News from...



JANUARY 2018 A WORD FROM PASTOR KEITH...



You may well be wondering what those things are in the photo. And honestly, you're not likely to guess.

As part of the project to preserve Immanuel's beautiful stained glass windows, it was necessary to bore holes through the window frames so that heat

and moisture would not get trapped between the old windows and the protective panes that were being installed. Otherwise the act of protection would actually lead to further deterioration of the stained glass.

What you see in the photo are some of the plugs of wood that were removed in order to install the ventilators. As the workers were drilling, I happened to walk through the sanctuary and saw them lying on the windowsill. I was absolutely amazed at the fact that the wood was fresh and clean, and smelled like new lumber. To be sure, on the ends you could see layer upon layer of paint, and under that the original dark stain and varnish, painted over before I was even born. But inside, at its core, the wood was as pristine as when the windows were installed some 125 years ago.

Looking at those plugs of wood, I was struck by the realization that this is something of a parable. We look around our congregation, and we may see signs of age ... both in the physical plant and in our people. But you see, if you were to bore through what we see on the exterior, the "layers of paint," as it were, that have accrued over the years, you would find that at the core is something still fresh, and new, and vibrant. The Good News we proclaim is ever new, for every age, and can and must always be rediscovered for a new time in history.

That being said, sometimes we have to drill through some of the layered-on accretions of time in order to find the fresh core of what God has for us here. Sometimes we need to bore some holes here and there so that fresh air can come sweeping in. We must never "preserve" the Church in ways that cause further deterioration. We must always be looking for the new thing the Spirit is trying to do.

So, how might the Spirit be working to uncover the "fresh core" here at Immanuel? Maybe that's our question for the new year.

—Your brother, Pastor Keith



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- January Music Forecast
- The Farmer's Market is thriving!
- Thank you letters from Stark Fund Gifts
- Council Minutes
- January Scripture Readings
- January Calendar

Upcoming Events At Immanuel

Jan. 7: Café Immanuel 9:00 AM

Forum on constitutional amendments 12:00 noon

Jan. 11: Daytime Quilting 10:00 AM

Jan. 13: Farmer's Market 8:30 AM-1:00PM

Jan. 17: Three Crowns Service 11:00 AM

Jan. 21: Forum on 2018 budget 12:00 noon

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

Immanuel Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. In addition to regular business, the agenda will include amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws. These amendments include recommended changes from the *ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations*, along with amendments being recommended by Council. Because of the varying requirements for amending the Constitution and Bylaws, the amendments will be presented as four resolutions.

- 1) Amendments to our Constitution to bring it into line with the *ELCA's Model Constitution* for Congregations, that become effective immediately upon congregational approval;
- 2) Amendments to our Constitution that will require a simple majority vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting and a 2/3 majority vote to ratify at the 2019 Annual Meeting;
- 3) Amendments to the Bylaws that will become effective immediately upon congregational approval;
- 4) An amendment to the Bylaws that will become effective in 2019, assuming ratification of the amendments to the Constitution.

Copies of the proposed amendments have been sent to voting members. If you have not received a copy, contact the Church Office. Per our Constitution, to be a voting member, you must have communed within the past year and must have given a contribution of record.

A forum to discuss the amendments will be held after coffee hour on Sunday, Jan. 7, and one to discuss the budget on Sunday, Jan. 21.

A Message from the Choir Director

The season of Epiphany leads us through the beginning of Jesus' ministry with multiple references to light, the star and ultimately Jesus' transfiguration. Our choral anthems will reflect these themes in the season as well.

We begin Epiphany with an ethereal original piece by Mark Schweizer called "Eternal Light." As our Scriptures lead us through Jesus' calling of the first disciples, Paul reminds us to glorify God with our bodies which will be reflected in Anton Bruckner's beautiful setting of "Locus Iste." Its text states: "This place was made by God, a priceless mystery; it is without reproof." We then worship with a lovely tonal setting of Venite post me bu Nobauki Izawa (Come ye after me, and I will make you to be fishers of men: and they, leaving their nets and boats, followed the Lord.)

As Jesus' ministry turns to healing, the choir will sing "There is Balm in Gilead" by William Dawson and "The Mighty One" by Tom Fettke. We will close the season with the feast of Christ's Transfiguration and a lovely chant-like setting by Morten Lauridsen.

