

the immanuelite

celebrating 123 years of ministry



Trusting Thomas?

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” (John 20:24-25)

Jesus' resurrection confronts the sadness and loneliness of Thomas's doubt. Do you leave the celebration of Jesus' resurrection with similar mixed emotions? Somehow, Thomas was not in the right place at the right time to see Jesus show up in the flesh.

Do you relate to Thomas's missed opportunity? Perhaps you were unable to attend worship or a family Easter gathering. Maybe the ups and downs of the past year impacted your ability for a new job or a promotion. Maybe chemo treatment hasn't gone as well as expected, and you have had to cancel dates with friends or vacation plans. Perhaps the hardship and loneliness of the past year persist, and you find your-

self in a silent, empty tomb rather than in the midst of a spring garden brimming with new life.

We may wish for magical powers to restore our lives to perfection, or we wait for that “one more thing” that could finally enable us to embrace faith or be happy.

Jesus makes faith happen in the midst of missed opportunities by breathing the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and blessing them with peace. He shows Thomas and all God's people that the life-changing resurrection embraces the wounds all people carry.

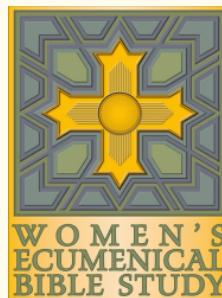
God the Creator's peace, Jesus' wounds, and the breath of the Holy Spirit lead Thomas to believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Then, Thomas trusts God to care for his body and his life. Just like Jesus' ministry prior to the cross, Jesus reaches for the outsider and restores Thomas to his place in the community.

- What wounds of your own could Jesus embrace?
- Where are you feeling like an “outsider” and what steps could you take for restoration?
- For what relationship could you pray for peace?
- Pray to trust God with your body and your life.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons by Pastor Molly

Mercy is the great weaver,
collecting and binding
the scattered and broken
parts of our lives
in a tapestry of Divine love.

Cynthia Bourgeault

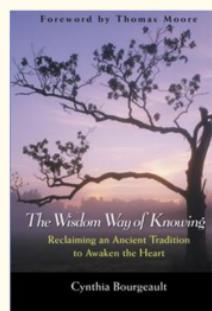


WEBS 2021 SPRING BOOK STUDY W/ SPIRITUAL PRACTICES

Cynthia Bourgeault's

The Wisdom Way of Knowing:

Reclaiming an Ancient Tradition to Awaken the Heart



April 5 - May 24, 2021

Mondays: 9:30-10:45 a.m. via Zoom

For Zoom link email
contact: Rev. Valerie Webster, facilitator
vwebster587@gmail.com

This & That

Birthdays



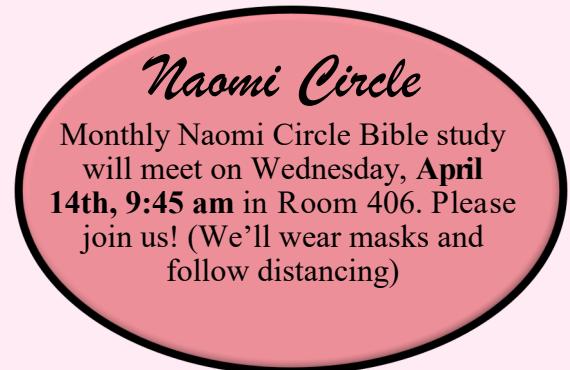
Birthdays:

- 4/1 Bea Happ, Bruce Kramer,
Pam Sikkink
- 4/2 Sandy Knutson
- 4/3 Bethany Marks
- 4/4 George Beasley, Nancy Hogan
- 4/5 Aprille Jordan
- 4/6 Anna Redfern, Burt Stenslie
- 4/7 Carol Halldorson
- 4/10 Colter Murphy
- 4/11 Nancy Marks
- 4/19 Pat Hogan, Kathy Schaller
- 4/20 Fay Wages
- 4/22 Larry Lambert, Nancy Wheeler
- 4/24 John Swanson
- 4/25 Pat Swanson
- 4/28 Vanessa Kolberg
- 4/30 Peter Redfern

Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

No anniversaries in April.



immanuel staff

Pastor—Molly Sasser-Goehner
Director of Worship & Music—Allen Sasser-Goehner
Director of Christian Education—Sonja Wolksy
Administrative Assistant—Lynn Rhynard
Bookkeeper—Tudi Smith
Choir Director—Nita Smith
Preschool Teachers—Julie Sager, Wendy Deaton
Preschool Assistant—Kris Fisher
Custodians—Carrie & Mark Counter
Funeral Coordinator—Nancy Marks
Wedding Coordinator—Shirley Wanberg
Church Website: imluchurch.org
Office Email: office@imluchurch.org

your 2021 church council

Ike Marks, President
Georgia Cobbs, Vice President
Audrey Thornton, Secretary
Tana Lambert, Treasurer
Vacant, Fellowship
Vacant, Finance
Toni Johnson, Christian Education
Albert Melby, Property & Grounds
Tom Thompson, Service
Ray Smith, Stewardship
Marilyn Hall, Worship & Music
Vacant, Witness
Vacant, Youth & Family

Council Minutes

Church Council Highlights, March 9, 2021

Members met via Zoom from their respective homes at 7:00 P.M.

