

Immanuel Lutheran Church

September 2020

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
Pastor Leslie Mahraun
360-592-5876

Church Email: immanuel.everson@gmail.com
Church Website: www.immanuellutheraneverson.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

Thoughts about worship:

From the Bishop

While Washington State's [Updated guidance as of August 10, 2020](#) allows for some religious gatherings during our state's Phase 1-3, it is important for us to be mindful that public health experts warn us that the nature of the virus has not changed; it is still highly contagious and our communities are still vulnerable. Our priority is protecting the well-being, health and safety of ALL members of our Synod. We continue to urge that church buildings remain closed to all but essential staff for as long as in-person, indoor gatherings remain high risk. If your congregation chooses to gather in person, good protocols must be in place so that all are protected. I am holding all of you in prayer. As we hear the psalmist declare: I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2) Remember that we are people of faith, trusting in God's grace and providence, informed by science, who desire to respect, protect, and care for the most vulnerable among us.



From Pastor Leslie:

It has been wonderful to have worship outside these last weeks, and weather permitting we will continue to meet in the cemetery to worship at 9:30 each Sunday. Just note that if it is raining, even a little, our worship will be on Zoom. You can find the link for Zoom on the church's website: Immanuellutheraneverson.com The link stays the same each week, all you need to do is click it. I think we need to understand that it will be a long time before we can meet indoors, to resume indoor worship in our sanctuary. It's not enough of a reason to say, "Other churches are doing it." The nature of the virus has not changed, and we would be remiss to ignore the warnings of the health department.

Fall programming will begin with Zoom scheduling depending on the weather, including Adult Forum. Adult Forum will follow our Zoom Worship. While we are worshipping in the cemetery however we will not have Adult Forum due to social distancing and the ability to hear one another in an outdoor setting. The rain will come soon enough, and we will be back to worshipping indoors with Zoom and Adult Forum.

Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. On the third Wednesday of the month the Women of Immanuel (WOI) will host a Gather study at 6:30 p.m. all are welcome to participate with the WOI on Zoom.

Bible Study will be the first, second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays of the month and ***Gather will be on the third Wednesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m. with the same Zoom link we use for worship on Sundays.*** You can find the link on church's website: www.immanuellutheraneverson.com

These are strange times, to be sure, but God is with us, even in the midst of Covid. And we must remember that we are not alone, even though we are apart from one another. We still have the phone and can call one another, although it is not the same as sitting across the table with a cup of coffee! I have been so moved by the ways our church has shown love and care for one another these last months: sending cards to those who need a lift, surrounding the bereaved with the love of Jesus, supporting the ill with prayers of comfort and encouragement, supporting Sharon as she moves away and begins her seminary career. These are not everyday responses, they are means of grace, offerings of love and care that remind each of us of the love we have been given by God through Jesus Christ. I hope you know you are a beautiful sign of God's love. I know it is difficult to "do" church the way we are "doing" church right now, but I have every confidence that we will continue to serve God and one another with joy and gratitude because God's love for us will sustain us in all we do. May the peace of Christ protect you and sustain you,

Pastor Leslie

From Bishop Wee:

Dear Beloveds,

Well, I have to be honest, when I first started writing and talking about COVID-19, I did not expect that COVID-19 would still be a “thing” in September. And yet ... here we are ... So ... is anyone else weary?

In this time of great anxiety, worry, the unknown, and the threat of COVID for ourselves and our loved ones, I am finding that prayer is ever more important. I would like to commend to you one prayer practice that I have found helpful. This practice comes from Ignatius Loyola.

Ignatius Loyola writes in his book, *Spiritual Exercises*, about the daily prayer he practiced called *The Examen* (or The Examination in English). He also encouraged his fellow Jesuits to do the same. (You might remember that Ignatius Loyola was the founder of the Jesuits during the 16th century). I encourage you to do this practice with others – perhaps with your family at a set time each day or with your congregation sitting outside in a circle (physically distanced!) or on Zoom. Of course, you are welcome to do this by yourself, too.

The Examen is a prayer of review - a short reflection back over the day, recalling events and taking note of your feelings. The purpose is to become more aware of the ways in which God has been present to you, the times when the Holy Spirit was drawing you towards life. Before beginning the five steps, prepare yourself by breathing slowly and consciously. Continue to consciously breathe throughout this practice.

Step One: Pray to understand and appreciate the past day. Look back on the last 24 hours. Make a list in your head and heart of all that happened in your life. You are welcome to write these experiences down.

Step Two: Review the day with gratitude. What brought you joy? As you look at the work you did, the people you interacted with, what did you receive? What did you give? Where are you thankful to God? Pay attention to small things—the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures.

Step Three: Pay attention to your emotions. When did you feel most grateful? Least grateful? When did you love? When were you loved? What drained the life from you? When did things feel out of place or off? When did you experience the fruits of the Spirit? When did it feel like a time of God’s absence?

Step Four: Choose one of your feelings or encounters (positive or negative) and pray from here. You might have a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. There might be something that at first seems rather insignificant. You might have great pain. Look at what you have chosen. Examine it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer to arise spontaneously from your heart— whether intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude.

Step Five: Look toward tomorrow. Ask God for guidance in facing tomorrow’s challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you look forward. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God’s guidance. Ask God’s Spirit for help and understanding. Ask for wisdom and protection. Pray for hope. Do all of this in the spirit of gratitude. You are invited to pray the Lord’s Prayer as you end the Examen.

