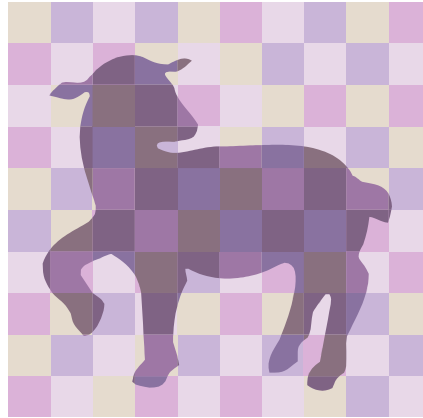


Immanuel Lutheran Church

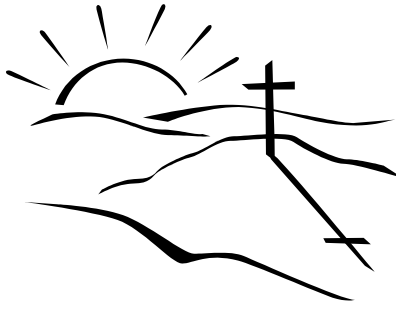
April 2019

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

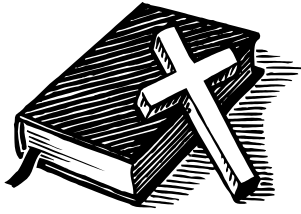


Our congregation has endured so many losses these last few months; my heart aches for each family, and for the whole church family. Jim Bailey, Muriel Gates, Alice Johnson, Michael McCormick, Muriel Monson, and Lee Score (And our memorials for David Larson and OB Fjelstad too,) each had an intricate part to play in the lives of their families and in our own church family, and so even coming into church on a Sunday morning we still find ourselves looking in the pew for our special loved one.

In a church as small as ours, these precious people are noticeably absent, and we physically feel their absence. What does this mean to us as we come ever closer to Easter? As our land awakens from the gray sleep of winter, and the trees burst forth in colorful bloom, my hope is that our spirits begin to lift a bit, to respond to the ways that God's most beautiful handiwork gives us hope for brighter days, cheerier weather and the hope of rebirth. I find myself looking deeper into the hills for the colorful blossoms on the trees. I look across the Smith Creek to see the woods brighten with green and across the church gardens to see the grass begin to turn, everything continues doesn't it? And we have a rhythm that pulls us back to it, drawing us ever closer to begin again, each Spring, anew. But it is not like it was, nor will it be again, and we know this from our own experience.

My prayer is that with so much changing around us, we will be gentle with one another, kinder and more caring. None of us have ever been to Immanuel for Easter without Jim and Muriel and Alice and Michael and Muriel and Lee. We can't really imagine it can we? It must be something we do by faith, just as our men and women did the days following the crucifixion when it seemed that the world ended, but they learned that nothing could stop Jesus, and certainly not death. So just as it was for them, we will have days to endure, but we also know that it's only for a moment because Jesus has said no to death and yes to eternal life with God in Paradise. Look around, find the beauty that is waiting for you, bring your eyes up to see the clouds of pink and white in the trees, the bold yellow and orange, all the tulips and sure signs of life, reminders that there is beauty in the earth and that those we love are here among us, in the sweetness of the air, in the singing of the Alleluias come Easter morning.

Pastor Leslie



Scripture Readings

April 7- 5 Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 14- Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

April 21 - Easter

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

April 28 - 2 Easter

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelations 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

UPCOMING EVENTS and IMPORTANT DATES AT IMMANUEL:

April 14 – Church Council meets after Adult Forum

April 3, 10 - Lenten Services at 6:00

Pastor's Office Hours:

Mondays 9:00 – 4:00 (Except first Monday of the month) and **Wednesdays 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.** *On the second and fourth Mondays of the month Pastor's office hours will be at Extreme Bean (coffee shop at Nugent's corner) from 9:00 to noon and on the second Monday and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday. Pastor Leslie can be reached at 360-599-0531.*



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 14 – Passion/Palm Sunday

April 18 – Maundy Thursday service – 7:00

April 19 – Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.

April 21 - Easter Sunday

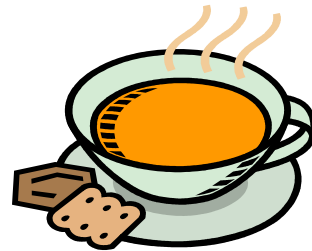
Sunrise Service – 7:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast – 8:30

Easter Celebrative Service – 10:00 a.m.

Thanks to the Cooks!

A heartfelt thank-you to all who made soup for our Lenten meals and everyone involved in making our Wednesday night suppers such a wonderful success. Also a giant thank-you to those who cooked and served on Easter morning!



April 7, 2019 9:30 a.m.

