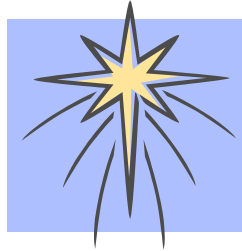


Immanuel Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2022

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

Happy New Year!

Special and heart-felt thanks to the congregation for your very generous gift of money this year for Christmas. Dan and I appreciate your kindness and generosity. It makes our Christmas even more special to be the recipients of your love. Thank you!

As I write this we are getting even more snow. It is quite the winter wonderland to be sure. I hope you are staying safe and warm and that the season of Epiphany, with it's star light will keep you in the light of Christ, our savior.

Epiphany falls on January 6 and we will celebrate the festival on Sunday, January 2. Traditionally it is the Sunday we celebrate the Three Kings who followed the light of the star to Bethlehem, to find Jesus. It is with deep gratitude that we see the light shining on us, too, as we come to celebrate the Christ Child this Epiphany season.

May the peace of Christ fill you deeply this season of Epiphany.

-Pastor Leslie

Adult Forum will begin January 23. We will study the Scripture for the week in advance. All are welcome.

January 23

- [Jeremiah 1:4-10](#)

I appointed you a prophet to the nations

- [Psalm 71:1-6](#)

From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)

- [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#)

If I speak without love, I am a noisy gong

- [Luke 4:21-30](#)

Jesus says a prophet is not accepted in his hometown

January 30:

- [Isaiah 6:1-8 \[9-13\]](#)

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

- [Psalm 138](#)

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

- [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

I am the least of the apostles

- [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people



From Your Council President:

Goodbye 2021! Many are happy to bid 2021 adieu. It is true that there were many challenges this past year, but let's not forget the many blessings also. Extreme weather, a continuous pandemic, untimely deaths of loved ones, and a divisive society all add up to ingredients for hopelessness and despair. But, Jesus reminds us that His light shines brightest in the darkness of the world. Let's trust and depend upon the promises Jesus makes to us each morning when He whispers, "I am with you always".

I have enjoyed being your president this past year; but it is time to step down from Council and focus on other areas that have come my way. As we work on strengthening our committees this year, I hope you will join a group that gets the work done around Immanuel in a fun and friendly way. We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 16th after worship, with a time to hear about the needs of our church and to get excited about helping in those areas!

The current committees are; Education, Worship and Music, Facilities/ Maintenance, Stewardship and Evangelism/Discipleship as well as WOI (Women of Immanuel). Prayerfully consider which group matches the gifts you've been given and join in the fun!

The Cancer Support Group has welcomed 14 members since we began last May. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. Sadly, 2 of our members have passed away from this disease. We rejoice that they are no longer suffering, but miss them in our group. Anyone who has had cancer or is currently receiving treatment is welcome to our group, with their caregivers. This is a community support group, not just for members of Immanuel.

Our Helping Hands Thrift Shop has 6 volunteers that were treated to a Christmas Tea by our neighbor, Sheryl Fullner. We are open every Saturday from 10 to 2. The donations many of you have provided are top quality and we appreciate that so much. We accept clothing, bedding, books, toys, and kitchen items. We have been able to help many people who shop and the donations are helping kids in our school district who are homeless. We have been able to provide clothing for teens, sweatshirts and socks for Opportunity Council, heaters for an RV, gas cards and graduation expenses for unaccompanied minors this spring. Thank you for all of your help!

Each of you is a beloved child of God and I am humbled and honored to be walking this life's journey with you. Let's make 2022 a year of Light and Joy.

Love,
Nancy Workman



From the Bishop:

During this winter, as many continue to grapple with - and be discouraged by - the continuation of the pandemic, isolation, discontent, and loneliness, we might feel that our relationships are not as strong as they once were – with family and friends, with colleagues and co-workers, and with those in our church.

