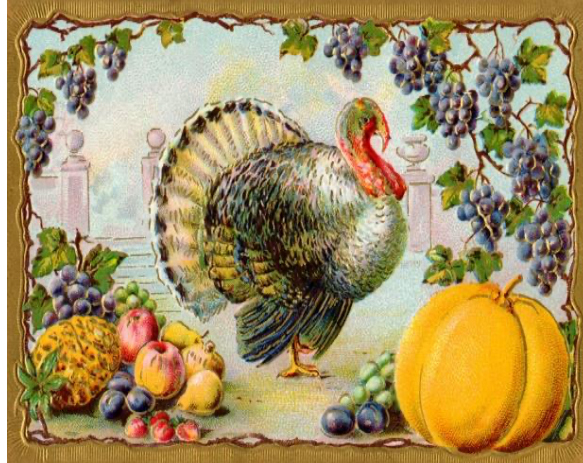


Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 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
Church Website: www.immanuel.lutheraneverson.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

From Pastor Leslie:

As the season changes to more blustery and windy days, we lose our brilliantly colored leaves. It has been a beautiful autumn and we have all marveled at the glorious colors this year. Now we prepare for the shorter days as they lead us toward a colder, wetter season.

But with the shorter days comes the beginning of the holiday season and yet again this year we are settled with the tenuous reality of the COVID Pandemic and what that means for family gatherings at the holidays. Rather than dwell on the ways we are challenged, I thought perhaps we could spend a little time on the ways we are blessed this year. Blessings come in all shapes and sizes and this year we will be blessed with a Pie Social and Bake Sale courtesy of the Women of Immanuel who work tirelessly to bring us the joys of the season.

Of course in the past we have shared in the gathering to eat pie and drink coffee in our fellowship hall but this year we will take the pie home to eat, and hopefully next year we can join together for the fellowship of fun and food apart from the precautions of COVID. Blessings come in the ways we can gather together each Sunday for worship and praise God, and in Holy Communion as we participate in the Sacrament of grace and the forgiveness of sins. Blessings come in the way of home visitations for the celebration of Holy Communion as well. If you are not able to come to church during this long season of COVID, but would like me to bring you Holy Communion, please contact me and I will come to your home with the Sacrament and fellowship.

Blessings come in the ways we hope to meet our families and beloveds for the beautiful gathering of Thanksgiving. It is my deepest hope that you will all be able to gather with your close family and friends this year for the holiday. Worship on Thanksgiving Eve, (Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m.) will take place at River of Life in Van Zandt, where regular Wednesday Night Worship will take place and all are welcome to worship, as is our tradition. (Just a note to make you aware, River of Life does not require or wear masks inside the church).

Blessings come in ways of vacation! Dan and I will be taking vacation November 23-30 this year. We will be going to Dan's sister and family near Raleigh, North Carolina to spend Thanksgiving with Dan's family. It will be the first time we will all be together since Dan's mother's funeral two years ago so it will be a deep blessing for us all.

Blessings come in the way we are Jesus to one another. This year that will become manifest in the way we will care for the Afghanistan Refugees who are coming to Whatcom County in early November. We will be getting more information on how we can be a part of this incredible opportunity for ministry as word becomes available. I will keep you posted in worship and emails.

May this season be a blessing to you, may the peace of Christ be with you and may you know the joys of love that surround you in Jesus' name. Pastor Leslie

Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 p.m.

River of Life, Van Zandt

(Church does not mask)

Pastor Leslie's Vacation

November 22-30, 2021

Pastor Leslie

From the Bishop: What is Our Purpose?

