

the immanuelite

celebrating 123 years of ministry

Intern Pastor Rebekah Cochrane Thomas



We will welcome our first Pastoral Intern from Luther Seminary mid-August. A yearlong internship is a required learning experience for all Masters of Divinity (MDiv) students who plan to be ordained as ELCA pastors. Intern Pastor Rebekah's time will be shared between Immanuel and Emmaus Campus Ministry. Intern Pastors lead and participate in all aspects of being a pastor including preaching, worship leadership and planning, visitation and pastoral care, teaching for all ages including baptism, communion, confirmation and Bible, council and committee meetings, and much more.

Our congregational role is to welcome our intern and help her develop her pastoral identity. Our role is to accept her leadership, to allow her to offer us pastoral care, to attend events that she is leading such as worship, preaching or teaching, and to ac-

cord her grace and respect recognizing that she is still a student.



An internship team comprised of IMLU members and Emmaus representatives will work closely with the intern pastor to offer hospitality, support and evaluation through meetings and written materials required by the Seminary.

After a difficult year when many of us have been scattered and alone, we have a joyful opportunity to reunite and reconnect with each other through our shared purpose of mentoring and raising up a new leader for the church. The experience, foundation and relationships Intern Pastor Rebekah will form at Immanuel will shape her ministry and the congregations that she will lead for years to come. Please plan to connect with our church community and our pastoral intern in the coming months. We need you, and she needs you.



People of Immanuel, we have many strengths to offer an intern pastor. Our genuine climate of warmth, welcome, openness to change, and creativity will create a rich learning environment. Our rootedness in our Lutheran identity offers a setting of grace and appreciation for nuance. Our joyful love of Jesus and being together witnesses to the purpose of Christian community. Our generosity of time, talent, and treasure both inside and beyond our church will inspire and give hope for the entire church's future. Our partnership with Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, Family Promise, Washington Middle School, and our innovations in youth and family ministry along with our upcoming strategic planning, new renovations, endowment, strong stewardship, and funding our mortgage offer unique learning opportunities.



People of Immanuel, our Intern Pastor Rebekah needs you, and we need each other.

Worship at IMLU

The mask requirement at worship will continue through June 6. Under the recommendations of the Worship Team, the Council will make decisions regarding the lifting of some of our covid restrictions including wearing masks at the June 8 Council Meeting. Please check the e-news, website or call the office for updates for the latest information.

This & That



Birthdays

Birthdays:

- 6/3 Luke Sasser-Goehner
- 6/5 Kris Leirfallom
- 6/7 Audrey Thornton
- 6/8 Marilyn Hoblitt
- 6/10 Jennae Kuehl
- 6/12 Edla Christianson, Dale Mahlum, Dave Morris
- 6/15 Tito Mumma
- 6/16 Kegan Morris
- 6/17 Judy Nakamura
- 6/18 Everett Diggs, Peggy Tuck
- 6/20 Linda Redfern
- 6/21 Betty Ann Gustafson, Sumer Pellett, Heather Schneider, Sonja Wolsky
- 6/22 Evelyn Steenberg
- 6/23 Bethany Mansch
- 6/25 Kiersten Brown
- 6/30 Bob Neal, Tim Wolsky

Anniversaries

Anniversaries:

- 6/7 Randy & Jaime Long—13 years;
- 6/10 Bernard & Danesa Khomenko—16 years;
- 6/11 Art & Pam Sikkink—44 years;
- 6/13 Rob & Carolee Stuberg—40 years;
- 6/15 Greg & Carrol Karlsgodt—53 years;
- 6/22 Larry & Tana Lambert—30 years;
- 6/24 Pete & Edla Christianson—60 years; Cal & Twila Fuss—23 years;
- 6/26 Levi & Janet Diggs—17 years;
- 6/28 Haywood & Eileen Brown—35 yrs;
- 6/30 Rick & Pat Swanson—59 years.

Special Congratulations to Tana & Larry Lambert on 30 years of marriage; Haywood & Eileen Brown on 35 years of marriage; Rob & Carolee Stuberg on 40 years of marriage; and Pete & Edla Christianson on 60 years of marriage!



Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle Bible Study group will not be meeting in June, July or August. Join us in September! Happy Summer!

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—Kris Fisher
- Custodians—Carrie & Mark Courter
- 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, May 11, 2021

Council Members Present: Toni Johnson, Tudi Smith (filling in for Tana Lambert), Ike Marks, Albert Melby, Tom Thompson, Georgia Cobbs, Marilyn Hall, Audrey Thornton, Pastor Molly, Ray Smith; Guests: Jean Larson and Gaynelle Stamm.

Pastor's report

- Intern Supervisor Training June 2 & 3
- Synod Assembly Worship Leadership June 4 & 5. Immanuel has been asked to lead all the worship for this assembly.

RIC Report by Jean Larson and Georgia Cobbs

- RIC (Reconciling in Christ) The team seeks to support LGBTQIA+ church members, their families and friends. After a detailed step-by-step process, the congregation could offer the LGBTQIA+ community an explicit welcome through written, posted, and web materials, and at some point, vote to become an RIC congregation.
- In Nov. 2019, the Immanuel team went to a workshop at St. Paul along with several other churches. Emmaus Campus Ministry is the only RIC ministry in Western Montana.
- Over the past 1.5 years, primary work has been one-on-one meetings with members of the congregation. Met with 28 contacts! 16 were totally onboard. 10 were open to this. Two who were open but with specific concerns (specifically regarding church conflict and an in-your-face approach.) People feel we are a warm, welcoming and safe congregation.
- Boundary and consent workshop done by Zoom in March re. how to make each other feel safe and welcomed. The worship hospitality wristbands are in response to covid and this training.
- The team will continue one-on-ones with members, the steps of the toolkit and educational opportunities.

Sabbatical Policy Report by Gaynelle Stamm

- The team consists of Jim Bendickson, Nancy Melby, Ron Marks, Larry Lambert & Gaynelle Stamm
- Want the policy to remain fairly general
- Terms being considered: three months allowed for every 5 yrs of service, minister would be allowed full pay and benefits; expenses would be paid by the minister (he/she could use continuing education money for that); the minister would serve at least one year upon return and submit a report to the congregation; terms would be negotiated between council and the minister. Good to have enough planning time. Six months has been suggested. Part of the planning is figuring who will do what during the three months the minister is gone.
- Policy can be fairly broad with something to the effect of "to be negotiated between council and minister" with some kind of budget to prepare for the sabbatical.

Finance

- April was a good month giving-wise due to Easter and having more in-person services. Income less expense was a positive \$2,773. This reduced our year-to-date deficit to <\$3,169>.
- During the construction loan process, our lender Mission Investment Funds opened an additional bank account for us for some reason. We do not have a need for this account. It currently has a balance of \$201. Tudi would like to transfer the money to our loan to be applied to principal. She will compose a letter and needs two signatures from the executive committee.
- Shepherd's Staff program to be replaced by their new cloud-based software Church 360.
- Church payroll software changing from Quickbooks to Paychex.

Property/Grounds

- Nothing to report. Still working on pricing on roofing.

Christian education

- May 2nd had a very nice confirmation picnic at the Marks'.
- Sonja and Rebekah are finishing up the GROW program. 3.5 weeks left. May 26 hope to get together.
- Endowment approved funds for FLBC camp just shy of \$5000. Sonja has reminded parents that they need to register their kids with a profile.
- Sonja has set ZVBS for June 28-to July 1 5:30p-6:30p and is open for kids 4-10 yrs. She encourages IMLU kids to invite their friends.
- Confirmation on May 23rd Jacob Bishop and Hannah Wolsky and a separate ceremony for 6/6 Keiana Griggs.

Service

- Family Promise: Quilts, etc. were blessed this last Sunday, Becky from MIC spoke after church. Family promise is in the new office. Tours being given and arranged for early May. Families will sleep at Meadowlark starting May 9. Volunteers to provide salads, desserts for up to 64 people. Four people are needed to serve. Look at "potluck meals for 12 or more" website via Google. First week for Immanuel is the first week of July.
- Washington Middle School: This Thursday is the first week of the first session, then early May is second session times five weeks. Last week in July is a cooking camp for flagship students. Need help with prep and with cleanup. Camp is 9 AM to 3 PM. Maybe they will do out to lunch on that Wednesday. 15 kids total. Perhaps aprons to decorate for themselves. WMS is getting them. Possible woodworking program for next year assisted by Mick Hanson.
- Baby care kits: A group is set up to prepare and put kits together. There have been generous donations. Enough supplies have been given for 40 kits. Money left over from this year to roll over into next year.
- Giving tree: Eileen and Laurie are working on team leaders to help coordinate certain areas.