Ass't. Min. Laura Hookham
Greeter: Ron & Judy Bruland
Usher Ron & Judy Bruland
Com. Asst': Linda Anderson (cups)
Communion Set Up: Linda Anderson
Reader: Ron Bruland/Salvador Estrada
Flowers: Lent
After Worship Prayer Team: Joanie & Renee

April 14 9:30 a.m

Ass't Min: Don Anderson
Greeter: Jan & Jerry Hunter
Usher: Jan & Jerry Hunter
Com. Ass't: Valerie Henderson (Circle)
Communion Set Up: Valerie Henderson
Readers: Dennis Workman/Salvador Estrada
Altar Flowers: Ron & Judy Bruland - 55th
Anniversary!
Prayer Team: Lois & Neil

April 21 EASTER 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Ass't. Min: Ben Workman Smith
Greeter: Mike & Karen Brewer
Ushers: Mike & Karen Brewer
Com. Ass't: Linda Anderson
Reader: Kim Roe/Salvador Estrada
Communion Set Up: Linda Anderson
(Continuous)
Flowers:
Prayer Team: Jim & Nancy

April 28 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: Helen & Clarice

Your talent is
God's gift to you.
What you do with
it is your gift
back to God -

Leo Buscaglia

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:

Immanuel.everson@gmail.com

Email address for Pastor Leslie:

lmahraun@hotmail.com

Church website:

www.immanuel.lutheraneverson.com

Office phone: (360) 592-5876

Pastor Leslie's phone: (360) 599-0531



John Michael "Mike" McCormick

JULY 18, 1950 ~ MARCH 25, 2019 (AGE 68)

John Michael ("Mike") McCormick, 68, died March 25, 2019, at his home in Nooksack, Washington, surrounded by family, after a courageous 3+ year journey with glioblastoma (GBM) brain cancer.

Mike was born on July 18, 1950 in Conrad, Montana, to Rosemary (Hofland) and Neil McCormick. Mike's early years were spent in a one-room school house on the Montana prairie, until his folks moved the family into the small nearby town of Cut Bank, Montana. Mike was an only child for the first 4 1/2 years of his life, until brothers Dan, Burke, Tom and Tim were born into the family. When Mike was 18 years old, the boisterous family of McCormick boys welcomed little sister, Ann. Mike cherished his role of big brother and enjoyed telling stories about his childhood spent, in part, on the Sullivan-Hofland family ranch south of Cut Bank, and of adventures with his parents and siblings. Despite their eventual geographic distance, Mike always made family a priority, with regular phone calls, trips "home," and FaceTime chats. Mike especially loved keeping up on the goings-on of his bounty of nieces and nephews.

Mike graduated Cut Bank High School in 1968 and the University of Montana (go Griz) in 1976, with a B.S. in Business Management. Mike worked for Reser's Fine Foods for 13 years. His job with Reser's eventually led him to an assignment in the Pacific Northwest. After a little match-making by his loving mother and future father-in-law back home in Montana, Mike was reunited with his former Cut Bank High School classmate and future wife of 25 years, Candace (Jacobson), who was living in Washington. Mike married Candace on February 27, 1994, on San Juan Island, Washington. Marrying Candace, Mike inherited two teenage daughters, Jen and Leslie, who lovingly referred to him as "Dad 2.0" (among other titles) despite the girls' initial resistance to a male figure entering "their" household. Undeterred, Mike bravely won the girls over and became an important part of their lives as a parent, friend and confidant. In 2018, Mike was blessed to connect with his daughter, Cheryl, whom he had never met. Getting to

know Cheryl and her three children was a glowing bright spot during the trials and tribulations of Mike's journey with cancer. Mike cherished his role as son, brother, husband, father, uncle and friend to all.

After leaving Reser's in 1996, Mike was fortunate to be able to follow his dreams and pursue self-employment as a general contractor until retirement. He was skilled as a builder and woodworker and deeply enjoyed the physical labor and problem-solving aspects of his job. He truly appreciated his clients, many of whom he considered good friends when his job was done.

In his spare time, Mike enjoyed photography and traveling around the continental U.S. and Hawaii. Candace and Mike enjoyed a timeshare condo in Maui and their beloved "Scamp" trailer. They had many adventures in their travels and met many interesting people. Unfortunately, after only a couple of extended Scamp trips touring the national parks and visiting friends and family from coast to coast and border to border, Mike was diagnosed with a GBM brain tumor in November 2015. True to his character, Mike conquered the odds and far surpassed the statistics in his battle with GBM. His rebound after brain surgery was remarkable and his involvement in the cancer-support community brought him many new friends. Mike was an inspiration to many and will be deeply missed.

Mike is predeceased by parents, Rosemary and Neil, brothers, Tim and Burke, and son-in-law, Paul (Leslie's husband). He is survived by his wife, Candace; daughters, Cheryl (Ryan), Jen (Tyson), and Leslie; grandchildren Madison, Riley, and Sydney; Tegan and Ryder; his siblings, Dan, Tom (Betty) and, Ann; sister-in-law, Heidi; numerous nieces, nephews and a great-niece and great-nephews; a large extended family of cousins, and countless friends—all of whom he cherished.

At Mike's request, there will be no formal funeral services. A Celebration of Life BBQ gathering will be planned for the upcoming summer and all will be invited to celebrate a life well lived by an incredible man. If you would like to share a memory or sentiment, cards may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 4006, Nooksack, WA 98276.