November 2021

The ELCA's Statement of Purpose is found in every congregation constitution, every synod constitution and in the ELCA Constitution. In the ELCA Constitution (4.01) we read: "The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world." This same Statement of Purpose is found in the NWWA Synod Constitution S6.01 and in the Model Constitution for Congregations C4.01. I encourage you to read ELCA's entire Statement of Purpose. It is beautiful and energizing. (Find the constitutions here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources/constitutions>)

When I read the Statement of Purpose, it helps me remember who and whose I am and what I am called to do and to be. You see, sometimes we forget. Sometimes we forget what it means to be children of God, redeemed by Christ, and sent into the world. Sometimes we get caught up in finances or building maintenance, we get lost in petty disagreements and who should do what and so many other things, that we forget that we are created, empowered, called, and sent by God – by *GOD* – to live into and to share what God is already doing in the world – in God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying work in and for the world.

How do we live into this Statement of Purpose?

Below I propose three ways that we can (there are many more but I only have so much space).

Relationship: There are so many people in this world who are lonely, who are discouraged, who are anxious, who are tired. There are so many who feel unloved, unwelcomed, unwanted. They are living in your neighborhood, they are shopping at your grocery store, they have kids in school with your kids or grandkids, they are walking by your church every day. They are looking for relationship and for friendship. In a 2019 survey by CIGNA, 61% of working people identified as lonely. Did you catch that? Over half of people who are working are lonely. And this survey was taken before the pandemic. I can only surmise that the number is higher after 18 months of COVID life. Other studies I have read state that loneliness and isolation lead to physical and emotional difficulties as well as societal polarization. This is obviously a problem in this country. So, how do we have deep meaningful conversations so that people feel welcome and heard? Have connection and deep friendship? How does this fit with our Statement of Purpose?

Impact: There are so many people in this world who are looking to do something meaningful, to change the world for the better. There are so many people who wonder how they can make a difference, how they can positively influence their communities locally, nationally, and globally. These people are living in your neighborhood, they are shopping at your grocery store, they have kids in school with your kids or grandkids, they are walking by your church every day. They are looking for impact in this world. How can they be our partners in the ministries we are already doing and in the ministries they are doing? How can we listen to them to hear what other ideas might come through the Holy Spirit working in them and through their innovation? What partners do we need to multiply the impact of your ministry site in your neighborhood? How does this fit with our Statement of Purpose?

Transformation: There are so many people in this world who are looking for transformation, for new life, for a new path. There are so many people who have lost hope in institutions, in the church, in their lives. These people are living in your neighborhood, they are shopping at your grocery store, they have kids in school with your kids or grandkids, they are walking by your church every day. They are looking for resurrection. How is your ministry site set up to not only welcome those searching, but honoring who they are? How do they know that their story is welcome? How is the good news shared with those who have never heard it and are desperate to hear? How does this fit with our Statement of Purpose? I invite you to look at ELCA's Statement of Purpose – or your own congregation Statement of Purpose and discuss in your councils, Adult Forums, small groups, and elsewhere. What other questions or thoughts come out of what you read? Together may we live drenched in God's love and sent out to share the Good News. For we are created, redeemed, called, and sent to live into and share in God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org

Helping Hands Thrift Shop Update

Beginning in October we opened the Thrift Shop on Saturdays from 10-2. We have met many new friends, some are returning customers and some new friends each week. At this point, we are taking in between \$100 and \$150 each time we are opened. The cash donations support youth in our community that are homeless.

With your help, Immanuel has given \$500 to the aunt and uncle in our community who are adopting their nieces from Guatemala. The nieces (ages 12, 14, and 15) chose to take a perilous journey to get to America to be with their relatives here, after being abandoned by their parents.

The beautiful golden Hickory tree near the Solvik Center caught the eye of Steve and Susie. As they were admiring the tree, they noticed the thrift shop and decided to check us out. As I was speaking with Steve, I found that he works for the Opportunity Council and greets homeless men and women in the mornings with a cup of coffee and a granola bar, as he gains their trust to help them on their journey. He was thrilled to load up a bag of sweatshirts and socks to bring to the people he serves. There is a great need this time of year for those items, so if you have any you are willing to part with, Steve will be happy to get them to people who would benefit greatly from socks and sweatshirts.

