

Immanuel Lutheran Church

February 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
Church Email: Immanuel.everson@gmail.com

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5782 Lawrence Rd.
Everson, WA 98247

FROM PASTOR BARDEN:

THE CALL COMMITTEE GETS STARTED

The Call Committee was installed at worship services on January 7. Members are Mike Brewer, Ron Bruland, Jim Freeman, Renee Guernsey, Karen Harkness, Valerie Henderson, Laura Hookham, Mark Ohlswager, and Dennis Workman. On January 20, the group met for the first time, and shared backgrounds and interests in the committee and the call process. Mark was selected to serve as the Coordinator/Chair/Contact Person, and Laura accepted the role of Recorder/Secretary.

Pastor Barden distributed a form for offering some perspectives on lay and pastoral leadership. These ideas will be compiled and provided for the whole group to discuss at their next meeting on February 3. At that meeting also, the group will have their first look at the document that will be completed for the Synod Office, namely the Ministry Site Profile, referred to as "MSP." At that meeting and again on February 25, the group will begin to shape their tasks, and organize how they will approach them. They will meet with the Synod Representative, Pastor Shelley Bryan Wee, on the evening of March 1.

GIFTEDNESS: DISCOVERED, AFFIRMED, SHARED

The *LifeKeys* "Putting It All Together" workshop was held on Sunday afternoon, January 28. It was based on the information gleaned from the *LifeKeys Discover Who You Are* workbooks. About 30 people participated in the "Living Grid" exercise (for the Myers-Briggs reflection) and the "Living Hexagon" exercise (for the RIASEC Code reflection) and shared in some learning as well as some fun. Many also completed the check-list for spiritual gifts. Participant Report Forms were made available, with the intention that we can create an information bank and make use of this information for our transition process and for our involvement in ministry going forward.

The purposes were **a)** to learn more about and value ourselves, and **b)** to learn more about and value one another. We hope this provided us with an increase in our sense of community, fellowship, and partnership as expressed in the New Testament, and in so doing provide us with a stronger basis for our life and ministry together as a congregation as we move toward the arrival of a new pastor.

We learned, for example, that about 80% of our people are from the categories of personality type whose giftedness contributes to "keeping things going." What this also means is that we have a smaller percentage of our membership who have a greater openness and creativity for new things and for change. We wonder if there may be more such persons among those who were not present. We also wonder if some of those who have left for other congregations (whatever the reason) in past years were some more change-oriented. We also wonder how much our age-pyramid (that is, the numbers of members in each age group) relates to how this information might be interpreted as we look toward the future.

We still will benefit from the information from those who could not attend. The Transition Team very much encourages all who were in travel or had other conflicts will complete their workbooks and fill out a Participant Report Form. What we have discovered so far as a congregation together gives us a desire to be even more complete in our information base.

TRANSITION TEAM TO ASSESS THE TRANSITION WORK

Our Transition Team has been focusing on raising questions and providing teaching that will help us to reflect on how we function as a congregation. They have looked at a summary of our history, considered some positive and some not-so-positive aspects of how we have related to pastors and to one another, and reviewed some of our blessings in our past ministry that might help inspire us going forward. In February, the group will work with Pastor Barden to write up a summary of topics discussed, make a list of things learned, and identify potential changes in how we think about and do things together.

This material will be provided in a written report and in open discussion with the Call Committee as information which may be presented in various ways in the Ministry Site Profile. Linda Anderson has provided leadership for the team in their work and reflection: Karen Harkness, Sue Ohlswager, Kari Toivola, and Nancy Workman...and Pastor Barden, as our Intentional Interim Pastor. The "intentional" part is the part of our "interim" that pushes us to reflect on our past, assess our present, and begin to consider our future.

LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Yes, on Valentine's Day, we will pause to begin our Lenten Season with a reminder of our sinful nature and the need for the Cross. The imposition of the ashes with the mark of the Cross is accompanied by the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We were created out of moistened dust, shaped into human form, and breathed into with the Breath of Life, and--so says our scripture--we became "living souls," or "living beings," created in the Image of God. That's the first chapter or two of Genesis, but then comes chapter three, describing in our freedom of our will a disobedience to the Will of God for us as human beings and for the creation--all described a "Good." Spiritually and humanly, in Christ, we are fully redeemed in that Goodness, with the hope of life forever in God, and yet, the judgment remains in our awareness even as it was "nailed to the Cross" through the sacrificial death and burial of Jesus, our Messiah and our Lord. That somber reflection shapes our hymns and our prayers on Ash Wednesday.

