

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

## April 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

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Immanuel Lutheran Church  
5782 Lawrence Rd.  
Everson, WA 98247

## **Pastor Leslie's Message**

Easter is coming!

It's almost here, we can hear the alleluias in the distance as they cry out for the Lord's resurrection. What a great day that will be. The day when Jesus says "no" to death and "yes" to life everlasting.

But we are not quite there yet, we still have a week of Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to go and we can't speed by them too quickly because we need the fullness of what each week has to offer.

But it is wonderful to have those alleluias in the distance. It's coming for sure and we can mark it by the glorious spring blossoms, sure signs of winter's end. Just seeing the blossoming trees and all the flowering bulbs lifts our hearts and allows us to take a deeper breath and feel the warmth of the occasional sunshine. It's good for the soul.

I think we have come through these last months of Covid pretty well. We have had wonderful attendance in church on Sundays and while we are still not passing the peace outside of our pews, we are enjoying worship without masks. It is so freeing and enjoyable. I know that before long we will be able to worship without precautions. We are also beginning fellowship again this Sunday! Won't it be wonderful to leave worship and head into the Fellowship Hall for coffee, tea and conversation? Adult Forum will begin at 11:00 so we will have about 30 minutes of fellowship after church. I for one cannot wait to be gathered again, cup of tea in my hand, conversing with you all. It will be wonderful! Jesus is meeting us where we are each and every week. He has been with us through Zoom worship, through safely distanced worship, and through worship with masks, and his presence is promised to continue to be with us to the end of the age. This promise is so exceptional, especially as we come to Holy Week when we center our lives on the end of Jesus' life. It gives us pause to think about the ways our savior suffered for our salvation.

I hope you will be able to come to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship, both will be at 7:00 p.m. and then Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. in the cemetery followed by breakfast at 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall and Festival Worship at 10:00. We will have wonderful, celebratory music for Easter and I hope to see you there to celebrate the wonderful Resurrection of our Lord.

Throughout these 40 days we have studied the Psalm for each week. We have been touched deeply by the ways that the words of the Psalmist still ring true today, especially considering the war in Ukraine. Our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine and we pray for them each week in worship. The quilters have made a beautiful quilt of sunflowers, the Ukraine flower, which was given as a gift to the Ukraine congregation and they decided to leave it at the front of the church to serve as a reminder God's wonderful, comforting grace. The quilt may be used for comfort any time you are chilly or uncomfortable in the pew, please feel free to use it during worship and then simply return it to its place for the Ukraine congregation to do the same.

We have been blessed in our congregation with deep and loving generosity. Money for Sharon DeGraw's seminary living expenses has been gathered and over \$3,000.00 was raised for her account. This is so deeply meaningful. You will find Sharon's heartfelt thank you in the pages of the newsletter. I thank you, as your pastor, for taking so seriously our support for Sharon. Yes, we do pray for her every week, and it is wonderful and means so much to her, but it is also wonderful that we can support her in this most tangible way. Thank you again for your generosity.

I can hear the alleluias in the distance, can you? Thanks be to God for God's unfailing love and grace, now and always.

*Pastor Leslie*



## From the Bishop:

One of the things I love about living in the Pacific Northwest is the abundance of life. In January, the grass is green. In February, plants are blooming. In March, little flowers are pushing through soil. In April, color bursts out everywhere. To me, these signs of life are miracles.

And don't we need some of these signs right now? I mean, there are so many places where it feels like ongoing winter - the discord and acrimony amongst families, churches, peoples, and nations. As I write this article Russia is invading Ukraine. Perhaps when you read this article, things will be different but at this moment there is bombing and shooting and fear and death. And entrenched crises continue: homelessness, racism, ableism, unjust governments, and so much more. Individually, many are experiencing physical and mental illness, fatigue, and exclusion. I remember a quote from C.S. Lewis' book *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* where one of the characters says, "It is winter in Narnia, and has been for ever so long ... always winter, but never Christmas."

It has been a long winter ... perhaps even two years of winter. Pain and sorrow and death feel very close. There is grief, there is anger, there is exhaustion, and there is sadness.

And yet ... And yet ...

Gardens are full of seeds. Farmers are tilling the soil. Tulips are blooming. Rhododendrons are on their way. We see signs around us that winter is ending and the Bringer of Spring is coming.

As I travel through this synod, I see signs of new life and new hope. I see resolve and new partnerships. While there are challenges that we are all facing, while there is much work to do individually and together, I sense new possibilities.

When I meet with councils and other leaders in congregations, I am delighted that we are having good, strong, sometimes difficult conversations about things that matter. In our best moments, we are not as concerned about smaller difficulties but instead, as people of faith, we are leaning into what it means to love God and love neighbor in this time and in this place. I thank God for the opportunity for conversation, listening, and moving on the Breath of God's Spirit.

The truth is, alone - we cannot create life, alone - we cannot change systems, alone - we cannot move winter into spring. But *through Christ*, through the One who died for this world and who is raised into new life, we can.

And so, as it is written in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

*We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.* 2 Corinthians 16-18

We are promised that through this time, through world events, through whatever is next, Jesus is with us. And even more than that, we are promised that there is something amazing beyond all measure - more than we can know or even imagine. It is difficult to sometimes comprehend this promise - especially when we look at the destruction and pain and devastation in this world - and yet ... and yet ... we cling to the promise. As people of faith, we pray and whisper and shout it out - that through Christ's death and resurrection all things that create death will be gone. Period. Full. Stop.

And because of knowing and trusting this promise, we are then called, as beloved children of God, to see, appreciate, and tend to the small plants entrusted to us - knowing that we also are plants, also seeds, also soil, called to live into and share this new life with and for others.

May this Easter spring forth with new life for you. May you feel the hope given through Jesus. And may together we shout, "Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



## From the VEEP

“How many hats do you have?” My mother-in-law had been watching a show about millinery and not only had she decided to start wearing hats to church, but she also wanted me to join her. This, of course, would require that I had some church appropriate hats. It turns out that I have a LOT of hats, but almost all of them are highly utilitarian outdoor hats – rain hats, winter ski caps, broad brimmed sun hats, baseball caps. Unlike my daughter, who has a full wardrobe of cute everyday hats, I’m just not much of an indoor, fashionable hat wearer. Aside from one rain hat that works okay indoors and a fancy Easter bonnet, I just didn’t have many hats to wear.

At least not literal ones.

Metaphorical hats, on the other hand, well, those I have plenty of. I have my teacher hat, my parent hat, my spouse hat, my congregation member hat, my synod vice president hat – the list goes on and on. Sometimes I forget which hat I have on. I often tell the story of my middle school son telling me, after he came to me distraught about missing an incentive due to a misunderstanding of the late work policy, and I told him if he had turned the work in on time in the first place, he wouldn’t have had an issue, that right then he needed me to be his *mother* and not a *teacher*. Wrong hat! When you wear a lot of different hats, you have to pay attention to which one is on your head!

Sometimes, it is a good idea to do an inventory and figure out which hats, literal and metaphorical, still fit and which need to be repurposed or given away. One of the main items of business at this year’s Synod Assembly are elections for synod council members and officers. Those of us who have terms ending have had to do a little of this discernment. Many of the individuals who are eligible for a second term have decided that those hats do not suit them anymore and they are ready to pass them along to new wearers. In a bit of a mixed metaphor, I have decided to throw my VP hat back into the ring and see what happens. Maybe I will get it back or maybe someone else will claim it who will wear it better – I’m open to whatever the Spirit has in mind. These are the open positions, many of them for lay leaders:

- Vice President – a four-year term and must be filled by a layperson
- Secretary – a four-year term. May be filled by a layperson or a rostered minister
- 1 Rostered Minister – a three-year term, either roster (Word and Sacrament or Word and Service)
- 1 Lay woman – a three-year term
- 2 Lay men, one of whom shall be person of color or primary language other than English – a three-year term

We want our council to be representative of the diversity of the synod and I would like to encourage you, especially if you are a young adult or a member of the BIPOC, LGBTQ, or other underrepresented communities to check your metaphorical wardrobe and see if you have room for one of these snazzy synod leadership hats. More information about these roles and the nomination form can be found on the synod website: <https://lutheransnw.org/synod-assembly>

Oh, and I went out and bought a new indoor hat to wear to church. My mother-in-law and I are gonna be stylin’!

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

- Executive Committee met on March 10. Among other actions, we reviewed the proposed budgets for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and approved funding for a synod coaching coordinator.
- Synod Council met on March 19. Our agenda included several items regarding Synod Assembly and continued intercultural development.

Kay Edgerton, Vice President NW Washington Synod/ELCA

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**UPCOMING EVENTS and  
IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:**

- **Sunday Worship**
- 9:30 a.m. followed by Adult Forum (except March 13).
- **April 16 - Second Round Table discussion on the future of Immanuel at 1:00 in the Parish hall.**



**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

**April 10 – Palm Sunday**

**April 14 - Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.**

**April 15 - Good Friday 7:00 p.m.**

**April 17 - Easter**

**Sunrise Service: 7:30 a.m.**

**Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.**

**Celebrative Service: 10 a.m.**

**April Birthdays**

4/5 Irene Higbee

4/6 David Goree

4/8 Valerie Henderson

4/12 Mike Bruland

4/15 Kim Roe

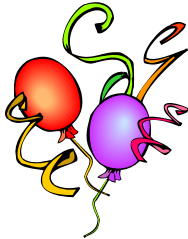
4/18 Vicki Wagner

4/20 Joe Durand

4/28 Helen Folsom

4/29 Paul Hookham

4/29 Gail Halverson



**April Anniversaries**

4/6 Mike & Karen Brewer

4/11 Ron & Judy Bruland

4/28 Nancy & Dennis Workman



**March Scripture Readings**

**April 3 - 5 Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

**April 10 – Passion/Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14 - 23:56

**April 17 - Easter**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

**April 24 – 2 Easter**

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 150

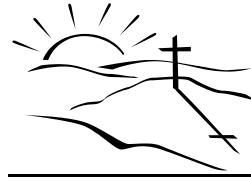
Revelations 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

**ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Fifteen members of our congregation gathered on Saturday, March 26, 2022, to discuss ideas to move forward, after two years of caution due to Covid. Many ideas were shared regarding the ministry of Immanuel within our community. If you are interested in joining the conversation, the next meeting will be Saturday, April 16, at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing the strengths and gifts of our congregation, as we look at and prioritize the many ideas presented at our first discussion. It is an exciting time to listen to the Holy Spirit and think outside the box! *Submitted by Nancy Workman*

## Women of Immanuel News



Ladies you're invited to a *Meet & Greet* on Saturday May 21 from 10 to noon in the Parish Hall. Meet our new members and chat with old friends. A continental breakfast will be provided. Come and enjoy food, friendship, games, and prizes and bring your ideas on what you would like to see WOI do in the future. There is a sign-up sheet on the Events Board if you are planning on attending or you can contact Sue Ohlswager at 360-966-7840 or email her at [ohls01@aol.com](mailto:ohls01@aol.com).

WOI's Walk & Talk will be meeting at the gazebo at Barkley Village at 10 am on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> and walking the Railroad Trail behind Haggen's. This is a very flat trail that can accommodate all skill levels. If you are able to stay after walking we can buy a snack from Haggen's and further visit around their outside fireplace. All walks will meet on the 1st Monday of the month March through October at 10 am at various trails that will be posted. Poor weather will cancel and you'll be notified by 9 the morning of by an e-mail from Sue Ohlswager. Please come and enjoy the outdoors!

### ***Dear Immanuel Family,***

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father who knows and meets our needs in ways too wonderful to imagine.

I am still reeling from the news Pr. Leslie gave me on Monday of last week that you collected over \$2,000 for me to cover my living expenses this term. There are no words to adequately thank each of you for your support and love.

In seminary, we spend a great deal of time conceptualizing of how God moves and cares for his children who are in need, but we can sometimes miss out on the experience of leaning fully into the knowledge that our needs are met by the one who calls us and knows us by name. Your immense gift to me brings with it a sigh of relief I cannot even explain, and a reminder that God is with me and I'm not alone.

I look forward to seeing each of you this summer and thanking you in person. For now, I hope this letter will suffice.

With a grateful heart,  
*Sharon DeGraw*

## April Worship Assistants

April 3, 2022     9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Laura Hookham

Greeter/Ushers: Brulands

Readers: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada

### April 10 - Palm Sunday

Ass't Min: Ben Workman Smith

Greeter/Ushers: Hunters

Readers: Joyce Hawkes/Salvador Estrada

Flowers: Ron & Judy Bruland for their 58th Anniversary!

### April 17 Easter

Ass't. Min: Bob Jacobson

Greeters/Ushers: Brewers

Readers: Judy Nelson/Salvador Estrada

Flowers: Nancy & Dennis Workman in memory of Cal Johnson

### April 24

Ass't Min. Kelsey Mordecai

Greeters/Ushers: Brulands

Readers: Dawn Durand/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](mailto:Immanuel.everson@gmail.com)

Email address for Pastor Leslie: [lmahraun@hotmail.com](mailto:lmahraun@hotmail.com)

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

**Your talent is God's gift to you.  
What you do with it is your gift  
back to God - Leo Buscaglia**