(Cont'd next page)

Highlights cont'd; Confirmation

- Bazaar: To be held July 17, 9 am to 3 pm outdoors. A number of people have accepted varying responsibilities. The next planning meeting will be held Wednesday, May 19 at 7 PM via Zoom.
- **Stewardship**
- More to do with property and grounds - oak tree planted on south lawn donated by Swede and Betty Ann. A grandchild of the Luther oak in Wittenberg Germany. Planted three roses on parking lot side of church with trellises for them.

Worship and music

- Changed worship seating from 40 to 50. Look at budget to do some mic work.
- Looking at doing outside worship this summer. Pentecost is May 23rd

Next Council Meeting is June 8, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by: Audrey Thornton, Secretary

Congratulations!

Hannah Wolsky and Jacob Bishop were confirmed at worship on May 23rd, 2021.
Keiana Griggs will be confirmed on Sunday, June 6.
Congratulations to this year's confirmands!



Luther Oak

May 9, 2021—Luther Oak Dedication

Thanks to Swede and Betty Ann Gustafson for giving a Luther Oak Tree seedling for us to plant on our front lawn. Martin Luther enjoyed spending his free time in the garden among trees and flowers. In one legend Luther said, **“If I knew that tomorrow was the end of the world, I would plant an apple tree today!”** After a long year of pandemic and isolation, when so much ended or died, the tree is a symbol of hope in promise of resurrection.



The current Luther oak stands in Wittenberg, Germany at the spot where, in 1520, Luther supporters piled a stack of writings of Church doctrine and a Papal Bull that threatened him with excommunication unless he recanted all his writings. The original Luther oak in Wittenberg – when and by whomever it was planted – was chopped down during the Napoleonic Wars because there was a shortage of fuel. The current Luther oak was planted in 1830; in 1904 an unknown person tried to cut it down. Today the tree suffers from air pollution and also the results of this ‘attack’.

God’s story of salvation is told in the trees. From the Tree of Life and the Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. Trees provide oxygen and clean air (like the first breath of God). The tree of the Cross is the Tree of Life and finally the leaves of the Tree are for the healing of the nations.



At 2 feet high the tree we planted is still a seedling, and is just starting to leaf out. Now it looks like a small stick, but it has great potential. Oaks of this species (*Quercus robur*) often live for 300 years (a number of them are assumed to be 1000 to 1500 years old) and grow to 60 feet high and 60 feet wide.

Bazaar



Immanuel will be having a
Christmas in July Bazaar
outdoors on **Saturday, July 17**
from **9 am to 3 pm!**

The Bazaar is coming up soon!! Start crafting! Remember, crafts do NOT have to be Christmas-related! Crafts for any time of the year and occasion are welcome!

Laurie Swanson (406-239-4783) has an incredible amount of craft supplies she would like to share! Let her know what items you would like and she can deliver them to the church. (Picture frames, shadow boxes, jelly roll fabric, plastic mesh, precut mat board, leather pieces, pendants, beads, jewelry findings, ribbon, quilted fabrics for up cycling into projects, some card stock, lots of envelopes, some rubber stamps, felt in many colors, sequins and Styrofoam, and more are available!)

Judy Nakamura (406-370-0254) also has decorative burlap for making market bags. Contact her if you would like to sew some up!

Baked good will also be welcomed!

LWR Baby Care Kits - and they are off!!

Thanks to all who have donated to our Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits and to Deb Getz for leading up this effort. We put together **40 baby care kits** and they were delivered to a truck on May 8th to be sent off to the center where they are distributed.

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!