DWELLING IN THE WORD: A REFLECTIVE LENTEN SERIES

After Ash Wednesday, the following five Wednesdays - *February 21 and 28, and March 7, 14, and 21* - will put before us a scripture of being sent forth in the ministry of the Gospel. Utilizing a pattern of reflecting and sharing, we will read Luke 10:1-12 each week (using different translations) to help us wonder what God might be up to in and through us as we open into the future of our life and ministry together.

We will combine traditional Lenten music with hymns about witness and service and ministry. Our prayer is that this format referred to as "Dwelling in the Word" will spiritually complement our work both in the transition process and in the call process. A booklet will be provided to guide us through the five Wednesdays, and the notes from those times may prove very helpful as we consider our future ministry, especially in light of our entering into the call process. From this passage of the *Sending of the 70*, what might we discover and learn and share about how God works in our life and ministry as we are sent out into the various areas around us as people of God here at Immanuel Lutheran?



*Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 14th at 7:00 p.m.
Lenten services will be held Wednesdays at 6:00 - February 21, 28, March 7,
14, and 21.*



Scripture Readings

February 4 - 5 Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 11 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 18 - 1 Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 25 - 2 Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

- **February 11** – Church Council meets after 2nd service.
- **February 14** – **Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.**
- **February 21 - March 21**, Lenten Services Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- **March 30** – Good Friday
- **April 1** - Easter

February Birthdays

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 Belia Estrada

2/24 Don Crepe

2/28 Grace Douglas

February Anniversaries

2/9 Len & Rebeccajo Andrews

2/18 Jose and Erika Cruz Estrada



Thank-you to all those who serve on Church Council

President: Pam Andrews

Vice President: Nancy Workman

Secretary:

Treasurer: Ron Bruland

Council members:

Kathee Toivola, Laura Hookham, Mark

Ohlswager, Kim Roe, Lois Patterson, Joanie

Hirt



The 2018 Flower Calendar is now posted in the Parish Hall. Please sign up for your special Sunday. Altar flowers are a meaningful way to honor a loved one, celebrate a special date, or just give thanks to the glory of God.

February 4, 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. Ass't Linda Anderson
Reader: Ron Bruland
Flowers: Salvador
Communion Set-up: Belia/Linda
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Jim & Nancy
2nd Service: Linda & Dennis

February 11 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Sara Murdock
Greeter: Pam Andrews Kathee Toivola
Usher: Kathee Toivola
Com. Ass't: Karen Harkness
Reader: Kim Roe
Flowers:
Communion Set Up: Belia, Val, Karen
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Linda & Lois
2nd Service: Joanie & Kim

February 18 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: Dennis Workman
Communion Set Up: Val/Linda
Flowers:
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Helen & Dennis
2nd Service: Linda & Nancy

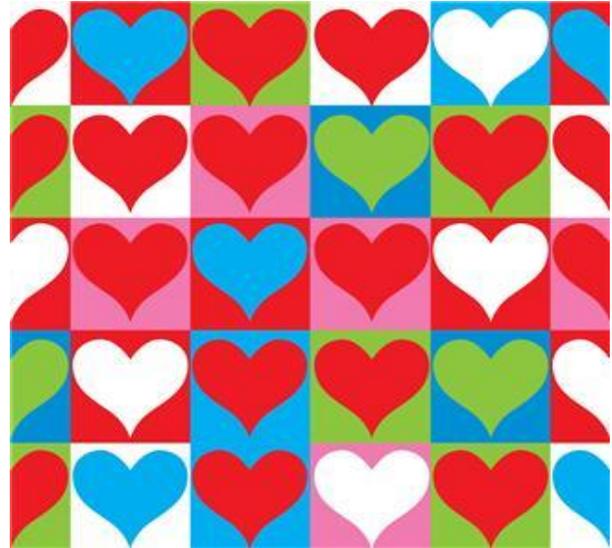
February 25 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Ass't Min. Karen Harkness
Greeter: Jim & Helen Freeman Wagners
Usher: Wagners
Com. Ass't: Kathee Toivola
Reader: Doug Proctor
Flowers:
Communion Set-up: Belia/Val/Kathee
After Worship Prayer Teams:
1st Service: Lois & Helen
2nd Service: Karen & Renee

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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Office phone: (360) 592-5876
Pastor Barden's cell phone: (360) 631-2177
Pastor Barden's Home phone: (253) 285-4998



Retired Pastor O.B. Fjelstad, who once served Immanuel as Pastor, will be turning 85 in early February. Since a health decline last February his world has become quite small, necessitating a move and creating less ability to reach out to those he knows and has cared for so deeply. His children hope that for his birthday they could bring him notes and cards from friends, former parishioners, and loved ones. This would be the greatest gift possible for him. If you feel so inclined, please help make this day very special for him. Any notes or cards can be sent to: Pastor O.B. Fjelstad, 2707 SE Tarbell Ave., Oak Grove, OR 97267

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

Jan Hunter's birthday is February 8th. Everyone is invited to celebrate with her on Saturday, February 10 from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. This shindig will be here in Immanuel's parish hall. Guitars, singing voices and a banjo or two also welcome. No gifts please. You may bring a sack of food that will be donated to the Foothills Food Bank.

