

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

## February 2021

### 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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Everson, WA 98247

## From Pastor Leslie:

Lent begins on February 17<sup>th</sup> with **Ash Wednesday** and like everything else, it will look different for us than all the Ash Wednesdays in the past. Weather permitting, **I would like to offer the imposition of ashes outside from 1:00-2:00 on Ash Wednesday**. This act of remembrance is such an important part of our liturgy, literally meaning, the work of the people. If the weather is too rainy or snowy, we will forgo the in-person ashes and remember them during the worship on Zoom on Ash Wednesday night. I pray the weather holds and we can experience the important remembrance of our mortality and the promises of God with us, in the marking of the foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and in a year that marks the giving up of so many things—indoor worship, family gatherings, coffee and meals in restaurants together, travel, and singing to name a few, perhaps this Lent we will be able to focus on what it means to be a child of God. The church council has been talking about what it means to be a part of Immanuel Lutheran Church. To be a Christian in a Lutheran setting, and what it means to be a child of God. Indeed, we have been talking about faith stories and what it means to live into what God is calling us to do and be in the church, our community, the nation and the world. It's very important to consider what you think God is calling you to do and to be, especially now when there is so much happening in the world that seems to divide us. God wants unity.

There is no doubt in my mind that God's will for us is to be loving and kind to one another, regardless of faith, gender or ethnicity. **This Lent we will have worship on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.** and we will worship with the Holden Evening Prayer. I look forward to this meaningful time together. If you are not a part of Zoom worship, and have a phone or computer, please let me or one of the church council know. We will help you get set up for worship via Zoom. May God bless you and keep you during this holy Lenten season. *Pastor Leslie*

## Adult Forum:

"Aging in the Grace of God" is the title of our next Adult Forum. "This is the beginning of a new adventure! *This study will encourage us to attack aging head on. In a culture that considers aging a curse and denies it at every opportunity, Christians are encouraged to accept aging as a vital and positive stage of our spiritual journey—a time in which God continues to fit us for his kingdom and develops within us the character of his Son. This is not a time to merely exist, but a time to grow and bloom, aging in grace.*"

I look forward to our time together in this meaningful study. All, regardless of age, are welcome to participate. Adult Forum begins immediately following worship. You can find the link for Sunday morning worship on Zoom [here](#).

## Ash Wednesday:

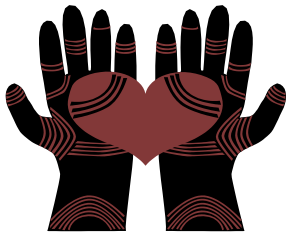
"On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world."-Sundays and Seasons

Because we cannot meet in person, I would like to offer ashes for your forehead in a new way. On Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday, we will have a drive-by imposition of ashes at 1:00 p.m. From 1:00-2:00 p.m. you can drive to the church and receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead outside the Fellowship Hall door, (where we had the drive-by farewell and God's Speed for Sharon when she left for seminary). If the weather does not permit, we will have a remembrance of imposition during Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday night during the Ash Wednesday worship. You can find the link for worship on Ash Wednesday on Zoom [here](#). I will send an email/weather update early in the day on Ash Wednesday as a reminder.

## UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **February 17, Wednesday - 1:00-2:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday** - Impositions of Ashes *outside* at the church (*if weather permits*).
- **Ash Wednesday Service by Zoom at 7:00.**
- **February 24 - March 31 Wednesday Lenten Services** at 6:30 on Zoom.
- **April 1** - Maundy Thursday
- **April 2** - Good Friday
- **April 4** - Easter
- **Sunday Worship and Adult Forum**  
Begin at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

To connect to Worship services on Zoom, go to [www.immanuellutheraneverson.com](http://www.immanuellutheraneverson.com) click on Worship and scroll down to the Zoom hyperlink.

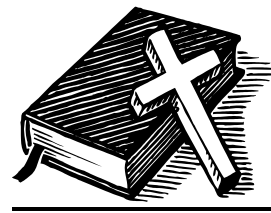


### February Birthdays

2/2 Dan Mahraun  
2/3 Darla Patterson  
2/5 Sharon DeGraw  
2/8 Jan Hunter  
2/10 Arlene Engholm  
2/12 Janine VanderYacht  
2/16 Don Anderson  
2/17 Kelsey Mordecai  
2/18 Penny McInnis  
2/19 Susie Smith  
2/19 Keith Williams  
2/21 Belia Estrada  
2/24 Don Crepe  
2/25 Eric Anderson

### February Anniversaries

2/9 Len & Rebeccajo Andrews



### February Scripture Readings

#### **February 7 - 5 Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

#### **February 14 - Transfiguration of Our Lord**

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians  
4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

#### **February 21 - 1 Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

#### **February 28 - 2 Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

#### **March 7 - 3 Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
I Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

Thank you, Ron Bruland, for refinishing the Parish Hall floor. It looks great!

Dear Beloveds,



There were many images that horrified me during the Washington DC riots. The violence, cruelty, anger, and destruction were terrible.

