

the immanuelite

celebrating 124 years of ministry



**Pastor Molly will return on November 1st.
Please allow her a little time to settle in as she
transitions back to the office.**



Reflection from Pastor Rebekah

Late fall is upon us. Some leaves still cling to branches, but many swirl around our yards in the breeze or are collected in piles under trees and in the streets. The fading light changes our routines, mornings can feel dark and groggy, evenings come as a surprise between making dinner and settling into the couch to wind down. Cultures throughout the Northern Hemisphere have marked this time of seasonal transition with celebrations that draw our attention to the thin veil between here and there, between fall and winter, between life and death. Mexican cultures celebrate Día De Los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, European and American cultures celebrate Halloween or All Hallows' Eve, Christians celebrate All Saints Day. These holidays invite us to remember all of the beings – human and non human – who surround us as our Great Cloud of Witnesses. As fall continues to move into winter, whose spiritu-

al presence do you feel close to or long for? Parents or grandparents, mentors, pets, the deer who bedded down in your yard, the flowers and plants you lovingly tended this summer. Though they may not be visible any longer, may you feel their presence draw close to you and may you rest in the comfort of our God who holds all things together, those seen and those unseen.

† Pastor Rebekah



Words from the Synod

The LPA Program—Serving People of the Montana Synod for 25 Years Celebrating 25 years of Lay Pastoral Associates!

By Jenny Kunka

Just what does the Montana Synod do for congregations and members of those congregations? The Montana Synod works to equip congregations for ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the many efforts in this mission is the Lay Pastoral Associate Program.

The LPA program is twenty-five years old and has trained over 300 people to serve the churches in Montana and northern Wyoming in a variety of ways. It's a Montana-grown program, created to meet Montana and Wyoming needs.

Former Bishop Jessica Crist said that Lutherans in this region have always had a strong lay preaching ministry. This has been particularly true in the Montana Synod where we've experienced shortages of pastors in our rural areas.

Through the years, lay people have been asked to preach when congregations were without pastors or pastors were on vacation. "There was a predisposition to not be opposed to lay people taking on pastoral roles," Crist said.

In recounting the history of the LPA program, Crist explained that Mark Ramseth was Bishop at the time. He and Pr. Tom Lee, who was Associate to the Bishop, worked together on the idea of a more formal curriculum for lay leaders, "many of whom were already being called on to preach and preside," Crist said. The LPA program was created to give lay leaders some training, some authorization and some accountability.

Pr. Tom Lee was the initial director of the program, which has evolved over time but remained focused on quality theological education and mentorship. Pastors Greg Holler-Dinsmore and Cheryl Muncy were long-time coordinators of the program as well.

Since becoming Associate to the Bishop, Pr. Jason

Asselstine has been the director of the LPA program. Because he's experienced the training both as a mentor pastor and now as director, he understands that the system helps the church, and also benefits the individuals who become LPAs.

"It serves the individual as a way of transforming them through this process and identifying their gifts. And it also helps to staff the church with people who are capable," he said. Asselstine tells students, "Be an LPA, for the church and for you."

Dave Scholten, an LPA from Ulm said, "The LPA program has made my life richer, fuller, and deeper, by providing an outlet for my gifts and passions. It has been for me a grounded, credible vehicle for an outward expression of an inner yearning."

When the LPA program began, it was held in eastern Montana because that was the area of greatest need. As it grew, the retreats were moved to Great Falls and now there are retreats both in the eastern part of the state and in Great Falls as well as some classes via Zoom.

The curriculum includes in-person courses that are taught by pastors from the Montana Synod. Between these retreats, students do individual study that includes intensive training in the Old Testament, the New Testament and church history. Having a mentor who is a pastor is an additional important aspect of the training. LPAs learn about pastoral care, leading bible studies and even working with youth and have experiences that empower them to take on a larger role in a congregation and the wider church.

Throughout the years, the program has remained local to meet the particular needs of Montana Synod churches. It has stayed local because it's the best way to create a community for the LPA students. Pr. Asselstine said he's seen how LPA students value that community and also value their role as

Immanuel News and Ministries

(Lay Pastoral article cont).

LPA's.

“I’ve seen how seriously the LPAs take their position and their training. I think they want even more education and social gatherings. They really want to learn,” Asselstine said. “As we’ve changed and used them more regularly for preaching and more regularly for pastoral care where there aren’t pastors available, their desire to learn has increased.”

