the immanuelite

celebrating 121 years of ministry

THANKS BE TO GOD

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:11-15)

Enriched. Thanksgiving. Generosity. Overflow. Sharing. Surpassing Grace. Indescribable Gift. Paulôs words to the Corinthian church thousands of years ago describe Immanuelôs mission and ministry from 2018.

Every week, I am amazed and humbled by **the generosity of our church.** The surpassing grace of God calls us together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to care for each and the world God made.

I know of your **visits, calls, and letters** to the sick, the grieving, the homebound, and people you havenôt seen at church lately. Personally, you blessed our family with meals and gifts after our second child, Leo, was born.

I see the **hours you give** for worship leadership and music, council, funerals/memorials, caring for the church facilities, folding newsletters and bulletins, counting Sundayôs offering, providing refreshments and meals for a variety of occasions, and teaching.

I recognize the many ways you **give beyond our congregation** to the Missoula community, Montana, our nation, and across the world. In 2018, we gave over $37,000 to ministries beyond our congregation. **Countless hours were given in service** to people in need through Family Promise, the Giving Tree, Washington Middle School, intergenerational service projects, and in many other ways. To help survivors of fires, **our Endowment gave $1,000 to Faith Lutheran, Chico, California, where Colter Murphy is a youth director**.

Paul promises that the gifts you give on behalf of the church **give witness to the indiscernible gift of God's mercy in Jesus Christ** to those beyond our church walls. I am thankful to see and be a part of this ministry every day.

The surpassing grace of God in 2018 gave us opportunities to realize two of Immanuelôs long held dreams. First, **construction on the Accessibility Enhancement Project (AEP)** began. Second, we received the tremendous gift of a **new Grand Piano** for worship.

The surpassing grace of God led us to expand our relationship with **Washington Middle School (WMS)** to include the FIT program, Flagship, and Empower Packs at the Food Bank. Our service team has expanded to include team leaders for different areas of service. This helps us involve more people in the mission and ministry of the church.

The surpassing grace of God led us to continue **to pioneer our Faith Family Gatherings and Intergenerational Service Projects.** Across the generations, we engage faith conversations that connect Christ to our daily lives. We talk about the holy call of Christian parenting. We practice the spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, service, and worship.

The surpassing grace of God has led us to continue to partner with **Missoula Interfaith Collaborative (MIC).** Through MIC, we are part of the transforming efforts to build an **Emergency Family Shelter** here in Missoula. With MIC, we are part of efforts **to address Behavioral Health and Affordable Housing** in Missoula and through legislative action.

Thank-you, Immanuel Lutheran Church, **for faithfully sharing God's surpassing grace in Jesus Christ** through our church, your families, our community and throughout the world. It is an indescribable gift to be able to *"share the love of Christ with all"* together.

Rev. Molly A. Sasser Grehner

Family Faith Gatherings

Family Night — BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER **4:00-6:15 p.m.** at Immanuel Families/grandparents w/children of all ages. Dinner provided.	Connect&Serve **Intergenerational Service Project**
February 3: Loyalty	February 17
March 3: Honesty	March 17
April 7: Adventure	April 7 or 28

The Values Project | Raising Kids Who Thrive

February 3, 2019: (12:30-1:45 pm)
Loyalty

Loyalty is an enormous component of any steadfast relationship. But it can also mean trouble. You donôt want to teach your young child to be loyal to a friend who consistently mistreats him or her. When they are older, you donôt want them to feel pressured to be loyal to a person who tries to control or manipulate them or to a friend who is making dangerous choices.

We want to teach our children to be people of integrity who are loyal to the right things. In the Biblical Book of Ruth, when Naomi told the wives of her dead sons to return home to their people to find economic security and children with a new husband, Ruth responded, ñWhere you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16) Naomi couldnôt really argue with that level of loyalty.