One image that made me both angry and almost nauseous was the photograph of the person holding up a bright yellow sign with the words, “Jesus Saves.” To be clear, it is not that I object to these words. I strongly believe that Jesus saves. But in this particular case, when one holds up a sign bearing these beautiful words but participating in mob violence, it becomes

a mockery. Horrifically, there were other Christian symbols present that day. There was a giant wooden cross outside the Capitol. One man carried a Christian flag into an evacuated legislative chamber. Christian music blared all day from loudspeakers. It was disgusting to see sacred words and items suddenly used to foment violence. It was sickening, reckless, and horrifying. It was profane. The insurrection on the Capitol broke the first, second, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth commandments. Any action that breaks one commandment is wrong. An action that breaks the majority of the commandments is beyond alarming. (And I could actually make an argument that this insurrection also broke the third and fourth commandments, too. This only leaves the sixth unbroken.)

In the ELCA social message on **Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy** we read,

ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. (*Read the full message here: [www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government](http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government).*)

This social message states that as residents of the United States and as followers of Jesus, we all have a responsibility for government to function well. We are called to be a part of civic society. We are called to vote. We are called to be civil servants. We are called to speak out against injustice. We are called to march against hatred. We are called to peacefully protest when those in power act in ways that promote prejudice or bigotry or discrimination. We are called to speak truth. For those of us with privilege, we are especially called to examine ourselves, to listen to others, and to speak for those without voice. We are called to act in ways where God’s love is paramount – moving towards true peace, true equity, and true reconciliation. In short, we are called to live into our baptismal identity of forgiven and beloved children of God by loving and caring for God, our neighbor, and our world.

I encourage congregations and ministry sites to study the social message mentioned above. There are also other social messages and social statements found on the ELCA website to further conversation and action as we continue to learn how to be disciples of Jesus by engaging in the world. Perhaps this could be something that you and others do during Lent. But please don’t stop at reading, studying, and talking about it. Let us move forward with action. Our faith calls us to stand next to the oppressed and forgotten in faith, knowing that, as we are loved by God, we are called to love our neighbor.

I am appalled at what happened on January 6, 2021. As a citizen of the United States and, even more so, as a Christian, I am devastated. But I have hope. I have hope that out of this hatred, love will emerge. I have hope that those who have been fearful will gain courage. I have hope that we, siblings, beloveds in Christ, will join together and reclaim the words, “Jesus saves.” I have hope that we as a nation will form a more perfect union. I have hope – not because I’m an idealist but because I’m a follower of Jesus – that out of this death resurrection will come.

In God’s Spirit of Hope, *Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*

**JANUARY 24, 2021  
ANNUAL MEETING  
UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying,  
“This is the way; walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21  
Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting – January 24, 2021

**Opening Prayer** by Pastor Leslie

Meeting called to order by Nancy Workman, Council President

**Secretary’s Report** – January 19, 2020 – approved as read by Pam Andrews

**Pastor’s Report** – comments by Pastor Leslie / report attached

**Treasurer’s Report** – December 2020 financial report presented by Ron Bruland. Motion to approve by Mark Ohlswager; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis Workman. Motion carries.

**2021 Church Budget** – Church Council recommended maintaining the 2020 budget for the first 6 months of 2021, review in June 2021 and then propose budget changes, if needed for the balance of 2021. Motion to accept by Don Anderson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Hunter. Motion carries.

**Committee Reports**

Facilities – Mike Brewer: when spring arrives, we will need to do spring cleanup around the outside of the church, i.e. flower beds, etc

**Stewardship** – no formal report

**Education** – Sunday Adult Ed and Wednesday evening Bible Study are occurring via Zoom.

**Worship and Music** – Joanie Hirt: will be meeting via Zoom to plan Lent and Easter.

Motion to accept Committee Reports as presented by Jan Hunter; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron Bruland. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

Nancy Workman wanted to express gratitude for: moving the wood church sign to its new location near the playground (it looks great); thanks to all who helped finance and install the new monument sign at the front of the church; thanks to Dawn Durand and Sue Ohlswager for continuing to put up inspiring messages on the new sign; thank you to all who contributed to the Coffee Can Fund prior to Christmas – Immanuel was able to donate \$500 to a family in need of propane and there is \$200+ left in the Coffee Can account to help with other urgent needs in our community. Thank you to Ron for the redo on the parish hall floors. They look great.

**New Business**

Election of Church Council Officers – Church Council is recommending that each current council member keep their current position through 2021. If someone is interested in joining council, there are two positions that have not been filled during 2020. Motion to approve by Jerry Hunter; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Anderson. Motion carries. Val Henderson wanted to say Thank You to all council members for serving.

President – Nancy Workman

Vice President – Pam Andrews

Secretary – Dawn Durand

Treasurer – Ron Bruland

Council Positions

Position 1: Joanie Hirt

Position 2 – Laura Hookham

Position 3 – Kim Roe

Position 4 – Mike Brewer

**Position 5 – not filled**

**Position 6 – not filled**

**Cemetery Use revisions** – Council is working on updating the Cemetery Guidelines and will share the updated draft this spring.

**Designation of Easter/Christmas offerings 2021** – To be decided at a later date. Linda Anderson suggested that Wild Bird Fund be included as one recipient.

**Election of Synod Assembly Delegates** – We are looking for 1 man and 1 woman to represent Immanuel at the Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 9 am – 4 pm. It will be a Zoom meeting. Registration will open February 1<sup>st</sup> and close March 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$25 per voting member and will be paid by the church. Visitors are free and will be invited to participate by following the livestream of the event. Following a brief discussion that the 2020 Synod Assembly did not occur, a motion was made by Jerry Hunter to designate our 2020 delegates for the 2021 Synod Assembly; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Anderson. Motion carries. Our 2021 delegates will be Ron and Kelsey.

**Closing: Lord's Prayer**