

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
September 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
360-592-5876
Pastor Leslie Mahraun 306-599-0531
Church Email: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com**

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

FROM PASTOR LESLIE:

The summer is over. It's hard to believe it, but it's true. While we are getting back to our fall programs, it will be a little slower pace than what we have done in the past, but we are getting used to making changes due to COVID.

This fall we will have choir on Monday nights at 7:00 pm and all are welcome to come and make a joyful noise to the Lord! Immanuel Lutheran Church welcomes all who love to sing to come and be a part of the choir. We will be postponing our Wednesday night meals until further notice, with the Delta variant we feel that is the most reasonable thing we can do at this time. We will look forward to the time when we can return to meal fellowships, including Fellowship Hour before and after church. Thank you all for being so patient. I know we are in this together and we all understand the precautions, but it is also difficult to let so many treasured times go and I want you to know that I feel your disappointments.

Our Adult Forum will begin again on Sunday, September 12, following worship, in the Fellowship Hall. Our fall selection will be "*Presiding Bishop Eaton's Four Emphasis Bible Study: We are Church, We are Lutheran, We are Church Together, We are Church for the Sake of the World.*" "The intent of the study is to encourage exploration and discussion of the ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's four emphases by delving more deeply into Bible texts related to each emphasis using the four lenses of the Book of Faith methods of Bible study." While it is four sections, we do not need to limit our discussion to only one topic a week, so we can move through the course at our own pace. I look forward to exploring our Bishop's work together.

Looking back at August, we certainly had a full month with the garden harvest and the Rummage sale, both so full of abundance and God's grace. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard at both endeavors. Your work is a gift to the community of Immanuel and beyond. Thanks be to God!

You may have noticed in the bulletin this past week that we are including a prayer list now so you have a copy of those for whom we pray. If you have a need and would like to be on the prayer list, please let me or Nancy Workman know. (No one is listed on the prayer list without their expressed permission.) We hope this is a way to draw closer to God and to provide love and support to one another.

As always, I would love to come and visit you. If you would like a pastoral visit, please do not hesitate to let me know.

In God's peace,
Pastor Leslie

From Our President

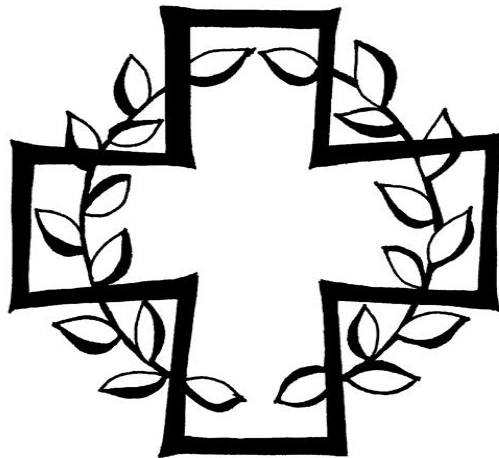
Cooler nights remind us that autumn is near. Most years, we would be gearing up for our fall ministry activities. But, once again, we are in a pandemic year and our “normal” has changed. Until we see a decrease in COVID outbreaks, we won’t be enjoying our Wednesday evening meals together. Disappointing, for sure, but we must keep each other safe.

Our Helping Hands after school program will also look different this fall. Instead of including younger children, for now a few Jr. High and High School students will be helping with our new “Helping Hands Thrift Shop” which will be open on Wednesday afternoons, beginning September 15.

We will continue to wear masks during our services until we know they are no longer needed. A few things will be reminding us that the season of fall is here. Adult Forum will begin the Sunday after Labor Day, after worship. Men’s choir practice will be at 6:00 on Monday evenings and will sing the 2nd Sunday of each month. We hope to start Senior Choir at 7:00 on Monday evenings, beginning September 13th. We may be using singing masks for as long as needed. We will be changing to our fall liturgy, “Come, Let Us Worship God”, September 12. We are trying to do as many things as we can in as normal a way as possible and still keep safety in mind.

Galations 5:6 reminds us “The only thing that counts, is faith expressing itself through love.” How is Immanuel going to express our collective faith through love this “new year”?

Nancy Workman
Council President



From the Bishop: September 2021 “Spirit” Article

On August 1, 2021 I began my third year in the office of bishop for the Northwest Washington Synod. It is my pleasure and joy to serve God and to journey with you through this office. I am thankful for your partnership, your understanding, your forgiveness, your passion, and your faithfulness.

We are living in a time of great turmoil and great opportunity. We are living in (to use a much-overused word) unprecedented times. What does this mean for us as individuals? The Northwest Washington Synod? The ELCA? The Body of Christ? Many of us feel grief. Grief at what once was but is no longer. Grief that the world keeps changing around us and we cannot figure out our place or our sense of call in the middle of so much shifting. It is difficult when the world feels rocky and unsteady. It is hard to understand that what we often took for granted is no longer. Recently I visited my hometown in eastern Washington. The town is half the size it was when I was growing up. As I walked through the downtown, businesses that have been there for decades are gone. Boarded up. Abandoned. My world felt rocked. And I grieved. What do you grieve?

