

# the immanuelite

celebrating 123 years of ministry

***The Lord brought Abraham outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then God said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (Genesis 15:5).***



They called it "seven minutes of terror" during the February 18, 2021 landing of the Perseverance Rover on the Mars surface. Seven minutes when that billion-dollar machine of the best of human ingenuity was beyond the direct control of NASA. Brilliant Scientists were filled with dread and panic about what could happen when this Rover was unobservable, ungovernable and on its own.

Lately, much in our lives has been beyond our influence or control. Perhaps, only seven minutes of powerlessness could be manageable. Will all these precautions really prevent me from getting sick and dying? When and where can I get a vaccine? What days and hours will school be in session? Can we keep living in this house? Every little decision of our leaders has taken on the gravitas of life and death making the regular changes in our relationships or our health feel extra heavy and burdensome. Like those brilliant scientists, we call this powerlessness and uncertainty "terror."

Amid my panic over the uncontrollable details, it's a relief for me to look beyond myself. For God to say, *look up at the stars; there is something bigger going on here. Look there to see my promises. Look into the vastness of the universe, into its wonder and mystery. Look at how much you cannot see. How much you do not know - the number and miles and matters that are beyond you. Look there - that is what I am up to. More than you can imagine or fathom. Is anything too wonderful for God?*



It's a reprieve to be reminded that I am not the center of my own universe. We are just a small part of a much bigger cosmic ecosystem. The Mars rover is another way for us to try to grasp at the incomprehensible, baffling vastness of the universe, and our little slice of life within it all.

Yet, at the same time, the purpose of the Perseverance Rover is to gather as much minutia of Mars matter as possible. To take photos, pick up and examine rocks from every angle and perspective. To go from 136.64 million miles away from the surface of Mars to just millimeters.

This is what God is about when God chooses people like Abraham and Sarah. The unfathomable, mysterious, incomprehensible God of the cosmos, of the universe, of things beyond our wisdom and understanding - This God comes near. The God who created stars and universe and, perhaps, has even in some way created and cared for other life forms - this very same God - has a care for Abraham and Sarah in the daily details of their lives: in their laughter and in their grief. This universal God touches down within the deepest yearning of their hearts. The Cosmic God is concerned for blessing them and blessing others.

Like them, Jesus own life draws the eternal God of the cosmos into the unpredictability's of **our own** sin, sickness, and suffering. Jesus cross unites our inevitable death with God's eternal pattern of life, death, and resurrection. All that seems uncontrollable and beyond our powers. All the past that we would rather forget. All the present that we would like to be beyond, and all the futures that "terrorize" us. All of this is within the One who created the universe, planets, light and life out of stardust. All of this is within the One who put arms around Abraham's shoulders and said, "Look deep into the darkness. What else do you see?"



+ Pastor Molly

# Lenten Worship

## Upcoming Worship



### **March 28, Palm Sunday Service**

9 am in-person worship  
11 am Drive-in worship



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

**April 1, Maundy Thursday Service**  
TBA Drive-in worship

**GOOD  
FRIDAY**



**April 2, Good Friday Service**  
7 pm in-person worship



## **Lenten Soup Suppers**

One of the traditions at Immanuel are Lenten Soup Suppers. Although we will not meet together due to the pandemic, we invite you to have a simple meal of soup and bread one night a week. Please post pictures and your favorite soup (or bread) recipe on our [Facebook page](#).

Making soup is forgiving, just like our God! A simple soup supper marks that the 40 days before Easter are different. The simplicity of the meal reminds us that we do not rely on bread alone, but upon God's Word. One might consider the cost savings of a more simple meal as a donation to a charitable cause such as LWR Baby Care Kits.

# This & That

## Birthdays

### Birthdays:

- 3/5 Margaret Gall
- 3/6 Heather Mumma
- 3/9 Haywood Brown
- 3/10 Ike Marks
- 3/12 Vivian Milch
- 3/13 Jaime Long
- 3/14 Nancy Solum
- 3/16 Bernard khomenko
- 3/17 T.J. Johnson & Pastor Molly
- 3/19 Carol Karlsgodt
- 3/23 Kate Diggs
- 3/28 Kell McQuison
- 3/28 Thomas Rosenbaum
- 3/29 Leo Sasser-Goehner
- 3/30 Darrell Haag
- 3/31 Sara Petersen

## Anniversaries

### Anniversaries:

- 3/3 George & Donna Boileau—63 yrs;
- 3/15 Swede & Betty Ann Gustafson—57 yrs.

### Naomi Circle

Monthly Naomi Circle Bible study will meet on Wednesday, **March 10th, 9:45 am** in Room 406. Please join us! (We'll wear masks and follow distancing)

March 14th  
Spring  
Forward  
1 Hour



### 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](http://imluchurch.org)  
 Office Email: [office@imluchurch.org](mailto: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, February 9, 2021

Members met via Zoom from their respective homes at 7:00 P.M. Devotions and Sharing led by President Marks. Introductions by all members. Meeting called to order at 7:17 P.M. Council Members Present: Toni Johnson, Tana Lambert, Ike Marks, Albert Melby, Tom Thompson, Ray Smith, Georgia Cobbs, Marilyn Hall, Audrey Thornton Absent: Pastor Molly. Motion to accept minutes from last meeting by Ray Smith. Seconded by Georgia Cobbs. Motion carried.

### **Pastor's report -**

Ash Wednesday is 2/17 services will be in-person or online at noon. Anyone who would like can get drive-through ashes at 4:30 - 6pm.

There will be a Lent prayer vigil Saturday, 2/27 in-person. There will only be 4-6 people in the church at a time.

Lent stewardship focus packets will be available at the church 2/21-28. The packet has daily devotions written by church members, a commitment postcard, a letter and a Mission and Ministry folder.

There will be a Lent Story Walk on March 13th at Fort Missoula.

Soup Suppers at Home - we can't meet for soup suppers before services this year due to the pandemic. We ask members to post pictures and/or their favorite soup recipes to the IMLU Facebook page.

The 2021 Special Lent Offering is going to the Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits.

**Annual meeting review** - Audrey let everyone know the notes will be shortened. We were all amazed how well the virtual meeting went. We had 47 people attend which was pretty good considering it was via zoom.

### **Finance**

January income was \$17,146. Last year's income was \$19,633 but we also had more expenses last year.

\$20,500 in expenses this year so far. The \$3,354 deficit was almost spot on with last year's deficit.

Tana is happy to help newer people to the council understand the financials. She explained the different funds.

### **Property and Grounds**

We will need to replace the gutter on the east side one of these days. It was in last year's budget for this year. We also need to replace the roof on the education wing, it is well overdue. Albert will try to get an estimate on that this month prior to our next meeting. It is a membrane roof like the rest of the church.

### **Christian Education**

- Toni and Sonja have been working on a project for families with younger children for the Lent season. They will be available for pick up at church or delivery by Sonja.
- Sonja is still working with the Wednesday GROW program which meets by zoom in collaboration with Rebekah at St. Paul's.
- Family faith gatherings usually do sandwiches for the Poverello Center. Since we can't have big groups make sandwiches at home and bring them to church on 3/7, then Sonja will deliver them to the Center.
- FLBC has put out a summer schedule for camps on a modified schedule. Go to their website at [flbc.net/summer2021](http://flbc.net/summer2021)
- The youth gathering has been postponed again. It has been rescheduled for 2022 in Minneapolis.

### **Service**

- Our next rotation with Family Promise will be in early April. The Meadowlark should be completed in April with families moving in in May. Each congregation will adopt a room and decorate it. The center will be open for tours in April.
- Grants were received for 36 kits for welcome baskets for families graduating into housing.
- The leader of the Washington Middle school flagship program has moved on. The in-person program is on hold until that position is filled.
- Deb is coordinating receiving goods for the baby care kits for our Lenten program.
- There is \$864 in the Giving Tree fund.
- They would like to consider having the Bazaar in the fall.