As congregations have become familiar with the program over the years, they have embraced the role as well.

“There would be a lot of congregations that would struggle without access to lay people who are trained,” Asselstine said. “It has changed the way that transitional ministry happens in our synod. When a pastor leaves, the first question is, ‘Can we get a list of the LPAs in our area who can help in this transition?’ For many congregations, LPAs have been a godsend.”

The LPA program continues evolving to provide needed training, yet stays focused on also ensuring accountability. Crist explained that some synods have very robust lay training programs but don’t allow lay persons to preach or to preside over the sacraments. The Montana Synod, on the other hand, does allow LPAs to preside over the sacraments and preach but only with approval from the Bishop. This keeps lay leaders accountable to the church and provides oversight.

LPAs write an annual report to the Bishop each year, just like pastors. They also take part in continuing education. At the same time, LPAs are not pastors or deacons. They are unique, needed, and an important part of how we do ministry in the Montana Synod.
this!

Around the Table: Family Faith Gathering



Join us for Around The Table, a collaboration of Missoula churches on **Sunday, November 6 from 4-6:15 pm at Immanuel**. This opportunity gives families, parents/ grandparents and children, an opportunity to explore their faith together. Please signup to help us with planning. Note the names and ages of children in the comments. We also need assistance with providing dinner (for 30), dessert (for 30) and/or setup, serving and cleanup.

Questions- contact Sonja Wolsky at sonja@imluchurch.org



Naomi's Circle

Women's Bible Study meets Wednesday, November 9. Please join us the second Wednesday of every month at Immanuel in room 406 .



Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study Meets Tuesdays at 12 pm in Room 406 (down the hall from the church office. Please join a group of men who read passages each week, see how they may help us navigate our lives, and share from our personal experiences.

Immanuel News and Ministries

Immanuel's Giving Tree Project



Each year Immanuel identifies Missoula families to receive gifts and food through our Giving Tree program. This year families were selected from the Carole Graham Home and Washington Middle School and families who have obtained housing through Family Promise over the last year. New families are selected each year.

These 'Giving Tree Families' submit their gift wish lists to Immanuel and the congregation works to make their wishes come true. These families may not have a Christmas if it wasn't for Immanuel's Giving Tree!

Immanuel quilters create quilts all year long in anticipation of donating them to the Giving Tree Families. Each child from the Giving Tree families is given a quilt, and each family receives a quilt to remind them of the warmth of God's love.

There are many ways to be involved:

- Sunday, November 13 after worship– Attend our Giving Tree Fair where you can learn more about each part of this ministry.
- Sunday November 20- Tithing made Visual- bring 10 of an item (list will be coming out). Groceries will go to Giving Tree Food Baskets
- Sunday, November 27- Giving Tree will be up- choose a tag from the tree to buy gifts for children and/or adults.
- Watch the E- News and Church Bulletins for ways you can assist in this ministry.
- Check out our webpage <https://imluchurch.org/givingtree/> with photos from previous years and signups as they become available.

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

ADVENT DEVOTION



In collaboration with Nancy Marks and Marilyn Hall from Immanuel Lutheran, Pastor Julie Long is developing a daily Advent devotional that will be available electronically or in hard-copy. This devotional will include optional activity to track steps or miles as we all "Journey to the Manger" together.

Immanuel News and Ministries

Flagship



Flagship is off to a great start this fall semester. Seventeen students have signed up. All but 3 students are brand new to our Cooking & Crafting program. This past week 16 students attended. One of them said they want to sign up for everything we offered, and another couldn't wait to make a fleece pillow. This month they are making Fleece pillows, Chicken strips, Pumpkins, Ghosts, Spiderwebs, Pita bread, Pudding parfaits, hummus and rock art.

Apples for Preschoolers

Apple days. A beautiful sunny day! Our apple trees truly were on sabbatical. We only got 28 half gallons of juice and maybe 12-15 quarts of pie apples (most of the time it's closer to 100). We were thankful to the [Red Hen Farm](#), Don and Kathy Spritzer, and [Immanuel Lutheran Preschool](#) parents for donating apples and [Nancy Terwilliger-Grube](#) for donating grapes for some grapple juice to supplement ours. Unfortunately we don't have any extra to sell. We barely had enough to give to all our workers who came and helped. But it was a great time to enjoy the sunshine and fellowship; there's always next year.



