

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 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
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
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From Pastor Leslie:

As I write this, we are waiting on the results of one of the most important presidential elections of our history. Today is Halloween, and there is a full moon awaiting our skies for tonight and Tuesday is looming in the distance like a scary phantom. The promise we have from God is the “I am with you to the end of the ages” from Matthew 28:20. The promise there is that God is with us, no matter what, until the end of the ages. I take great comfort in knowing that no matter what happens in life, God is present. There is deep peace for me knowing that the promise from Jesus, his, I am with you, cuts through all the other noise in the world that is happening right now. Because we don't know when the pandemic will be over and we don't know when we will be able to gather again.

If we left our story there, we would be dismayed, wouldn't we? But we have a different answer, because we have a God who is with us, who loves us and who stays with us. No matter what. Something that has concerned me lately is the worry so many of us are having about the anticipation of depression in the coming weeks and months. With the time change, and the darker days, the weather and the isolation so many of us are feeling, it only makes sense that we are beginning to worry about depression. This is the time to reach out, especially if you are feeling the beginnings of despair in your own life. I am here for you, please call on me for conversation and prayer. If your need is deeper than what I am able to offer you then reaching out to a health care provider is necessary and encouraged. There is no shame in getting medical care when it is needed. I struggle with depression and anxiety and without medical care I would not be able to function at any level of normalcy, so I urge you to get the care you need. Here are the phone numbers you can call if you need help:

1-800-273-8255 (National Suicide Prevention Hotline/Everyone)

1-888-628-9454 (Red Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio)

1-800-799-4889 (TTY)

1-877-574-4729 (Trevor project/ LGBTQIA+ under 24)

1-877-565-8860 (Trans Lifeline/Trans Folx)

1-800-273-8255 (Veterans Crisis Line)

It's so important to trust in God for all of our needs, to know that God loves us and cares for us, and that God is willing and waiting to serve us whenever we call upon God in prayer. And reaching out for help is one of the ways God brings us God's aid. When we pray for God to help us, God answers with people to help us, numbers to call in times of crisis. Please know that God is with you and loves you. So as we face the unknowns in life, one thing we do know for sure is that we have our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who loves us and walks with us each and every day, who is with us and will not let us go. This gives me great hope and true and absolute faith that no matter what comes, with God I can and will face it. I hope you have this same faith too. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Leslie

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

Church Bible Studies on Zoom:
Wednesdays at 6:30 (first, second, third and fifth Wednesdays).

WOI Gather Studies: None this month because of Thanksgiving

November Birthdays

- 1/3 – Pam Andrews
- 11/3 – Sara Murdock
- 11/5 Ken Gates
- 11/8 – Neil Solvik
- 11/10 – Larry Campbell
- 11/21 Bob VanderYacht
- 11/22 – Julie Roman
- 11/24 – Ben Smith
- 11/28 – Carl Hoines
- 11/30 - Pastor Leslie

November Anniversaries

- 11/1 – Michelle & Tim Pattison
- 11/9 – Ray & Sheila Gassman
- 11/18 – David & Julie Goree
- 11/21 – Pastor Leslie & Dan Mahraun
- 11/24 – Neil & Clarice Solvik
- 11/27 – Dan & Shelly Culver



Scripture Readings

November 1 - All Saints Day

- Revelations 7:9-17
- Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 - 23 Pentecost

- Amos 5:18-24
- Psalm 70
- 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 - 24 Pentecost

- Zeph. 1:7-12-18
- Psalm 90:1-12
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 - Christ the King

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 95:1-7a
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 - 1 Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37



A Note of Thanks



Dear Immanuel Family,

Dennis and I are so grateful for your support and encouragement during the past 6 months of our cancer journey. Your cards, e mails, phone calls, meals and prayers surrounded with God's love and presence each day. Thank you for being the hands, feet and heart of Jesus in our lives. It made the journey so much easier.

I have finished the chemo portion of my therapy and am in remission. In December I will have a final PET scan and that will determine whether or not I will need radiation treatments. We are very fortunate to have high quality cancer care in Bellingham.

We wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving as you reflect on the many blessings you have received – even in such a strange year as 2020! We hope to see all of you as soon as it is safe to gather once again.

We love you,
Nancy and Dennis Workman

Women of Immanuel News

Due to COVID we are unable to provide holiday meals and gifts for a specified family as we usually do, so WOI is choosing to provide Safeway gift cards for one or more families to use to buy holiday food.

If you choose to participate send the gift cards and/or money to purchase cards to:
WOI, Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Road, Everson, WA 98247. Preferably by November 13.

