

Immanuel Lutheran Church

July 2018

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
360-592-5876
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Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Everson, WA 98247

Yes, it was another "Kleenex Sunday," as I have referred to my last worship time with the congregations I have served. I marvel again and again how much love relationship can develop in a matter of months during these interim pastorates. It comes most during the Lord's Table when I serve people with whom I shared hospital times, grief times, and ministry times. It came most strongly in thinking of how Don and Linda opened their home, their table, and their lives to engage me as a regular human being, a member of their family. Joking and reflecting, kidding and complimenting, conversing and praying...all intermingled in mutual trust to shape a friendship that I'm confident will not fade with time and distance. The Lord has blessed yet another time of shared Gospel ministry--God IS Good!

I was blessed greatly by my visits with Salvador, Jr. I will not forget his engaging smile, his warm and sparkly eyes, and his open heart for his Lord and his family. When I went to visit on the 29th, and discovered that he was not in the system, I found my way to the ICE office to learn of his having been transferred to El Paso. From there, they said, they have no further information. No, I thought inside myself, I bet you don't. As I drove away from the facility, I felt a deep emptiness--a real sense of loss, and disappointment--and I drove the first ten miles toward home under the speed limit, and I cried.

I thought of Salvador and Belia. I and Carol are parents of a son nearing 50 years old, a person of color. We know of his struggle as a school student, a young man, and an employee, mostly in his chosen home in Louisiana. We know something of what it means to have gone with him through some poor choices and difficult times, always holding in our heart the fullest hopes for his days as he faced limitations on his opportunities and glass-ceilings in his employments. With his parents, I wanted more for Salvador, Jr....a continued second or third chance, a together family, a free-er life. I want still with them to hope--to hope on, for more for all the Estrada family, for all the immigrant brothers and sisters.

I thought of our nation--one nation under Whom? God? Really!?! I wondered and I thought. I thought of our choices and trends in our nation, especially how it has been quoted of late the often used verse to undergird the "law and order" approach to things--that Romans 13 stuff about obedience to government. It is the same verse used to justify slavery in earlier days of our nation. It is the same verse used by some of the church in Germany to support Hitler's rise to power, to make Germany great again. And, now it surfaces again, a "Bible proof" for modern trends, leaving behind a host of words from the prophets and from the teachings and ministry of Jesus. I thought of the often referenced statement that "What is legal is not always moral and what is moral is not always legal." Maybe we should ask ourselves *why*? Maybe God's steadfast love and mercy could well be reflected more in our ways.

I thought of the flag as I drove by one flying high over an auto dealership. Truly, it does not carry the meaning of my childhood's learning about the democracy and freedom for which it stands--the government of and by and for *the people*. It says, if all are not free, no one is free. I have come to join some who wonder about the flag's place in our American way of life, and whether it has not displaced in some ways the God whose rule we claim to live under....with liberty (another word for freedom and well-being) and justice (another word for equality and opportunity) for all--I read that as "all people." I have thought about (with others) that what is truly operative is the very strong North Central European influence that informs much of who we are as an American "culture." So, I have come to ask, what is the importance and the meaning of "the pledge" and how I regard it in light of my faith in God. In the Name of Jesus, we can do better, I do believe.

As I passed by a building with a cross on its wall, I thought of the church--our ELCA--and our 30-plus years of effort to engage persons of language other than English and color other than white. We find that the results of our effort are minimal, although however, the promise of engaging other cultures around the world has been increasing--and I am convinced with others there is coming a whole new "wave" of influence on our life and ministry together. The real question is what is God up to in today's world? Are we being called as believers to a whole new level of living out our faith in everyday life? We need to notice the diversity of our communities and to love our neighbors as we have been loved first by God.

I thought of Immanuel as a "faithful people of faith." When the issues of human integrity and human justice come face to face with who we are as a congregation, where do we stand? Or sit? Are we a part of "God's people" or "the nation's people?" What does this say about our local and our global witness? The Resurrection of our Lord makes of every Sunday an Easter, and every day Sunday...each week to come a row of days dedicated through the worship of our Risen Lord.