Pastor's report

- The Intern process application has been submitted. Rebekah's first day will be August 9th. She will spend her first week with Campus Ministry. We're working on figuring out office space.
- FLBC- they will fill fast due to limited numbers being admitted. Put applications in soon.
- Lynn is back and doing well. Tudi did a great job covering the office while she was gone.
- Colter Murphy will be the Youth Director at St. Paul Lutheran for 32 hours a week. We'd like to try and get \$1,000 to \$3,000 from the Endowment fund to make up the other eight hours a week. He'll work with high school kids at St. Paul and at Immanuel.
- Gaynelle Stamm, Jim Bendickson, Larry Lambert and Nancy Melby will make up the Sabbatical team
- We'd like to look into some digital options for the phone tree as the system we currently have is out-dated.

Finance

- In February we had a \$5,000 contribution by a member. We had a surplus of \$2,915 which almost erased the whole deficit from January. There is only \$439.00 left of the deficit. The same person gave \$7,500 for the Build up the Body campaign.
- We need to budget for the upcoming building repair projects (ie. gutters, fascia, roof). We have \$47,829.00 in the general fund. Perhaps we could move \$10,000 into a special fund for repairs? Council agrees money should be moved.
- The Annual audit will be in two weeks.

Property/Grounds

- Price on gutters and fascia on one side came in at \$1,089 for gutters and about the same for the fascia. We're waiting for nicer weather to get a roof quote. That will probably happen next month.
- The elevator alarm keeps going off. Just have to silence it on the alarm panel. We'll work on it soon.

Christian education

- We had \$138.43 from the children and family offerings we needed to get off books. Tudi will transfer that money as a donation from Christian education for baby care kit needs.
- Sonja is still working on GROW activities and is putting together packets with Rebekah to give the kids.
- We delivered over 500 sandwiches to the Poverello Center. They were very grateful for them.
- Confirmation is going well considering the pandemic.
- FLBC-there are a few kids already planning to go. Sonja will get funds from Endowment to help kids make it to camp.
- VBS - we're still wondering if it is an issue to bring kids and families together. We may have some kind of plan even if it is a modified version.
- Preschool is mostly full for fall enrollment and are still doing morning classes only. They may consider afternoon classes depending on the demand. Parent/teacher conferences this week.

Service

- Three families in Family Promise and will be spending four weeks at Immanuel before the move to the Meadowlark at the beginning of May.
- Washington Middle School still hasn't hired anyone to lead the Flagship program.
- Lutheran World Relief baby care kits received a donation from the kids collection of \$130 plus. Kits need to be completed by May 8. Our goal is 40 kits. We will ask for specific items.
- Giving Tree - Nancy Marks will look for a coordinator to help Eileen out.
- Committee considering adding another member. Discussion about a Christmas in July Bazaar outside. See New Business for further details.
- Nancy Marks brought up the idea of doing a story walk using a children's book related to homelessness.

Stewardship

- We're in the middle of a stewardship emphasis in Lent. We've had a couple of great temple talks so far.

Worship and music

- Palm Sunday and Easter service will be at 9a.m. online and in person and again at 11 a.m. for an outside, drive-in worship service.
- Maundy Thursday will be a drive-thru communion 4:30-6:30 p.m. No sign up is needed for this one.
- Good Friday Tenebrae service at 7 p.m. in person and recorded.
- Prayer vigil was lovely. Well done to Marilyn.

New/Old Business

- Georgia talked about the "One Coin Found" book study. She suggested we could possibly have a workshop with Pastor Emmy about LGBTQ+ in our community.
- Marilyn added that the book study group for "Inspired" would like to continue their study after Easter.
- A Sexual Harassment policy is needed in order to host an intern. Please read through the sample policy and come back next month with questions. We will vote on it in April.
- Strategic plan - there will be more info in April. We will be weighing our options and get input from the council. We did a lot of the work in the fall of 2019 before the pandemic. We have great data to look at. We'll review it and see if there will be some changes because of Covid.
- Sabbatical team - they will check back with us in April/May
- Governance/Constitution - trailing item on agenda interrelated with strategic plan
- Christmas in July bazaar service committee would like to recommend this. Outdoors? We can set up tables around the sidewalk and/or parking lot. We'll place a call on all the crafters in the congregation to make things. The funds will probably be designated for service projects like Giving Tree, Washington Middle school, and Family Promise. Typically 9-2 or 8-1 to beat heat.

