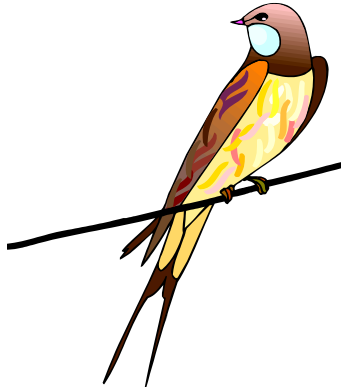


# Immanuel Lutheran Church

## May 2019

### Messenger



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Called, Empowered, and Sent by God to Live, Love, and Learn God's Word  
Nuestra Declaración De Misión  
Somos llamados, autorizados, y enviados por Dios para vivir, amar, y aprender la Palabra de Dios  
360-592-5876  
Church Email: [Immanuel.everson@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.everson@gmail.com)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
5782 Lawrence Rd.  
Everson, WA 98247

## *From Pastor Leslie:*

The next weeks of Easter we have our Epistle, or second lesson, from Revelation. We don't get to hear sermons from our Epistle reading so often, and I think that we need to, especially when it comes from such a prophetic book as the last book of our bible. Much has been written on Revelation, and perhaps you have studied different authors than I have, so by no means is this sermon series going to cover all the ways you have accumulated information about this book. I hope instead that we can be open to the ways God is still speaking and we are still listening.

As we begin to think about Revelation, I think it's important to understand that it's not at all like any of the other books in the New Testament. As it begins, we have a title, "the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him and which reaches God's servants through a chain of revelation. God to Christ to angel to John (the writer) to the servants of God."<sup>[1]</sup>

Moreover, verse three of the first chapter allows us to see that this book is intended to be read in front of a Christian audience, or better said, during worship. Hence, I believe a sermon series is exactly the place to begin our work on this holy text.

Author and Scholar Richard Bauckham writes "John (and thereby his readers with him) is taken up into heaven in order to see the world from the heavenly perspective. He is given a glimpse behind the scenes of history so that he can see what is really going on in the events of his time and place. He is also transported in vision into the final future of the world, so that he can see the present from the perspective of what its final outcome must be in God's ultimate purpose for human history." "The effect of John's visions is to expand his readers; world both spatially (into heaven) and temporally (into the future), or to put it into another way, to open their world into the divine."<sup>[2]</sup>

I look forward to this series and I hope you do as well. It's always great fun and deep joy to see what God is up to in our lives and in the life of the church.

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<sup>[1]</sup> The Theology of the Book of Revelation. Richard Bauckham. Cambridge University Press. 1993. Pg.1

<sup>[2]</sup>



## ***From Our Church President:***

Noted below is the Letter of Call / Call to Serve Immanuel extended to Pastor Leslie August 2018. We, as a church council, discussed this Letter at our Church Council meeting April 14, 2019. I share with you a few comments as they relate to each “phrase” as we reflected on the past 6+ months. To me a Letter of Call is an invitation to come be with us as a church and community. I suggest each of you sit in a quiet spot and see what comes to you as your read each “phrase”.

**We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers to:**

- **Preach & Teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions:** prepare us to know scripture and share the Gospel; worship is based on Lutheran theology; sermons are from Scripture; sharing personal experiences and faith during sermons
- **To administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion:** highlight was baptism at Alice Johnson’s funeral; experiencing communion in different formats
- **To lead us in worship**
- **To proclaim the forgiveness of sins**
- **To provide pastoral care:** we have experienced many loses and other life joys and sorrows during the past 6+ months – we all look to our Pastor and members of Immanuel to support us / celebrate with us during these times
- **To speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed:** to be in prayer for those in our community and the world
- **To encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel:** we may prepare to be a Pastor or to be the hands and feet of God in our daily life; invite a friend to church; pray for someone; “loving someone into Jesus”
- **To impart knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry**
- **To endeavor to increase support given by our congregation to the work of our whole church:** special offerings; Lutheran World Relief; reading “Living Lutheran” magazine
- **To equip us for witness and service:** Adult Ed; Bible Study
- **Guide us in proclaiming God’s love through word and deed**

