year)

For Council Information/Action:

- Updates on some ongoing items on Immanuel's agenda:
 - Spiritual Gifts team met and is back up and running. More info to come as we get everyone on the team through the inventories.
 - Stewardship: Pastor Jen and Larry have met. November is our stewardship month. The sermons have been focusing on using all that we have for God's good in the world. Larry will speak at one Sunday Service about personal stewardship. Commitments will be collected Nov. 26th. Catch up letter is

ready...just needs the date for catch-up offering. ○ Sunday School: the coloring bulletins have been on the table every week. ○ Nominations: Members of committee, please get together with me after tonight's meeting to find a time. ○ Confirmation: I will call a worship committee meeting in the next couple of weeks. I need to check schedules with everyone. ○ Contact Schools about volunteering at Community Meal: Done. Spoke in September with the student involvement person and shared our info.

- Updates on some ongoing items on St. John's agenda: ○ Website: a partial site is up and running at www.saintjohnsonmain.org. There is still much to do. ○ Food Pantry: Sarah has this well under control. Thanks to all the many volunteers! ○ Prayer Group and Bible Study continue and are going well ○ Sally Poklasny is getting up and running as Spiritual Gifts coordinator

Old Business

- Spiritual Gift update: Larry Schroeder & Olga Knight are the coordinators and will work with Pastor Jen to complete program. Olga and Larry met with Pastor and will try to contact people who have not taken a spiritual gift survey and those that have not had interviews. Now 3 months after the interview we will contact them again to see how things are going – maybe come back in to discuss. Expanding out to non-members who might be interested. Pastor Jen will make up a list of ways people can become involved. Maintenance, children, community meal, and administratively. .

Spiritual Gifts team is back up and running and will continue with the program. They had a phone conference call with a Healthier Church representative last week.

- Web Site update: Bob will be getting together with Byron after the 1st of December to make sure everything is up to date and we have documentation on how to maintain the site. Heather is maintaining the calendar and sending Byron the newsletter every month.**

- Sunday School update: The Council has decided that Sunday school will move back**

to the class room when we have an adult instructor. A confirm ant will teach Sunday school as long as there is an adult present. If there is not an adult available, the children will have to attend the church service. Lisa volunteered to head up the program and recruit substitute teachers. The adult will lock the Doty street door on the way to class.

New Business

- Bob will modify the Community Meal signs to include food pantry notice. Gave frames to Gary and wording to Cindy who will follow up after the Food Pantry Committee meets with Pastor Jen.
- Bob will make a request to the Endowment Committee for funds before he presents a contract for the new copier to the Council when he gets back from vacation. Larry Made a Motion, Seconded by Gary, Motion Carried to go ahead and replace the copier by the end of the year. **Update: Bob will contact Chuck before making a decision.**

Building and Grounds

- Bob talked about revamping the sinks in the kitchen via money from the Endowment Committee. Have Jody put together a "wish List" to present and also get New Hope Church involved as well as Keys Plumbing. Bob will spearhead this project. **Update: Bob will be talking to St. John's about a dishwasher and will meet with Jody after the first of December. Pastor Jen will let St John's know we are interested in their dishwasher.**

Christian Education

- Confirmation scheduled for Jan 21, 2018, we need to review the whole program as to what the ceremony involves and will it conflict with the joint fellowship lunch also scheduled for the 21st.
- Status report on the Worship Committee. Heather will look at 4/16-5/16 past minutes at last year's semi and annual meeting minutes as reference to see who and when they were elected.**

Community meal:

- Contact the schools this fall (middle and high school) and let them know that kids can volunteer. Pastor Jen will take care of it. **Kids who have community service can also help us if they choose.**
- Food pantry: **Update: (see minutes to the 10-25-17 pantry meeting) Pastor Jen will contact Brenda and get the key back.**

Administrative Issues

- **Update on** Appoint a search/nomination committee for 2018 new Council members to replace Angel, Gary & Bob. **Gary and Angel are running again, Bob is not running for council but will stay on as treasurer if requested. Larry, Gary & Chuck agreed to be on the committee and met with Pastor Jen after the council meeting to get started.**

Fundraising

- Scrip will continue –Next order will take place **Dec.** Bob will take care of.
- Kwik Trip cards – please sign up for a Kwik Trip credit card, name IUCC as your charity and use it instead of purchasing their gift cards.

Next meeting dates

- **Dec 13**
- **Dec 17 Semi- annual meeting after service**
- **Jan 17**
- **Feb 21**

Area Events

Stretch your grocery \$: Ruby's Pantry is distributing food on the 1st Saturday of every month. Registration is from 8-10 a.m. and distribution will begin at 9 a.m. Please see their website at www.shepherdhills.org/rubys for more information.

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

					1 Pastor Jen 9-1	2
3 Worship Serv Communion 8:30am	4 Heather 9-12	5	6 Pastor Jen 1-5 Heather 10-2 Community Meal 5pm	7 Heather 9-12	8 Pastor Jen 9-1	9
10 Worship Serv 8:30am	11 Heather 9-12	12	13 Pastor Jen 1-5 Heather 10-2	14 Heather 9-12	15 Pastor Jen 9-1	16
17 Worship Serv 8:30am	18 Heather 9-12	19	20 Pastor Jen 1-5 Heather 10-2 Comm Meal 5pm Council 6pm	21 Heather 9-12	22 Pastor Jen 9-1	23
24 Worship Serv Communion 3 pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! HO HO HO!	26	27 Pastor Jen 1-5 Heather 10-2	28 Heather 9-12	29 Pastor Jen 9-1	30
31 Worship Serv 8:30am New Year's Eve!						