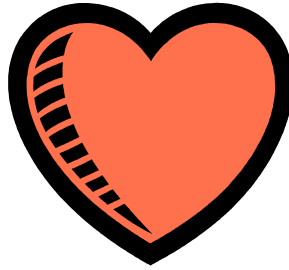


Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 2017

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
Church Email: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

Dear People of Immanuel,

This past week after leaving a visit in Ferndale I was treated to a somewhat rare delight, a Cooper's hawk flew across a barren field and perched upon a telephone pole. Cooper's hawks are not rare, but to see one perched up, rather than flying 90 miles per hour in and out of trees is special. I was reminded of a bike ride I did last fall, with an Abbotsford friend. As we rode the flats just over the border, I noticed a large Bald Eagle nest with two birds nearby, just as a group of crows flew between trees, and to my surprise, there was a Cooper's hawk frolicking amongst that murder of crows. Then a Merlin, A MERLIN, that had been perched on a wire took flight. All of these sightings, mind you, occurring seemingly at once. Oh, and there was a Red-tail also in the mix, so 4 raptors, in the span of 10 seconds. I had to stop riding, simply amazed, and reflect on what I just saw.

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. (Matthew 6:26)

This section of Matthew which is titled, "Do not worry" begins:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (Matthew 6:25)

And ends:

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:34)

OOOOFFF. "Today's trouble is enough for today." How can we be told not to worry? This scripture is honest, telling us we will have troubles and trials and tribulations, and incredibly condemning, for how can we not get caught up in the worries and troubles, not just of today, but also tomorrow?

Doesn't this finally go back to the roots of our problems, our inability to love and trust God above all things? That constant and persistent drive and desire for us to wrest control of our lives and our futures from almighty God, and because we can't we worry and fret. While we writhe and struggle our good and gracious God continues to provide for us.

Jesus came that we may have life, and have it abundantly, and that life is born out of the truth that nothing, not even our worry and mistrust, can ever separate us from God's love.

Pastor John

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

Cell phone #360-393-2435





Scripture Readings

February 5 - 5 Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 - 6 Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 - 7 Epiphany

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Psalms 119:33-40

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

February 26 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **February 4** – Men's breakfast and Bible study, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. in Parish Hall.
- **February 12** - International potluck dinner in Parish Hall.
- **March 1st** – Ash Wednesday
- **March 1** – April 9, Lent
- **April 14** – Good Friday
- **April 16** - Easter

February Birthdays

2/2 Glen Okan

2/4 Matti Toivola

2/6 Margot Noe

2/8 Jan Hunter

2/10 Arlene Engholm

2/16 Don Anderson

2/16 Diane Monsen

2/18 Jeff Monsen

2/18 Penny McInnis

2/18 Heidi Fish

2/19 Susie Smith

2/19 Keith Williams

2/21 Bill Simpson

2/21 Belia Estrada

2/24 Don Crepe

2/28 Grace Douglas

2/28 Bob Klein

February Anniversaries

2/9 Len & Rebeccajo Andrews

2/18 Jose and Erika Cruz Estrada

2/26 Glen & Nancy Okan



Thank-you to all those who serve on Church Council

President: Don Anderson

Vice President: Pam Andrews

Secretary: Dawn Durand

Treasurer: Ron Bruland

Council members:

Kathee Toivola, Laura Hookham, Mark

Ohlswager, Kim Roe, Larry Campbell, Joanie

Hirt

From Our Ukrainian Friends:

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

We would like to deeply thank-you for allowing us to have prayer meetings at your church every Friday for so many years. We have an opportunity to gather in Bellingham, which is a lot closer for most of us. We will stay in touch. God Bless you all and we will keep you in our prayers.