Thanks to all who contributed to the Immanuel Preschool, so far we have raised \$817. Donations are always welcome-, just note apples on your donation to Immanuel and we will get it to the preschool.

Immanuel News and Ministries



By Nancy Marks



Thanks so much for your support of TEAM IMMANUEL's Family Promise NIGHT WITHOUT A BED Fundraiser. Be watching for our final total. So often, we don't realize the impact we are making with families. I would like to share a story that one of our guests shared. I think she says it well. It is a little long- but I hope you take the time to read it and understand just what a difference we make.

SOPHIE'S STORY:

When I arrived at the YWCA Meadowlark & Family Promise Program the rental market landscape had changed dramatically from the one I had previously known just a few years earlier when I found my last apartment home. I had downsized due to the empty nest phenomenon when all of my children had become adults and were having their own children. I found myself making incredibly difficult choices about whether or not to shelter my unhoused pregnant daughter and remain in compliance with my existing lease agreement or move to a space that could accommodate the needs of our shifting family landscape in a traditionally timely fashion. I was unfortunately not able to find suitable housing for myself and my newborn infant granddaughter for whom I was now the sole guardian.

Once I became a participant in the Family Promise Family Housing Center I was met by volunteers who make the experience what it is through meaningful service to the community we share. Whether it's keeping the safety and security of residents a priority with volunteers who answer phones and grant access to families at the facility or keeping unwanted strangers out of the facility, to the kindnesses of delivering and serving meals and helping to lift spirits with community bar-b-ques, Family Promise delivers on its mission to bring a sense of unity toward the common purpose of moving families toward independence and human dignity.

Desserts volunteers bring when dinner service is prepared delights our children and gives them a taste of normal in a place that would seem otherwise frightening and unpredictable in the midst of the transitions they're experiencing in their lives. Children counting on and looking forward to a sweet treat in the midst of their mischief makes for happy memories. When they've fin-



Community Events and Fellowship

Family Promise article (cont.)

ished their meals and homework and chores, our children have a safe place to frolic and play outside, free from the dangers of traffic or unwanted attention from strangers.

I am so grateful for The Family Promise Family Housing Center and all its volunteers and staff. I know they've made all the difference in my life and the life of my granddaughter, we are on our way to better days and brighter futures

To the Family Promise Volunteers and Staff I say, thank you for being awesome, for being present, and whatever you do, don't stop! You're sending ripples of love and change into the world and the world desperately needs more people like you. Together, we can minimize the negative effects of poverty and move toward empowering generations of people to eliminate it altogether.

Story Book Baby Shower



Save the date: November 16th at 7 pm in the Hemgren room. A Story Book Baby Shower for Pastor Rebekah and Maddie. If you wish to bring a gift, please bring a copy of your favorite children's story book to help build the baby's library. Cookies and punch will be served.

Monthly Walk-Run



Join the Ephesians 3:20 Walk/Run Group as we strive for a healthy 2022. 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
Ephesians 8:20 Walk/ Run
Thursday, November 24, 2022
10 am

Location: Fort Missoula Regional Park

Walk or run 1 mile, 2 mile or 5 K. Bring your kids and or dogs (on a leash) if you want to bring them. We will have options to walk 1 mile, 2 mile or 5K! Come enjoy a walk and get a little exercise before turkey dinner!

Signup on the Immanuel website.

If you aren't in town, you can always walk with us virtually - post your picture on our Facebook page!

Immanuel News and Ministries

Immanuel Serving Groups



Thanks so much to the chairs of our serving groups! And thanks to everyone who said yes when the chair called for your help. You have just done an awesome job with this new method of providing coffee and treats and fellowship after worship!
I am short a few chairs for spring, so if anyone would like to volunteer, please give me a call at 406 544-4125. Thanks again. Carol

November and December Serving Groups

November Serving Group

Nancy Melby, Chair
406 868-4608

Ed and Jane Kazinsky: 406 926-1301
Dean and Pat Ross: 406 721-7920
Linnea Kahler: 406 543-6803
Cheryl Galipeau: 406 370-9964
Evelyn Steenberg: 406 531-8186
Jarl Leirfallam: 406 549-4878
Darrell Haag: 701 690-3680
Linda and Sam Redfern: 406 240-4144

