

Immanuel Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 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
Pastor Leslie Mahraun
360-592-5876
Church Email: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

From Pastor Leslie:

Something wonderful is about to happen. You can feel it. All the world is a buzz with excitement. For about a minute the worries of the world have stopped. The refugees are warm and fed, reunited with loved ones, safe and secure in homes they thought were never even a possibility. Bombing and wars have silenced and angry and hate-filled guns no longer win the day, no one will be shot and killed, peace has come to the earth. Hunger and thirst are a thing of the past, and so is PTSD, depression, anxiety, any manner of mental illness for this moment is gone, loneliness, hate, bullying, addictions to sex, money, gambling, drugs, alcohol, food, shopping, all of it washed away.

Can you hear, off in the faint distance, over the din of the hungering for food, for justice, for equality, past the vitriol, over the hatred, there is something. It's trying to be heard, over the noise of the pollution, of the sky, of the sea of the air, of the rivers and creeks, all full of horrible things, devoid of the once brilliant purity, now running with sewage and pollutants, signs of our greed and disregard, be still, listen...there is something.

Something wonderful is about to happen. It's an amazing thing really, more important than the bravest of all, the most striking, the best physical representation of any specimen, human or not. Indeed, what is about to happen is more than anything we can ever imagine, yet we know what it is. We know that what is about to happen has been happening over and over again, and yet, we worry, we abuse, we hate, we kill, we torment, we suffer, become addicted. We malign, we gossip, we pollute our minds, our souls, our bodies, our air, our land and our waters, and our skies, our whole environments. And yet, or maybe still, something wonderful comes. Can you hear it? It's very faint; we are still in the waiting process, in this Advent of what is to be. We must not be impatient to get there, because what is coming has to be more than a good feeling or a happy household with painted cookies and roasted meats and vegetables, sweet pies and frosted cakes, what is coming must outlast the effervescence of holiday cheer. What is coming? Listen, look, wait! It's the Messiah, the savior of the world. All wrapped up in a manger, with the filth and sorrow of the world. It's Jesus, coming to us, time and time again, because of us, and our brokenness, comes the perfection of God.

Adult Forum Scriptures:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 12/2 Faith as a way of life: | Habakku 1:1=7; 2:1-2, 3:3-6, 17-19 |
| 12/9 Esther | Esther 4:1-7 |
| 12/16 Light to the Nation | Isaiah 42:1-9 |
| 12/23 Jesus as Immanuel | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 12/30 Genealogy of Jesus | Matthew 1:1-17 |



Scripture Readings

December 2 – 1 Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 9 – 2 Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 16 – 3 Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 23 – 4 Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

December 30 – 1 Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

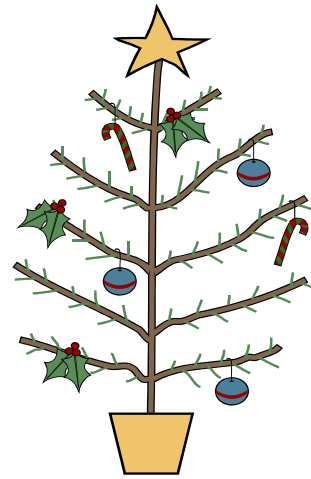
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

DECEMBER 16, 3:00 p.m.

Blue is the color we give to our "down mood." Blue is also the church's color for hope. While the rest of the world is chanting *Merry Christmas*, and *Happy Holidays*, these blue moments sometimes dampen our seasonal celebrations. The purpose of the Blue Christmas service is to provide a "blending of the blues" in order to

surround our life concerns with the hope and blessings of God's love and grace, mercy and peace.

We encourage members to make this a priority for any such moods in their own life story, and to extend the information and invitation to any whom it might serve in our extended families, persons with whom we work and play in our community, and those we may know from our own neighborhoods.

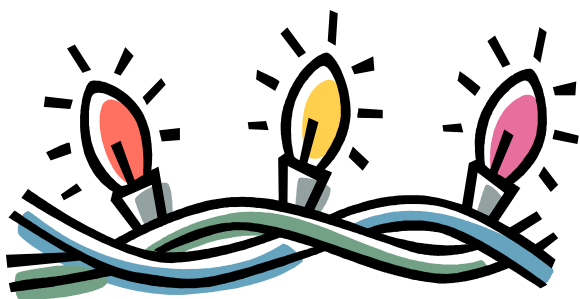


Women of Immanuel News

- Remember to check your name, address, and email on the bulletin board and make corrections as needed. Thanks!
- WOI Bible Study December 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Carol VanderYacht's.

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **Advent Worship services, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. December 5, 12, and 19.**
- **December 16 – Blue Sunday Worship Service at 3:00 p.m.**
- **December 9 – Church Council meets at noon.**
- **December 24 –**
- **TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE Service at 10:00 P.M.**



Bellingham Norwegian Male Chorus Christmas Concert is Saturday, December 8, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bellingham at 3:00 p.m. Following the concert is fellowship and goodies. Suggested donation of \$10.00 but more important is to be there!