O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Caroline Nakic 1/3

Nicolai Schousboe 1/3

Robert Fried 1/5

Rachel Tollett 1/8

Hadley Stang 1/9

Bruce Boten 1/10

Sara Krentz 1/11

Eliza McDaniel 1/13

Margaret Carlson 1/20

Jessica Nakic 1/27

Ryan Knohl 1/29

Charles Wenzel Jones 1/30

Stark Fund Thank You: South Loop Campus Ministries in Chicago



Thank you so much For the \$500 gift to our campus ministry. Without you we wouldn't beable to carry out the work of Good that continues to honor the life of Mrs. Ana M Stark. We are so grakful for your support.

Place,

Pr. Ben Adams

Stark Fund Thank You: Hilda's Place and Bridges to Home



2121 DEWEY AVE • EVANSTON, IL 60201-3057 p: 847.475.7070 • f: 847.864.6558 • www.connectzhome.org

December 8, 2017

The Stark Fund - Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston Linda Edlund 616 Lake St Evanston, IL 60201-4413

Dear Linda,

Thank you for your congregation's recent contributions totaling \$1,000.00 on 12/08/2017 to Connections for the Homeless in support of both Hilda's Place and Bridges to Home. As you know, Immanuel Lutheran's support is essential to Connections since it not only represents much-needed program revenue but also serves as a valued endorsement of our mission.

In order to realize our vision to end homelessness, we must continue the housing, supportive, preventive and advocacy services we have successfully provided for over 30 years. These services depend on the support of countless volunteers, foundations, community groups and supporters. Your funding is an investment in the lives of thousands of individuals and families facing extraordinary challenges as they work toward independence and stability.

This is an exciting time for the agency and I predict good things in the coming year; thank you for joining us on this journey. On behalf of the clients, staff, and board of directors of Connections for the Homeless, thank you for sharing our vision. Please feel free to contact me at (847/475-7070, x108) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Todd

Community Relations Manager

We are thrilled to be tied to you mission

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to invertion

Tax Information: Please accept this letter as confirmation of your donation. If you plan to use this receipt for tax purposes, our Federal Identification Number is: 36-3346917. As required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), this letter certifies that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Your donation is tax-deductible as set out by the laws and regulations of the IRS. In-kind donations are deductible at fair market value at the time of the donation. For more information please contact your accountant or the IRS.

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Mark Tendam

Jeffery Whittemore

Stark Fund Thank You: ELCA Hurricane Response



December 19, 2017

Immanuel Lutheran Church 616 Lake St Evanston, IL 60201-4413

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Thank you for joining with the whole church in this season of unprecedented generosity as, together, we support communities hard-hit by hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires.

Thank You

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help provide supplies needed immediately, such as water and generators, and support for long-term recovery: disaster case management, volunteer team placement, community development and professional care for daily and continuing challenges.

Thank you for your trust in this work we do as church here and around the world. Through your generosity, you are sharing with neighbors near and far, revealing God's holy promises of peace and hope, shelter and safety, restoration and abundance.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. / Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, / and the world is about to turn. – *Canticle of the Turning, ELW 723*

In the light and life of Christ,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.



Stark Fund Thank You: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)—Programs for Palestinian Youth



December 19, 2017

Immanuel Lutheran Church 616 Lake St Evanston, IL 60201-4413

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

Christ has called us to serve one another in love and faithfulness. Thank you for your generous gift of \$500.00 to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for the ministries of ELCA Global Church. This year marks *The Campaign for the ELCA's* annual theme year for Global Church. Your generosity shows a faithful commitment to building God's global church by walking alongside our neighbors in Christ.

It is through support from people like you that ELCA Global Church Sponsorship is able to:

- send more than 225 Missionaries including over 90 Young Adults in Global Mission to serve in more than 49 countries around the world;
- provide scholarships to 17 International Women Leaders responding to God's call to ministry, either in their home country, neighboring countries, or ELCA colleges or universities in the United States; and
- accompany our companions around the world by investing in evangelism, education and church expansion, including 11 new Global Ministry projects.

For more information on how your gift combined with the gifts of others is affecting God's work in the world, visit ELCA.org/globalchurch, or contact me directly at andrew.steele@elca.org or 773-380-2758. Again, thank you for your incredible generosity!