Help teach your kids to invest in those things that are life-givingð things like true friends. Model loyalty for them in your faith, friendships, and family.

by Rebecca Ninke *www.blog.beamingbooks.com*

Super Bowl Sunday

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

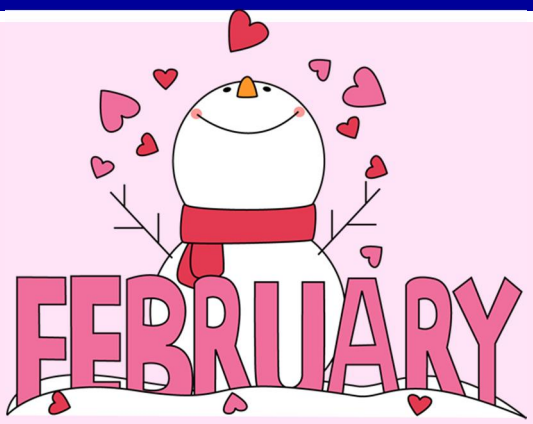
Hebrews makes a connection of the athletic life and the life of faith. Non religious events, like Super Bowl Sunday, have an enormous effect upon our culture and our church. How many of us stay home on Sunday morning to prepare food for the big game?

Sports can remind us of the playfulness of God. They help our bodies reflect the gracefulness and wonder of Godôs creation. When we lose or make mistakes, we can remember that Christ seemed to have lost it all on the cross, but God raised him up. Even losers are of infinite value to God. Sports teach our physical, mental, and spiritual limitations, reminding us that ultimately, we depend upon Godôs goodness and mercy for health and life.

Hebrews reminds us that keeping faith in Jesus Christ through the wins and losses of life is an endurance race, like a marathon. It is not easy, but when we come to the end and see Christ face to face, we will fully understand that the life of faith is the most important sport we have ever played, and that victory belongs to us only through Jesus Christ.

This & That

Birthdays



Birthdays:

2/2 Briar Diggs;
2/4 Zach Hoover;
2/7 Heidi Diggs;
2/8 Franny Hollers, Sophie Reeves;
2/10 Judy Maloney, Carol Seim, Laura Thompson;
2/12 Toni Keel, Larry Mansch, Art Sikkink;
2/15 Abigail Mansch;
2/17 Julie Sager;
2/18 Sam Redfern;
2/19 Freddie Marks;
2/20 Arlene Berry;
2/22 Nancy Botchek, Georgia Cobbs;
2/23 Kaila Jacobson;
2/25 Eileen Brown;
2/26 Liz Marks Brault;
2/28 Jacob Rasmussen.

Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

2/5 Patty & Ernest Orr—47 years;
2/7 Gabe & Melissa Voller—16 years.

Naomi Circle

All women are invited to the monthly Bible Study that meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:45 am in Rm 208. This month join us on February 13!

immanuel staff

Pastor—Molly Sasser-Goehner
Director of Worship & Music—Allen Sasser-Goehner
Director of Christian Education—Sonja Wolsky
Administrative Assistant—Lynn Rhynard
Bookkeeper—Tudi Smith
Choir Director—Nita Smith
Preschool Teachers—Julie Sager, Wendy Deaton
Preschool Assistant—Melinda Brady
Custodians—Carrie & Mark Courter
Funeral Coordinator—Nancy Marks
Wedding Coordinator—Shirley Wanberg

Church Website: imluchurch.org
Office Email: office@imluchurch.org

your 2019 church council

Ike Marks, President
TJ Johnson, Vice President
Judy Wellert, Secretary
Tana Lambert, Treasurer & Finance
***Vacant*, Fellowship**
Toni Johnson, Christian Education
Albert Melby, Property & Grounds
Tom Thompson, Service
Ray Smith, Stewardship
Gaynelle Stamm, Worship & Music
***Vacant*, Witness**
***Vacant*, Youth & Family**

Council Highlights

Immanuel Lutheran Church Council Highlights
January 8, 2019

Members present: Ike Marks, Pr. Molly Sasser-Goehner, Albert Melby, Gaynelle Stamm, Linda Redfern, Tom Thompson, Toni Johnson, Tana Lambert

7:00 PM: Devotions in the sanctuary. **Meeting called to Order at 7:32 PM.** Minutes from December 11, 2018 council meeting approved.

Pastor's Report:

-The Poverello Center would like to set up a food truck in our parking lot on February 1, 2019 fo**r Project Community Connect**. Judy Wellert is our contact person.

-Kim Mansch Funeral: Thanks to everyone who provided refreshments, and to all who helped with the traffic flow of 380 people.

-Father Richard Perry, SJ of St. Francis asked Pr. Molly to consider a pulpit exchange on the week of Christian Unity (Jan. 18-25). John Lund has exchanged before. He will check with Fr. Joseph Carver. Pr. Molly suggested a later date in the spring as she will be gone on Jan. 20.

