

Immanuel Lutheran Church

October 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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From Pastor Leslie:

If you are like me you are looking outside and relishing these cooler, brighter, days. The warmth of summer is behind us and along comes the refreshing rains followed by bluer than blue skies. I love this time of year when the foliage explodes in bright colors. It's gorgeous and yes, it is only a matter of days before winter arrives. We can surely cherish the beauty of autumn in our midst.

The mark of the seasons is something I especially hold dear. The beauty of the seasons resonates with me in a way that brings God closer to me. I wonder if you feel the same way. I spent my earliest part of childhood in California, Sunnyvale to be exact, where the autumn often brought the hottest days of the year. But in the fifth grade our family moved to Aurora, Colorado where autumn brought amazing weather. The bright blue sky looked picturesque and I remember feeling the hot sun and the cool air simultaneously as occurs in the Rocky Mountains. Saying that the fall is my favorite time of year is probably very accurate, but living here where we get a full bounty of all four seasons has given me a deeper appreciation for all the seasons, and I know that I will be loving the next season just as much! God's rich blessings are such a delight.

At the end of the month we will be saying goodbye to Don and Linda Anderson as they move to Eastern Washington. Don and Linda have meant a great deal to the people of Immanuel for many years. Linda's banners have brought a richness to our worship experience as well as her leadership in various ministries of the congregation and Don's leadership and commitment to the facilities of the congregation have been great along with his singing and worship leading as assistant minister will be missed. We send them forward with the deep love and gratitude for the many years of ministry and fellowship as members with us at Immanuel. May God go with you in your new journey, Don and Linda, and may you know that our love for you follows you as you go.

Seasons change. And with the change in seasons we must bear what God would have us do in our lives. As a congregation may we lovingly support one another in the ways that bring us love, confidence and peace.

Pastor Leslie





Scripture Readings

October 3 - 19 Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

October 10 - 20 Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

October 17 - 21 Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 24 - 22 Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

October 31 - Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36



October Birthdays

10/5 Aleks Toivola

10/12 Mark Ohlswager

10/19 Tone Piper

10/22 Zan Roman

10/22 Harry Williams

10/23 Carol Allison

10/25 Rena Guerin

10/26 Judy Bruland

10/27 Pat Hawley

10/27 Michelle Pattison

10/28 Laura Hookham

10/29 Wes Murdock

10/31 Steve Hoidal

New and Notes

The Helping Hands Thrift Shop will be open every Saturday from 10:00-2:00, but closed on Wednesdays, beginning October 2.

The Men's Coffee Group meets every Monday morning at 8:00. All are invited!

Good news for improved hearing! On September 26th, the congregation voted to approve funds, received by a grant, to upgrade our sound system. The items have been ordered and will be set up with help from a friend of Ron Bruland's who is the sound person for the Lynden School District. Thank you to all who made this happen for Immanuel. We are all looking forward to a new, improved sound system!

Immanuel welcomes the Spindrifters, a local group who spin wool into yarn, will be hosting their monthly meeting at Immanuel on October 9, from 10 to 3. They are artists who spin wool and also explore just about anything to do with fiber such as knitting, crocheting, weaving, and felting. They encourage anyone to come see what they are doing, bring your knitting or just come and enjoy our fellowship.

Women of Immanuel News

WOI **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is looking for volunteers to knit shawls. See the WOI's Events Board for more information about this program. Yarn & patterns will be provided. Questions please contact Jan Hunter.

Gather Magazine Zoom Bible Study meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm led by Jan Hunter.

Quilting meets every Thursday from 9 to noon. An invitation is out for anyone who would like to tie quilts. No experience needed.

WOI is asking for **Fall/Winter reading recommendations**. Sign-up sheet is on the Events Board.

Mark your calendar! WOI is sponsoring a **Pie Social** on November 7th after worship service. Freewill offerings will go to the national Women of ELCA. Also, on the same Sunday there will be a **Bake and Home Canned Goods Sale**, along with the sale of some quilting items. All monies made will go to those in need. A sign-up sheet is on the Events Board for those of you who would like to contribute making goodies for this event.



Are you good at arranging flowers? 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.

October Worship Assistant Schedule

October 3, 2021

Ass't. Minister: Laura Hookham
Greeter: Brulands
Ushers: Brulands
Readers: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

October 10

Ass't Minister: Ben Workman Smith
Greeter: Hunters
Ushers: Hunters
Readers: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

October 17

Ass't Minister: Bob Jacobson
Greeters/ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer
Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada

October 24

Ass't Minister: Kelsey Mordecai
Greeters/Ushers:
Reader: Dawn Durand/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

October 31

Ass't Minister: Laura Hookham
Greeters/Ushers: Ron & Judy Bruland
Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:

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

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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From the Bishop:

At first glance, it does not seem as though Teresa of Avila, noted Spanish Roman Catholic saint from the sixteenth century, would have much to say about today's world. You see, she is well known for her mysticism, her ecstatic prayers, several quotes that she might or might not have said, and her reforms in the church. All of these things are interesting – but what do they have to do with the 21st century and what is happening in the world today? In the last few days, though, I have been thinking about what she writes at the beginning of her work, *The Interior Castle*.

At the beginning of this book Teresa admits that she is tired. On the first page she writes, "I'm writing this book under obedience and I'm already finding it hard. God hasn't given me any desire for this work, and my head is so full of noise I can barely compose a letter about the most ordinary business, much less a book about prayer."

I am so thankful for Teresa stating it bluntly. Teresa is unsure if she'll succeed, she is not sure she has it in her to do what she is being asked to do, she is nervous and distracted. In other words, St. Teresa sounds a lot like all of us – especially when we are being asked to do something that is different or hard or difficult.

Truthfully, it can be daunting as we continue to navigate this pandemic, as we continue to navigate the changes of the world and the changing church, as we strive to live into what God is calling us to do. It is difficult, as Teresa fully expresses, to push past our fear or our unease or our malaise to do what God is calling us to do. It is pretty impossible to do a new thing without God's help and guidance.

And so, as I reflect on Teresa's difficulties, our difficulties, I am also drawn to scripture – specifically Isaiah 43. In the first part of Isaiah 43 we read:

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

The prophet writes that God created us, God formed us. We have no need for fear because God knows each of our names. God calls each of us. We are God's. No matter the circumstance, no matter the trial, no matter the fire. This is what Teresa understood and it is what we cling to when we struggle and when we wonder if we can go on. I invite you to hold Isaiah 43:1-3 closely as we hear these words from Isaiah 43:18-19.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

As we hold close the promise that God creates us, forms us, names us, calls us, and holds us, only then can we hear the promise in these words that a new thing, a new day is coming. That God will make a way. May we hold close the words of St. Teresa and the prophet Isaiah.

May you feel God's love surrounding you when all seems overwhelming. And may you rise in the strength of the Lord knowing that God's love surrounds you and fills you – and a way is being made as we all go forward together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
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