So, I drove -- the long way home, past some scenic terrain, taking the long way around some traffic congestion. I have wanted to be a faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ even as I have strived to enter into the very socio-political environment of Immanuel. I cried. I prayed. Immanuel is literally "at the Cross-Roads"--not just in geography, but in time and place of witness and service to the Gospel. But, lived faith carries us beyond praying for Salvador, Jr. and for our Central American friends who live here with us. Lived, Gospel-shining faith carries us into how we view the world around us...and how we participate in it.

As pastors, please know that we, too, are human. We struggle with all of the same kinds of concerns, challenges, and decisions as those we serve. Be assured that we are not above those we serve in any way, shape, or form. These things become for us what I like to refer to as "points of human contact." I have not thought that as people we can ever walk in another person's shoes and we really can never say truthfully "we know how you feel." Yet, we walk in enough similar pieces of life that we can connect. Our stories are differently similar and similarly different. Our pains and problems, our needs and hopes, may not be exactly the same, but they serve as a help to bridge our way to understanding and caring for one another and for others around us.

It is the same for all of you. Your lived faith in your varied lives become for you human points of understanding and care for those around you as you shine forth God's love in Christ. I will think of you often in the months to come. May you be blessed with a pastor whom you can trust and value and appreciate.

P.S. That You-Tube piece that was shared with me and I shared with you is worth the viewing if you haven't already. It's *What If We Saw Others Through God's Eyes*, Googled as that, or linked through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AbT1IT7Bu8>

It's a helpful tool in thinking about how our relating to others starts with how we view them from within our hearts and minds. It perhaps could also be titled "How God sees Others Through Our eyes."



Scripture Readings

July 1 - 6 Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

July 8 - 7 Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 15 - 8 Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 22 - 9 Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29 - 10 Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **July 8th** – Church Council meets after second service.
- **July 14th** - WOI Summer Biking Fellowship Group
- **July 15th** – Congregational Meeting at 11:00; Call committee/New pastor is focus.
- **July 18th** Picnic at the VanderYacht's pond – 5:00 p.m.
- **July 22nd** – Brunch fundraiser after worship sponsored by Carolyn Enzler.

July Birthdays

7/1 McHenry Pattison

7/5 Alice Johnson

7/5 Sue Hookham

7/6 Karen Brewer

7/9 Chase Barter

7/9 Jim Florence

7/12 Maddison Barter

7/13 Salvador Estrada

7/18 Mike McCormic

7/18 Ben Hickey

7/20 Lois Patterson

7/20 Tyler Anderson

7/20 Eric Score

7/21 Linell Williams

7/23 Susan Hoidal

7/26 Heather Short

7/28 Jackie Bailey



July Anniversaries

7/2 Bill & Carol VanderYacht

7/9 Steve & Susan Hoidal

7/11 Susie & Harry Smith

7/14 Charley & Debbie Short

7/20 Valerie Henderson & Larry Campbell

7/20 Federico & Mayra Delgado

7/21 Con & Muriel Gates

7/22 Maurice & Lois Patterson

7/30 Heidi Fish & Dave Dettman



July 1, 2018 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min. Laura Hookham
Greeter: Muriel & Shelly
Usher Ron & Judy Bruland
Reader: Ron Bruland (1st), Salvador Estrada (2nd)
Com. Asst': Linda Anderson
Communion Set-up: Linda Anderson
Flowers:
Bill & Carol VanderYacht for 71st Anniversary

July 8 9:30 a.m

Ass't. Min: Sara Murdock
Greeter: Pam Andrews
Usher: Kathee Toivola
Com. Ass't: Karen Harkness
Communion Set Up: Belia Estrada & Karen Harkness
Reader: Dennis Workman (1st); Salvador (2nd)
Flowers: Workman's for Alice's 92nd B'day!