Thank you for the many ways you are donating and supporting our Thrift Shop. Every week we hear new stories from people who are donating items or money and from others who are receiving items. Please come on over and check us out and tell your friends! Donations are accepted on Saturdays between 10-2 or by appointment with Nancy. There is something for everyone in our shop!

Remember to “fall back” Saturday night, November 6, as we set our clocks back one hour to return to standard time.

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **WOI PIE SOCIAL November 7 after worship**
- **No Adult Forum November 7, 14, or 28.**
- **Pastor Leslie’s Vacation: November 22 - 30.**
- **THANKSGIVING EVE Worship at River of Life Church - Wednesday, November 24 at 7 PM.**
- **November 28 - Advent begins**
- **Advent services will be on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 7:00 pm.**
- **Blue Christmas Service December 12, 4:00 PM.**

Music with Ben Workman Smith

Ben Workman Smith will be principal cellist with the WWU Symphony 8:00 p.m. on Friday, November 12. The concert is free but get there early for easy parking below the Viking Union Building. All are invited. Also, Ben will be having his senior recital on Sunday evening, December 5th at 7:30. Both concerts are in the PAC building on campus, close to the Viking Union Building.

Women of Immanuel News

November 7, Pie Social after worship

The Ukrainian Church membership has been invited and they are excited to attend. The freewill donation will be split between the national Women of ELCA and the rebuilding fund for the Ukrainian Church. So please plan on attending! And, not only will a Bake Sale be offered at this time, but holiday items (quilted items donated by Linda Anderson) will also be sold. These items will be priced very reasonably and will make great gifts. Monies made from the Bake Sale & Crafts will go to those in need.

WOI are in need of **BAKERS** for the Bake Sale that will be at the same time as the Pie Social. Cakes, breads, home canned vegetables, jams, jellies, and cookies are all needed. You can drop off your baked good on Saturday morning, November 6.

November Birthdays

11/3 – Pam Andrews
11/3 – Sara Murdock
11/5 Ken Gates
11/8 – Neil Solvik
11/10 – Larry Campbell
11/21 Bob VanderYacht
11/22 – Julie Roman
11/24 – Ben Workman Smith
11/28 – Carl Hoines
11/30 - Pastor Leslie

November Anniversaries

11/9 – Ray & Sheila Gassman
11/18 – David & Julie Goree
11/21 – Pastor Leslie & Dan Mahraun
11/24 – Neil & Clarice Solvik
11/27 – Dan & Shelly Culver



Scripture Readings

November 7 - All Saint's Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

November 14 - 25 Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalms 16

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 21 - Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalms 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

November 28 - 1 Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

November Worship Assistant Schedule

November 7, 2021

Ass't. Minister: Laura Hookham
Greeters/ushers: Brulands
Readers: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada

November 14

Ass't Minister: Ben Workman Smith
Greeter/Ushers: Hunters
Readers: ? /Salvador Estrada

November 21

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

November 28

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

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.

Email address for Pastor Leslie:
lmahraun@hotmail.com
Pastor Leslie's cell phone: (360) 599-0531
Church email address:
immanuel.everson@gmail.com
Office phone: (360) 592-5876
Church website: immanuellutheraneverson.com/

Whatcom County Refugee Resettlement

in partnership with World Relief

The Need

- 82 million displaced people
- 26 million of these are refugees (i.e. they have crossed an international border in search of safety)
- 50% of refugees are children
- 85% of refugees are hosted in developing nations

Under U.S. law, a refugee is “*a person fleeing his or her country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.*” (This is a distinct group from asylum seekers and other types of immigrants.)

How Refugee Resettlement Happens

After fleeing their home country due to violence or persecution, a refugee is...

- Registered with the United Nations. They can then request or be referred for resettlement, at which point...
- The U.S. State Department extensively vets each refugee, performs background checks, and confirms their stories.

If approved for resettlement, the State Department contracts with...

- One of nine resettlement agencies that welcome and support refugees during their resettlement process. World Relief is one of these agencies.