Peace,

Andrew G. Steele

Director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship

Please see the reverse side of this letter for your official receipt.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Window Preservation Project Update

In spite of bitter cold, the intrepid craftsmen from Bovard Studio, Inc., have been laboring over the past few months to install the protective windows that the congregation ordered almost a year ago. There was a lot of upfront work to measure and fabricate the panels. Once on-site, there was a great deal of preparation and preservation work that had to be done before the panels could be lifted into place. Rotted wood needed to be dealt with, old paint had to be scraped and primed, and then all the frames had to be repainted. The crews worked in sometimes subzero temperatures, often laboring late into the night on scaffolding protected only by tarps, with electric heaters blazing. The crews typically work for a full week, then travel home to Fairfield, Iowa for a week with their families, and then back on the road.

Bovard is one of the premier stained-glass studios in the country, and they keep crews working year-round at sites all over the United States. They are considered experts in the preservation of historic windows.

Our project was largely a preservation project, with a limited amount of actual restoration. Two panels from the largest windows are taken out and releaded in Bovard's shop. Elsewhere in the sanctuary, a limited number of repairs were made where there was missing or shattered glass. In addition, a protective paste was brushed into every crevice of leading on all windows, which will help some with air penetration and will help preserve the lead.

The project was temporarily financed by borrowing from the Pastor's Housing Fund, but that money must be paid back. A capital campaign to cover the costs of the window project, steeple repairs, sanctuary interior painting, and office renovation will be held beginning this spring. We hope that you will be generous in helping keep our beautiful building fresh and ready to welcome new members and guests for years to come. Neighbors have commented on how thrilled they are to see that we are "open for business." And two of our Christmas Eve guests said they had come because they had seen the activity!









Thank You from Bp. Miller: Synod Surpasses ELCA World Hunger Challenge Goal!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We did it.

Together we have raised approximately **\$1,060,000** for ELCA World Hunger! We will share the final number soon, but wanted to start spreading the good news now!



Thanks be to God for the generous people of our synod who caught the vision of Resolution 03-16 "To Support ELCA World Hunger" that passed at our 2016 Synod Assembly, where we voted unanimously "that the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod accept the challenge to raise one million dollars for ELCA World Hunger between June 1, 2016, and October 31, 2017."

Everywhere I went in the synod during the months of the challenge, I heard new and exciting ways that people were dreaming to make the challenge goal a reality. These new ideas fit side-by -side with the traditional ongoing work that has always been done. New people became involved, old ways were honored, and members of hunger committees, old and new, joined forces to achieve this common goal—breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty.

You have made it possible, in Jesus' name, to help realize a day when no one goes to bed hungry, everyone has access to clean water, communities are strengthened, refugees are fed and so much more. And the work of ELCA World Hunger happens not just across an ocean, but across the street, here and now in our own synod.

You have provided hope. Surpassing our goal is only the beginning. I encourage you to learn more about this valuable work and to continue your partnership! To that end, I invite you to participate in Metropolitan Chicago Synod's ELCA World Hunger Ambassador Training on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Invitation to follow. Hold the date for yourself and others who share passion about this life-changing work.

I pray that the light of this Advent season will illumine our lives. Know that your faithful generous response to the gospel through ELCA World Hunger is making a difference all the way around the globe, spreading joy and hope near and far, creatively and courageously working toward a world of justice where all are fed.

In Christ, Wayne N. Miller, Bishop

Farmers' Market for the New Year

Farmers' Market will be back after the holiday hiatus with fresh foods right in the middle of a very cold winter! Our guests are quite vocal in expressing their gratitude to Immanuel for opening our doors to the community in this way. And, we are on track to make several thousand more dollars in contributions to hunger organizations both here in Evanston and around the nation and world. Your support of the Market makes this ministry of feeding and of hospitality possible.

Interested in supporting this ministry? Volunteers are needed to:

- Set up the space on Friday night
- Staff the space on Saturday
- Clean up the space on Saturday afternoon

There is also work to be done outside of "market hours". You are invited to help:

- Research advocacy topics for the post card ministry
- Create and distribute marketing materials
- Pray!



Market dates for this season: January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21.

