

Immanuel Lutheran Church

July 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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Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

From Pastor Leslie:

This month we celebrate Independence Day. There will be family gatherings and festive meals, fireworks and bar-b-ques, and hopefully the story of how our nation became independent will be told at some point during the day.

My brother was born on the fourth of July and for years the two of us, only 18 months apart in age, believed that the fireworks at the end of our cul-de-sac were how we celebrated Donny's birthday. Imagine our surprise to discover that our neighborhood was not the only neighborhood who would do this same thing! Yes, the 4th of July is a holiday that is celebrated with gusto all over our nation. What will you and your family do this year?

When I was little, and throughout my adult life (while my mother was living) the 4th of July meant fried chicken or ribs. It just depended on how hot it was, if not too hot then fried chicken, but if hot, the grill outside would be used for ribs. Unlike other holidays we didn't spend much time talking about how the day came about, we just knew from history class that July 4, 1776 was the day our nation became independent from King George's rule and that was somehow good enough for us. The festivities that followed were appropriate for any birthday, and the birthday of a nation seemed to fit just fine for our friends and family. It was always special, perhaps because we got to have my brother's birthday that day too. It meant family gathered, great food and fireworks in the late night (a special treat to be up past 10:00!).

Today as I write this we are coming to the end of a remarkable heat wave. It was very difficult to have so many days above 100 degrees. I have lived in places where the summer heat exceeds 100 degrees for weeks at a time with high humidity, but there was air conditioning to relieve it. This past week reminded me of my college days in Lindsborg, KS at Bethany College, when in mid-August we would return to campus to the 100 plus degree days, with high humidity and no AC in many of the buildings. This girl from Colorado, who knew nothing about humidity, did not appreciate the hot and humid days of August and September in Kansas. Sleeping was always hard during those long, end-of-summer days, but just like now, when the end came, those days became a memory and the cool breezes a blessing.

As we move into the mid-summer days of the calendar year, I wonder where you find your blessings. Perhaps it is in the growing of your personal gardens, or in the church's community garden. Maybe it is in the reunions of family and friends, the special meals you will share together, the memories you will make or reflect on as the summer days progress. For me it is in the visits I have with you as we pray together and feel the gentleness of the Holy Spirit surround us and also the memories of summers gone by. May God bless you as you enjoy the days ahead, lingering in the blessing of what it is to be a child of God in the summer. May you be blessed to be a blessing.

Pastor Leslie



Scripture Readings

July 4 - 6 Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 11 - 7 Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 18 - 8 Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25 - 9 Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **July 5** – Women of Immanuel Walk and Talk in Fairhaven
- **July 11**– Church Council meets after Worship
- **July 18** – Congregational Meeting following worship

July Birthdays

7/5 Sue Hookham

7/6 Karen Brewer

7/7 Kris Fulner

7/13 Salvador Estrada

7/18 Ben Hickey

7/20 Lois Patterson

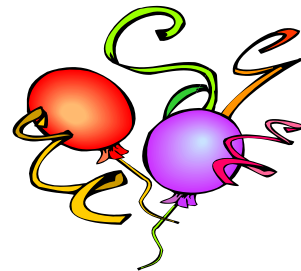
7/20 Tyler Anderson

7/21 Linell Williams

7/26 Heather Short

7/28 Jackie Bailey

7/29 Mary Fulner



July Anniversaries

7/2 Bill and Carol VanderYacht

7/7 Bob & Kathy Graham

7/9 Steve & Susan Hoidal

7/14 Charley & Debbie Short

7/20 Valerie Henderson & Larry Campbell

7/22 Maurice & Lois Patterson

7/30 Heidi Fish & Dave Dettman

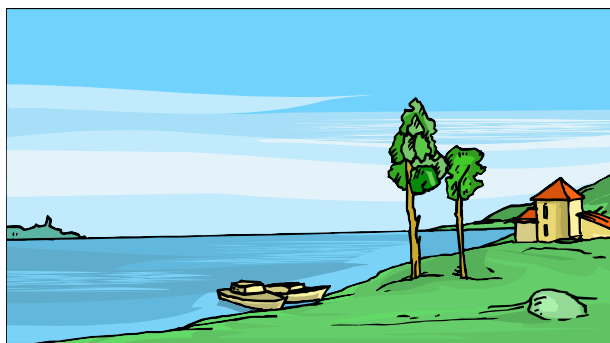
WOMEN of Immanuel NEWS



- WOI would like to thank all who helped and participated in the Strawberry Social. We would like to especially thank Ben Hickey, Jerry Campbell and The Boys for providing the music entertainment. You all helped to make this event a great success!
- Monday July 5th at 10 a.m., the WOI Walk & Talk Group will meet at the Village Green (behind the Colophon Cafe) in Fairhaven and walk down to Boulevard Park. Parking can sometimes

be tricky in Fairhaven, so if you're late give Sue Ohlswager a call on her cell phone (360-325-2313) and they'll wait. They'll also stop by Woods Coffee in the park on the way back and have more visiting time together. The weather is supposed to be good

- 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.