July 15 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Don Anderson
Greeter: Hunters
Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer
Reader: Kim Roe (1st) Salvador Estrada (2nd)
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson
Communion Set Up:
Valerie Henderson & Linda Anderson
Flowers: Salvador Estrada

July 22 9:30 a.m.

Ass't Min. Ben Workman Smith
Greeter: Freemans
Usher: Wagners
Com. Ass't: Kathee Toivola
Communion Set-up: Kathee Toivola
Reader: Dawn Durand (1st) Salvador Estrada (2nd)
Flowers: Karen Harkness

July 29 9:30 a.m. Healing Worship

Ass't Min. Don Anderson
Greeter: Pam Andrews
Usher: Ron & Judy Bruland
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson
Reader: Doug Proctor (1st) Salvador Estrada (2nd)
Communion Set-up: Linda Anderson
Flowers:

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
Office phone: (360) 592-5876



TREASURER'S REPORT

May Income	\$8238.46
May Expenses	\$7815.34
Our income exceeded our expenses by	\$ 423.12
Year to date income	\$46,768.06
Year to date expenses	\$43,089.98
Our income exceeded our expenses by	\$3,678.08

A Word from Our President:

The Parsonage Septic System Improvement Project – The parsonage septic system updates have started and anticipated completion is early July. The cost for these improvements is \$14,000. Please prayerfully consider donating to help cover the costs of this work. You can place your contribution in the offering plate marked Parsonage Septic System.

Other opportunities to support the fundraising effort are Sunday Brunch events provided by Carolyn Enzler. Brunch will be provided Sundays July 22, August 5 and August 19 following worship. At the congregational meeting May 6 it was approved to secure a loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to pay for the parsonage septic system improvements. Fundraising over the next several months will be used to repay the loan. Our goal is to have the loan repaid within 15 months (or sooner). Questions/comments see Pam Andrews.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to Nancy Workman, Shelley Culver, Jan Hunter, Penny McInnis, Kathy Toivola, Bea, Sue Ohlswager, Karen Harkness, and Lois Petterson and the eight boys and girls who shared work and fun during the week of vacation Bible School.



Dianne Johnson of the NW WA Synod to speak at Immanuel July 8

Dianne Johnson is the new Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) for the NW WA Synod and will be speaking at Immanuel during service Sunday, July 8 regarding *Living Local*. Dianne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role. As a life-long Washingtonian and local Lutheran, she understands our context and current culture shifts and is well-connected throughout the synod. Dianne's previous 15-year call as the Outreach and Discipleship Minister at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (Renton) gives her wisdom about congregational collaboration and concerns. Her involvement with our partners in Tanzania has shaped her lens of accompaniment - a focus that is echoed in the Living Local Initiative.

Dianne has served in a variety of roles in the synod: Global Mission Committee, the Hunger Team, the Evangelical Outreach Team (chair), Synod Council, and as our Malaria Griot - leading the synod malaria campaign. Most recently, she has been working alongside our former DEM, Pastor Jerry Buss, providing administration, program, and leadership support - a role that will enable her to smoothly transition into this multi-faceted position. Her work as DEM will include: new starts, congregational vitality, mission support, and stewardship.

Becoming Curious Congregations - Living Local

Curiosity is a necessary condition for becoming missional churches. Like many things, curiosity

is a practice that needs encouragement to flourish. It invites new ways to discover and join what God is already doing out ahead of us. It is about building interactive capacities among your people. It is about leaning into the values of openness, courage, and vulnerability. Explore ways your congregation engages curiously. Learn how becoming a curious congregation matters for sharing in God's mission already ahead of us among our neighbors and neighborhoods.

Women of Immanuel NEWS

The Strawberry Social was once again a great success! Approximately 250 people attended. All enjoyed the meal by Carolyn Enzler and her kitchen crew, Strawberries from Joe's Gardens were done by the leadership of Karen and Mike Brewer.