Grace Lutheran Church: Book Club

We have been invited to join Grace Lutheran Church's Book Club Sunday, January 14, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM in the Grace Church lounge to discuss *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates,* written by Wes Moore. Quoting from the "Evanston Reads" review: "It is the true story of two boys named Wes Moore, who were born blocks apart within a year of each other." Both grew up without a father and had difficult childhoods, but one became a Rhodes Scholar, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence as a convicted murderer. This book examines the journey of each boy trying to find his way in a hostile world. Refreshments will be served. The church is located at 1430 South Blvd. in Evanston. Parking is available.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on November 19, 2017

<u>Present</u>: Linda Edlund, Pr. Keith Fry (*ex officio*), Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Sara Krentz (*recording secretary*), Eliza McDaniel, Kevin McDaniel (*presiding*), Nicolai Schousboe, Erik Shearer, Jim Skelton, Charly Yarnoff

Excused: Susan Ross

Guests: Mary Ann Kearns (Financial Secretary), Joe Simchak (Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order at 12:39 PM.

Agenda was adopted as amended.

Sharing and prayer: we prayed for Bob Larson, Mid Carlson, John and Doris Strom, Trevor, and the family Greg's firm helped this past week.

Pastor's report: see appendix A below.

Minutes: Approval of minutes of October 15th was MSC.

Financial Reports and Budget:

Year to date over budget in revenue and under budget in expense – still going well overall

Counters Schedule:

November 26: Sara and Melisa

December 3: Greg and Jim

December 10: Erik and Charly

December 17: Linda and Nicolai

Old Business:

Property projects:

Bovard Studios making progress on the windows, they fixed the big back window so we shouldn't have any leakage there anymore. They will be back in December and we anticipate they'll finish before Christmas.

Working on getting new painting contractor – Fran has worked on specs with others on the paint color committee

Capital Campaign: Current plan is to do this after the current stewardship campaign wraps up Constitution Task Force:

It was MSC to send the model constitution recommendations to the congregation at the annual meeting.

It was MSC to send the suggested bylaws changes as updated to the congregation at the annual meeting.

It was MSC to send the suggested non-model constitution recommendations as updated to the congregation at the annual meeting.

It was MSC to send the suggested bylaws changes dependent on the constitution amendments to the congregation at the annual meeting.

We will plan to do presentations/discussions with the congregation on January 7 and January 21 prior to the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee: discernment forms received.

New Business:

Membership: it was MSC to receive Jim Rakowsky as a member

Building Use Policy: this was tabled until next meeting

Emergency Preparedness: Melisa went to a meeting about this and let us know about some upcoming trainings. Other items may be good for us to discuss at later meetings.

Groups and Organizations

Youth group, liaison—Eliza. No report

Special Committees

Memorials, Chair—Marlene Chatain. liaison—Susan: no report

Mutual Ministry, Chair—: no report

Personnel, Chair; Laura McDaniel, liaison—Kevin: no report

Stark Fund, Chair: Linda; liaison—Linda: no report

Technology, Chair—Jim McCarthy, liaison—Kevin: no report

Farmer's Market Task Force, liaison—Linda: no report

Active Welcome Task Force, liaison—Charly: The task force is working on two initiatives:

An attractive card that can be given to visitors to our church. It will provide information about us as well a way for the visitors to leave information about themselves.

A plan for improving signage inside and outside the church so that visitors feel welcomed and can easily find their way around the building.

Window Funding Task Force, liaison—Greg: no report

<u>Property Use Task Force</u>, liaison – Charly: the task force met and drafted a revised policy to the property policy; see new business above

Standing Committees

Education, Chair—Charly, liaison—Charly: see Pastor's report below, "Spiritual Growth".

Evangelism—Chair--, liaison--: no report

Fellowship, Chair—Andrea, liaison—Greg: no report

Finance, Chair—Joe Simchak; liaison—Sara: See Financial Reports and Budget above

Personnel, Chair - Laura McDaniel; liaison-Kevin: no report

Property, Chair—Jim McCarthy, liaison—Jim Skelton: see Old Business above

Social Ministry, Chair-Nicolai Schousboe, liaison-Nicolai: no report

Stewardship, Chair-vacant, liaison-Sara: no report

Worship and Music, Chair—Sara, liaison—Melisa: no report

Youth Advisory Board, There are currently no members of this committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting is December 17th at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Krentz

Appendix A: Pastor's Report: November 19, 2017

Worship: This past month has been full of amazing gatherings for worship, from our joint worship service with St. Paul's on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, to our common prayer service with the Catholics and Lutherans of Evanston, to the historic service at Holy Name Cathedral, to the soul-stirring All Saints worship here at Immanuel, we have been strengthened, built-up, and encouraged in looking toward God's future. I heard many good things from the folks at St. Paul's about our common worship, and I think all of us were lifted up by the glorious music we experienced that day, as well as the fellowship around both the Eucharistic table and the potluck table. Many, many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make these services come together.