Recently I read a book called *Tempered Resilience* by Tod Bolsinger. While I wasn't enthralled with the whole book, I did resonate with one visual that he used and perhaps you will find helpful in this time, too. He writes about how our different relationships help us in our resilience and in our on-going ability to adapt. On page 112 Bolsinger writes, "To flourish in ministry or other forms of social leadership, leaders need to be conscious of at least three different contexts, and the relationships needed to flourish in those contexts, 'front stage, backstage, and offstage.'"

The Front Stage is the public face that we show to the world. place where "performance" happens. It is critical to have trustworthy colleagues or teammates where you are able to yourself. These relationships could include peers and teammates, partners, and colleagues. An example from scripture would be the disciples. Who would you include in life?



It is the
be
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The Back Stage is the place to support and nurture you in your "front stage" work. Good front stage work depends on lots of time backstage analyzing and thinking about the work that is being done, learning from the lessons of success and failure from others, and especially, gaining perspective from experienced leaders. In his book Bolsinger cautions, "Backstage relationships don't happen because of others. They happen because of you." (p. 116) In other words, you might have to seek out "backstage people. Backstage relationships include therapists, coaches, mentors, spiritual directors, pastors, and more. An example in scripture would be David listening to Samuel or Moses listening to his father-in-law Jethro or Ruth listening to Naomi. Who would you include in your life?

The Off Stage are the people that you are emotionally closest to and who are your confidants. As Bolsinger writes, "The quality of your relationships with other people influences how emotionally resilient you can be in the face of an emotional or physical crisis. In general, the more quality social support you can draw upon from family and friends, the more flexible and resilient you can be in stressful situations." (p. 120) An example in scripture would be Elizabeth and Mary. Who would you include in your life?

So, I'm wondering, how are doing in these three areas? Are your relationships strong "front stage, backstage, and off-stage"? Do you have good connections? Where could you form deeper connections? Where do you need help in forming new relationships?

I'd love to hear from you how we can be a more connected church community, how we can support one another, and how resilience can be built up by forming and growing relationships.

I know this is a difficult and frustrating time for many. I feel it, too. May you feel connected with one another. May you feel upheld by one another. And, especially, in this Epiphany season, may God's presence, love and grace be made known to you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



From the VEEP

Hope. I ended last month's article by wishing that you all would begin to hope, despite the obstacles and roadblocks that can divert us down a path of despair. At our December Synod Vice Presidents meeting, we were asked what we hoped for in the coming year. In addition to hoping for more kindness in the world, many of us expressed hope that we would be able to gather in person more this year. This hope was also reflected when the Synod Council met in November to consider what form our 2022 Synod Assembly might take. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the new COVID variant, the planning team had recommended another virtual assembly, but the council overwhelmingly voted to attempt an in-person assembly instead.

Given this new task, the team has set about figuring out the logistics of such a gathering. Although still in the early stages of planning, we do have some information we can share with you:

- Theme: Abounding Hope
- Date: Saturday, June 4, 2022
- Location: To be determined, but we are exploring congregational settings that are large enough to house the hundreds of assembly participants with appropriate physical distancing.
- COVID Safety Protocols and Restrictions (please take these into consideration when you are electing voting members):
 - All attendees will have to show proof of full COVID vaccination, as defined by the CDC at the time of the assembly.
 - Masks will be required for all participants while indoors.
 - All relevant local, state, and federal safety guidelines and mandates in place at the time of the assembly will be followed.

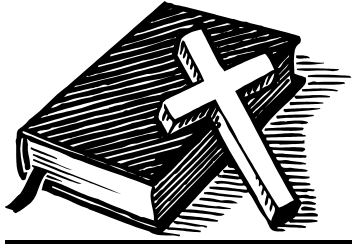
The main business of this year's assembly will be approving two budgets (we will not be having an assembly in 2023, but rather synod-wide programmatic gatherings) and electing members of Synod Council. Two officer positions are also up for election: Vice President and Secretary. The vice president must be a layperson. The secretary may be a layperson or a rostered minister. Nominations for those positions will be open in the spring. If you are interested in a position on council or are discerning whether you are called to serve as an officer of the synod, don't hesitate to reach out to me to learn more about those roles. Be alert to information coming from the synod office in the weeks ahead, as we firm up our planning. You will find updated information on our synod website: www.lutheransnw.org/synod-assembly.