**Worship and Music** - Marilyn just got elected and she hasn't met with them yet so no report at this time

**Stewardship** - There will be a stewardship emphasis beginning 2/28 to 3/21. We're going to have temple talks each of those four Sundays based on remaining faithful in stewardship even though Covid has kept us apart. Ray is rounding up people to give those talks. Since there will be a low number of people in church for services, most packets will be mailed out. They will apply for a Thrivent grant to help with the printing and mailing of these packets.

**Opening worship team** - 15 or so people were in church for the 2/7 service. It's possible we may have communion after the first two Sunday's.

Pastor may do some new member things. We do have some new people.

**Strategic planning** - We have to figure when and how to do it for the next 2-4 years. The plan needs to be decided as per length of term. Who will do it, how will we do it (zoom, in-person?), what's safe and what isn't. Hopefully we'll be able to do that in the next 6-9 months. There aren't really guidelines for how we manage this. There are some synod guidelines possibly. Broad goals and action items. Do we want to bring someone in for it or do it ourselves? It's a hard process to do via zoom so do we wait till we can meet? Last one was part of a capital appeal campaign so we were able to utilize her by kind of double dipping. We will leave it as a discussion item.

**Reminder** the sabbatical policy team needs a few more members. This is a short term team to create the policy, reasons, and guidelines etc.

**Governance and Constitution update** - last time we looked at it we brought ideas to the council meeting in 2019 but we wanted to finish out our capital campaign first. We might tie it into the strategic plan. Would another governance fit better? Part of the governance would be to update the constitution. It was too much to take on at the time.

**Next Council Meeting is March 9, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M. Adjourned at 20:03 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted by: Audrey Thornton Secretary

# Special Congratulations!

## WELCOME LEXON JOSEPH BROWN

Welcome to God's family Lexon Joseph Brown, beloved son of Kiersten Jean Brown and CeeJay Brown baptized on February 14, 2021. Lexon is the grandson of Haywood and Eileen Brown and Arlene Berry. Truly a "son" of Immanuel! We are so blessed to have this long-awaited little red-headed bundle of joy now a part of our congregation.



# Lenten Stewardship Projects

## LWR Baby Care Kits

During Lent, Christians practice charity and sacrificial love by going above and beyond our regular giving to help those most in need. Our focus this year is 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!



**PLEASE SIGN UP ONLINE** at the [www.imluchurch.org](http://www.imluchurch.org) or call Nancy Marks to sign up if you would like to donate items so we can track how many we need. If you are a Thrivent member, we can assist in helping you write a Thrivent Grant.

**Return items to the Baby Care Kit box in Room 405 or the cradle in the narthex.**

### ITEMS NEEDED for 40 kits

Size 6-24 months	◇ Cloth diapers, flat-fold preferred (142)
◇ Lightweight cotton t-shirts (short sleeved) (41)	◇ Hand towels, dark color recommended (33)
◇ Long sleeved shirts (62)	◇ Receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square (no fleece) (41)
◇ Jackets with hoods or jacket & cap (41)	
◇ Baby socks (53)	

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](mailto:jhgetz@bresnan.net)



This year's Stewardship theme is "**Found Faithful**" in giving to God. We are holding our Stewardship emphasis during Lent. Our Lenten Worships will focus on how God is faithful to us. And for four weeks we will explore being faithful in little things, faithful with much, and faithful with all God has giving us. God can multiply even our smallest gifts in ways that allow people and the world to be restored. Each of us should consider whether we have gifts that we are holding back because we think they are just "too little".

Each member family will be given or mailed a Stewardship packet that will include a letter discussing the Stewardship Events for 2021, a brochure showing how Immanuel has been faithful stewards in what we have received, a Lenten devotional booklet written by members of Immanuel to help you think about your Stewardship

this year, and a commitment card for you to document your commitment to be a good Steward of all God has giving you.