We will use the money to purchase gift cards. Cards will be given to a select family or families through the Mt. Baker School district. **Make checks out to NW WA Synod of the ELCA - WOI.**

Love and Blessings,
The Women of Immanuel Board

Reflection - November 2020

Some people come into our lives and leave footprints on our hearts
and we are never the same. (Flavia Weedn)

When November arrives, a surge of gratitude comes with it. I relish *the thin veil* of the Celtic tradition assuring us that the ancestors will approach close by on the eve of October 31. The feast of *All Saints* on the following day also invites us to connect with people of the past whose presence has touched our lives. Whether recognized by the official Church or not, these remarkable "saints" influenced our lives and left their mark on our hearts.

As happens now with easy access to the Internet, the above quote of Flavia Weedn has some valuable pieces missing. Here is the more inspiring version: "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some people stay for a while and move our souls to dance. They awaken us to a new understanding with the passing whisper of their wisdom. Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon. They stay in our lives for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same."

Since my twenties, I've been aware that who I am becoming evolves largely due to people who step onto my path long enough to encourage my growth in a particular way. In the past, some have been relatives. Others were strangers. Some visitors have names I no longer remember. And then there are people who come easily to mind. What have they imprinted on my heart? Here are a few of the many gifts that provide purpose and direction for my life: generosity with time and presence, the activation of compassion, trust in my writing ability, access to inner resilience during difficult situations, relishing nature as a place to meet the Holy, and choosing to live more contemplatively.

What about you? For whom do you give thanks? Whose footprints have influenced your path of life? How have they done so? Whether young or old, if you allow yourself some quiet time to reflect on what inspires you to grow and share your best, I am confident you will recover memories of persons whose presence assisted your personal transformation.

Here is my Thanksgiving prayer this year:

Beloved Presence on my path of life,
thank you for the footprints left on my heart:
the soft and gentle ones that brought comfort,
the deep and lasting ones of enduring friendship,
the lightly passing ones conveying kindness,
the heavy ones causing necessary change,
and the impressionable footprints swept away by time.
Even though lost, forgotten, or not recognized,
these visitors have led me to live more fully
the innate goodness residing deep within me.
How grateful I am.

Abundant peace,

Joyce Rupp www.joycerupp.com

Submitted by Pam Andrews

Dear Ones,

In this month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, I give thanks for you. May God's Spirit continue to lead and guide us in these times.

This last week my mom called to tell me that they would not be hosting a big family celebration for Thanksgiving this year because of COVID-19. I already knew that we wouldn't be able to have the raucous, crowded party that we have had in the past (and will have in the future), but it still is hard when the decision is voiced. Unfortunately, we are still in COVID-19 times. And because of this, I want to emphasize a few things for all of you.

In the last few weeks, I have been asked when the synod would have new, updated guidelines. As the guidelines were a few months old, I thought I should review and give new guidelines for where we are now. However, as I started working on updated guidelines, I realized pretty quickly that old guidelines are today's guidelines ... because we are still in COVID -19 times. Therefore, the updated recommendations sound remarkably like the old recommendations.

The NWWA Synod continues to encourage care and thoughtful preparation for your community. A care-filled response is much more than unlocking the church doors and inviting all to come. Please keep in mind the Washington State guidelines and CDC guidelines and the population of your congregation. While we are all in different phases, depending on your county, here are some guidelines that we all should keep in mind.

1. Please continue to avoid large gatherings, maintain physical distance when with others, use face coverings, and regularly wash hands and surfaces.
2. To maintain ultimate safety, the NWWA Synod continues to recommend that congregations and ministry sites continue to utilize corporate worship on an online or digital platform until February 2021 – and further into 2021 depending on the availability of vaccines or other positive markers.
3. If there is an in-person worship experience, please consider meeting outside while masked and physical distanced and following the protocols for a corporate gathering. While this is not completely safe, this is the next safest option to meeting online.
4. If there is an in-person worship experience indoors, please understand that there is high-risk involved, and care must be taken for the safety of all. Please consider this carefully and thoroughly before implementing. Please see the synod website for further guidance.
5. If you are going to meet in-person, small gatherings are the safest option. Below are some ideas that are meant to meet spiritual, emotional, and physical needs as we continue to navigate this pandemic. (These ideas are meant to be a supplement to online worship and are only to be implemented after careful reflection and planning).

- Small group Bible studies
- One-on-one pastoral care conversations
- Bringing a meal or a card to a homebound person
- Participating in a food drive

- Having a “bring your own food” potluck gathering in a backyard.
- Sitting around a bonfire listening to a guitar
- Book Study
- I’m sure you all have many others.

If you have ideas in your congregation or ministry site on how to meet the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of people during this time, please share with others so we may safely and meaningfully meet with one another during this time. We would be happy to post these ideas on our website.

As we enter into winter, it is easy to let our guards down. We long to be together. We miss each other. And we are tired. I get it. I’m with you. I want nothing more than to be able to be with you in-person. But as we love God and neighbor, let us continue to be church in the world. Let us thoughtfully and prayerfully prepare. And let us continue to be Holy Community. And remember, dear Beloveds, we are still gathered and we are still sent – to live into the love of Jesus with all we meet.

Grace & Peace,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

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