

# Immanuel Lutheran Church

## March 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

Church Email: [Immanuel.everson@gmail.com](mailto:Immanuel.everson@gmail.com)

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
5782 Lawrence Rd.  
Everson, WA 98247

Dear People of Immanuel,

***“The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament gives witness to God’s handiwork”***

*- Psalm 19:1*

There are—as I write this article in February—at least three flowers in my yard, which are blooming. FLOWERS blooming in February. Having grown up in Minnesota this seems so utterly unrealistic, but there they are, Crocuses, Snowbells and Hellebores, blooming away. Is there anything active and alive to pollinate them?

I remember writing and musing about the dahlias blooming outside my office window, about this time of year, during my internship in Skagit many moons ago, and still I can’t get over the wonders of the natural world. Granted our human hands have influenced things, hybridization and other factors, may contribute to the fact that flowers are currently blooming in my yard, but does that diminish the wonder, or make it all the more incredible? As a scientist, I appreciate the fact that we can understand and influence the natural process. As a pastor, I appreciate that that understanding can lead to some nefarious outcomes.

And now, how amazing is it that we may have measured a tiny blip in space and time borne from a collision of two black holes 1.3 billion years ago?!?!? For 100 years Gravitational Waves were only theoretically possible, predicted by Einstein in 1916 and now we may have created an instrument to measure such things. Amazing.

*Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.*

*There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. Psalm 19:2-4*

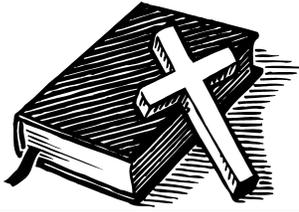
Our natural world and our knowledge of it are wondrous gifts as they pour forth speech and knowledge and understanding, but as with all things they can be used and abused. Paul tells us in Romans, *“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.”* (Romans 8:22) All the natural world groans, as we do under, the brokenness that is part of our world. Yet, *“not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”* (Romans 8:23) Even Still God continues to be at work, at work in our lives, at work in our communities, and at work in our natural world, bearing the first fruits of the Spirit, not only for us, but for all the world.

*Pastor John*

Pastor John’s e-mail: [jokan001@luthersem.edu](mailto:jokan001@luthersem.edu) Cell phone #360-393-2435

Office hours: M, W, and Thursday mornings





## Scripture Readings

### **March 6 - 4 Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### **March 13 - 5 Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

### **March 20- Passion/Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

### **March 27 - Easter Sunday**

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Romans 6:3-11

Luke 24:1-12

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT IMMANUEL:

- **March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Men's Breakfast and Bible study – 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup>** – Worship and Music meets at 9:00 a.m.
- **March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** – Church work days
- **March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Church Council meets at 6:00 p.m.
- **All Wednesdays during Lent:** (March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>) Lenten Services at 6:00 after soup and bread Meal at 5:00.
- **March 20<sup>th</sup>** – Celebration Sunday



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**March 20 – Passion/Palm Sunday**

**March 24 – Maundy Thursday service – 7:00**

**March 25 – Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.**

**March 27 - Easter Sunday**

**Sunrise Service – 7:30 a.m.**

**Easter Breakfast – 8:30**

**Easter Celebrative Service – 10:00 a.m.**



## March Birthdays

3/5 Darlene Bayer

3/6 Aaron Workman Smith

3/6 Rebecca Andrews

3/7 Dave Wagner

3/14 Stan Jacobson

3/14 Charley Short

3/20 Karen Harkness

3/20 Martha Sirguy

3/21 Belia Estrada

3/21 Sheila Gassman

3/22 Bob Enzler

3/24 Liza Okan

3/27 Monica Bruland

3/31 Linda Anderson

## March Anniversaries

3/18 Steve & Irene Higbee

## WOI NEWS

### FABRIC SWAP PARTY

Calling all quilters! Be at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m for the *Quilt Stash Exchange*.

Come and join us for a 2 step exchange:

\* Bring one 5" x 5" x 5" or one 11" x 11" x 11" stack of fabric to exchange for free.

\* Round 1 - we will exchange fabric

\* Round 2 - you can purchase a \$3.00 zip lock bag to fill to your heart's content.

\* Raffles throughout the morning - shopping table for your enjoyment

\* All income from the raffle goes towards a scholarship at *Animals as Natural Therapy*, a local farm providing healing for youth, families, and veterans.

\* Snacks provided.

\* For more information call Jan Hunter - 592-2860



### BOLD WOMEN

On February 28 - Women of the ELCA celebrate Bold Women's Day. Our local Women of Immanuel recognize that all our women are bold and beautiful - however we have chosen to recognize a few whose bold actions were and are outside of the norm.

**Chrystal Klix** - moved here as an immigrant and raise her family largely on her own.

**Sue Hookham** - became an ELCA pastor when many her age were considering retirement

**Muriel Monsen** - at age 91 volunteers at St. Joseph's hospital

**Karen Harkness** - after retiring from the Mt. Baker School District was missionary to Ghana.

**Pat Hawley** - after retiring as an elementary school teacher is teaching Excel to

community members at Whatcom Community College.