As we go forward through Epiphany and back into ordinary time, "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Here are a few things I or the Synod Council have been up to:

- Executive Committee met on December 9. Among other actions, we approved the Synod Assembly voting member allotment and chose the theme: Abounding Hope
- Synod Vice Presidents met via Zoom on December 11 for our regular monthly gathering. The main topic was ecumenical partnerships and full communion agreements.
- The Synod Finance Committee has been meeting regularly and working on the proposed budgets for our upcoming fiscal years.

Kay Edgerton, Vice President
NW Washington Synod/ELCA
veep@lutheransnw.org



Scripture Readings

January 2 - Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 9 - Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16- 2 Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

January 23 - 3 Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

January 30 - 4 Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalms 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL

- January 4 to 11 Pastor Leslie on vacation.
- January 6 & 20 – Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30.
- January 9 – Church Council meets.
- January 16- Annual Congregational Meeting following worship.

January Birthdays

1/8 Connie Gates

1/13 Edwin Hidden

1/14 Bonnie Moors

1/18 Clarice Solvik

1/26 Tyler Andrews

1/28 David Smith

1/30 Linelle Williams

1/31 Cole Roman

January Anniversaries

1/14 Paul & Sue Hookham



Women of Immanuel News

WOI would like to thank Immanuel's congregation for all of your support during 2021 including supporting our last project the Giving Tree. This charitable event was a great example of how all of you are so giving when asked. It has not gone unnoticed and we appreciate it. Have a Merry Christmas and a healthy, blessed 2022!

Thank You!

Heartfelt thanks go out to Bob, Dennis, and Mike for clearing the parking lot of snow after our winter storm and to Doug for shoveling walks. We REALLY appreciate you!

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

Submitted (and found) by Jan Hunter

I was walking down life's highway, a long time ago. One day I saw a sign that read - Heaven's Grocery Store.

As I got little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself I was standing inside.

I saw a host of angels.
They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care."
And all you couldn't carry you could come back the next day for more

First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE, was in the same row.
Further down was UNDERSTANDING - You need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
I just couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for He was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE - to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full but I remembered
I needed GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION, For SALVATION that was free.
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill.
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I SAW PRAYER, and I just had to fit that in,
for I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin,
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"

He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go."

Again I said, "How much do I really owe?" He smiled and said.

"Jesus paid your bill, a long, long time ago."



Rev. Robert Johnson

Pastor Johnson died peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospital at 6 a.m. on Christmas Eve morning. His wife Jennifer was at his side. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Please keep Jennifer, their sons and all his many loved ones in your prayers as they mourn.

May the peace and joy of Jesus ever shine in our hearts, like they did in Bob's.



“You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.”

Martin Luther

January Worship Assitants

January 2, 2022 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Laura Hookham

Greeter/Ushers: Brulands

Readers: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada

January 9

Ass't Min: Ben Workman Smith

Greeter: Hunters

Ushers: Hunters

Readers: Joyce Hawkes/Salvador Estrada

January 16

Ass't. Min: Bob Jacobson

Greeters/Ushers: Brewers

Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada

January 23

Ass't Min. Kelsey Mordecai

Greeters/Ushers: Brulands

Readers: Dawn Durand/Salvador Estrada

January 30 (Healing Service)

Ass't Minister: ?

Greeters/Ushers: ?

Readers: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada

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 Kim: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com

Email address for Pastor Leslie: lmahraun@hotmail.com

Pastor Leslie's cell phone: (360) 599-0531

Pastor Leslie's Office Hours: Mondays 9:00-4:00 (except first Monday of the month). Wednesdays 4:00-8:00