

Immanuel Lutheran Church

June 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

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

From Pastor Leslie:

Just when we thought we could not last another moment, we were able to come back to church. It's a great thing to be gathering together again and it is great to see everyone. It is so special to sing, worship, commune, and visit together again, to be in the presence of God and one another. I am so glad so many are gathering each week.

If you haven't made it back yet, I invite you to come back. The fellowship and meaningful ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church will give you a lift in your spiritual life. God's presence, through the love and care of Jesus, made known to us by the Holy Spirit, comes to us through worship together. It will be great to see you again, too. And for those of you who are back, isn't it wonderful to be together, in the name of Jesus?

All too often I think we forget about the closeness we have as a family of God and how important our reunions are each week. This month we will have our six-month-annual-meeting to review the budget proposal for 2021. Offering has been low during the pandemic, but I am so glad to say that it has improved since we have begun in-person worship again. The meeting will take place on Sunday, June 27th immediately following worship. I hope you will plan to attend worship and the meeting so that you will know how the financial ministry of Immanuel is put into place.

Now that the CDC has issued the mandate that we can move a bit more freely and the stay at home mandates are lifted, vaccinations are in place, and folks are feeling a little more able to be in public, I would like to make personal visits. I look forward to hearing from you about a home visit. Please reach out to me to set up a time that I can come to your home, meet for lunch or coffee, sit outside in the sun or get together. It has been a long time since pastoral visits were in person and not on the phone and I look forward to seeing you all again, soon! Please don't hesitate to email me: lmahraun@hotmail.com or call me: 360-599-0531 to set up a time when we can be together.

Finally, I want you to know that I pray for you. You are beloved and God is with you. Sometimes we get so busy that I think we might not remember that Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of the age, and with that promise comes a deep and abiding love from God. I just wanted you to know that you are loved and never alone. I look forward to seeing you in church, and meeting with you in person.

Pastor Leslie

From Our Council Vice President:

What is the new normal? What does this really mean? It sounds like we have arrived at some spot in time. Since COVID-19 began over a year ago, we have been in constant transition. Even as we see restrictions lessening, we are still evolving and adapting as conditions change.

Normal: *The usual, expected, or standard state, form, amount, or degree.*

I think I equate the word normal with something that is predictable. Predictable is comfortable.

What does this mean for Immanuel? Have we arrived at a new normal? We are back together to worship. Small groups are meeting. The garden is being planted. But is our Faith “back to normal”? I would hope our Faith is never “normal”, but instead pushing us beyond comfortable.

Is our response to Stewardship “back to normal”?

Christian stewardship is rooted in God’s gift of Jesus Christ to us, and we are entrusted with sharing this gift. . . . Stewardship has to do with every aspect of living out personal faith, including creation, lifestyle, gifts, finances and callings/vocation.

Church Council is tasked with the financial overview of our Church finances. We have watched over the past 15 months as our finances have been below what was anticipated for a variety of reasons. We all need to discern what God is calling us to be and do in the months ahead. What have we learned through our COVID journey? We will have an opportunity to discuss this at our congregational meeting Sunday, June 27th following worship.

Pam Andrews, Immanuel Vice President



Scripture Readings

June 6 - 2 Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

June 13 - 3 Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Mark 4:26-34

June 20 - 4 Pentecost

Job 38:1-11

Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

June 27 - 5 Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalms 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **June 7** – Women of Immanuel Walk and Talk at Big Rock Garden in Bellingham.
- **June 13**– Church Council meets after Worship
- **June 20** – Father's Day/Strawberry Social following worship.
- **June 27** – Congregational Meeting following worship

June Birthdays

6/1 Jim Freeman

6/6 Carol VanderYacht

6/6 Debbie Short

6/12 Jerry Hunter

6/13 Jeffrey Delgado

6/24 Nathan Campbell

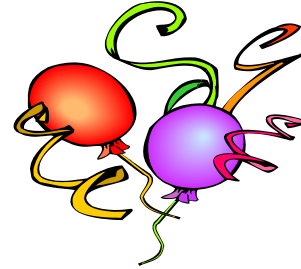
6/26 James Bailey

6/26 Steve Higbee

6/26 Len Andrews

6/28 Jerry Noe

6/28 John Bayer



June Anniversaries

6/4 Joe & Dawn Durand

6/10 Gary & Jeanne Chadwick

6/14 Harry & Linelle Williams

NOTE: Bible Studies are taking a break for summer but will return in the fall. Watch this space (and your Sunday bulletin) for more information.