Accessibility Enhancement Project:

Construction: Anticipating being completely done (all finishes, etc.) end of April 2019. Elevator scheduled for March installation (could move up to February if ready.) Otis elevator inspection has occurred and there were some adjustments that needed to be made. Sanctuary East wall will be taken out in next 2-3 weeks. There will be about a 3-4-foot plywood wall into the sanctuary during construction. Allen & Jim B. moved the musicians' area to the west side of sanctuary for construction. We will now need to put in a Fire Alarm system for the Elevator with additional cost of $5,000. There will be a yearly monitoring fee for the system. There will also be an annual elevator inspection fee. On Jan 9, Price and Immanuel representatives will walk through building to make sure all areas will be heated adequately. A leak into the sacristy occurred over the weekend. The cause is both new construction; the roof is very old, deteriorated, and uninsulated. The entire roof will likely be replaced. The construction project is going to really start affecting our ability to function in the next couple months. So, we will all need to be really flexible and be sure to connect with Lynn and Pastor Molly if we have something planned.

Discussion/Action Items

Finance Committee Report:

December income was $26,537 with expenses being $22,365. Income less expenses in December was $4,172. Year to date deficit is <$3,324>. 2017 had a surplus of $1,966. The 2019 proposed budget was presented and reviewed by council members. Motion: To approve the January 4, 2019 budget draft as the recommended 2019 Budget and vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting 2019. Motion Passed.

Benevolence: The $1,100 of Bazaar and Smorgasbord profits that were budgeted for 2018 were distributed by council as follows: $200 for Family Promise Welcome Kits, $200 Washington Middle School for Families In Transition (FIT) Program, and $700 to the New YWCA Domestic Violence and Family Housing Center.

Washington Middle School: ***Minutes Tuesday, 3 p.m., January 8, 2019***

-Flagship **Bulletin Board** looks good. Thanks, Carrol and Val! -About 250 people were at the **Behavioral Health Rally.**

-Carrol and Val are shopping on Saturday for **toiletries and food** for the FIT program.

-Tudi and Jack are both helping on Fridays with the **"Mad Scientists" Flagship program** that runs from mid-February into May.

-We have heard from a congregation member who is interested in helping with a Flagship program about **deejaying**. Judy will find out if that program will happen.

-Eileen Brown and Carrol will need to furnish examples of the crafts for the **"Creating Across the Ages"** workshop in advance for both WMS and Missoula Manor.

-Jack will ask Ann Bohman if she will use her Thrivent grant to furnish buses for the **8th graders trip to Missoula Food Bank** again this year.

-Val will let Judy know when the **PTA** meeting is, and Judy will try to attend.

-The WMS **Community Service Fair** is Feb. 4-5. We will try to have two people at the table at all times (8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.). Jack and Tudi recommended simplifying the brochure to make it more appropriate for the students. We will have a signup sheet for a couple projects or general interest. Judy will make a display board.

-Jack recommends MIC remind people of the **Helena legislative trip** in case they can now attend. Next meeting Tues., March 19, 2019 at 3 p.m.

Nomination Committee: Council reviewed slate of candidates.

Motion: To approve the slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting January 27, 2019 at 12:15 PM. Motion Passed.

Annual Meeting January 27, 2019 12:15 PM:

-Agenda discussed. Ike will send out finalized agenda to council members.

-Included will be the Budget 2019, Annual Report with 4 pillars, Benevolence Report, Vision 2020 and Accessibility Report. Video will be shown during the prior worship services.

-Endowment: Changes of by laws were discussed regarding term length of partial terms filled. Motion: To approve the suggested changes to Endowment By Laws for presentation and vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting 2019. Motion Approved.

Worship and Music: On Dec. 9, 2018 sound and streaming training was held. On Dec. 19, 2018 we celebrated the Grand Piano with a recital. About 18 people of all ages and abilities performed. Christmas Eve services were well-attended (168-88) and enjoyed by all.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 pm

Linda Redfern Secretary

BBLB/Scandinavian Dinner

IMMANUEL BROWN BAG LUNCH BUNCH

Come to our monthly Brown Bag Lunch Bunch. Itôs a great way to connect with other members and our community, Check out the topics for the summer!.

WHEN: Third Wednesday of the month
TIME: 12 noon- 1:00 pm (unless otherwise noted)

Check out www.imluchurch.org/lunchbunch for upcoming schedules.

Thanks Pastor Molly for sharing your thoughts about Planning a Good Funeral or Memorial- in January. You had some great resources! And gave us homework!