February 5, 2017 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min. Laura Hookham
Greeter: Muriel & Shelly Ron & Judy Bruland
Usher Ron & Judy Bruland
Com. Asst' Liza Okan
Reader: Ron Bruland
Flowers:
Communion Set-up: Liza Okan
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Neil & Helen
2nd Service: Joanie & Dennis

February 12 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Sara Murdock
Greeter: Pam Andrews Wes Murdock
Usher: Wes Murdock
Com. Ass't: Michelle Pattison
Reader: Dennis Workman
Flowers:
Communion Set Up: Belia Estrada & Michelle Pattison
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Jim & Lois
2nd Service: Michelle & Neil

February 19 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Don Anderson
Greeter: Hunters Mike & Karen Brewer
Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson
Reader: Kim Roe
Communion Set Up:
Valerie Henderson & Linda Anderson
Flowers:
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Carol & Nancy;
2nd Service: Linda & Joanie

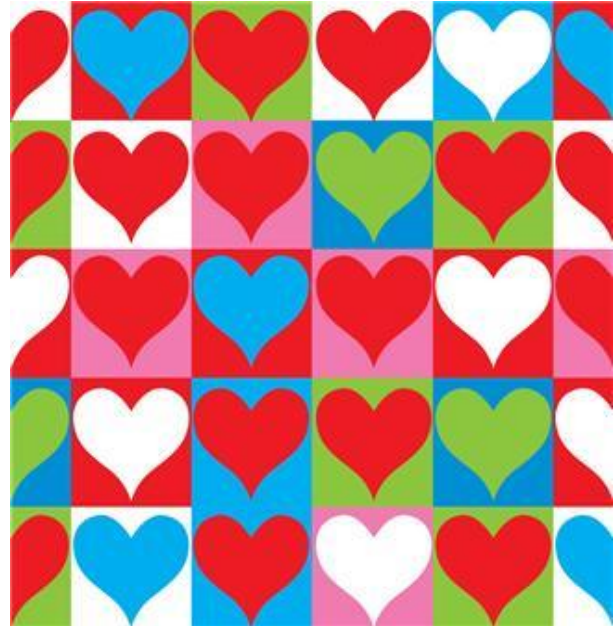
February 26 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Ass't Min. Karen Harkness
Greeter: Jim & Helen Freeman Jackie & Chase
Usher: Jackie & Chase
Com. Ass't: Sara Murdock
Reader: Michelle Pattison
Flowers:
Communion Set-up: Sara Murdock
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Lois & Neil
2nd Service: Linda & 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!

Email address for Kim: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com
Email address for Pastor John: jokan001@luthersem.edu
Office phone: (360) 592-5876
Pastor John's phone: (360) 393-2435



TREASURER'S REPORT

2016 Budget	\$ 145,982.40
Monthly Income	\$ 12,165.20
December Offering	\$ 19,765.67
Other Income	\$ 862.01
Total December Income	\$ 20,627.68
To December 31st our income exceeded our expenses by:	
	\$ 1,241.96
Parsonage Fund	\$ 1,664.09
SS Offering	\$ 951.63
Campaign Fund	\$ 12,965.61

2017 Budget **\$ 144,288.72**
Monthly Income \$ 12,024.06

To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek him, the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."
—Raphael Simon

Women of Immanuel News

Your generosity for the Thankful Dinner in November allowed the Women of Immanuel to contribute \$1644.30 to the Immanuel Septic fund.

The Women of Immanuel gave \$250.00 to the following local charities:

Foothills Foodbank, Lydia Place, and FACES, a local parent group for children with autism.

The following activities are on the schedule for the year 2017:

January 29, Sunday afternoon movie in the Parish Hall following second service.

February 12, Sunday - Remember last year's international potluck dinner? Get your appetites ready for another one! Sign up to bring your favorite international dish. Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board in parish hall. Let's give our palates a new experience

March - a Women's Retreat

April - a Quilt Show and Stash exchange

May - an afternoon of card making

June - Strawberry Social

July - Picnic at the Pond

August - Garage Sale

October - Fall Festival

November - Thank Offering Dinner

December - Christmas Brunch

The Women of Immanuel Board needs new blood - we meet once a month - currently it is on Thursday after quilting, however we will schedule the meetings to fit the schedule of the members. Please talk to Jan Hunter if you would be interested in participating in the planning of Women of Immanuel activities.

Jan will be "cornering families" to get pictures so we can put up a congregation bulletin board. Please DON'T run if you see her with a camera. We have new people who are not in the directory so we will seek them out first.

Interfaith Coalition News

Interfaith Coalition Choir Festival

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Psalm 98:4

Come for an afternoon of joyous music at the **Interfaith Coalition Choir Fest on Sunday,**

February 12 at 3:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall, Bellingham. This concert will feature individual performances by 13 choirs from Interfaith member congregations as well as a festival combined choir of over 175 voices singing two selections at the end the concert.

