

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2016

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 John Okan

360-592-5876

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Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

Dear People of Immanuel,

November, stands as the month of harvest and thanksgiving, as we celebrate the bounty we have been provided. Psalm 118 tells us to, “Give thanks to the Lord; God’s mercy endures forever.” So often when we give thanks it is for the tangible things in life, a warm home, the food we eat, a dependable vehicle, all of which are wonderful things to be grateful for, yet as psalm 118 reminds us, it is God’s mercy which endures forever, that draws us into thanksgiving.

When we consider all the things that make our hearts sing, is it not the intangible qualities of life, the joy and laughter of a child, and the satisfaction that comes from a hard day’s work? Maybe that is why the witness of scripture is not to give thanks for the stuff that crowds our life, but rather to give thanks to God’s love, and mercy, and faithfulness.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:21-23)

And so we sing, “Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices...” and we go forth to love and serve God and to proclaim the marvelous deeds that God has done, all of it in response, because God has indeed done such marvelous things.

We often forget that God is always out in front of us, always more willing to grant than we are to even ask, more generous than we would ever allow for. We forever want to place conditions and parameters around God’s grace and abundance and blessing, but we simply cannot.

Jesus declares, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”(John 10:10) And so we are caught up into that life, that abundant, over-flowing well-spring, that grace upon grace that Jesus Christ has come to give us. And it is for this that we give thanks and praise to almighty God, through our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.



Pastor John

Pastor John’s e-mail: jokan001@luthersem.edu

Cell phone #360-393-2435

Office hours: M, W, and Thursday morning



Scripture Readings

November 6 - All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20 - 31

November 13 - 26 Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 20 - Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 27 - First Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44



UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

November 5 – Men's breakfast and Bible Study, 8:00 a.m.

November 6– Thankful Dinner after second service

November 13 – Church Council meets after second service.

November 23 – Thanksgiving Eve service at River of Life Church in Van Zandt at 7:00.

November 24th – Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3rd – WOI's Christmas Brunch, 10:30.

Thanksgiving at Immanuel

Pastor John and his family are again hosting a Thanksgiving Potluck on Thanksgiving Day in the Fellowship Hall. Eating will begin at 1 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to coordinate what food to bring. Turkey will be provided. Everyone is welcome.



The NW WA Synodical Women's Organization board will meet on Monday, Nov. 21 in the Parish Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m. This board plans the general activities surrounding the Synodical Women's Organization convention, triennial delegates, and retreats.

WOI NEWS

- ❖ **WOI Board Meeting** is set for Thursday November 3rd after quilting in the library.
- ❖ **WOI Bible Study** will be meeting at the home of Carol VanderYacht on Tuesday, November 14th, at 7pm.
- ❖ **November 6** is the **Thankful Dinner**. Dinner will be served after second service. Monies collected from dinner donations will go to the septic system fund after expenses are paid
- ❖ **WOI Gather Discussion Group** will be meeting at the home of Penny McInnis on Tuesday November 28th at 7pm.
- ❖ **Save the Date: WOI's Christmas Brunch** will be held on Saturday December 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

Interfaith Coalition Annual Hope Meeting

We hope that you will join us on **Monday, Oct. 17 for our Annual Hope Meeting and 35th anniversary celebration**. We will celebrate our history of bringing help and hope to Whatcom County's neighbors. This program will be held at Bellingham Covenant Church, 1530 E. Bakerview Road. You have been an important part of our ministries and we hope you will join us for this special celebration!

November birthdays

11/1 – Raul Cruz Estrada Jr.
11/3 – Pam Andrews
11/3 – Sara Murdock
11/4 – Jack Douglas
11/8 – Susan McCormick
11/8 – Neil Solvik
11/10 – Larry Campbell
11/16 – Muriel Monsen
11/22 – Ximena Tejeda
11/22 – Julie Roman
11/24 – Ben Smith
11/26 – Jacob Douglas
11/27 – Mayra Delgado
11/28 – Carl Hoines

November Anniversaries

11/1 – Michelle & Tim Pattison
11/9 – Ray & Sheila Gassman
11/18 – David & Julie Goree
11/22 – Raul & Solander Cruz
11/24 – Neil & Clarice Solvik
11/27 – Dan & Shelly Culver

**ELCA Russia Trip Informational Meeting,
Sunday, December 4, 11 AM - 2 PM,
Grace Lutheran Church, 9625 NE 8th St.,
Bellevue**

***Exploring the Life, Faith and Ongoing
Challenges of the Lutheran Church in
Russia, with NW WA Synod Team Russia,
March 7-19, 2017.***

Meeting for interested participants in the proposed trip. High school age youth are encouraged to participate.

Contact Ken Grigsby, Team Russia Chairman, at island66@comcast.net, if you plan to attend the Dec. 4 meeting.

Fall Theology Seminar at Faith Lutheran Church, Bellingham

Saturday, November 12, 9am-3pm at Faith, Bellingham

Faith welcomes Vancouver School of Theology Scholar Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls to teach about the prophet Isaiah with view to the Advent season. Cost is \$30 - contact (360) 733-3970 or office@faithbellingham.org for additional details and to register.