Motion to adjourn by Georgia with a second by Ray. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting is April 13, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. Adjourned at 20:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:
Audrey Thornton Secretary



Family Promise



Family Promise

By Nancy Marks

A huge thank you from Becky and the Family Promise families to Immanuel for providing a place for them to stay for four weeks beginning March 21 through April 18th. Different organizations will be providing volunteers each week but families do not have to move. Providence hosted March 21-27; Christ the King from March 28-April 3; Immanuel/Atonement- April 4-10th and Church of Jesus Christ LDS will be hosting April 11-18th and assisting with cleanup. Thanks to the generosity of Immanuel, families are able to stay in one place for 4 weeks.



Thanks to all who have already signed up for our week of hosting April 4-10th. Already our Overnight slots are filled! A few dinner meals (to be delivered to the Day Center) are needed, but no doubt those will be filled by our great cooks. Check the signup on our website www.imluchurch.org to see what is needed.



It was a little nostalgic to see the trailer parked in front of the church and realize that this will be the last time we will have to UNLOAD beds and SETUP rooms and then CLEANUP and MOVE the TRAILER at Immanuel. The move in date for families is scheduled for May 10th. Be watching for details about the ribbon cutting (limited attendance due to Covid but they are looking to livestream it) and also about what might be needed to help get the Family Housing Center ready!

Lots of planning is going on to get ready to open the Meadowlark in early May. It will be so great that families will have a space of their own and not have to move between congregations each week. Keep praying that construction continues to progress. (see Meadowlark update)

The Meadowlark

It's a sprint to the finish at The Meadowlark! All of the interior finishes, flooring and cabinetry installation is happening now. The outdoor playground space is under construction, too, and the concrete is being poured for the patios and the walking paths.

YWCA offices and programs and the Family Promise office will move into The Meadowlark in mid-April, and the first families will move into the building in May. **We will be live streaming a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6th. Stay tuned for more details!**



Thank You/Baby Care Kits/Walk



A big THANK YOU to all who helped with Worship Services during Holy Week! Jim Bendickson, Ike Marks, Nita Smith, Natalie Breshears, Julie Sager, Chad Bishop, Marilyn Hall, Tana Lambert, Sonja Wolsky and all the youth who read the Passion story, Ray Smith, Audrey Thornton, Jack Stamm, and to technicians, Paul Schaller, Andy Morse, Sumer Pellett!

— Allen Sasser-Goehner

Last Call for LWR Baby Care Kit Supplies

Thanks to all who have donated to our Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. Our goal this year is **40 baby care kits**.

Baby Care Kits are distributed as part of emergency and relief efforts, and they are also given out as part of LWR health initiatives to encourage women to seek prenatal care. One such initiative in Mali provided training for local prenatal health care workers, who were given Baby Care Kits to distribute when they assisted with births. These kinds of programs help more babies in rural, poor areas receive a healthy start in life. We hope you will join us in this effort!



Size 6-24 months

- ◊ Lightweight cotton t-shirts (short sleeved) (41)
- ◊ Long sleeved shirts (62)
- ◊ Jackets with hoods or jacket & cap (41)
- ◊ Baby socks (53)

- ◊ Cloth diapers, flat-fold preferred (142)
- ◊ Hand towels, dark color recommended (33)
- ◊ Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square (no fleece) (41)

PLEASE SIGN UP ONLINE at www.imluchurch.org or call Nancy Marks to signup if you would like to donate items so we can track how many we need.

Here is what we still need to reach our goal of 40 kits: Return items to the Baby Care Kit box in Room 405 or the cradle in the narthex by EASTER SUNDAY- or shortly thereafter!

Cash donations are also accepted- Make checks to Immanuel and note Baby Kits in notes.

Questions: Contact Deb Getz at 406-239-6835 or jhgetz@bresnan.net



Lenten Story Walk

A great time was had by many who did our Lent Story Walk using the book *A Place to Stay, A Shelter Story*. We had beautiful weather and even had a special guest, Terri Barclay, who works with the Literacy Grant for the Office of Public Instruction who read the story as a part of her Afternoon Read Aloud with Terri. A great story that is an introduction to the new Family Housing Center at the Meadowlark which will be opening in May. Be watching for another opportunity to see it in the future.

Walk/Run—Book Study

Monthly Walk-Run

Join the Ephesians 3:20 Walk/Run Group as we strive for a healthy 2021. This group has been formed across the country to promote healthy living and exercise and also to give us a chance to walk and talk with each other!