WOMEN of Immanuel NEWS



- On Father's Day (Sunday, June 20) the Women of Immanuel will host a Strawberry Social immediately after the morning church service in the Parish Hall. Hug your Dad, Come to church and enjoy some strawberry shortcake before you go about the rest of the day. A free will offering will be accepted.
- Still doing some spring house cleaning? Save those gently-used items for the August 28 Women of Immanuel rummage sale. (If you have a large item that you want to donate please remember if it doesn't sell you will need to pick it back up.) More information to come.

June 6, 2021

Ass't. Min. Laura Hookham
Greeter/Ushers: Ron & Judy Bruland
Reader: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada
Communion assistant/set up:
Flowers:

June 13

Ass't. Min: Ben Workman
Greeter/Usher: Jan and Jerry Hunter
Com. Ass't/Set Up:
Reader: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

June 20

Ass't. Min: Bob Jacobs
Greeter/Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer
Com. Ass't/Set Up:
Reader: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

June 27

Ass't Min. Kelsey Mordecai
Greeter/Usher:
Com. Ass't/set up:
Reader: Dawn Durand/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

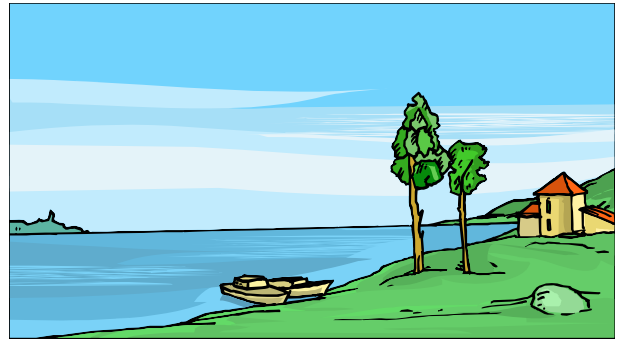
Please let Kim know if you are willing to assist during our worship services as a communion assistant, usher/greeter, or reader. Your contribution would be most appreciated!

Do you have flowers in your garden? Are you good at arranging? Please consider bringing flowers for the altar as a way to glorify God and bless our worship space. Please sign up on the flower chart in the parish hall.

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please call someone that you can either switch an assigned Sunday with or sub for you.

A big thank-you to all the helpers; you are greatly appreciated and needed!

Email address for Pastor Leslie: lmahraun@hotmail.com
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Office phone: (360) 592-5876
Church website: immanuel.lutheraneverson.com/



*“Live in each season as it passes;
breathe the air, drink the drink, taste
the fruit, and resign yourself to the
influences of each.”*

-Henry David Thoreau



From the Bishop:

I began my Bishop’s Report for the 2021 Synod Assembly on May 15, 2021 by quoting Paul in his letter to the Romans, “I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because

your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.”

I am so glad to be the Northwest Washington Synod with you – as we walk, journey, travel together. We are connected as the body of Christ – as siblings in Christ – together. We are the Northwest Washington Synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully. As people forgiven and redeemed, beloved and welcomed, we are called to embody God’s grace in speech, action, and relationships. I am reminded daily that it is Jesus Christ who loves, welcomes, and forgives. As baptized children of God, we are called to participate in this love, hospitality, and forgiveness. I am thankful for all of you for your love, your welcome, and your forgiveness.

We on the synod staff have agreed to embrace the following statement as we work together with the congregations and ministry sites of this synod: *“Trusting in the Spirit, we are journeying together with God’s people so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus.”*

Further, there are five focus areas interwoven in the work that we are doing as we journey together in Christ:

1. Faithful Innovation
2. Youth and Young Adults
3. Leadership
4. Connection
5. Racial Justice

I’d like to lift up a few of the actions from the 2021 NW WA Synod Assembly:

- We had our first online assembly with 332 voting members in attendance on Zoom and over 200 following along on our Facebook Livestream.
- We approved the Recommended Changes to the Constitution that were forwarded from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- We approved the changes to the Constitution proposed by the Synod Council (with a minor amendment to have the Nominating Committee changed to 5 persons).
- We elected persons to the following:
 Synod Council
 Committee on Discipline
 Consultation Committee
 Voting Members to the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Approved budget.
- We shared videos from our ministry partners and synod committees/teams.
- Announced Grace Grants recipients.