Everyone enjoyed the music provided by Ben and Larry. Thanks to everyone for doing such a great job organizing and helping at this community-loved event. We took in \$1956.00



WOI COOK BOOK

Kathee Toivola has taken on the task of developing the new WOI cookbook and is looking forward to putting your favorite recipes into the book.

Categories are:

Appetizers and Beverages
Soups and Salads
Vegetables and side dishes
Main Dishes
Breads and Rolls
Desserts
Cookies and Candy
This and That

Deadline for submission of the recipes is July 28th. You can email them to Kathee, or put in offering box at church and they will put them in WOI box and we will give them to Kathee.

Everyone please submit at least one favorite recipe, but please submit more than one if you like. We have a maximum of 150 recipes we

can submit for the book, so let's shoot to reach the 150 mark!

July 28th is right at the deadline, so please get all your recipes to Kathee by July 15th if possible. She will accept later submissions, but hopes to place the order the third week of July. We want our cookbooks to be ready for our Fall Festival in September.

So, please, dig in your cupboards and pull out your favorites and get either the original (with your name on it and she will return it to you) or make a copy for her.

Thursday, July 5th - 11:30 a.m. WOI Board Meeting and Lunch at the Roost Mexican Restaurant in Everson (across from the florist)

Tuesday, July 10th - 7:00 p.m. WOI Bible Study at Carol VanderYacht's

Wednesday, July 18th - 5:30 p.m., Picnic at the Pond, Carol VanderYacht's. The guest speaker will be Julie Meyers from "Meals on Wheels". We will be seeking donations to help with the program.

Immanuel's Biking Club will meet on Saturday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the Glacier Ranger Station. Then we will bike Canyon Creek. Again this is an entry level, ride but it will require a mountain bike.



Thanks to Mark and Sue Ohswager for the photo



Companionship

Bishop Kirby Unti

NW Washington Synod /
ELCA

From the July 2018 edition of
The Spirit

There is a movement taking place across the American

church - stirring up in congregations a new imagination of what it means to be the church. It begins with the realization that God is active and up to something outside the four walls of the church - and the church is being invited to join in.

This startles many of us because we have been faithful at trying to do good worship, practice hospitality, provide Sunday School, offer a youth group, gather for fellowship activities, and care for our buildings and grounds. These practices have served us well - but none of them have prepared us for what it means to engage with our neighbors.

We have done our best at hospitality - by trying to be welcoming when visitors arrive and looking for helpful ways to engage them in faith formation and the church community. This new movement calls for a radical form of hospitality that was practiced in Luke 10 where the disciples were sent out and instructed to eat whatever was set before them.

This expression of hospitality is about learning to receive what the neighbor has to offer - on their terms and where they are located. How in the world to we do this?

We can learn from our missionary sisters and brothers who are decade or two ahead of us. Our missionaries learned the hard way - having gone through an era where our western faith was imposed upon the people the missionaries were reaching out to. It took time to learn that this approach was not only abusive and destructive, it failed to recognize how God was already at work with the people before the missionaries arrived.

The missionary movement moved from an imposition model to an accompaniment model. This approach is about walking alongside the other and mutually discovering how God is at work. Our missionaries spend years getting to know the people and inviting the people to

shape the liturgy and the mission. It levels the playing field by no longer treating the other as the object of our mission but rather the subject. Accompaniment is about developing companionship. Webster's defines companion as "a person employed to accompany, assist, or live with another in the capacity of a helpful friend." Or perhaps even more poignant "the fainter of two stars that constitute a double star."

You begin to see that this new movement invites a life-giving kind of humility in all that we do.

"Companion" in French is a combination of two words, roughly translated as "co bread." We might say breaking bread together as equals. Can you imagine an evangelism program whose primary activity is inviting neighbors, strangers and friends alike to companionship – breaking bread together? It's about getting to know one another. It's about listening. It's about together responding to the needs of the world. It's about what it means to be church today.

"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' Luke 10:8-9