With YARD SALE season coming up- consider looking for these items:

Here are the items we need for the Baby Care Kits. Sizes 6-24 months:

- Lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Top and pant sets
- Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Cloth diapers, flat-fold preferred
- Jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts with or without hoods
- Baby caps
- Baby socks
- Hand towels, dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- Diaper pins or large safety pins





Family Promise

By Nancy Marks

Thanks to our group of quilters and friends who provided quilts and bathroom towels and accessories to decorate one of the rooms at the Family Housing Center. The room looks so warm and welcoming. How exciting for families to have one place to live with beds and a bathroom of their own with a bathtub/shower.

A special thanks to Carole Graham, Sharon Hanson, Nancy Lechelt, Kathie Marks, Nancy Marks, Bonnie Moon, Paulette McIntyre, Linda Rosenbaum, Gaynelle Stamm, and Kitty Thorne for their contributions. Thanks to Delores Lee and Nancy Marks for obtaining the Thrivent grants and to Judy Nakamura for doing the shopping for mattress pads for the beds.



It has been heartwarming to see the community come together for this worthy project to support families experiencing homelessness.

Volunteer opportunities: Volunteers will be needed to provide salads and desserts (main dish, side and starch will be provided through a grant by the Poverello) We will also need kitchen help each night to serve food and supervise the dishwashing. In addition we will need a volunteer each night for overnight shifts. There will be a paid awake staff member on duty as well. The overnight volunteer will have their own room with a bed! In addition we will also need gas cards and gift cards to support the families at the housing center.

Our first rotation will be the first week of July so be watching for details about what will be needed. It's an exciting time when we can be able to provide safe housing for up to 31 families as we work in collaboration with the YWCA. What a blessing!

Questions? Or want to volunteer? Contact Nancy Marks at 406-396-5494 or nancy@imluchurch.org.



Washington Middle School Flagship

The school year is winding down. There are only two more Flagship session left for this semester. Since we last wrote, the students made decoupage vases and baking mix cinnamon rolls, fabric mache bowls, fleece pillows, and fleece blankets. We will be holding our final session outside, at the school, in person! It has been an interesting year! — Tudi Smith



Meadowlark/Walk-Run

Meadowlark update.....



We're open for services at The Meadowlark! Big thanks to the volunteers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of Montana for helping us move, as well as Two Men and a Truck moving company.

Please note our new address and update your records:
YWCA Missoula - 1800 S. 3rd St. W., Missoula, MT 59801.

In May we held a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the official opening of The Meadowlark.

The solar panels on the roof of The Meadowlark are soaking up the sunshine! Each panel can power about one sleeping room in the building per day.



Many thanks to NorthWestern Energy for their support of our solar project. This renewable generation project received funding through the NorthWestern Energy Efficiency Plus (E+) Renewable Energy Program. The program is established with Universal System Benefits Program funds collected from all NorthWestern electric customers in Montana.

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

JUNE SUNSHINE FUN-TIME

Ephesians 8:20 Walk/Run

Saturday June 5, 10 am

Location: Fort Missoula Regional Park- meet at the pavilion

Walk or run 1 mile or 5 K. Bring your kids and or dogs (on a leash) if you want to bring them. Come enjoy a walk and enjoy a spring day! Signup on the Immanuel website.



Build Day



Habitat
for Humanity[®]
of Missoula

Save the Date!
June 26

Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Hebrews 3:4 – “For every house is built by someone but the builder of all things is God.”

Habitat for Humanity Missoula partners with eligible families to build modest, energy-efficient homes in Missoula. An interest-free mortgage program allows partner families to buy these affordable homes. Over the years, families have stated how their lives have dramatically changed by living in a clean and safe home where they can raise their children.

Immanuel Lutheran’s Habitat for Humanity build day is planned for **Saturday, June 26** from **8:30am-3pm**. Ten volunteers are needed to assist with construction at the East Missoula site. If construction is not to your liking, please consider providing lunch to the site workers.

An online sign-up will be available in June for interested volunteers.



i m m a n u e l
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· 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.

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**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY!**



Come, let us tell of the
LORD's greatness; let us
exalt his name together.

Psalm 34:3

**Join Us For Worship In-Person and
On-line**

Join us this Sunday at 10 am!

Sign up at www.imluchurch.org to
attend in-person worship or call the church
office to sign up.

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