Mark your calendars

**April RISE UP Ephesians 8:20 Walk/ Run
Saturday April 10
10 am
Location: Maclay Flats Nature Trail**

We will have 1.2 Nature Walk, 2 mile walk or 5 K (do both of the trails) for walkers and runners of all ages and your dogs (on leashes) if you want to bring them. Signup on the Immanuel website.



Get Active- God's Way Book Study

Facilitated by Nancy Marks



Join me for a book study called **Get Active, God's Way**. Weight loss devotional and workout challenge. Lose weight, learn to love exercise and glorify God with your body!!

"Jesus said to him, Rise up, take up your bed, and walk." ~ John 5:8 AKJV

Like the man waiting by the well for healing, we know we need to be more active for our health, yet we continue to wait around for some mystic day when suddenly something will be different and we're able to start working out. That day will never come, and yet, the answer, Jesus, is here now.

Rise-up. In this 28 day daily devotional study and workout challenge, award winning best-selling author, Cathy Morenzie, guides you through a shift in mindsets around exercise, develops positive health habits, and shows how to lean on God for the strength to do what you've never been able to do on your own.

Whether you've never exercised, occasionally exercise, or exercise regularly but are wanting to take it to the next level, the insights, strategies and biblical teachings in this book will help you to develop a more active lifestyle than you've had before.

The book study includes

- Daily readings and devotions (on your own)
- Five Zoom calls (7:8:15pm) Thursdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6

What you will need:

- Your own copy of Get Active God's Way by Cathy Morenzie [CLICK HERE](#) to order on Amazon- paperback- approximately \$14. If you are in Missoula, I've ordered several copies and you can pick them up from me Cost is \$14
- a journal to write in
- your Bible

Please contact Nancy at nancy@imluchurch.org if you have questions.

Signup on the Immanuel website www.lmluchurch.org





Upcoming FLBC Retreats & Events

We hope to see you at camp soon. **Registration for Summer camp 2021 is OPEN!** We are excited to be offering overnight camps for youth, family camps, and custom adventures for families and small groups (such as a congregational retreat for all ages!). Visit <https://flbc.net/summer-2021/> to learn more and find instructions on how to register.

Visit <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/> to learn more about our year-round programming and to find additional COVID-19 related information. Flyers are attached to this email!

Spring Environmental Education Field Day

Saturday, April 10th, 2021 10am - 4pm

\$25 / student / \$12/adult chaperone - includes lunch!

Join us for a day of fun and learning at FLBC! Learn more about the world around you and enjoy the fun activities camp offers at our Environmental Education Field Day. Visit <https://flbc.net/field-trip/> to learn more and register.

Adult Spirituality Retreat - "Shepherd Me, O God"

April 18 - 20, 2021 (Sun - Tues)

\$165/person (\$125 for Monday only)

Join Pastor Brenda Satrum at FLBC for time with your Shepherd, as we dwell with God in Word, prayer, silence, and song. (CEU Credits available) Register online or by contacting the FLBC office.

Memorial Day Family Retreat & Work Weekend

May 28-31, 2021

FREE! Registration still required :-)

Come have a fun weekend and help FLBC get ready for summer!

Women's Retreat

June 11-13, 2021

\$165 full weekend (\$125 for Saturday Only)

Join us at FLBC for a weekend of rest and fun! Pastor Miriam Schmidt will lead us in Bible Study around the topic “Saying No, Saying Yes – A Spiritual Practice” <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/womens-retreat/>



ImmanuelLutheran
CHURCH

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evangelical
lutheran church
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- 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 Lutheran Church
830 South Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801

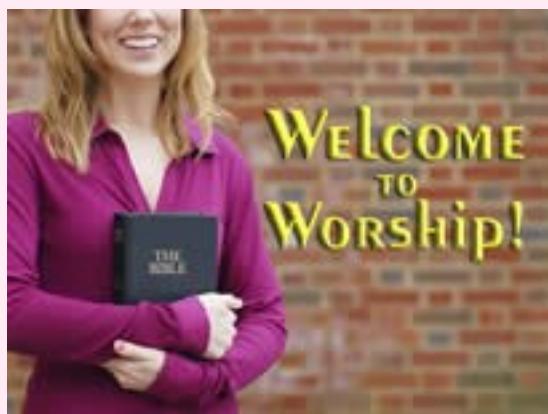
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ImmanuelLutheran
CHURCH

Join Us For Worship In-Person and On-line



We are continuing limited in-person worship in April at 10 am. Sign up at www.imluchurch.org to attend in-person worship or call the church office to sign up.

Livestream services will continue, and are recorded for watching at any time.