The family is deeply appreciative of the services provided by Whatcom Hospice, which allowed Mike to spend his final weeks cared for at home with family, as he wished, and the loving support of his church family at Immanuel Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Whatcom Hospice at <https://whatcomhospice.org/donate/>, Immanuel Lutheran Church 5782 Lawrence Rd, Everson, WA 98247, or to the Chris Elliott Fund's End Brain Cancer Initiative at <https://endbraincancer.org/take-action/donate-now/>.

"A limb has fallen from our family tree that says grieve not for me. Remember the best times and the laughter and the song and most of all the good life I lived while I was strong."

Donations may be made to:

Chris Elliott Fund's End Brain Cancer Initiative

Web: <http://endbraincancer.org/take-action/donate-now/>

Whatcom Hospice House

2806 Douglas Avenue, Bellingham WA 98225

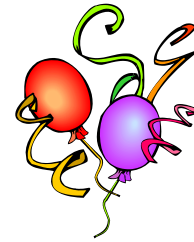
Web: <http://whatcomhospice.org/donate/>

Women of Immanuel NEWS

- WOI Board Meets Thursday, April 4th, at noon.
- WOI Bible Study at Carol VanderYacht's on April 9th at 7pm
- We are preparing for the Lutheran World Relief shipment in May. We hope you can help by giving some soap that is individually wrapped and/or some colored flannel for diapers (no white or with pictures on it), Contact Clarice if you have any questions
- Our rummage sale is coming up in May, we request all items be cleaned and in good order.

April Birthdays

4/5 Irene Higbee
4/6 Kari Toivola
4/6 David Goree
4/8 Valerie Henderson
4/8 Asia Roman
4/12 Mike Bruland
4/15 Kim Roe
4/20 Joe Durand
4/29 Paul Hookham
4/29 Gary Sirguy
4/29 Gail Halverson



April Anniversaries

4/6 Mike & Karen Brewer
4/11 Ron & Judy Bruland
4/22 Linda & Carl Hoines
4/28 Nancy & Dennis Workman

Job Opening

Christ Lutheran in Ferndale is taking applications for the position of custodian at Christ Lutheran Church Ferndale.

Please

visit <https://clcf Berndale.org/contact-us/jobs> for the job description and instructions on how to apply.

Hours are flexible, and salary is based on experience.



The Power of Dignity

Bishop Kirby Unti | NW
Washington Synod / ELCA | From
the March 2019 edition of *The
Spirit*

The most frequent question that I am being asked these days is, "What are you going to do next?" I announced in September that I would not be seeking reelection and immediately the question began. Strange as it may sound, I wasn't prepared for it. In fact, I have given very little thought to what I might do next other than sleep, spend more time with Kim, and get out more on our boat, *Gratitude*. I am now thinking more seriously about what I am going to do next - knowing that throughout my life God has always disrupted my plans. One area I know I want to invest more heavily in is my work as a trustee of Renton Technical College. It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life's journey to have a front row seat at the College. I have been tuned into the college for over thirty years. I was first attracted to the college knowing the population of students it serves - primarily those for whom traditional education is not fulfilling, those who cannot afford a 4-year college and more recently those who are new to our country whose primary language is not English. The faculty at the college is likewise unique. They are people of great passion who believe that every person can learn and succeed. By and large, all of them can find much higher paying jobs in other areas of the economy. They are in it because they receive great joy in seeing students who have little or no confidence discover how smart and capable they are. I recently returned from a gathering of trustees in Olympia where we hosted the Transforming Lives dinner. It was an opportunity to offer gratitude and praise to 34 students, each representing their school. Each of them arrived with incredible stories of moving from utter defeat to a pace of hope. Five of the 34 were invited on stage to tell their stories. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. One woman returned to college at 46 after years of abuse nearly ending in her own death. She was a high school dropout and had four

children for whom she was responsible. She said to her kids before she entered college. "Don't grow up to be like your mom." It took only one counselor to see what potential she had. She went from wanting to drop out of college in the first week to getting her GED and will graduate this Spring with the intention to get her degree in psychology and use her life experiences to help others. At the end of her presentation she said to her four children in the audience, "Be like your mother - never give up."

Another student had come out of an abusive home from which she ran from. She ended up in the horrific world of sex trafficking. She once again ran from the violence, knowing her only hope was in getting an education. It was a hard story, but she said, "I do so because I want others to find the hope that I have found." Two other students had been living on the streets and in their cars without shelter. Each had been incarcerated for lengthy periods of time. One living with HIV and the other having been a child soldier in the war in Liberia. They spoke powerfully of the confidence and hope they have in their futures. Further education and a living wage awaits all of these students. The final student came from a family of 24 siblings. They lived in incredible poverty. She never dreamed she would go to college. She found a dead-end job and new that her only hope for a bright future was education. She is now a rising star in her college with a very promising future.

Each one of these students went from being unable to establish eye contact to finding their voices in less than two years' time. There wasn't a dry eye in the room because we witnessed how resilient the human soul is when at least one other person knows you by name, sees you as fully their equal and believes in your ability to fulfill your dreams. I don't know all that I will be doing - but I will continue to be an advocate for fully funding our Community and Technical Colleges. +BKU