Women of Immanuel News

WOI Calendar of Events for 2018

February 24 – Ladies Retreat - *Grace not Perfection*

March 4 – Movie, Babette's Feast after second service. Bring snacks!

April 29 – Potluck after 2nd service

May 5 - Ladies Tea

June - Strawberry Social

July 18 - Picnic at the Pond

September – Fall Festival

November 11 - Thank Offering Dinner

December 1 - Christmas Brunch

December 30 – Potluck after 2nd Service

December 31 – Happy New Year

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

The Women of Immanuel host their Winter Retreat on February 24. Join us for a multi-media presentation exploring and understanding God's Grace and how it applies to our lives today. We will worship together through music and biblical references. The book, *Grace Not Perfection*, Embracing Simplicity, Celebrating Joy will be featured also. A light breakfast will be served at 9:00 and we will begin the program approximately 9:45. Spend the morning connecting with friends, be filled with the Spirit and feel God's presence as we worship and learn together. Our thanks to Joanie, Karen H. and Renee` for presenting this program.

Be sure to sign up in the Parish Hall if you plan on coming!

Don't forget to sign up to be a prayer partner please put your forms in the offering plate or give to Penny or Darlene.

This year WOI is featuring "Quilt of the Month". The money from the purchase of the quilt will go toward purchasing the Batting and materials needed for construction of the quilt. Each month Helen will display a quilt to be purchased. The cost will be \$30.



Respite Pastor

The Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod

From the February 2018 edition of *The Spirit*

The conversation took place at precisely the right time.

Retired Pastor Mark Reitan offered to serve as a respite pastor, enabling a pastor and congregation the necessary breathing room they needed. Mark's heart aches for pastors on whom the job takes a toll. Mark knew it would mean a lot to him if he could help another sister or brother.

There were a few conditions. He didn't want it to be long term – no more than two or three months. He knew there would be certain Sundays he wouldn't be available. He was only willing to preach and do critical pastoral care. (No committee meetings!) AND he wanted to do it pro bono, believing that God has been a wonderful provider for him and his family. The one exception is he would expect a mileage reimbursement.

Mark is like many of our retired pastors. He still loves to do pastoral ministry. He finds meaning in trying to help a faith community realize their strengths. He loves to preach the gospel and is so clear about our God who provides. He is a living example of what he believes.

No sooner had we had the conversation, when just the right setting turned up. We had a congregation that was small in size and struggling financially. A separation agreement between the pastor and the congregation had been reached providing the compensation the pastor would need to reach retirement. However, the congregation did not have the capacity to resource the separation agreement and provide

for a part-time pastor. This is where Mark stepped in and so graciously cared for the congregation for three months. The congregation understood that there would be Sundays when Mark couldn't be there, and they managed to do well with supply pastors.

This was an amazing win-win-win situation for pastor, church, and synod. All because of a pastor's desire to still do meaningful ministry - and meaningful it was. Mark was able to love up this congregation, affirm their strengths, and restore in them a greater confidence that God provides for those who place their trust in God.

This changed the conversation from "should we just close our doors" to "let's reimagine our future."

Mark was able to share with them the work that he and his spouse, Elaine, are doing in Tanzania to honor their daughter's life and death. This proved to be an inspiration to the congregation and expanded their sense of the church's global ministry. When the time came for Mark to conclude his ministry, the congregation offered up a gift for this ministry as a sign of their deep appreciation for Mark's time among them.

I respect and admire Pastor Reitan for his love of the gospel and his desire to continue to live it out in ways that bring blessing to his own life and to those he serves.

These are not the easiest of times in which to do ministry and the truth is there are so many pastors and congregations that could benefit from a time of respite care. I don't doubt a few of you reading this article are saying, "I am that pastor," or "we might be that congregation."

While I know that all retired pastors are not in the position to serve in this capacity, my prayer is that there might be a few who would consider offering up their gifts. I know pastors well into their 80's who are vital, passionate about the Gospel, and who could do some wonderful ministry. Thank you Pastor Mark Reitan for modeling what it means to be a faithful servant of God and inspiring others to consider how God might have a short jog in store for them.