**In accepting this call, you hereby promise to fulfill this pastoral ministry in accord with the standards and policies for ministers of Word and Sacrament of the ELCA. Therefore, be diligent in the study of the Holy Scripture, in use of the means of grace in prayer, in faithful service and in holy living.**

**Specific responsibilities, compensations benefits and conditions of this call are contained in a document related to this call. With this call, we pledge our prayers, love, esteem, and personal support for the sake of the ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ’s name.**

***Pam Andrews,***

Immanuel Lutheran Church President – please share your thoughts, questions, concerns

## **EASTER and Holy Week REFLECTIONS –**

Many thanks to all those who participated in our Holy Week and Easter Sunday services. Thanks to those who decorated the sanctuary, participated in worship, and made music. Thanks to those who prepared and served Easter Sunday's breakfast and to all who helped clean up before and after.



### **A Big Thank YOU!**

To all who brought us the delicious meals while I was sick. It meant so much to us! Also, thanks for all the cards and beautiful flowers and prayers. You are all so special and we LOVE you.

***Bill and Carol VanderYacht***

### **Scandinavians SINGING!**

The *Bellingham Norwegian Male Chorus* and Bellingham Damekor presents its Annual Spring Concert on Saturday, May 11, at Saint John's Lutheran Church on Cornwall Ave. in Bellingham at 3:00 p.m. Admission by donation. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Come join us for a great program of Scandinavian music.

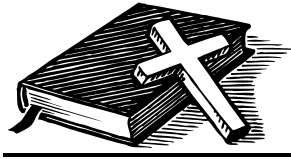


**Update: Immanuel's Biking Group** is now the **Immanuel Biking/Hiking Group!** Biking will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and hiking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

May 4 biking will be held in Everson. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Lion's Club Warehouse. There will be a map on the Events Board and announcement on Sunday. First hike will be on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>, meeting at 10:00 at North Lake Whatcom Park. There will also be a map available for this. Further information call David Smith 360-224-7537. Come join the fun!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:**

- **May 6 – Congregational meeting during Sunday School hour – 9:30**
- **May 18 – Rummage Sale**
- **June 2 – Music Fest at 2:00**
- **June 6 – Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Church committees meet.**
- **June 13 – Strawberry social**



## **Scripture Readings**

### **May 5 - 3 Easter**

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

### **May 12 - 4 Easter**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

### **May 19 - 5 Easter**

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

### **May 26 - 6 Easter**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

## **GREAT JOB!**

**Our Immanuel quilters** produced 108 quilts; 22 Personal Care Kits and 14 Baby Kits! Our thanks to the devoted quilters who do their work on Thursdays at 9 am in the Parish Hall. Thanks to all the people who donate fabric and items for the health and baby kits. A BIG thanks to the people who donate their time to make these projects at Immanuel a great success. Thanks to Ron for transporting the items from our church and other churches in the area to Seattle



## **Music Fest IV is coming to Immanuel**

On Sunday, June 2 at 2:00. We have many local musicians lined up and it looks to be a great afternoon of easy/fun listening! The Wild Bird Charity will receive the donations this year. This charity fills backpacks with food for Kendall students to take home during vacations, since many of them rely on school for breakfast and lunch. We are excited to see this program get launched! Please come and bring a friend! You'll be glad you did! (Oh, did I mention that there will be delicious refreshments afterwards?)

## **THE WOMEN OF IMMANUEL NEWS**

- Strawberry Social will be June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a sign-up sheet on the table by the WOI bulletin Board for help with the Rummage Sale and flyers to take to different parts of the county. Please sign up for where you are taking the flyers.
- Rummage Sale is May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00.
- Please have your goods for the rummage sale at the church the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>. A list of volunteers needed for the event is posted on the bulletin board.
- Bible Study will be at Judy Bruland's on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**May 5, 2019**

