

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

## April 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**  
360-592-5876

Church Email: [immanuel.everson@gmail.com](mailto:immanuel.everson@gmail.com)  
Church Website: [www.immanuel.lutheraneverson.com](http://www.immanuel.lutheraneverson.com)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
5782 Lawrence Rd.  
Everson, WA 98247

## **Pastor Leslie's Message**

There are few days brighter than Easter! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! This acclamation cannot be done quietly or without a sense of joy, can it? No! Indeed, we are an Easter people and by that, I mean we have come to the tomb and found it empty and it is with shouts of joy that we go back into the world proclaiming the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Just knowing that death is not the final answer gives us hope on the worst day because we know that Jesus has defied death and said yes to life. Life everlasting with God! It is great news, news we can all celebrate.

I remember celebrating Easter as a child, and some of my strongest memories are actually about Easter, even more so than Christmas, as a very young child. My mom made sure our Easter baskets were brimming with fresh flowers, a bit of candy, and a stuffed toy of some sort. And, of course, there was always a big Easter dinner. Food always stirs up memories doesn't it? We often had a fresh salmon for Easter, or it was the traditional ham, and all the good things like deviled eggs, homemade rolls, salads, and a huge coconut cake. All the best things to celebrate that life overcomes death, and death has lost its sting.

This year has been full of difficult days; we can't just skip past them and forget about the tragedy of lives lost due to COVID. Nor can we forget the horrible acts of racism we have seen in the Black and Asian communities. As a predominately White community we have to do better about realizing that these things are happening. Speaking out against racism, or any "ism" that puts God's children down in any way, has to become a priority for us as a community, nation, and world.

That is what Easter is all about, the dying of the old and the raising up of the new. In Christ we have been given a fresh start, and we have been given a new way to see life, and in that new vision we are propelled into sharing the gospel that says we are all children of God—equal and loveable because we are created in the image of God, each of us.

### **Wonderful and exciting news!**

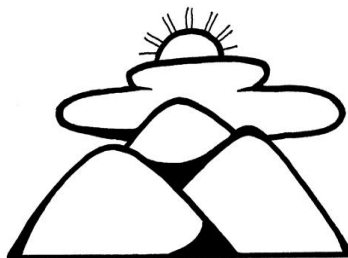
We plan to return to in-person worship on Sunday, May 2! It will be wonderful to gather at 9:30 in the sanctuary to worship our Risen Lord. There are some precautions that we will need to follow until we reach Level 4. Our council has taken the risks into consideration and we believe that for those who have received both vaccines, this is going to be a positive way to return to in-person worship. All are welcome to worship!

**Below are the council's recommendations for starting in-person worship:**

1. Pam Andrews and Laura Hookham will log the name of each person who enters the sanctuary so that if there is an exposure, we can contact folks for quarantine. The names will be held in a binder for ease.
2. Masks will be available, so everyone is masked in the building.
3. Hand sanitizer at both doors.
4. Sanitizer wipes at the doors as well.
5. Ron will sanitize the pews after church each Sunday.
6. The doors will be open in the sanctuary for air exchange. (We will be cold for a few weeks so bring blankets, warm coats, mittens, etc... 😊)
7. Singing with masks only. (No choir until phase 4).
8. Holy Communion will be distributed to congregants in the pews and taken at the same time to minimize time where masks are not worn.
9. Sharing of the peace from the pew, not walking around in the sanctuary.
10. No fellowship before or following worship.
11. No hugging 😞
12. Maintaining six feet apart while seated in the sanctuary (we will need to mark areas so folks can easily find their seats).
13. Hymns will be in the bulletin for now, so we are not using the hymnals.
14. Offering will be at the doors, so folks are not passing the offering plates.

We are following the guidelines of the county and will do our best to keep everyone safe during Phase 3. All are welcome to worship, and we look forward to being together again, soon.  
Blessings to you all, with hope and excitement,

*Pastor Leslie*



## **Bishop's Message**



There is a cave in Kentucky called Mammoth Cave. When you first enter, it appears quite empty of life. Dark, quiet, dank, barren. And yet ... and yet ...