As we do the work of this synod, I am reminded that it is not us but the Spirit that leads and guides. Trusting God’s promises and participating in the Holy Spirit, we have reached places beyond what I thought possible. We have exceeded priorities and we are moving forward towards God’s preferred future. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

“It’s late Wednesday afternoon and I am at a large low-income apartment complex with Kids Need Books (KNB). Usually, I hand out books here in tandem with the school district’s Food LifeLine project, a kind of nourishment-for-the-body-and-mind joint operation, but this week is spring break and there will be no food distribution. Just books. I’m taking a bit of a chance—have never flown solo here—and don’t know if folks will venture out for books, especially in the cold, driving rain that has suddenly moved in from the ocean....

[Click here to read the rest of the story](#)

Dear Friends,

Joe’s story beautifully illustrates one way the love and generosity of Interfaith congregations gets shared with the poor in our community. Whether you are donating, volunteering, serving as a congregation representative, or helping to raise funds for our programs, be assured that you are not just providing “things.” You are also feeding hearts that are hungry for human compassion and acknowledgement.

Special Note I greatly appreciate your help in getting Interfaith info to your congregation. Although I often email specific event notices to newsletter editors at congregations, I depend upon Reps to regularly ensure that these notices, volunteer opportunities, and needs get advertised to your congregation members. Because congregations have different deadlines, length restrictions, etc., my notices sometimes don’t make it into the newsletter. Your help is critical to getting the information out. Please share what you can from these newsletter updates. Thank you!

Thanks to all who attended our ***Sanctuary: Sounds of Home*** virtual concert this past Saturday. We enjoyed great music while working to help more families transition out of homelessness. We raised almost \$10,000 with your generosity! We will have a YouTube link to a recording of this event soon.

Sanctuary: Calm in Chaos Storytelling: if you missed our storytelling event in April, you can view it here: [Calm in Chaos Storytelling Event.](#)

Family Promise update: Many thanks to all congregations who have continued to creatively “host” and support the families throughout the pandemic. We have a new family of 5, a mom and her 4 teens, that moved in recently. At our **Learning Center** tutoring sessions are up and running! We have a wonderful group of highly experienced tutors and it’s a privilege to be able to provide this service to families in Family Promise and in Interfaith housing.

Family Promise Bed Race: This high energy event returns in September! Go to [Family Promise Bed Race](#) for photos of past bed races and stay tuned for more information to be posted. We’re hoping that each of our congregations will be able to participate and join in the fun this year. We’ll be sending you more information soon on how to advertise and participate.

Can you please advertise these Interfaith Coalition opportunities and needs?

- Childrens' Books in good condition (no rips, tears, writing, etc.) and no more than 5 years old (none of the old "classics" please.) Bilingual (Spanish and Russian, particularly), toddler board books, and graded readers are especially needed.
- CAST - Adult-size Socks. Vinyl or cloth re-usable grocery bags.
- If you're cleaning out your closet, or hitting the garage sales this summer, hang on to winter coats, gloves and hats for our winter warmth drive this September.
- Yard work project help is needed: in Ferndale, one yard needs reseeding, hedges trimmed, lawn mowed, and gravel moved. In Bellingham, our 4-plex needs some cleanup, weeding, trimming, moving bark mulch, and other touch ups. If you or your congregation are available to help, please contact Lindsey@interfaith-coalition.org.

Drop donated items at our office at 910 14th Street, in St. James Presbyterian Church. Please call first, however, to ensure someone is in the office to take the donation (360-734-3983.) Covid screening (temperature test, contact tracing) and mask use is required upon entry into the building. Thank you!

And finally, a quote from a housing guest...

"This is the nicest, warmest, loving house that I have had and ever will have. Thank you. To every single person who was involved in building, putting together, and arranging living here, I want to say thank you and may good things come to you." "Ashley" age 15