WORLD RELIEF WHATCOM (REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT) CURRENT NEEDS

Refugee families will soon begin arriving to Whatcom County through World Relief's newly approved reception and placement program. Ours is a public-private partnership with the U.S. government; federal and state funds cover portions of a refugee's resettlement costs but the remainder is provided through the volunteer hours and donations of community members, civic organizations, foundations and the like. Here are some of our most pressing needs currently:

Housing

Safe, stable, affordable housing in close proximity to services and transit is a top tier need of these families. Arriving with no credit history, no rental history and (at the outset) no employment, it can be difficult to find landlords who are willing to rent to refugees. However, refugees tend to make great renters who are conscientious about paying their bills on time and who receive initial funding as well as supportive services from caseworkers and volunteers. If you have rental space you're willing to make available to refugee families, please let us know!

We are looking for housing throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties, with a particular focus on the I-5 corridor Bellingham, Ferndale, Blaine, Mount Vernon and Burlington.

Landlords or private individuals with 1-5 units available on a **temporary or long-term** basis: Please fill out our Housing Availability form with your information and we will contact you as needs arise!

Property managers or landlords with more than 5 units who are interested in what it means to rent to refugees, please contact us by email or phone (360.592.3136)

Donations

General **financial donations** are very helpful and allow us to expand and enhance the services we can offer to arriving families beyond the basic necessities. We are in the process of getting our own website; in the meantime, donations are being processed through World Relief Seattle. Specific instructions on how to give to Whatcom County refugee work are available on our website at <http://tinyurl.com/whatcomrefugees>.

Refugee families need a range of items donated at the outset of their journey in starting a new life. Please contact us ahead of time to let us know what you have and to arrange a time for drop-off. We cannot pick up donated furniture or other items at your residence.

Gift cards in \$25-100 denominations to local department and grocery stores Fred Meyer, Safeway, WinCo, Haggen, Walmart, Target, Bed Bath and Beyond

Amazon wish list items (household goods + furniture)

Welcome kits (general household goods already overstocked, but will need more in the future)

Vehicles, Gas and Car seats

Transportation for our families, caseworkers and volunteers is a pressing need. Our staff and volunteers will be making frequent trips for all sorts of purposes in serving our clients and owning

our own World Relief special-purpose vehicles is the simplest, most cost-effective way of meeting this need. If you have a well-cared-for vehicle you would be interested in donating to World Relief, please contact us. Our particular needs are:

- o Compact or midsize sedan/daily driver vehicle (x2)
- o Minivan or SUV (7-8 seats)
- o Full-sized pickup (F-150 size or larger, with canopy preferred)
- o 12+passengervan
- o Box truck
- o Gas cards for area stations (Shell, AM/PM, Chevron)
- o New, unopened car seats in a variety of sizes

Office and Storage Space

We are currently housed at Bellingham Covenant Church but will be looking to find our own office space in the near future. A facility with room for up to 10 staff/volunteers at a time with a reception area, a couple of private offices, a shared office space, and possibly a classroom or conference room space would be ideal. Location near a bus line is important; being close to affordable housing and other social service offices (i.e. DSHS or others) is a bonus. Additionally, the ability to have easy-access storage space for donations on-site would be ideal.

Possible location for future consideration: Former mattress warehouse building behind Cordata bus station. Great location with lots of storage space but would need significant work to build out the space inside.

LUTHERWOOD CAMP ONLINE AUCTION November 13

Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center is having our Annual Auction on November 13th 4:00 to 5:30 PM online. Please support our ministry by attending or donating. Items we've loved in the past include:

- Airbnb rentals
- Quilts
- Theme baskets
- Gift cards
- Sports tickets

We appreciate your consideration and support. For information to attend or donate please visit www.camplutherwood.org. If you wish to make a donation, please call our office at 360-734-7652, email office@camplutherwood.org to arrange pick up or drop off. Thank you for your support!