I pray for all of you, my beloveds in Christ. May you feel God’s love and grace with you in these times.

If you would like other resources or ways to pray, I also commend to you two smart phone apps: Centering Prayer and Pray As You Go.

We are in these strange and difficult times for awhile. But we are not in this alone. We are community. We are church. We are God’s beloved children. May you feel God’s Holy Spirit with you as we walk in Christ together.

In Christ’s Love,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Immanuel Bible Study Series

Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will be using the Book of Faith Adult Bible Studies: Genesis.

“In Scripture, we receive a legacy of faith accumulated from generation upon generation of believers. The story begins at the very beginning, from the mists of memory, with God’s Spirit moving over the waters of chaos bringing forth blessed order and a world. The book of Genesis traces our origins from these cosmic beginnings through stories preserved from pre-history. Each story captures a little more about what God’s intentions are, how God acts, and who we are in relationship to God and the rest of creation.

Slowly the scope of the stories zeroes in on one family. God gives members of this family a great promise and makes a commitment to them through a covenant. Unpredictable circumstances, as well as human beings, both threaten the promise and help it to move forward. People—with all their hopes, dreams, flaws, and failings—struggle to sort out what it means to live as promise-bearers. But God acts again and again to sustain the blessing and further the promise, not as a puppeteer, but as one deeply committed to our long-term well-being. And although the course has surprising corrections and interruptions, and God’s purposes seem hidden or even moving in opposite directions, God is behind and in the midst of it all, bringing the promise closer to fulfillment.

This unit uses eight questions to explore early stories of faith and God’s promise in the book of Genesis.”- Book of Faith series Leader Guide, Genesis

Below is the supplemental reading for each session.

Session One:

Day 1: Genesis 1:1-8
Day 2: Genesis 1:9-19
Day 3: Genesis 1:20-25
Day 4: Genesis 1:26-31
Day 5: Genesis 2:1-9
Day 6: Genesis 2:10-17
Day 7: Genesis 2:18-25

Session Two:

Day 1: Genesis 3:1-4:16

Day 2: Genesis 4:17-5:32
Day 3: Genesis 6:1-7:10
Day 4: Genesis 7:11-8:22
Day 5: Genesis 9:1-28
Day 6: Genesis 10:1-32
Day 7: Genesis 11:1-32

Session Three:

Day 1: Genesis 12:1-13:1-18
Day 2: Genesis 14:1-24
Day 3: Genesis 15:1-16:16
Day 4: Genesis 17:1-27
Day 5: Genesis 18:1-33
Day 6: Genesis 19:1-28
Day 7: Genesis 20:1-18

Session Four:

Day 1: Genesis 21:1-34
Day 2: Genesis 22:1-24
Day 3: Genesis 23:1-20
Day 4: Genesis 24:1-33
Day 5: Genesis 24:34-67
Day 6: Genesis 25:1-34
Day 7: Genesis 26:1-35

Session Five:

Day 1: Genesis 27:1-46
Day 2: Genesis 28:1-29:35
Day 3: Genesis 30:1-43
Day 4: Genesis 31:1-55
Day 5: Genesis 32:1-33:20
Day 6: Genesis 34:1-35:29
Day 7: Genesis 36:1-43

Session Six:

Day 1: Genesis 37:1-24
Day 2: Genesis 37:25-38:11
Day 3: Genesis 38:12-30
Day 4: Genesis 39:1-23
Day 5: Genesis 40:1-23
Day 6: Genesis 41:1-24
Day 7: Genesis 41:25-57

Session Seven:

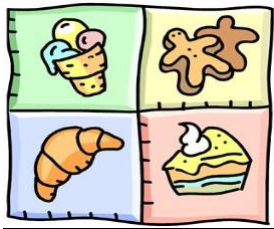
Day 1: Genesis 42:1-38
Day 2: Genesis 43:1-34
Day 3: Genesis 44:1-34
Day 4: Genesis 45:1-46:34
Day 5: Genesis 47:1-31
Day 6: Genesis 48:1-49:33
Day 7: Genesis 50:1-26

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

Quilting begins Thursday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m. (with COVID constraints). No lunch.

Church Bible Studies on Zoom:
Wednesdays at 6:30 beginning September 9 (first, second, fourth and fifth Wednesdays).

WOI Gather Studies: Third Wednesday of the month at 6:30. (Over Zoom).



Scripture Readings

September 6- 14 Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 - 15 Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:1-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 - 16 Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 - 17 Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Church Spruce Up

Church Council has put together a to-do list for needed **general maintenance** around the church. The following jobs can be done by people on their own or with a limited number of helpers when they have a few minutes:

- Clean all flower beds around building
- Prune rhodies and hydrangeas in both beds at front of church
- Weed playground
- Trim grass around church, other buildings, trees, etc.
- Repair window frame in steeple
- Move sod from sign to low spots by power source (need wheelbarrow)

PROJECTS NEEDING WORK PARTY

(sometime after 9/21)

- Paint trim on parsonage
- Move old sign (need suggestions on location)
- Remove tree from entrance to cemetery



September Birthdays

9/1 Ron Bruland
9/3 Randy Carson
9/7 Jim Florence
9/13 Sue Ohlswager
9/16 Nancy Workman
9/18 Dan Culver
9/30 Renee Guernsey

September Anniversaries

9/6 Jim & Pat Hawley
9/13 Bob & Carolyn Enzler