December Birthdays

12/7 Joe Woodbury
12/10 Helen Freeman
12/14 Joanie Hirt
12/18 Jacob Short
12/18 Dawn Durand
12/20 Con Gates
12/20 Lisa Bargewell
12/22 Ben Andrews
12/25 Ike Halverson
12/25 Kristjan Toivola

December Anniversaries

12/2 Kari & Kathleen Toivola
12/10 Jim & Jackie Bailey
12/20 Salvador & Belia Estrada
12/27 Gary & Martha Sirguy



ADVENT SERVICES ARE ON WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM, FOLLOWING SUPPER. WE WILL BE USING THE HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE.
SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAYS
DECEMBER 5, 12, & 19:
5:00 PM – SUPPER
6:00 PM – ADVENT WORSHIP
6:45 – BELL CHOIR
6:45 – MEN'S CHOIR
7:30 – CHOIR PRACTICE

A Little Help for Our Friends:

Acme Presbyterian Church desperately needs used men's clothing for the clothes closet. Women and kids clothes are always welcome, but the need for men's wear is the greatest. Please bring clothes to church By December 9. Pastor Leslie will deliver to Acme, so warm clothes can be had as we enter the winter months.

CALLING ALL ANGELS...

(Willing to help on Christmas Eve)
Please let me know if you can help with ushering, communion, preparing candles, etc., at our both our Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve Services. Thank you! Kim

December 2, 2018 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Laura Hookham
Greeter: Brulands
Ushers: Brulands
Readers: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada
Com. Asst': Linda Anderson (Cups)
Communion Set-up: Linda Anderson
Flowers: Solviks
Prayer Team: Kim & Jim

December 9 9:30 a.m

Ass't Min: Don Anderson
Greeter: Hunters
Ushers: Hunters
Com. Ass't: Valerie Henderson (Circle)
Communion Set Up: Valerie Henderson
Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada
Altar Flowers:
Prayer Team: Helen & Linda

December 16 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Ben Workman Smith
Greeters: Brewers
Ushers: Brewers
Reader: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson (Continuous)
Communion Set Up: Linda Anderson
Flowers:
Prayer Team: Lois & Dennis

December 23 9:30 a.m.

Ass't Min. Sara Murdock
Greeters: Freemans
Ushers: Freemans
Com. Ass't: Karen Harkness (circle)
Communion Set-up: Karen Harkness
Reader: Dawn Durand/Salvador Estrada
Flowers:
Prayer Team: Neil & Karen

December 24 9:30 a.m

Ass't Min: ?
Greeter: ?
Ushers: ?
Com. Ass't: ?
Communion Set Up: ?
Readers: ?

December 30 Healing Worship 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Don Anderson
Greeters: Brulands
Ushers: Brulands
Reader: Doug Proctor/Salvador Estrada
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson (Continuous)
Communion Set Up: Linda Anderson
Flowers:
Prayer Teams: Jim & Nancy, Clarice & Linda

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.

Church Email: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com

Church Office phone: (360) 592-5876

Pastor Leslie's Cell: 360-599-0531

Pastor's Office phone: 360-592-0216

Pastor's Email: lmahraun@hotmail.com

Pastor Leslie's Office Hours:

Mondays 9:00-4:00 (Except first Monday of month)

Wednesdays 4:00-9:00

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. (Psalms 116:1-2 NIV)"





God knows how to disarm the world

Bishop Kirby Unti
NW Washington Synod / ELCA
From the December 2018 edition
of *The Spirit*

Friends, we are living in some disturbing times where violence, bullying, threats and hostility abound. The world can be downright mean. No one is spared - not even mothers and children.

How is one to respond in times like these? Do you just duck and seek cover? Do you remain silent? Do confront those who are the source?

What many have chosen to do is to up their security systems. It is one of America's fastest growing industries. Others choose to literally arm themselves. While still others practice what is called situational awareness. It is about being alert to your surroundings and trying to take the necessary precautions.

On a recent trip to Chicago I heard a wonderful story from one of our Lutheran Bishops about Munib Younan, Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. (He served as bishop from January 1998 to January 2018.)

My colleague was traveling with Munib when they crossed through a Check Point between Palestine and Israel. They were met by a security guard armed with an assault rifle who was anything but kind to Munib requiring him to get out of the car before he could proceed.

What Munib did is unimaginable to me. During the interrogation Munib said to the guard, "I don't think you like your job." Obviously, this comment took the guard by surprise. It didn't stop Munib. He asked the guard about his family and discovered he had a girlfriend. Munib increased the level of empathy for the guard's difficult position. Before long the guard put down his assault rifle and wanted to know who this man was.

Munib Younan is one of the most disarming people you will ever meet. He feels so deeply that he has been freed in Christ that he experiences very little fear in what for many is a very frightening place in the world. Everywhere he travels, Munib engages people with this same disarming charm - confronting hostility by revealing the fear that lies behind it.

When I grow up I want to be like him.

We are entering the Advent Season and Christmas. It is a time when we prepare ourselves to worship the Prince of Peace who was born in the same land as Munib. How brilliant of God to enter the world as a baby.

I know of no power greater than that of newborn. A newborn can quickly take over an entire household. They have the power to make macho men break into tears. They attract admiring looks wherever they go, unleashing a power of endearment that is hard to resist.

Yes, our God knows how to disarm the world. This God baby grew up teaching others to turn the other cheek. This baby who became an adult stood up to the likes of Herod and Pilate without batting an eye.

Yes, this Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has come into the world to disarm it. To disarm the hostility and meanness. To create a world where the stranger is welcomed, and all are accepted. This Jesus has come to face the fear of the world and replace it with peace.

Might this Season indeed be a season where each day we pray more fervently: Come Lord Jesus!