February 13: Note Date Change! VALENTINE GALA

Bring your favorite valentine treat and friend and join us for the gala! Formal dress not required!

Do you have an idea for a Lunch Bunch presentation? Contact Nancy Marks at mslamarks@gmail.com or 406-396-5494. We're always looking for something interesting to share!

Great time on the Lutefisk Express to the

THE SCANDINAVIAN DINNER

Faith Lutheran in Hamilton

On January 26, 2019

Thanks Jim Bendickson for driving the bus… we had a great time riding the bus and eating great food (even though there was no lutefisk - - the truck couldn't get here because of bad weather)

MIC/Family Promise News/Thank You

FAMILY PROMISE/ MIC News…..

A Big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with Family Promise January 6-13th at Atonement. Families were great and we even survived a sewer upset on Saturday. Our next hosting won't be until June 9-16th. We will need some help to get everything setup by then. Be watching for ways to help out.

Exciting News:
All of our Family Promise families now have Rapid Rehousing vouchers which will help them with getting started renting housing. We anticipate hearing of some of them moving out soon.

Thank You Notes

From families supported by the Giving Tree

"Thanks very much for helping us make our Christmas and our kids' Christmas amazing!
— Chantel, Ryder, Ryan

"Thanks for giving me and my daughter a very Merry Christmas! We appreciated it."
—- Teresa & Harley

"Thank you so much for everything you all did to make our Christmas a special one. It truly means the world to us. God Bless."
—- Mona & Makraya

"Thank you so much (for) helping me and my baby girl out at Christmas time!"
—- Marisa & Lily

"Thank you so much for your kindness. You were a huge part in making Christmas great for everyone"
Sincerely, Aspen Home Staff

MIC/Family Promise News, Cont'd

~Mama's Promise~

Missoula Works is starting a new micro enterprise! Mama's Promise was created because we identified mothers of infants in the Family Promise program who greatly lacked opportunities of employment. These moms reached out to Missoula Works looking for opportunities to have a form of income and to become financially stable.

Throughout conversations with these moms, we learned that the moms have a lot of talent and creativity when it comes to making jewelry. We now have started to collaborate with a local leather artisan, who has agreed to donate all of this leather tailings to this enterprise. These materials, combined with the generosity of independent sponsors, have allowed these moms to create beautiful pieces of jewelry without having to place their children in childcare.

We hope to start to actively sell these products, with all of the proceeds supporting the moms directly. We are looking for vendors to host these pieces of jewelry and for opportunities to table and sell these products in the near future."

Note: If anyone has beads they are not using and would like to make a donation for this project, please let Nancy Marks know.

HOUSEHOLD DONATIONS

Donations… If you have donations of furniture or household items to support Family Promise or other families in need consider any of these:

RIVER OF LIFE, First Responders is a home furnishing ministry sponsored by River of Life Church in East Missoula. The mission of First Responders is to help those in financial crisis, those who have lost their homes in a fire, single parent families, and homeless families.

- Drop off items at River of Life (4007 HWY 200 E.) Tuesdays-Fridays between 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.
- Items accepted include furniture, kitchen housewares (dishes, silverware, cups, glasses) and small appliances (coffee makers, toasters, microwaves).
- If you have a question, please call them at 406-214-3803.

YWCA Secret Seconds Thrift Stores provide vouchers for **Family Promise** families to purchase items they need.

Dona ons:

- The wide variety of YWCA Programs have an equally wide variety of donation needs. Please contact E'Lise at echard@ywcaofmissoula.org or (406)543-6691
- Check out the Wish List for all the YWCA programs at https://ywcaofmissoula.org/wish-list/
- Items can be dropped off at either Secret Seconds location:
  Time: Mon-Sat: 10 am-7pm; Sunday: 12– 5pm
  Locations: 136 West Broadway OR 920 Kensington;

Soft Landing Missoula provides ongoing support to refugees by helping them meet their physical, spiritual, and social needs as they settle into our community.

Donations

- Items accepted include gently used furniture and household items, gently used electronics and cars!
- For a complete list of needed items- visit https://softlandingmissoula.org/needed-immediately/
- If you have questions on a donation, please email volunteer@softlandingmissoula.org.