July Worship Assistant Schedule

July 4, 2021

Ass't. Minister: Ben Workman Smith
Greeter/Ushers: Ron & Judy Bruland
Reader: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada
Flowers: Bill & Carol VanderYacht

July 11

Ass't Minister: Laura Hookham
Greeter/Usher: Jan and Jerry Hunter
Readers: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada
Flowers: Salvador Estrada

July 18

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

July 25

Ass't Min. Kelsey Mordecai
Greeter/Usher:
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/

A Virtual Interfaith Music Festival and Celebration of Interfaith Congregations

The Interfaith Coalition Music Festival has been an annual highlight for many years. Kevin Allen-Schmid, who has directed the festival in previous years, created a musical film instead of holding an in-person festival. This 42-minute, film features photos and music from all 41 member congregations of Interfaith Coalition – an historic first. The grand finale is a virtual choir, featuring 57 singers from congregations across Whatcom County and beyond.

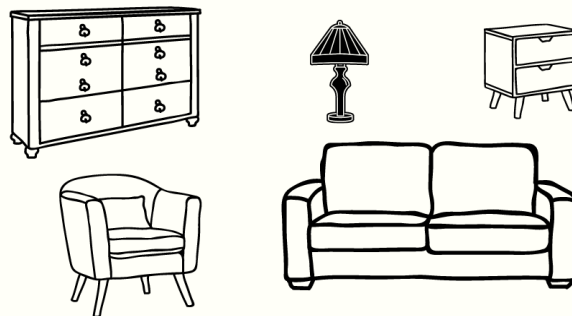
We are thrilled to highlight *Immanuel Lutheran* and our other congregations in this film. You have been part of Interfaith’s work to help vulnerable Whatcom County children and adults - originally, in gaining access to medical care for all, and now in helping them escape poverty and homelessness. Seeing your congregation spaces and hearing your voices raised in song is a visual and auditory reminder of the beauty of our diversity and of your commitment to working together for the good of your neighbors.

Here is the link to the film on our YouTube channel (where you can also find other videos, concerts, and events):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hza0IFwSn2c>

DONATIONS NEEDED

HELP US FURNISH A FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER



DONATE IN GOOD CONDITION:

Couch • Living room chair • Dressers
Nightstands • Table lamps

Email info@interfaith-coalition.org or call 360.734.3983.



From the Bishop:

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

What does freedom mean to you? In this month that we in the United States celebrate Independence Day with fireworks and barbecues (yay for vaccines – we can have barbecues again!), what is freedom?

Well ... first let's consider what freedom is NOT. Freedom is NOT enormous sums of money, power, privilege, assets, stocks and bonds, cars, clothes, or degrees. Freedom is NOT being able to do anything you want without worrying how your actions might affect another. Freedom is NOT hedonism or casual cruelty. Freedom is NOT the ability to yell at someone either in person or online. Freedom is NOT to be taken lightly.

Unfortunately, we have conflated freedom with selfishness. We have decided freedom means we don't have to worry about our behavior or words. We have decided that we no longer need to be civil or caring or understanding of another's viewpoint or worldview or interest. In this synod, I am concerned at the rancor I am hearing, the level of uncivil discourse, and the inability to listen to people from different sides of different issues. So ... what IS freedom?

Martin Luther writes in *The Freedom of a Christian* that through Christ, we are set free from sin into new life. He writes:

From faith flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a cheerful, willing, free spirit, disposed to serve our neighbor voluntarily, without taking any account of gratitude or ingratitude, praise or blame, gain or loss. Its object is not to lay [others] under obligations, nor does it distinguish between friends and enemies, or look to gratitude or ingratitude, but most freely and willingly spends itself and its goods, whether it loses them through ingratitude, or gains good will.

Freedom described in this way sounds amazing. But we know that it isn't that simple. We all know that even as baptized children of God, even as people assured that we are saved through Jesus Christ, even as people who revel in freedom – we know that we are not always cheerful and willing, disposed to serve our neighbor voluntarily. We know that the freedom we have been given through Jesus is sometimes squandered because of greed, racism, homophobia, sexism, nationalism, individualism, pride, and so much more. Quite simply, sin. We think that we are free and yet we are choosing death over abundant life.

And yet ... what a gift we have been given! For when we live fully into our baptisms, we are called into community with God and with one another. We are called into caring for one another. We are called to listen, love, and serve others – even those we might not particularly like. God calls us away from selfish behavior and into freedom to commit ourselves fully to each other. As Paul writes in Galatians 6:2: “Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” As baptized children of God and as the body of Christ in this world, we are called to the freedom of Christ. And this means we are called to a life not only for ourselves, but to die to ourselves and live truly in the freedom of bearing one another's burdens.

As a proud American, I love the Fourth of July. As a person following Jesus, I know that freedom means more than waving a flag or wearing the colors of red, white, and blue. As Martin Luther writes in his treatise *On Christian Freedom*, “A Christian is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.”

May freedom in Christ reign. May the love of Christ be with you and all that you encounter.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org