**Clarice Solvik** - who with her husband spent 16 years in the mission field in Africa and Nepal.

**Carolyn Enzler** - who became a school district superintendent before it was common practice

### REGION 1 GATHERING

Women from five states (Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska) are invited to GATHER at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood on June 24, 25, and 26, 2016. *Empowering Women through Grace by Faith* is the theme which will be expressed through panel discussion and Bible Study by ELCA women who are pastors and bishops. Cost is \$175.00 plus the cost of your hotel room should you stay in Lynnwood. Early registration cut off is March 15, 2016. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

### March Schedule:

**March 8 - 7:00 p.m.** - Gather Bible Study at Carol VanderYacht's

**March 19 - 9:00 a.m.** - Fabric Exchange in Parish Hall

**March 22 - 7:00 p.m.** - Gather Article Discussion at Penny McInnis's

### PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

**April 17** - Bible Trivia and "Stew" Party

**May 7** - Mother/Daughter Tea

**CHURCH WORKDAYS**, will be on Saturdays, March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> beginning around 10:00 a.m. This will be our opportunity to spruce up our church and get ready for Easter week. If you have ideas of things that need to be done, there will be a sheet in the parish hall where you can write it down, then we can all pitch in those days and get it done!



**March 6, 2016 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  
Communion Set-up: Liza Okan  
Flowers: No flowers during Lent  
After Worship Prayer Teams:  
1<sup>st</sup> Service:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service:

**March 13 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.**

Ass't. Min: Sara Murdock  
Greeter: Pam Andrews Murdocks  
Usher: Murdocks  
Com. Ass't': Asia Roman  
Reader: Kim Roe  
Communion Set Up: Belia Estrada & Asia Roman  
Flowers: No flowers during Lent  
After Worship Prayer Teams:  
1<sup>st</sup> Service:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service:

**March 20 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:  
Valerie Henderson & Linda Anderson  
Flowers: No flowers during Lent  
After Worship Prayer Teams:  
1<sup>st</sup> Service:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service:

**March 27 EASTER 7:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.**

Ass't. Min: Karen Harkness  
Greeter: Jim & Helen Freeman Jackie & Alice  
Usher: Jackie & Alice  
Com. Ass't': Sara Murdock  
Reader: Liza Okan  
Flowers:  
Communion Set Up: Sara Murdock  
After Worship Prayer Teams:  
1<sup>st</sup> Service:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service:

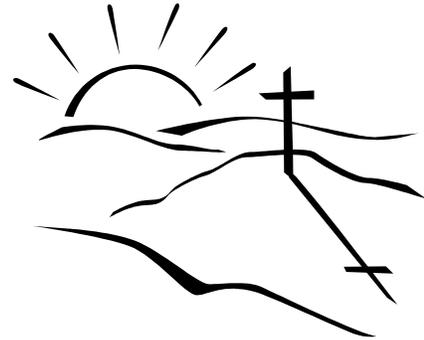
**If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please call someone that you can either switch an assigned Sunday with or sub for you.**

A big thank-you to all the helpers; you are greatly appreciated and needed!

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

**FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

2016 budget: \$144,249.00  
Monthly Income needed: \$12,020.75  
**February Offering: \$7,188.39**  
**Other Income: \$217.00 Total: \$7,405.39**  
To January 31<sup>st</sup> our income exceeded our expenses by \$2,148.51  
Parsonage Fund: \$2,061.21  
Sunday school Offering: \$327.34



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“...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

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## Has the Church Run Out of Wine?

Kirby Unti, Bishop

Northwest Washington Synod

Article from *The Spirit*, March 2016

In January I had the joy of presiding at the installation of Pr. Tim Feiertag at Trinity Lutheran Church in Everett, WA. The Biblical Story for the day was the Wedding at Cana in Galilee. It was the assigned text and so fitting because in the Book of John the Wedding at Cana was Jesus' Installation service.

I began by telling the story of Johnny Carson interviewing a little boy who had just heard the Cana Story in Sunday school. When Johnny asked him what he learned from the story the little boy said, "If you are going to have a wedding you better invite Jesus!"

You may know the story. It was the third day of the celebration when the news reached Jesus that the party had run out of wine. Jewish weddings were known to go on for days. I can only imagine the number of guests who would have decided to call it quits and head home. I am confident others would have let their disappointment be made known. It must have been crushing for the bride and groom.

Jesus' mother knows that the hour has come for her son to do what he was sent into the world to do – to restore the world to the fullness of life. When she lets Jesus know, "They have no wine," Jesus tells the servants to take the six jars which held between 20 -30 gallons of water for the Jewish purification rites and to fill them. Following the admonition of Jesus' mother, "Do whatever he tells you to do." They fill the jars to the brim. Jesus then instructs them to draw some out and bring it to the master of the banquet who discovers upon tasting it that it is the finest of wine.

This takes the master by total surprise because nobody brings out the best wine near the end of the party. You always serve the best wine first.

Not Jesus.

No, Jesus is at his best when we are desperate. When we finally run out. When we are empty. When our party is all but over Jesus appears. When Jesus comes he not only provides, he provides abundantly – to the brim.

Has it ever dawned on you that the best that life has to offer is still to come?

Risking this possibility - how might it change the way you enter the future?

Imagine how this could change the way we live life in our congregations and ministry sites.

The best is yet to come if we are willing to invite Jesus to the party!