Many of us feel anger or resentment. We divide ourselves into camps. We use the words, “us” and “them” and act as though “our” camp is always right and holy and just. We throw words around like weapons and we refuse to truly listen to the other – because we are “right” and they are “wrong.” And nothing will persuade us otherwise. In John 8 we hear Jesus tell the men who wanted to throw rocks at a woman accused of adultery, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ When the men leave, Jesus says to the woman, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.” What would it mean for us to live into these words of Jesus? Many of us feel exhausted. We are tired. We are weary. For a brief moment it felt as though we were moving beyond COVID- 19 and then suddenly, with the Delta variant, we were pushed back into worry and concern (I am writing this in the middle of August – perhaps the numbers will be better before you read this in September!). Quite frankly, I am tired of changing things on the calendar – wondering if something should be in-person or online, wondering if I am doing something risky or if I am not taking the variables into enough consideration. It is wearisome. What makes you exhausted?

Many of us feel there is something more that we are missing. We ache for connection with God and with others. We feel lonely when we are alone, and we feel even more isolated when we are in a group. We long for meaning. We yearn to truly live, move, and have our being in the Spirit (Acts 17). How does the community of Christ answer the loneliness so many are feeling? What have we missed in the life of the church and participants? How do we sink even more deeply into the waters of life that God has called us to and given us in our baptisms?

Many of us are hopeful. Yes, I fully am living in the reality of all that I said above. I am not a Pollyanna. And yet, I trust that God is here, God is present, God is active – in this beautiful, flawed world of ours. Right now, in our congregations and in our neighborhoods, there are grief-stricken, angry, exhausted, aching-for-connection people. And right now, God has given us the opportunity to not only reach out to these people, but to listen and reflect, grow and learn together. What a calling! What an opportunity!

I encourage you to check out the LiVE Project where you can connect, learn, and grow deeper in faith together and with others. <https://lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>. You might also be interested in Living Legacy where congregations are encouraged to have deep conversations about their values, their dreams, and what God is calling them to do and to be into the future. <https://lutheransnw.org/programs/living-legacy>.

The synod staff and I are here to journey, listen, and reflect with you. Thank you for these last two years. I look forward to this new year together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



Scripture Readings

September 5 – 15 Pentecost

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 12 – 16 Pentecost

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 19 – 17 Pentecost

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 26 – 18 Pentecost

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 John 4:16

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **September 12 – Adult Forum Begins**
- **September 13 – Choir practice begins: Men's group at 6:00 and choir at 7:00.**
- **September 19 – Church Council after worship.**



Sing for Your God

Do you enjoy singing? Have you always wanted to be part of a fun loving group but have been afraid you don't sing well enough? It's time to make your dream come true! We want you! Immanuel's Adult Choir will begin practice on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 following the men's group at 6:00. We hope you will join us!



September Birthdays

9/1 Ron Bruland
9/3 Randy Carson
9/4 Carol Bennett Woodbury
9/7 Jim Florence
9/13 Sue Ohlswager
9/14 Julie Goree
9/16 Nancy Workman
9/16 Tristan Goree
9/18 Dan Culver
9/30 Renee Guernsey

September Anniversaries

9/6 Jim & Pat Hawley

WOMEN OF IMMANUEL NEWS

WOI would like to thank all who were involved in the **HUGE Yard Sale**.

Everyone worked so hard to make this successful and it was. We made around \$1300!

WOI Walkers will not be meeting on September 6 due to Labor Day. Next walk (weather dependent) will be on Monday October 4 at 10 a.m. at Berthusen Park, Lynden.

Quilting begins on Thursday, September 16th, at 9 a.m.

Gather Magazine study will once again meet on Zoom the 4th Wednesday of the Month starting September 22nd at 6:30 pm hosted by Jan Hunter.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES are on sale now. Help WOI fill Lutheran World Relief School Kits. We aim to fill 50. Purchase and donate any of the following: 70-page school notebooks, #2 pencils with erasers, boxes of 16 to 24 crayons, 2 ½" erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers, ball point pens, blunt nose scissors. Leave donations in parish hall. Each bag contains 4 notebooks, 5 pencils, 1 box of crayons, 1 eraser, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 ruler, 5 pens, and 1 scissor

IS GOD CALLING YOU? As you know in October our NW WA Synodical Womens Organization will be electing members to serve on the Board. Please prayerfully consider serving as the President, Vice-President (or two people can serve as co-chairs) Secretary or Treasurer or Member-at-Large. As God calls you to serve, please email Gaye Rodriguey, Vice-President of NW WA SWO, at gaye@tobysuds.com Also put on your thinking caps—— Whom do you know who can work with bank accounts, checks and budgets (treasurer)? Whom do you know that can listen and record our 3 to 4 a year meetings, getting them typed and emailed to the Board (secretary)?

Whether you feel God calling you to serve or you know someone is willing to serve—this is of great importance: to pass on the legacy of the Women of the ELCA and the NW WA Synodical Women's Organization.

September 5, 2021

Ass't. Min: Laura Hookham

Greeters/Ushers: Brulands

Readers: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada

Flowers:

September 12

Ass't Min: Ben Workman Smith

Greeters/Ushers: Jan & Jerry Hunter

Readers: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada

Flowers:

September 19

Ass't. Min: Bob Jacobson

Greeters/Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewers

Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada

Flowers:

September 26

Ass't Min. Kelsey Mordecai

Greeters/Ushers:

Reader: Dawn Durand/Salvador Estrada

Flowers:

Thank-you to everyone willing to serve in our worship services!

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.

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Church Office phone: (360) 592-5876

Pastor Leslie's Cell: 360-599-0531

Pastor's Email: lmahraun@hotmail.com