Retreats

Men's Retreat

March 15 & 16, FLBC

Join the retreat for spiritual renewal, learning, great food, fellowship and fun! Rev. Seth Nelson of Faith Lutheran in Ronan will be sharing his spiritual journey and the topic of his recently published book, *"The Church Unknown: Reflections of a Millennial Pastor".* Fee is $80 in advance, $85 on the day of the event. Registration begins on March 15th at 4 pm.

Contact Pastor Chris Flohr (549-4141) at St. Paul Lutheran Church or Don Spritzer (549-5582) for further information.

Women's Spring Retreat

April 26-28, 2019
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

SAVE THE DATE!

Plan now to attend the *WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT*. Motivating speaker, Fun, Fellowship, Service projects, Music, Great food (no cooking!)é . Bring your friends, daughters, mothers, granddaughters (14 and up) along for a fun, restful, spirit-filled weekend on beautiful Flathead Lake. Registration is open. Check out www.imluchurch.org/womensretreat for more details, to get on our mailing list and to register! Hope to see you there! A limited number of scholarships are available. Check out the webpage for details. *Sponsored by Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Five Valleys and Great Divide Cluster.*

Preschool/ T & T Survey/Flagship

Preschool News

Registration is now open for Preschool for the 2019-2020 school year!

An updated registration form is available for download from the website and there are openings in all classes.

Thanks to all who have filled out the Time and Talent survey. This helps us match your interests, talents with ministries at Immanuel. If you haven't yet done so, please take some time to either fill out the form (click the image on the home page at www.imluchurch.org, pick up a paper one in the Hemgren Room or email Lynn at the office@imluchurch.org to get a copy via email. Your participation greatly assists those team leaders at Immanuel with connecting you with Immanuel's ministries.

FLAGSHIP at Washington MS

You may have heard of Washington Middle Schoolôs Flagship program. Flagship is a volunteer organization that offers after-school workshops for the students. Three Immanuel members assisted in three of the workshops offered this past fallé ask Tudi Smith, Jack Stamm, or Edith Cranor-Buck what the experience was like for them.

The new session of Flagship will be held from Feb. 11 until March 18, and volunteers are needed to lead or assist in several workshops. See the bulletin board in the Hemgren Room for the list of workshops and, if you are willing to be a volunteer, there are applications on the bulletin board for you to use. Volunteers must also have a background check that is very easy to complete.

Construction Update

UPDATE Accessibility Enhancement Project (AEP)

BUILD UP THE BODY

⇒ *Offices moved to the North Side of 2nd Level*
⇒ *New Windows in Music office on 5th Level*
⇒ *Power Grid Updated*
⇒ *South Side of 2nd Level copier work room, 2 ADA restrooms and storage area framed in and wired*
⇒ *South Side Awning removed, concrete walkway removed; hole dug*
⇒ *Asbestos removed in former nursery and lower basement level*
⇒ *Elevator pad and elevator wall forms have been built and poured; weatherproofed and backfilled*
⇒ *Sheet Rock has been installed, taped and sanded in 2nd Level copier work room; Work room has been painted*
⇒ *Sheet Rock in Christian Ed Director's office, and office painted*
⇒ *Former nursery electrical and framing; Rough in plumbing 2nd level restrooms;*
⇒ *Floor joists installed; Outside framing 5th Floor; Sheeting on the floors; Sheeting on the elevator shaft*

February Projects:

⇒ *Continued interior work; Sanctuary wall reframed; Plumbing & heating work; Elevator to be placed in March, Anticipated completion of Project April 2019*
⇒ *Financial Gifts continue to be contributed regularly, are much needed and appreciated!*

ImmanuelLutheran CHURCH

immanuel evangelical lutheran church
pastor molly sasser-goehner
830 south avenue west
missoula, montana 59801-7912
office: 406.549-0736
fax: 406.728.2123

email addresses:
church: office@imluchurch.org
pastor: pastormolly@imluchurch.org
allen sasser-goehner: allen@imluchurch.org
sonja wolsky: sonja@imluchurch.org
church website: www.imluchurch.org

vision and mission statement

vision:

Immanuel is called to be a caring, compassionate, and diverse congregation that is spiritually nourished through Jesus Christ and reaches out to the community at large.

mission:

share the love of Christ with all!

The Immanuelite is the official publication of news and events at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
830 South Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Missoula, MT 59801
Permit # 132

ImmanuelLutheran
CHURCH

Join us for the following!

Faith Family Gathering—Sunday, February 3
From 12:30 to 1:45 pm

Worship Services each Sunday in February
at 9 am and 11 am