December Serving Group

Edith Cranor-Buck, Chair
(970) 901-0836

Andy and Katayna Morse: 406 740-0564,
406 748-6826
Curtis and Laura Thompson: 406 258-7197
Steve and Patty Berge: 406 650-8042
Arlene Berry: 406 240-1956
Karen Iverson: 406 829-6920
Buzz and Peggy Tuck: 406 360-7533
Steve and Brenda Weber: 406 273-0496
Erik and Loren Berry: 406 239-9427
Jason and Brette Berry: 406 207-2724
Helen Petroff: 406 544-8526
George and Donna Boileau: 406 549-6788

**Questions? Contact Deb Getz-406 239-6835 or
Carol Fleharty 406 544-4125**

Council Highlights

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Council Notes for Newsletter
10/12/22

Council Members Present: Ike Marks, Marilyn Hall, Audrey Thornton, Pastor Rebekah Cochrane, Ray Smith, Toni Johnson, Albert Melby
Absent: TJ Johnson, Tom Thompson, Pastor Molly (on Sabbatical)

Pastor's report: Last month as Sabbatical Pastor - thank you for everyone's encouragement and trust. Native - book study with John Brock. Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization - a new class is beginning soon. Please reach out to P. Rebekah for more information. Led a workshop in Bozeman for RIC. Hope Lutheran is in the same spot as we are. Discussion around having a service/workshop on either Thanksgiving Eve or Thanksgiving morning. Idea tabled at this time.

Finance: Income: \$28,582.46 Expenses: \$26,644.48 Surplus: \$1,937.98 YTD deficit \$4,957

Property/Grounds: Elevator crisis has been fixed.

Christian education: 9/25 Thank you to P. Rebekah for organizing the communion class for the kids. FFG 10/2 Communion bread for the whole month was made. Next FFG 11/6 which IMLU will host. Main topic Baptism. 11/6 Rite of Confirmation during worship. We have two young people that will be confirmed: Hailey Papp and Luca Khomenko. 10/15 Intergenerational service project - Apple days at the Marks. Proceeds will be given to the preschool. Preschool update - both classes have 9 students each. Grateful to the congregation for their gifts both financial and gifts.

Service: Family Promise: New company taking a week: Submittable. 10/22: Night Without a Bed. Doing some re-thinking about food. Looking at alternatives. One family just got housed this week. Washington Middle School: Flagship starting in October. Our days will be on Tuesdays. We will be having a University practicum student working with us. Tudi will be in contact with the Fit Coordinator to see if they need anything. Baby Care Kits: No report this month. Bazaar: Need to let the congregation know that we are not having a bazaar this fall. Planning to have one fall of 2023. Olivia is a contract employee and there are things that she cannot do due to what is and is not allowed under her contract. Giving Tree: Nancy recommends: call in to CGH Re # of families. 5 from WMS, 6-10 FP, then ask St. Paul's and LDS to partner with us. Plan 2 Thrivent Cards. Apply for 1600.00 from Endowment. 640.00 leftover from last year. Giving Tree Kick-off event: 11/13. Tithing made visual: sort food in room 406. Nancy to get dates to Olivia. Deliver vs. Party? Cookie Party is preferred: 12/18. Nancy will work on specific dates of functions/events. Team leaders: Nancy Melby for Cookie Party? Tudi will coordinate financing issues. Nancy will contact prior year's team leaders. Laurie to coordinate the kick-off day for GivingTree Program, Deb will contact Carol Fleharty about refreshment rotation just being moved to fellowship hall for that Sunday.

Stewardship: No report

Worship and music: If the microphone squeals like it did this past Sunday, someone just needs to point the microphone to the speaker and away from the speaker.

New/Old Business: Sabbatical - Pastor Molly will be back 11/1 and overlap with Pastor Rebekah a day or two. 11/18 God's work our hands we got a lot done! WMS Flagship started in October there are 14-15 kids involved. Just on Tuesdays 3-5. Nomination committee will need to meet soon. TJ Johnson leads that. Ike will get with him.

(Cont. on page 10)

Council Highlights

(Council Notes Cont.)