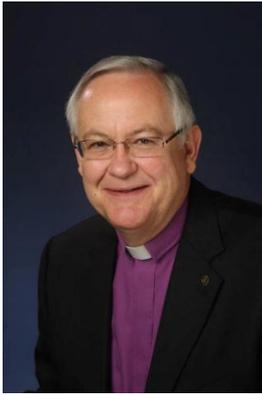
LISTEN UP! DOWNLOAD CAFE'S MONTHLY PODCASTS

Are you, or someone you know, looking for an inspiring message to hear on your way to work or class? The Women of the ELCA have something for you. Check out Cafe's monthly podcasts. They are [super easy to download on iTunes](#) and can travel with you! Listen to the most recent issue about emotional and spiritual baggage.



EDUCATION: As the new school year begins and the election year rhetoric continues, ELCA Advocacy sends this reminder. The ELCA's social statement "Our Calling in Education" states that we minister in two ways: to educate people in the Christian faith for their vocation, and to strive with others to ensure that all have access to high-quality education that develops personal gifts and abilities and serves the common good. Education policy is also critical this November; early childhood to higher education issues are making headlines in campaigns. [Read more on the ELCA Advocacy blog!](#)





The Spirit's Gift of Imagination

By the Rev. Kirby Unti,
NWWA Synod Bishop
From the November 2016
Edition of *The Spirit*

Kim has been taking care of kids in our home for over three decades. Every day

she plans some form of art project, science experiment, or puzzle that requires solving. It is a joy to see these children light up and dive into the challenge of the day. Kim is a wonder at being able to set them free to enter into the experience while at the same time offering them the necessary encouragement or just the right question if they start to feel defeated. Teaching children to trust their imagination and to follow their own wonder enriches their sense of life and value.

I have always believed that one of the gifts that comes from being created in the image of the creator is to be blessed with imagination. It takes imagination to navigate life. It takes wonder to venture off in new directions.

There are a zillion examples of how imagination is at work. One fine example that I marvel at is the new Evergreen Point Bridge. I have been equally amazed at how it has been staged and built as I have been by the demolition of the old bridge. How in the world can someone figure out how to do either of these tasks?

Kim's father was the chief engineer for Boeing on the Apollo project. I loved to hear him tell stories of how they put a man on the moon without knowing how to do it. They literally were figuring it out as they went.

I love when I see the handiwork of another and can stand back and say, "Now isn't that clever" or "Why didn't I think of that."

Kim loves to use her imagination in preparing a meal and presenting it for consumption. She puts a lot of thought and care into how the

table is set, how the food is arranged on the table, right down to what place settings and serving pitchers to use.

There is something that happens when we become a recipient of another person's imagination and care. It adds a measure of life to our person.

While serving the office of bishop, I have become keenly aware of how important the roles of imagination and care are with respect to the vitality of our churches and leaders. Churches, regardless of size, experience vitality when they invite imagination from their members and put a level of care into all that they do. This contrasts sharply with doing what we have always done and not varying from it. Leaders who lose their sense of imagination often lose a sense of hope.

I am convinced that imagination is the work of the Holy Spirit - breathing new life into all that we do. The author of Ephesians says it well, "**Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.**" (Ephesians 3:20)

My prayer for you and the whole church is for the Holy Spirit to stir deeply our imaginations that we might invest great care into the challenges and opportunities we face.

What is Mission Support?

Mission Support is the portion of your congregation's regular financial offering that is shared with your synod and the churchwide organization. It is undesignated gifts to ELCA ministries that go beyond your congregation. These gifts are used where the need is the greatest, and they also make it possible for the ELCA's 65 synods and the churchwide organization to maintain ongoing commitments to ministry partners

November 6 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
 Ass't. Min: Laura Hookham
 Greeters: Muriel & Shelly Ron & Judy Bruland
 Ushers: Ron & Judy Bruland
 Com. Asst' Liza Okan
 Reader: Ron Bruland
 Communion Set-up: Liza Okan
 Flowers:
 After Worship Prayer Teams:
 First Service - Neil & Helen
 Second Service - Dennis & Joni

November 13 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
 Ass't. Min: Sara Murdock
 Greeters: Pam Andrews Wes Murdock
 Ushers: Wes Murdock
 Com. Ass't: Michelle Pattison
 Reader: Dennis Workman
 Communion set-up: Belia Estrada/Michelle Pattison
 Flowers:
 After Worship Prayer Teams:
 First service: Carol & Dennis
 Second service: Joanie & Michelle

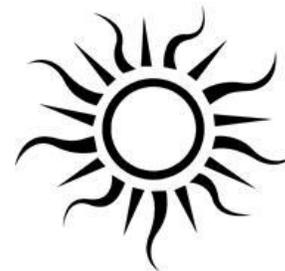
November 20 8:30 a.m 10:30 a.m.
 Ass't. Min: Don Anderson
 Greeters: Hunters Mike & Karen Brewer
 Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer
 Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson
 Reader: Kim Roe
 Communion Set Up: Val Henderson/Michelle Pattison
 Flowers:
 After Worship Prayer Teams:
 First Service: Nancy & Jim
 Second Service: Linda & Michelle

November 27 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
 Ass't Min. Karen Harkness
 Greeters: Freemans Jackie & Chase
 Ushers: Jackie & Chase
 Com. Ass't: Sara Murdock
 Reader: Liza Okan
 Flowers: Workmans
 Communion Set-up: Sara Murdock
 After Worship Prayer Teams:
 First Service: Jim & Lois
 Second Service: Kim & Michelle

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!

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 Pastor John's phone: (360) 393-2435



“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”
 — C.S. Lewis

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:15-17