This past year and continuing into 2021 we have all had to deal confusion, fear, loss, and social isolation due to the continuing pandemic. The four Sunday temple talks, starting February 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Lenten Stewardship devotional booklet explore how some of our members have continued to be **Found Faithful** in their stewardship of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure God has giving them. I hope you will find them inspiring.

Our Stewardship events start **this Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**, with the Lenten Prayer Vigil, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon, at church. Please sign up on-line or call the church office and join us in spiritual preparation and prayer during Lent.

Ray Smith  
Stewardship Chair

# Walk/Run

## LENT STORY WALK



Friday March 12 through Sunday, March 14  
10 am - 5 pm (come anytime)  
Immanuel Playground

Join us for a “StoryWalk®” around the Immanuel Playground and yard. It will include stopping posts to share the story "A Place to Stay, A Shelter Story", a chance for all ages to reflect upon the Lenten Christian discipline of sacrificial giving and works of love, especially for those experiencing poverty and homelessness. It will also give an introduction to the new Missoula Family Housing Center opening in May, a collaboration of Family Promise of Missoula and the Missoula YWCA.

The StoryWalk® will start at the blue arrow near the playground gate. It will be available between 10 and 5 Friday March 12 through Sunday, March 14. Please respect each others' space and the church property. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson, of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

## STEP INTO SPRING WALK/RUN

**Saturday March 13 at 10 am**  
**Meet in Immanuel Parking Lot**

On Saturday you are also invited to participate in a 1 mile or a 5 K walk/run starting at 10 am at the Immanuel parking lot (maps will be made available). Enjoy the Story Walk either before or after your walk/ run. This will be an opportunity for us to see each other in a socially distanced way, to experience our faith, and to promote the healthy habit of walking.



# FP/See Them Home



## Family Promise

Three families found housing in January and February! What a blessing for them. Welcome baskets were delivered to them to help them get settled! Thanks for your support-- we do make a difference.

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)

Upcoming Dates for Family Promise at Immanuel

- April 4-10 (hopefully the last time we will be hosting in our building!)
- Note: Family Promise families will be staying overnight at Immanuel from March 21 through April 17th. Several different organizations including Providence Health Center, Christ the King and Church of Jesus Christ LDS will be providing volunteers for a week at a time. Immanuel with the support of Atonement will be responsible for volunteers the week of April 4-10th. Thanks to the generosity of Immanuel, families will be able to stay in one place for 4 weeks.



## *Meadowlark update.....*



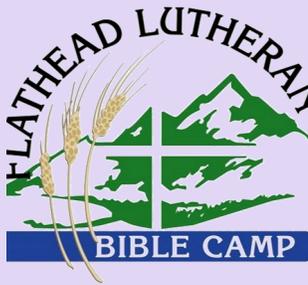
Construction continues at The Meadowlark (check out those newly installed solar panels!), over on Third Street. We expect construction to be completed in April, and to move the first families into the building in May.

In the coming months we will be sharing opportunities to volunteer or donate items- stay tuned! **Due to limited storage space, and in preparation for our move, we are not able to accept in-kind donations for The Meadowlark at this time.**

Here you can see progress being made on the sleeping rooms. Each family unit or individual domestic violence survivor will have their own private sleeping room and bathroom, which will afford them privacy and dignity during their stay. Learn more about the project and see more construction progress at

[SeeThemHome.org](http://SeeThemHome.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/>



**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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
830 South Avenue West  
Missoula, MT 59801

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

We are having limited in-person worship in March at 10 am.  
Sign up at [www.imluchurch.org](http://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.



**HOLY WEEK**

### Upcoming Worship Schedule

#### **March 28, Palm Sunday Service**

9 am in-person worship

11 am Drive-in worship

#### **April 1, Maundy Thursday Service**

TBA Drive-in worship

#### **April 2, Good Friday Service**

7 pm in-person worship