Like many caves, first impressions can be deceiving. You see, over 200 animals live in Mammoth Cave. Animals that range from raccoons and other small creatures who accidentally venture into the cave and cannot figure out how to return to the outside, to animals who deliberately live both inside and outside of the cave, to forty-two species of troglobites - animals adapted exclusively to life in the darkness. ***Amid seeming***

***emptiness, life is abundant.***

If one were to drive by most of our church buildings, parking lots would be empty and the doors would be locked. A casual observer might say, "That church is empty. Nothing is happening there."

And yet ... and yet ...

First impressions can be deceiving. There is a lot of life happening in congregations and ministry sites. There are people who have joined communities of faith in our synod that, for various reasons, would never have entered the doors of a church building. They have become part of the community through online worship – even if they live thousands of miles away. There are people who were a part of the church community for years – but because of work schedules or health issues or mobility concerns – they had faded away. Now they are coming each week as they re-connect. And there are people who have never left. They continue to foster relationships, enjoy serving in the community of the church, and who are faithful to the tasks that are required to keep churches functioning.

We have groups in many churches that are working with other organizations to help feed, clothe, teach, and be with people in the neighborhoods. We have those who are having sometimes uncomfortable (but always fruitful) conversations about what it means to be faithful in this time and place. We have many who are visiting and calling the sick and the dispirited.

Fundamentally, together we are living into the good news of Jesus and journeying together in the Spirit as we are Church in the world. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

Listen to these words from the first Easter, "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!' (John 20:1-2)

Mary looked into that tomb and saw only lifelessness and she despaired. She peered into the shadows and felt, deep in her bones, the darkness of sorrow, abandonment, disappointment, grief, heartache, and pain. She had gone searching for something, someone, and she came away with nothing.

And yet ... and yet ...

Jesus had risen. Jesus, scars and all, was going to meet her in the garden. In a few hours Jesus would call Mary's name and assure her of his love. Jesus would come to the disciples and breathe on them – giving them peace and asking them to, "Feed his sheep." And they would. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

Dear Beloveds, this last year has felt somewhat like we were living in a cave. We have been confined, somewhat lost, weary, and wondering where the new life is. We have stumbled on rocks and fallen in despair.

And yet ... and yet ...

We trust that soon we will be gathering in-person together. Soon we will be beyond this pandemic. Soon life will not "return to normal" but instead will move forward as we live God's calling of loving God and loving neighbor.

We know this because we are a resurrection people. Out of death comes life. We place our trust in our risen Savior who died and is raised again. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant in Christ Jesus our risen Savior.***

And we all proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! + *Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*

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

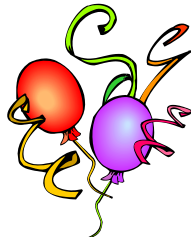
**Sunday Worship**

For April worship begins 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.

*Beginning May 2 worship will be in the sanctuary at 9:30.*

**Bible Studies**

Wednesdays at 6:30 via Zoom



**April Birthdays**

4/5 Irene Higbee  
4/6 Kari Toivola  
4/6 David Goree  
4/8 Valerie Henderson  
4/8 Asia Roman  
4/12 Mike Bruland  
4/15 Kim Roe  
4/20 Joe Durand  
4/29 Paul Hookham  
4/29 Gail Halverson

**March Anniversaries**

4/6 Mike & Karen Brewer  
4/11 Ron & Judy Bruland  
4/28 Nancy & Dennis Workman



**April Scripture Readings**

**April 4 - Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43  
Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

**April 11 - 2 Easter**

Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1—2:2  
John 20:19-31

**April 18 - 3 Easter**

Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

**April 25 - 4 Easter**

Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18



## Women of Immanuel News



*WOI Ladies enjoy a "walk and talk"*

**Women of Immanuel** Quilting is happening again on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!



### **Gather Discussion:**

April 28 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

## Shortcake Drive-by

The WOI are tentatively planning on a **Strawberry Shortcake "drive-by"** on **Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>** after worship for church members. Free will donations will be accepted.

**Mark Your Calendars! The WOI Rummage Sale is August 28.** Please keep us in mind while doing your spring cleaning and save your give away items for this event. The Rummage sale will be WOI's only fundraiser this year. Funds raised will help purchase quilting supplies and monetarily help people in need.



*Thank you, Dawn Durand and Sue Ohlswager, for doing such a great job updating our sign every few weeks*