RIC Draft Welcome Statement 9/14/2022 Welcome Statement Draft: Immanuel Lutheran Church is committed to seeing Christ in everyone. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We are rooted and united in Christ and our growth is nurtured by acknowledging and embracing our differences. We invite all people to grow with us toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

- The RIC team would like to bring it to the congregation in November as a test vote.
- They would like to bring this statement to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.
- Motion made to present this draft statement to the congregation was made by Ray Smith and seconded by Albert Melby. Motion carried.
- Jean presented the Partner Public Commitments.
- Discussions after service have been added to our webpage.

Motion to adjourn by Ray Smith with a second by Albert Melby Motion passed.
Adjourned 8:25 PM

Next Council Meeting is November 8, 2022 @ 7 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by: Audrey Thornton Secretary



This & That



Birthdays:

- 11/2 Erik Berry
- 11/4 Carol Fleharty
- 11/5 Maddie Sager
- 11/7 Melody Taylor
- 11/11 Maya Overman
- 11/13 Andy Morse
- 11/15 Lorrie Beaulieu
- 11/15 Anakin Kolberg
- 11/22 Scott Mumma
- 11/22 Sydney Papp
- 11/22 Rick Swanson
- 11/24 Faith Ann Heinsch
- 11/24 Garrett Morris
- 11/27 Albert Melby
- 11/29 John Brock

Birthdays



Women of the ELCA 

Naomi Circle

Women's Bible Study will meet monthly at 10 am on the second Wednesday of every month.

Anniversaries



immanuel staff

Pastor—Molly Sasser-Goehner
 Part-time Pastor—Rebekah Cochcrane
 Director of Worship & Music—Allen Sasser-Goehner
 Director of Christian Education—Sonja Wolsky
 Administrative Assistant—Olivia White
 Choir Director—Nita Smith
 Preschool Teachers—Julie Sager, Wendy Deaton
 Custodians—Carrie & Mark Courter
 Funeral Coordinator—Nancy Marks
 Wedding Coordinator—Vacant
 Church Website: imluchurch.org
 Office Email: office@imluchurch.org

your 2022 church council

Ike Marks, President
 TJ Johnson, 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

November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10am Reformation Sunday 10am Worship 11:15 RIC Class 6pm AA	31 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	1 12pm Men's Bible Study 2 pm Flagship 3 pm B&G Club 6pm AA	2 3 pm B&G Club	3 3pm B&G Club 6pm AA	4 3 pm B&G Club 5:30pm BW	5
6 10am Rite of Confirmation 10am Worship 4pm Around the Table 6pm AA	7 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	8 Election Day 12pm Men's Bible Study 1pm Finance Meeting 6pm AA 7:00 pm Church Council	9 10am Naomi's Circle 3pm Boys and Girls Club	10 3pm Boys and Girls Club 6pm AA	11 Veteran's Day 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	12
13 10am Worship 11am Giving Tree Fair 5pm Confluence 6pm AA	14 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	15 12pm Men's Bible Study 2 pm Flagship 3pm B&G Club 6pm AA	16 3pm Boys and Girls Club	17 3pm Boys and Girls Club 6pm AA	18 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	19
20 Giving Tree Food Baskets 10am Worship 6pm AA	21 Giving Tree Food Baskets 3 pm B&G Club 5:30pm BW	22 Giving Tree Food Baskets 12 pm Men's Bible Study 2 pm Flagship 3 pm B&G Club 6pm AA	23 Giving Tree Food Baskets 3 pm B&G Club	24 Thanksgiving Giving Tree Food Baskets 3 pm B&G Club 6pm AA	25 Giving Tree Food Baskets 3pm B&G Club 5:30pm BW	26 Giving Tree Food Baskets
27 Giving Tree Food Baskets 10am Worship 6pm AA Giving Tree - Narthrex	28 Giving Tree Food Baskets Giving Tree - Narthrex 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	29 Giving Tree Food Baskets Giving Tree - Narthrex 12pm Men's Bible Study 2 pm Flagship 3 pm B&G Club 6pm AA	30 Giving Tree Food Baskets Giving Tree - Narthrex 3pm Boys and Girls Club	1 Giving Tree Food Baskets Giving Tree - Narthrex 3pm Boys and Girls Club 6pm AA	2 Giving Tree Food Baskets Giving Tree - Narthrex 3pm Boys and Girls Club 5:30pm BW	3 Giving Tree Food Baskets Giving Tree - Narthrex



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 Part-time pastor: rebekah@imluchurch.org
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 sonja wolsky: sonja@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
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ImmanuelLutheran
CHURCH

Join us For
Worship Each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

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