In addition to spiritual music offered by diverse congregations, this year's concert will feature Jewish/Hebrew music with special guests "Millie and the Menschen," a local Jewish Klezmer band who will play a prelude and back up the combined choir numbers. A free-will offering will be taken at this event to support the work of Interfaith Coalition in the community, delivering hope through homes, shelter and food.

As days get longer, Interfaith Coalition's Hope Auction gets closer

Have you noticed the days getting longer? Nature's cycles never fail to amaze. The cycle of life at Interfaith Coalition also is amazing. Here it is again: auction time, a time when our friends gather to raise money in support of our community's homeless children and families.

Our Hope Auction is Saturday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m., and we look forward to seeing you at the Four Points by Sheraton, 714 Lakeway Drive in Bellingham. Please reserve this date and time and plan to be amazed by the generosity of our friends and the resiliency of our community's homeless families.

Whatcom County's friendliest auction fundraiser features fellowship, inspiration, hope and lively bidding on great silent and live auction items. Before this big event --our biggest fundraiser of the year-- we could use your help. Will you consider:

- **Donating an auction item!** A service you offer, your own artwork, gift certificate, tickets to popular sporting events, vacation home getaway, ...let your imagination soar and think of what you might be able to donate, and get in touch with us!
- **Buying tickets to the auction.** Tickets are \$55 each, including dinner.
- **Becoming a sponsor** or asking your favorite businesses or employers to support Interfaith with a dedicated donation.

Together our coalition of diverse congregations makes a difference. To donate an auction item and purchase tickets, please call Interfaith Coalition at [\(360\) 734-3983](tel:3607343983), email carolyn@interfaith-coalition.org, or through our website: www.interfaith-coalition.org

Bishop's Message

Companionship

*Kirby Unti, Bishop
Northwest Washington Synod
Article from The Spirit, February 2017*

What is it about eating together that draws people into deeper relationship? It is true for meals of romance, friendship and even business. Sitting across the table, face to face, enjoying good food and beverage has its own magic. It works whether you start out as complete strangers or you are lifelong friends. Meal is part of the glue that holds friendships together.

When I traveled to Ethiopia I learned how important sharing a meal is the world around. The villagers that we visited spent the entire day - from before sunrise until dinner - working on behalf of the meal. It began with the women walking for miles to find sticks for the fire. The younger women were sent out to get clean water. Then there was the preparation of the "tef" which is what they call the grain out of which they make their bread. It was back breaking work to grow which the men did on the hills that they first had to terrace with rocks. Tef has to be separated and pounded and sifted before it can be cooked. Goat meat was an added treat. The young boys of the village raised the goats by tending to them all day long. A life spent preparing for daily meal made the words of the Lord's Prayer come to life, "Give us this day our daily bread."

It was such an honor and a joy to be the guest knowing full well that we were receiving a portion of the meal that they themselves were sacrificing. Meal is how we honor guest the world around. It is how we build lasting friendship.

The English "companion", the Spanish "compañero", the Italian "compagno", and the French "copain" all come from the Latin meaning "with whom one eats bread." It is no wonder that the Bible is filled with meal

stories, breaking bread, sharing fish, feasting, celebrating and huddling around fires.

This past year many of us in the Synod who are a part of the Living Local movement have been dwelling in the story of the, "Sending of the Seventy." In the story Jesus encourages the seventy, on more than one occasion, to enter the home of strangers and to eat whatever is set before them. This is what radical hospitality is about. It is one thing to set table for another. It is something else to sit as guest and to receive what is offered.

Living Local is a movement within our Synod that is based upon an accompaniment model. Accompaniment is how we discover God together with our neighbors by breaking bread with them. We have living examples of where this is happening through block parties, barbecues, in-home meals and often at place like Luther's Table.

It is one of the hoped for outcomes of our Neighbors in Faith movement – breaking bread together with our Muslim and Jewish neighbors.

Jesus was on to something on the night in which he was betrayed, when he took bread and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you."

Friends, companions, I continue to believe at my deepest level that this is precisely what the world is hungering for – Companionship!