Ass't. Min. Laura Hookham  
Greeter: Ron & Judy Bruland  
Usher Ron & Judy Bruland  
Com. Asst': Linda Anderson (cups)  
Communion Set Up: Linda Anderson  
Reader: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada  
Flowers: Karen Harkness  
After Worship Prayer Team: Kim & Renee

**May 12**

Ass't Min: Don Anderson  
Greeter: Jan & Jerry Hunter  
Usher: Jan & Jerry Hunter  
Com. Ass't: Valerie Henderson (Circle)  
Communion Set Up: Valerie Henderson  
Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada  
Altar Flowers; Salvador Estrada  
Prayer Team: Jim & Joanie

**May 19**

Ass't. Min: Ben Workman Smith  
Greeter: Mike & Karen Brewer  
Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer  
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson  
Reader: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada  
Communion Set Up: Linda Anderson  
(Continuous)  
Flowers:  
Prayer Team: Helen & Karen

**May 26**

Ass't Min. Sara Murdock  
Greeters: Freemans  
Ushers: Freemans  
Com. Ass't: Karen Harkness (circle)  
Communion Set-up: Karen Harkness  
Reader: Dawn Durand/Salvador Estrada  
Flowers: Bill & Carol VanderYacht for Bill's  
95<sup>th</sup> birthday!!  
Prayer Team: Neil & Linda



*I thank you God for this most amazing day,  
for the leaping green spirits of the trees,  
and for the blue dream of sky, and for  
everything which is natural, which is infinite,  
which is yes. - e. e. cummings*

A big thank-you to all the helpers; you are greatly appreciated and needed!

**If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please call someone that you can either switch an assigned Sunday with or sub for you.**

Email address: [Immanuel.everson@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.everson@gmail.com)

Office phone: (360) 592-5876

**Pastor Leslie phone number:**

360-599-0531

**Pastor Leslie's Email:**

[lmahraun@hotmail.com](mailto:lmahraun@hotmail.com)

**May Birthdays**

5/4 Scott Piper  
5/6 Landon Campbell  
5/9 Ron Roman  
5/14 Michelle Pattison  
5/18 Jason Swanson  
5/19 Mike Score  
5/20 Bob Graham  
5/23 Tim Pattison  
5/27 Bill VanderYacht  
5/29 Gary Chadwick  
5/29 Kathleen Toivola  
5/30 Shelly Culver  
5/30 Helen Roe

**May Anniversaries**

5/9 Caree & Tom Brownfield  
5/16 Penny & Charles McInnis  
5/23 Marv & Kris Fullner





**All 5 of our church committees met Thursday, May 2 for our first round of getting together on the 1st Thursday at 7:00 each month. We have a report from the Discipleship Committee. We'll do our best to get summaries from some of the committees each month. If you wish to be involved in some area of our church the committees meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Any questions? Ask Nancy Workman or Pastor Leslie.**

**Next Meeting will be Thursday, June 6 at 7:00**

### **Discipleship Committee Summary**

Participants: Nancy, Renee, Sue O., Judy B., Helen, Linda A., Karen B., Susan F. Penny

#### ***What does Discipleship mean?***

Walking with people; outreach; inviting; LWR; Wed. night meals; meals to homebound; prayer chain (and more)

#### ***Goals for Discipleship Committee***

Be better organized under 1 umbrella  
Plan event to target younger families (ie. root beer float party, ice cream sundae social, kick off to school)  
Advertise events  
Firewood for needy families  
Christmas families  
Shut-ins, seniors; visitation/food/pick up for church  
Helping Hands participate in dessert making for Wednesday nights  
Music Fest

#### ***Primary Goals for June***

1. Music Fest IV - 2:00 June 2, 2019
2. Strawberry Fest - June 13

3. School Summer Food Program (Renee will check with Karla Atwood)

### **INTERFAITH COALITION NEWS:**

**Save the Date! 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Camp Out to End Homelessness: June 28, 5pm-June 29, 10am.**

Picture yourself with family and friends gathered in community with sing-alongs and conversation before an overnight in your car or tent. You can make this happen at Interfaith's first ever Family Promise Camp Out to End Homelessness, on the Cornwall Church grounds and parking lot in Bellingham.

This *FUN*draiser is an upbeat event open to everyone. It kicks off with registration 5pm Friday, June 28 at Cornwall Church, and runs through 10 am Saturday. A registration fee of \$25 per camping unit (tent or car), includes a team leader T-Shirt, (additional shirts \$10 each); a burger, hot dog, and chili dinner Friday; and a pancake and sausage breakfast Saturday. Entertainment will feature local musicians and sing-alongs, both evening and morning of the Camp Out; a warm invitation will be extended to participate in skits and games throughout the evening.

"We want to give people a chance to learn about homelessness in Whatcom County and what's being done about it," says Barbara Mathers-Schmidt, chair of the event. Interfaith volunteers Susan Jancic and Konrad Kocsis are co-chairs. Before the Camp Out, participants of all ages will be invited to fundraise for Family Promise. Sleep one night outside, so someone else doesn't have to. Join us in *FUN*draising while helping your neighbors in need.

For tickets, registration, *FUN*draising guidelines, and additional information visit our Family Promise website: <https://familypromisewhatcom.org/>.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

<b>March Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,668.39</b>
<b>March Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,847.39</b>
<b>Income over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 821.00</b>
<b>Year to date income</b>	<b>\$ 26,158.45</b>
<b>Year to date expenses</b>	<b>\$ 30,872.63</b>
<b>Expenses over income</b>	<b>\$ 4,714.18</b>



## Words of Encouragement

Bishop Kirby Unti | NW  
Washington Synod / ELCA | From  
the May 2019 edition of *The Spirit*

*Wait for the LORD; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD! - Psalm*

27:14

I have been pondering what to share with the newly elected bishop. These are a few of my thoughts recorded before the election in order to reach the editor's deadline. I thought they might be of interest to the whole Synod.

+ + + + +

Dear Newly Elected Bishop,

Know that you were called by God to serve as a bishop of this church and that God will provide you with all that you will need.

It can be a daunting transition, but there will be many who will accompany you. The people of God will pray for you BY NAME on a regular basis. You will have a staff to share the highs and lows with. You will discover amongst the roster and laity those who will offer you encouragement and graciously speak the truth to you.

It is a great privilege to meet so many rostered ministers and wonderful lay people. I was also blessed to know better our specialized ministers and the amazing work they do.

The Vice President and the Synod Council will be your partners in offering leadership and direction.

Quickly, you will head off to Chicago for Bishop's Formation. It will be a time to bond with your class of newly elected bishops. It is very moving to share your call stories and wonder together if you are fit for what lies ahead. I am confident many of my classmates will be lifelong friends.

You will also have the rich experience of being part of the Conference of Bishops. It was a real eye opener for me coming from the

Northwest to discover how diverse the practices of this church are. Yet, I must say I have never experienced a group that works so hard to hear one another and does so in such a respectful way. The Conference became a life line for me.

Before you even settle in you will attend the Churchwide Assembly where you will experience what it means to gather a thousand strong. You will be introduced to the many life-giving ways this church is present throughout the world. It is impressive to hear a thousand voices in song and prayer. (And this is from a guy who doesn't enjoy singing!)

The joy awaits you of being able to meet a host of judicatory leaders and interfaith leaders. This is a group that is growing stronger in solidarity against hate and hostility. They will walk alongside of you as together you share the challenges of navigating these times.

I encourage you to take advantage of the many ways in which Faith Action Network, our Public Policy Office, will invite your voice and presence to advocate for those who are marginalized by a political system that is deeply influenced by privilege and power.

One of my biggest surprises was discovering how deeply valued the church's voice is in a world that still hungers for a gracious moral grounding. I was amazed what it meant to others just to show up.

I want you to know that I am praying for you and will continue to, knowing that in addition to the joy and incredible opportunities there is the weight of the office. Coupled with the weight is the pace which at times will be unrelenting. You will need to discover new rhythms and ways to take care of yourself.

May God continue to richly bless you and sustain you as you have said "yes" to serve as a bishop of this church!

With gratitude to God for you,  
Bishop (Not for long) Kirby Unti