Advent begins Dec. 3. Our liturgical setting will change to Setting 5. We will also have Midweek Advent Prayer using *Holden Evening Prayer* at 7:00 PM each Wednesday. People have found these services to be very moving in their simplicity and beauty, and I hope a number of folks will be able to attend.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, Grace Lutheran Church is holding a Blue Christmas service to which we have been invited to participate. Blue Christmas is a service that acknowledges that the holidays may be times of sadness for many, rather than a time of joy.

Congregational ministries: There is some excellent energy I'm sensing lately as ministries are moving forward. It's exciting to me to see that Café Immanuel is thriving, and that the Farmers' Market is back. Our guests at both of these have been quite vocal in expressing to me their gratitude for the hospitality that we extend. One of the guests at Café shook my hand and told me how much he looked forward to coming each month, not only because the food is good, but because he is treated with dignity as a guest. Greeting people at the Market, person after person told me how grateful they were that we served the community in this way, and how important it is to them that this is a market with a purpose. These things matter.

The other things we are doing matter, as well. Quilting moves forward with vigor, Social Ministry reaches out in vital ways, the Stark committee makes important decisions for us about grants to important ministries, our musicians make beautiful contributions... on and on and on. I'm gratified to see that the Welcome taskforce is beginning its work, and I look forward to seeing how that will bear fruit.

Last week, Immanuel played host to a "Pop-Up Public Church Happy Hour," organized by the seminary. And while almost no one from the other congregations came, Immanuel leaders came out in force to talk about what we are doing here. And then a group of eight leaders came together to begin working with a consultant the Synod has hired to help us develop a culture of generosity and gratitude in the congregation. I'm grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm that I'm seeing, and I hope you'll join me in praying that God will show us how we are best to serve.

Spiritual Formation: We're currently involved in a brief series on liturgy and ritual. A product of this course is a booklet I've created that explains the liturgy step by step. Copies of the booklet will be kept in the Narthex and passthrough for people to take so they can educate themselves about what we do in the service. Coming up in Advent will be a devotional series based on a collection of daily Advent reflections.

Ecumenical: The Evanston Interfaith Clergy and Leaders group through their advocacy with the City Council has recently secured a commitment to affordable housing in Evanston. They are also asking each member congregation to consider a response to the question of sanctuary for immigrants and refugees. I would like us to take up their statement and see how we would like to respond.

Pastoral: We grieve the loss of Pr. Royce Scherf, who died Oct. 27. We will remember Pr. Scherf at the end of service one Sunday in the coming weeks.

In Christ's peace,

Pr. Keith Fry

JANUARY SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 7:

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14:

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Mark 1:21-28

Thin Ic	Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat	2 3 4 5 6 6 Weight Watchers 7:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Wilmette Band 7:30p Choir Practice 11 Organist practice 1p	6p Weight Watchers 7:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Wilmette Band 7:30p Wilmette Band 7:30p Wilmette Band 7:30p Wilmette Band 7:30p Worship and Music Corultary 11 Organist practice 12p Worship and Music Corultary 11 Organist practice	15 16 17 18 18 19 20 17:30p Thin Ice: Scene Stu 17 Three Crowns Service 6p Weight Watchers 17:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Choir Practice 7	22 12:30p Thin Ice: Scene Stu 1p Thin Ice: One Acts 10 Thin Ice: Musical Rehea 12:30p Thin Ice: One Acts 12:30p Choir Practice 25 26 27 18 27 19 Thin Ice: Intermediate/H 9 Farmer's Market 1	29 42:30p Thin Ice: Scene Stu 1p Thin Ice: One Acts 6p Weight Watchers 7:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Choir Practice 7:30p Wilmette Band 7:30p Wilmett
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Phone: 847-864-4464

E-mail:

parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org

Website:

www.immanuelevanston.org

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socioeconomic status and marital status, every ability and challenge. We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers. PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE