

Immanuel Lutheran Church

July 2020

Messenger



Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd. Everson, WA 98247
360-592-5876

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

Pastor Leslie Mahraun
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From Pastor Leslie:

Here we are in July and probably thinking to ourselves, HOW MUCH LONGER? And yet we know that it will be quite a while still before we meet in person again for worship. So, I write to ask you not to lose heart, and to continue to come to worship via Zoom. And while I too miss worship in person, what I would miss more is not having a time set apart each week to worship God our creator, redeemer and sustainer.

My heart is lifted each week from our time together, and I hope it is the same for you. Jerry Hunter came across this quote from David Brooks' "The Second Mountain - a Quest for a Moral Life" this week, and I would like to share it with you:

But we also need to learn the virtue of staying put and staying true, of choosing again what we chose before. In my view that's one of the main reasons we come to church. We're here not so much to make spiritual progress each week, through that's wonderful when it happens. Rather, we mostly come for the consistency --for what remains the same from week to week: the comfort of the liturgy, the solace of the music, the reassuring sight of familiar faces, the enduring presence of ancient rites and timeless symbols. We're here to remind ourselves of values that unite us and commitments that keep us heading in the right direction. We're here to choose again what we chose before.

I think David Brooks is on to something important here, and that is worship provides us with a moment in time when we are heart to heart with God in a communal setting, when our prayer life and the prayer life of the community merges together and the Holy Spirit calls, gathers and enlightens us to be present with God in a way that we cannot be during scattered times. It is during this time of intentional gathering that we come together for prayer, praise and enlightenment that we know of God's promised presence with us: *where two or more are gathered in my name...* Church is looking different these days, and how we worship is organically changing as time goes on, but it is my hope that we will keep coming to worship each week trusting in the call of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Leslie

Note from Council President Nancy Workman

Happy Sunny July, Friends! (thinking positive),

Our community garden is flourishing. Lettuce, kale, raspberries and soon to be blueberries are ready to be picked and taken home. Thank you to the worker bees who have made the garden possible: Bob V., Ed and Darla, Sue O., Dawn D. and Dennis and Nancy. It is a great place to social distance and have a conversation with those whom we have been missing.

The new church sign is up and greeting passersby. In case you haven't seen it yet, the message is:

Love one another
Immanuellutheraneverson.com
All are welcome

Thank you to all who participated in getting the area ready to greet the new sign and for putting up the welcoming words.

Thank you, also, to Dan Mahraun for updating our church website. If you haven't checked it out, do it now! It is beautiful and informative.

www.immanuellutheraneverson.com

We are excited for Sharon DeGraw's news about being one of two recipients of a scholarship that will pay her four years of tuition costs at the seminary in Berkley, California. Praise God!

You may have heard by now that I am facing some health issues. I've been through many tests in the past month and have been diagnosed with an aggressive, acute type of Non Hodgkins Lymphoma. It responds very well to chemotherapy, so after a couple more tests, I will begin chemo in mid-July. Because of my need to get healthy again, Pam Andrews has offered to trade places with me on Church Council. If you have any questions or comments regarding church, please contact Pam.

In Christ's love and peace,

Nancy Workman

July 2020 Scripture Readings

July 5 – 5 Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 - 6 Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:1-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 - 7 Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26 - 8 Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

July Birthdays

7/5 Sue Hookham
7/6 Karen Brewer
7/7 Kris Fulner
7/9 Chase Barter
7/12 Maddison Barter
7/13 Salvador Estrada
7/18 Ben Hickey
7/20 Lois Patterson
7/20 Tyler Anderson
7/21 Linell Williams
7/26 Heather Short
7/28 Jackie Bailey
7/29 Mary Fulner

July Anniversaries

7/2 Bill and Carol VanderYacht
7/7 Bob & Kathy Graham
7/9 Steve & Susan Hoidal
7/11 Susie & Harry Smith
7/14 Charley & Debbie Short
7/20 Valerie Henderson & Larry
Campbell
7/22 Maurice & Lois Patterson
7/30 Heidi Fish & Dave Dettman

More News:

Pastor Leslie will be on vacation July 14 to 20, 2020. In case of an emergency, please contact Nancy Workman or Pam Andrews. Special thanks to Sharon DeGraw for leading worship on Sunday, July 19.

Looking for a Good Book?

Jan Hunter sent this letter about the ELCA reaffirming our commitment to combat racism and white supremacy along with a booklist provided by The Northwest Washington Synod.

The Booklist is:

How to be Anti-Racist by Ibram Kindi

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo

Letter from The ELCA:

ELCA reaffirms commitment to combat racism and white supremacy

5/29/2020

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reaffirms its commitment to combating racism and white supremacy following the recent murders of Black Americans. Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, and George Floyd were our neighbors. Ahmaud Arbery was chased down, shot, and killed by a retired police officer and his son while jogging in Brunswick, GA. (Feb. 23, 2020). Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020). Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis died after being shot at least eight times by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officer (May 6, 2020). George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis while begging for his life, a block away from Calvary Lutheran, an ELCA congregation (May 25, 2020). As the Conference of Bishops, we condemn the white supremacy that has led to the deaths of so many unarmed

Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color in our country. We grieve with, pray for and stand in solidarity with the families and friends of all whose loved ones have been and continue to be victims of injustices run amok, racist violence and the insidious venom of white supremacy.

The ELCA's social policy [resolution](#), "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions." As church, together we must work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcize the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

On May 21, the ELCA Southeastern Synod hosted a [webinar](#): "Becoming the Body of Christ – Condemning White Supremacy" in response to the killing of Ahmaud Arbery. This is one of many strategic opportunities happening across this church to address white supremacy and racist rhetoric. On June 17, we will gather again as church to commemorate the Mother Emanuel 9 and to repent of racism and white supremacy. An online ELCA prayer service, including leaders from across the church and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as preacher, is being planned for June 17, 2020, marking the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9. We encourage congregations to reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and dismantling white supremacy that continue to plague this church by marking this day of penitence with study and prayer leading to action. www.elca.org/emanuelnine

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

The Rev. Thomas M. Aitken
Bishop, Northeastern Minnesota Synod

The Rev. Shelley M. Bryan Wee
Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod

As part of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members [adopted a resolution](#) designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C.

The resources referenced below are provided to help congregations mark this day. Many of these materials were recently produced for this first year of marking the commemoration; among the others are helpful ELCA websites and documents as well as resources from our ecumenical partners.

In this time of pandemic, many of the resources will need to be adapted for virtual worship, online conversation, or individual reflection and devotion. You are invited to use them in whatever ways are most helpful for your local context.

Our relationship to the shooter as well as two of the slain reminds us of both our complicity and our calling. Together we confess that we are in bondage to the sins of racism and white supremacy and, at the same time, we rejoice in the freedom that is ours in Christ Jesus who “has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (Ephesians 2:14). May God continue to guide us as we seek repentance and renewal, and racial justice and reconciliation among God’s precious children.

For more on this and other church news visit:

ELCA Website: www.elca.org

NW WA Synod ELCA website: www.lutheransnw.org

NW WA Synod Facebook: www.facebook.com/Northwest-Washington-Synod-ELCA-114637455364488/



Dear Beloveds of the Northwest Washington Synod,

Growing up close to an Indian reservation, I saw families living without electricity or plumbing. In the last year I have seen children crying, alone, without parents, because they were forcibly

separated at the border. In March and April and May I saw families lined up to receive food at pantries because they had no other choice due to lack of work during the COVID crisis. In the last few weeks I have watched the video of George Floyd being murdered too many times. This last weekend I watched people carefully keep their masks on their faces while they lifted their fists to the sky marching for justice. And I have seen violence where there should have been unity. I am sad and tired and heavy hearted. I am reminded of Jesus' words in the gospel of Matthew, *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."*

Dear Beloveds, in the Northwest Washington Synod we tell ourselves that we are open to all people, love all people, care for all people, and are church for everyone. But Beloveds, as a community, we have failed. We have been complicit in our silence. We have been cowardly instead of courageous. We have lived in our privilege without acknowledging the systemic racism that we swim in every day of our life. Today we are called to confess that we have fallen far short of God's call to love and care for those whose lives are sacred in this world, whose brown and black bodies were made in the image of God, whose very lives are in danger because those of us with privilege and power ignore or decide that "they" are too much trouble for "us."

This is our confession.

But let us not move too quickly to absolution. While I am all for forgiveness, sometimes I think forgiveness becomes a way to pretend that the injury never happened. So, let us sit in this time for a while – even if it makes us uncomfortable. Even as we lament. You see, we cannot jump from an easy "I'm sorry" to a half-hearted "we're now all back together again." If we do this, we are offering forgiveness without discipleship, grace without the cross.

The COVID-19 pandemic has ripped open the wounds that we have had in this country since before its inception. Black and brown bodies – slaves and

immigrants and native peoples – have all been abused by those in power. And, we must confess, for most of this history, those in power have been white.

There is no place in this world for anyone to brutally murder another without care and without consequence. There is no place in this world where bystanders cannot intervene because they are afraid they might receive the same treatment as the one being hurt or murdered before them. Many of us as children learned the story of the Good Samaritan. How many times are we going to walk on the other side of the road?

My Beloveds in Christ, we are called to work towards God's true peace and justice in our ministry sites, our church, and our society by first, confessing our own sin, and then mindfully acting against racism and violence of all kinds. I encourage you to confess and to act. Here are some ideas as we walk forward, towards reconciliation:

- Take the Intercultural Development Inventory to understand and build cultural competence. <https://idiinventory.com/>
- Participate in anti-racism training.
- Assist the members of your congregation or ministry site in accessing resources about racism, white privilege, and ensuring God's vision of justice for all.
- Encourage people to vote, and vote yourself, keeping in mind Jesus' commandment of loving God and loving people.
- Accompany and empower those who are already thought leaders in your community.
- Financially support organizations that are working in the field of anti-racism.
- Financially support businesses owned by people of color.
- Wear a mask to protect people of all races, especially protecting those most vulnerable.
- Work towards economic justice for all.

Discover other ways that lead to God's kingdom of real peace and justice.

As we continue to be patient in entering church buildings, let us be church in the world. May we live into the words of 1 John 3:18, "*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.*" And may we pray for true reconciliation and God's wholeness and peace.

In the Hope and Love of Christ, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee