

News from...



Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

FEBRUARY 2018

A WORD FROM PASTOR KEITH...

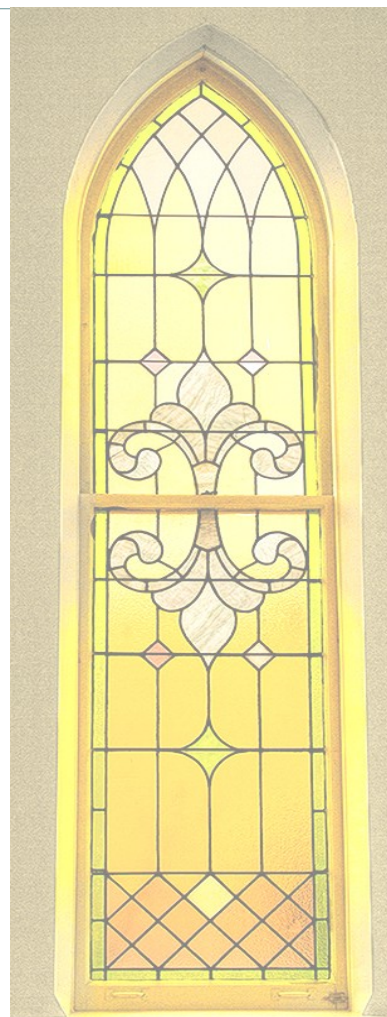
As we prepared the Sanctuary for the painting that began this week, we found all kinds of things tucked away in corners, hidden under piles that hadn't been moved in years, tacked to bulletin boards without being read for ages... There's a benefit to having a major renovation project adding some structure to tasks that otherwise are relatively low priority, and for some reason, getting rid of clutter tends to be one of those low-priority chores.

Probably the most significant mess was one that was hidden from view. In the "passthrough" entrance to the Sanctuary, there's a large, heavy cabinet in which we store paraments, the colored cloths with which we adorn the altar and pulpit. This cabinet had not been moved since last the space was carpeted, some 25 years ago. When the cabinet was pulled out from the wall, some things we expected to find, such as dust bunnies and spiderwebs. And then it wasn't wholly unexpected to see that there were stains down the walls where carelessly spilled coffee cups had tipped over after being set down on the cabinet.

What I wasn't prepared to see, however, was the pile of broken plaster and chips of wood and gritty, grimy dust. It seems that for decades, unbeknownst to us, debris had been filtering down from the attic, slipping unseen behind the cabinet and accumulating. From the front, everything looked neat and orderly. But the reality was that the orderly outward appearance was masking something ugly and chaotic that only became obvious when things were pulled aside so that the light of day could shine in.

Lent reminds us that our lives are often like the Sanctuary, and sometimes very much like that storage cabinet. Clutter and no-longer-useful things pile up, and we just get used to seeing them, to the point that we no longer notice at all. If we do notice, we tell ourselves we'll get around to doing something about it "one of these days." But there always seems to be something more important to do. And sometimes our neat and orderly exteriors are hiding decay and debris that no one can see.

Lent, like the painting project, provides the impetus we need to stop and pick up the clutter in our lives, to assess what needs to be straightened and kept, what needs to be discarded because it's worn out or no longer useful, what needs to be washed clean, what needs to be repaired and restored, what needs to be replaced. With that work done, the task of preparing the surfaces can begin so a fresh new coat of paint can be laid down, brightening, welcoming, making everything new. Our lives are a lot like that. Let's come to Lent asking God to declutter us, repair us, and repaint us.
—Your brother, Pastor Keith



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- Sanctuary Painting Project
- Ash Wednesday & Lent Services
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Upcoming Events At Immanuel

Feb. 1:	Daytime Quilting 10:00 AM
Feb. 4:	Café Immanuel 9:00 AM
Feb. 10:	Farmer's Market 8:30 AM–1:00PM
Feb. 21:	Three Crowns Service 11:00 AM
Feb. 23:	Evening Quilting 7:00 PM
Feb. 24:	Farmer's Market 8:30 AM–1:00PM



“Shrove Sunday,” Feb. 11

On Sunday, Feb. 11, at coffee hour, we'll do our last bit of pre-Lenten feasting as we enjoy New Orleans-style delights prepared by Andrea Knohl and Terri Hummel. Rumor has it that the treats will include Bananas Foster Bread Pudding. Come enjoy “Mardi Gras” a couple of days early!

New Council Members Elected at Annual Meeting

New members of Council were elected by the Congregation Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 28. They include Greg Hummel, Sara Krentz, Erik Shearer, and Grace Yarnoff, all elected for three-year terms, and Tom Couch, elected to fill a one-year term vacancy. We thank Eliza McDaniel for her faithful service as she ends her term. We also thank the Nominating Committee—Linda Edlund, Greg Hummel, Steve Warner, and Susan Ross—for their ministry and use of the discernment process to identify the people God has called forth to serve in this fashion.

Following Annual Meeting, the new Council met to elect officers for the congregation. Sara Krentz was elected President, Charly Yarnoff was elected Secretary, Joe Simchak was elected Treasurer, and Mary Ann Kearns was elected Financial Secretary. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in these offices.

Council will be installed during worship on Sunday, Feb. 11.

A Message from the Choir Director

February transitions us from the season of Epiphany into Lent. We finish the last Epiphany Sunday with a rousing contemporary anthem "The Mighty One," by Tom Fettke. We then close the Epiphany season with the Feast of the Transfiguration. The choir will sing an awesome setting of "O Nata Lux" by Morten Lauridsen. (*Text below.*) We then begin Lent on Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day with J.S. Bach's chorale "Ertoet uns durch dein Guete." ("Kill us through your goodness") from Cantata BWV 22. We then begin our Lenten journey in the rest of February with God's promises, the rainbow promise to Noah and God's promise to Abraham. The choir will offer some lovely settings to point our hearts in that direction; "If Thou But Suffer God To Guide Thee" by Jody W. Lindh and Robert Shaw/Alice Parker's arrangement of the American Folk Tune "Wondrous Love."

O Nata Lux text:

"O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayer of your supplicants. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones, grant us to be made members of your holy body." (This text comes from a tenth century hymn in *Cantiones Sacrae* published in 1575.)



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Hal Larson 2/2

Josie Kearns 2/4

Linnea Balder 2/8

Henry Hathaway 2/8

James Skelton 2/11

Laura Skelton Yakovenko
2/11

Nicole Darian 2/12

Steve Andes 2/14

Kim Miller 2/15

Keziah Yarnoff 2/18

Henrick Lewis 2/19

Catherine Stang 2/19

Rebecca Bernstein 2/24

Gregory Hummel 2/25

Joanne Shearer 2/25

Sarah Stegner 2/25

Thank You from Interfaith Action



January 16, 2018

Friends
Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
616 Lake St.
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to Interfaith Action of Evanston. Your contribution helps us continue serving hungry and homeless people in our community and to engage in advocacy that promotes social justice.

Interfaith Action brings together communities of faith and spirit to express our shared values with action. Through interfaith dialogue we build relationships and encourage understanding across faith boundaries. We partner with local legislators, community leaders and our neighbors to promote a healthy and equitable society.

Please check our website (www.interfaithactionofevanston.org) for opportunities to join us.

I wish you days filled with joyful blessings!

With appreciation,

Susan Murphy
Executive Director

Interfaith Action of Evanston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. No goods or services were received. Your gift of \$300 by Check # 49153, dated 12/31/2017 is tax deductible to the extent the law will allow.

THE WOMEN OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Cordially Invite



THE WOMEN OF

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

to join us for a

HOLY FAMILY

“HAVE A HEART” VALENTINE BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Welcome: 11:30am-12 Noon

Luncheon: 12 Noon- 1:00 pm

Program: 1:00 pm

in

Fellowship Hall

at

Trinity Lutheran Church

3637 Golf Road

Evanston, IL 60203

Reservations should be made no later than Monday, January 29th. Please call Trinity Lutheran at 847-673-8564 or email your response to: office@trinityevanston.org.

We hope you will be able to attend and enjoy the fellowship, a delicious luncheon, and wonderful program.

All proceeds from this benefit go to Holy Family School.

Please help us reach our target of \$7000 which provides a 1 year scholarship for 1 student.

We did it last year!

FREE AND AMPLE PARKING

In Memoriam: Carol Rakowsky

We were saddened by the death of our sister, Carol Rakowsky, who died Friday, Jan. 19, at the Presbyterian Homes of Evanston. Carol was born Dec. 11, 1928, in Akron, OH. She earned a chemistry degree at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, OH., where she met husband Fred, who preceded her in death two years ago.

Throughout her life, Carol was a church musician, playing the organ and singing in choirs. She was organist at Knox Presbyterian Church in Naperville for more than twenty years. She and Fred retired to Evanston, where they joined Immanuel.

Even after retirement, Carol continued to use music to help people dealing with Alzheimer's Disease at the Presbyterian Homes. Her health had made it impossible for her to get out the past few years.

Carol was also preceded in death by her daughter, Kathy. She is survived by son, Jim, who joined Immanuel in 2017. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her.



Painting Project Underway—Worship in Fellowship Hall

The final phase of our preservation and renovation project is now underway as the painting contractor began work on Monday, Feb. 5. We are anxious to see what the freshly painted Sanctuary will look like!

The project is large and time-consuming, so we will be unable to use the Sanctuary for several weeks while scaffolding is set up and plaster repair and painting take place. The plan is to complete the job by Holy Week, though it may be tight.

Meanwhile, we will need to worship in the Fellowship Hall until we are ready to "celebrate glad Easter" in the Sanctuary. Beginning Sunday, Feb. 11, all services, both Sundays and Lenten Wednesdays, will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Signs on the Sanctuary doors will direct people to the courtyard door and then upstairs to Fellowship Hall. If you see guests, please help them find where they need to go.

Because of the other uses of Fellowship Hall during the week, we will need to tear down and set back up the chairs and altar each Sunday. We ask that all able-bodied persons pitch in to help with this task, which will make short work of it. Simply arrive a bit earlier than usual, or leave a bit later after service, and we can make things run smoothly.

Farmers' Market 2018

Farmers' Market is thriving! Our guests are quite vocal in expressing their gratitude to Immanuel for opening our doors to the community through service and monetary donations 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: February 10 & 24, March 10 & 24, April 7 & 21.





Connections for the Homeless

“Our House” is looking for volunteers who could help with their food pick ups each week. The person would need to:

- Be available on Mondays at 9:30am to drive to the Whole Foods on Green Bay Road
- Participate in a training to learn the food sanitation guidelines (also on a Monday at 9:30am)
- Be able to walk up a flight of stairs to “Our House”
- Be able to lift 20 lbs.

Can you please pass this note on to any congregants or Bridges to Home committee members who might have the time and be interested in getting more involved with this important work which you all are supporting so generously? I talked with the staff and they are happy to have people who can only volunteer once per month. Contact Lisa Todd for volunteer opportunities ltodd@connect2home.org or 224.420.0803

Dinner Church: Midweek Lenten Service

Each Wednesday night during Lent we gather at 6:30 for a simple soup supper shared around the table with our sisters and brothers just as the first believers gathered to break bread together. The service is very simple and informal, centered on hearing scripture and spiritual writings, spending time reflecting together on them and discussing the insights the Spirit gives each of us as we listen, and then sharing the bread and wine of Eucharist with one another, passing the loaf and the cup to one another, serving one another as Christ served his friends.

Those who have participated in Dinner Church the past couple of years have commented on what a deeply spiritual experience it has been for them. It's also a perfect kind of service to invite your friends to, especially those who may be less comfortable with formal services. Bring someone along!

Extending our Eucharistic hospitality

Have you ever stopped to wonder what you would do at the Eucharist if you were unable to drink wine? This is a very real question for many people. There are multiple reasons why someone would choose not to partake of alcoholic wine. Perhaps the person is in recovery, or is taking medications that interact badly with alcohol, or grew up in a family situation where alcohol was destructive and has made the choice not to partake.

Often, these folks simply abstain from the cup—and Lutheran theology affirms that communion is complete with only one “element,” either bread or wine. But the sacrament is most fully experienced when both the bread and the cup are taken. For years now, Immanuel has offered gluten-free bread for those who are unable to consume regular wheat bread. And now, starting on the First Sunday Lent, Feb. 18, we will begin offering unfermented grape juice for those who abstain from alcohol.

Beginning that Sunday, we will replace the intinction cup with a tray of small individual cups. The outer ring of cups will contain our regular communion wine—the lighter-colored liquid. The inner ring of cups will contain unfermented grape juice, the darker-colored liquid. Those who do not wish to drink from the common cup will instead take either wine or grape juice from the tray. You will drink it, and then as you return to your seat, you will place your cup in a basket provided for that purpose. (Long-time members of Immanuel will recognize the trays that were in use before the intinction cup came into use.) In this way, more of us will be able to participate more fully in the Eucharist. If you have questions, please speak to Pr. Keith or to a member of the Worship and Music Committee.

Ash Wednesday Services

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14. Services will be held in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon and at 7:00 PM. The noon service will be a simple service, mostly spoken, while the evening service will be a full service with choir.

Ash Wednesday is the perfect way to begin the time of self-examination and self-giving that marks the season of Lent. We come to confess our sins against God and our neighbor, to be reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, and to begin the process of turning back from our wanderings to the way of Jesus and the Cross, as we look toward the joy of resurrection and new life at Easter.

Piecing Together Resources By R. Stephen Warner

During worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church (Evanston, Illinois) on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, 135 newly-made quilts were blessed and dedicated for distribution to refugees through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Thinking about how this came to be can help us see how new resources were brought together by making connections to people and organizations throughout the congregation's ecology—piecing things together. This is also a story about rituals and spaces and what people do together—the culture of this particular congregation. And it's a tale of how a small individual effort became something much bigger.

Nine—about half—of the members of the Quilters group participated in the ceremony that day and accepted the thanks of the congregation for their effort. Although all women, they ranged in age from mid-twenties to mid-nineties and in experience at Immanuel from life-long to more recent members.

The sanctuary was gorgeously decorated, but more than that. For this occasion, the otherwise plain, hard, wooden pews were comfortably upholstered. At 60 by 80 inches each, the quilts were hung across every available space. If the quilts had been laid end-to-end, they would have stretched nine hundred feet, the length of three football fields. It was the seventh year in a row that at least 100 quilts had been produced by Immanuel's quilters.

Quilting at Immanuel began at a far smaller scale thirty-some years ago. It was initiated by a member of the church's sewing circle who was newly retired and thus able to join the daytime sewing group. She reported that quilts were needed by a local Lutheran-affiliated home for the disabled. Working together at church, the group produced two to three quilts a year. Output was greatly increased once individual women started sewing the tops on their own machines at home, and the group's work became one of assembly. A ready-sewn top is paired with a back (often made from a bedsheet) and batting (purchased) in between, then the layers are sewn and tied together.

An impetus to boost the effort came when members of the congregation traveled to Cummings, North Dakota, to assist in Lutheran Disaster Response to the 1997 Red River floods. They met the quilters of Salem Lutheran who, along with their sister congregation in Halstad, Minn., across the river, regularly delivered hundreds of quilts to Lutheran World Relief. If they can do that, so can we, the Immanuel people thought.



Over the years, the quilters' output has grown while the membership of the congregation has gotten smaller. One factor is wide awareness of Immanuel's quilting on the part of Evanstonians who see quilts on display while they shop at the off-season indoor farmers' market the congregation hosts. About a third of the quilters are actually volunteers who are not members of the congregation but drawn to its mission. Well-wishers in the community also donate fabric. A couple of years ago, just as a quilters' session was dispersing, a large stash of fabric was found in two bags just outside the door to the parking lot. Other fabric donations come through Evanston Freecycle. An especially large stash of fabric was donated when a church member saw several crates of fabric displayed at a garage sale in his neighborhood and, hoping for a discount, asked how much the whole bunch would cost. "What do you want it for?" the neighbor asked. Hearing the answer, "For quilting at our church," she replied "Just take it. Take it all."

The quilters enlist the money and energy of the congregation in several ways. Before the quilts are shipped, five are put on display in Fellowship Hall to compete for the honor of most beautiful quilt of the year. The winning quilt is determined by the number of votes, in the form of \$1 bills, stuffed into a box under each one. In 2017, the quilters ran a lottery during after-worship coffee hour. For \$5, members could guess how many quilts would be produced that year by choosing any number from 100 on up. The proceeds are used to defray the quilters' biggest cash outlay, for rolls of batting.

After the quilts are dedicated, they are packed into shipping boxes (another donated item) and driven to an "Ingathering." For Immanuel in 2017, this was at another Lutheran congregation in the Chicago suburbs, whose own volunteers loaded them onto a truck bound to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland. Although in recent years the quilters themselves have been women, the congregations' men are disproportionately involved in the camaraderie of packing and shipping.

Although LWR offers a method of tracking where a congregation's quilts (and other donations) ultimately reach those who will use them, the group at Immanuel found the procedure cumbersome on their first try. One quilter wished that they could sew into each quilt a greeting from Immanuel Lutheran Church, but that idea was abandoned when another member pointed out that people using the quilts might be put at risk if evidence of their origin came to the attention of factions in a refugee settlement who are suspicious of Christian meddling in their world. Now, the LWR website specifies that quilts may not feature religious or patriotic symbols or messages. The quilters are content to know that most recipients use their quilts to provide warmth, even in warm climates, where temperatures can drop dramatically at night. But the quilts' versatility also makes them useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or wraps to hold a baby on a mother's back. According to the LWR website, recent shipments went to refugees in Congo, Haiti, India, Lebanon, Thailand, Ukraine, and other countries. In 2016, 346,170 quilts were produced and distributed worldwide.

For Immanuel, quilting elevates a volunteer activity into a ministry that bridges generations and genders within the congregation and links the church to the local community, to other Lutherans in America, and to refugee camps across the world. Immanuel quilters quite tangibly make the congregation part of something that is immeasurably bigger than we are.

See <https://lwr.org/blog/blessing-quilts-2017>

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on December 17, 2017

Present: Linda Edlund, Pr. Keith Fry (*ex officio*), Sara Krentz (recording), Eliza McDaniel, Kevin McDaniel (presiding), Susan Ross, Nicolai Schousboe, Jim Skelton, Charly Yarnoff

Excused: Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Erik Shearer

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:41 pm.

Agenda was adopted as amended.

Sharing and prayer: we prayed for Judy Hokenson, Margaret Carlson, Ron Laudert, and domestic and international disaster concerns

Pastor's report: see appendix A below.

Minutes: Approval of minutes as amended of November 18th was MSC.

Financial Reports and Budget:

We continue to be ahead in offerings and underspent overall; some of this may equalize before the end of the year.

We have spent all the extra funds approved for extra/emergency items on the improvement projects (such as for the items found in the steeple).

Counters Schedule:

December 24: Eliza and Mary Ann

December 31: Sara and Eliza

January 7: Jim and Susan

January 14: Charly and Sara

Old Business:

1. Property projects:
 - a. Brovard Studios here last week and this week through Friday working on the big front windows
 - b. A number of painting bids received, still waiting on at least one more
 - c. Starting work on new doors for the office
 - d. Capital Campaign: work on this will commence in early 2018
 - e. Constitution Task Force: items will be mailed out to members this week for annual meeting notice
- Nominating Committee: progress is being made

New Business:

1. Building Use Policy: proposed policy updates were discussed. It was MSC to approve the updated policy.
2. Emergency Preparedness: discussion tabled until next meeting.

3. Vision Keeper: it was MSC to make Nicolai Schousboe and Eliza MacDaniel the IAC vision keepers this year.
 4. January schedule: It was MSC to move the council meeting in January to the 14th instead of the 21st. There will be a presentation on January 7 for the constitutional changes and January 21 for the budget.
 5. Opera group: discussion of whether we would like to host an opera group over the summer. It was MSC to explore the options of this further before final decision is made.
- Parking lot: discussion on parking lot usage in respects to the upcoming big construction projects. It was MSC to create a parking task force, and Charly Yarnoff, Jim Skelton, Joe Simchak, and Pastor Keith all will work on this.

Groups and Organizations

Youth group, liaison—Eliza. No report

Special Committees

1. Memorials, Chair—Marlene Chatain. liaison—Susan: no report
2. Mutual Ministry, Chair—: no report
3. Personnel, Chair; Laura McDaniel, liaison—Kevin: no report
4. Stark Fund, Chair: Linda; liaison—Linda: no report
5. Technology, Chair—Jim McCarthy, liaison—Kevin: no report
6. Farmer's Market Task Force, liaison—Linda: no report
7. Active Welcome Task Force, liaison—Charly: The task force has drafted a welcome card to be given to visitors so that they can learn about Immanuel and provide us with their contact information. The next step is to consult with a graphic designer to refine the card and make it visually appealing.
8. Window Funding Task Force, liaison—Greg: no report

Property Use Task Force, liaison – Charly: revised property policy for council to discuss

Standing Committees

1. Education, Chair—Charly, liaison—Charly: see Pastor's report, "Spiritual Growth"
2. Evangelism—Chair--, liaison--: no report
3. Fellowship, Chair—Andrea, liaison—Greg: no report
4. Finance, Chair—Joe Simchak; liaison—Sara: See Financial Reports and Budget above
5. Personnel, Chair – Laura McDaniel; liaison—Kevin: no report
6. Property, Chair—Jim McCarthy, liaison—Jim Skelton: see Old Business above
7. Social Ministry, Chair—Nicolai Schousboe, liaison—Nicolai: no report
8. Stewardship, Chair—vacant, liaison—Sara: see Pastor's report, "Congregational Ministries"
9. 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 2:26 PM with the Lord's Prayer.
Next Council meeting is January 14th at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Krentz

Pastor's Report: December 17, 2017

Worship: Worship attendance has been fairly strong throughout Advent, and we have had guests almost every week. We are encouraging all those who can to attend both services next Sunday, the Advent 4 service in the morning, and the Christmas Eve service at 9:00 PM. As announced earlier, Worship and Music made the decision to not hold a Christmas Day service, given the history of low attendance and the fact that people would already have attended two services the day before. Many thanks to those who have decorated the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. It greatly enhances our worship! And many thanks to the musicians for their beautiful offerings during this season.

Advent Evening Prayer attendance has been very strong, boosted this past week by the presence of St. Paul's Lutheran Church folks as we held a joint service, hosted here at Immanuel. I got positive feedback from the St. Paul's attendees, and hope that we can find additional opportunities to worship together.

Congregational ministries: A group of leaders met with Mark Vincent, the stewardship consultant that the Synod offered to us free of charge. We had a stimulating discussion of some of the steps that we could take to create a culture of generosity and gratitude in the congregation, and have already tried out some of the things we talked about (e.g., lifting up in worship the grants from the Starck Fund that were being sent out to support other ministries, and having people bring their stewardship commitment cards forward to place them before the altar). We are looking forward to receiving Mark's summary of our meeting. The Synod will also make available to us a collection of online resources that we can use across the year to help people develop their understanding of stewardship in their daily lives.

Many thanks to Kathryn Skelton and Mary Ann Kearns for their work on our Fall stewardship campaign, both publicly and behind the scenes. We don't often enough thank Mary Ann and Joe Simchak and Elizabeth Stegner for the work they do week after week to ensure the smooth financial functioning of our ministries, and I don't want to let the year end without publicly lifting up their "quiet" ministry to us.

Thanks as always to the faithful folks who work so hard on Café and the Market, and the faithful quilters. These ministries are so vital to us! And thanks this month to Andrea Knohl for organizing the hat, gloves, and coat drive for children in our local schools. Thanks also to all those who provide for coffee hours and fellowship, under the leadership of Terri Simchak and Terri Hummel. We need to be conscious of thanking people for the ministries they do. Can you help me in this?

The Bishop has announced that the Synod has exceeded its goal of raising \$1 million to support the work of ELCA World Hunger. Immanuel contributed to this challenging goal, and we should be thankful!

Spiritual Growth: We're engaged right now in an Advent group-directed conversation around the daily Advent readings in the book, *Watching for the Light*. People have taken more copies of this book than any other. That suggests to me that there is a hunger for daily spiritual encounters that challenge and focus us.

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 lifelong member Robert “Uncle Bob” Larson, who died Dec. 7. We held a service of thanksgiving on Saturday, Dec. 16, which was very well attended. We give thanks to God for Bob’s life and ministry among us.

We also had the joy on Dec. 10 of receiving Jim Rakowsky as a full member of the congregation, on affirmation of baptism. There are two additional requests for membership that will be offered to Council next month.

In Christ’s peace,
Pr. Keith Fry

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

February 4:

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 18:

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 11:

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 25:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thu Feb 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
Annual Meeting ● 8:30am Organist practice ● 9am Adult Spiritual Formation ● 10:30am Holy Communion ● 1pm New Community Church Worship	● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 5:30pm Vision Keepers Award Dinner ● 6pm Weight Watchers	● 1pm Thin Ice: Musical Rehearsal ● 7:30pm Choir Practice	● 10am Daytime Quilters ● 1pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 7:30pm Wilmette Band	● 1pm Thin Ice: Intermediate/High School ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	● 1pm Thin Ice: Intermediate/High School ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (
4 ● 8am Cafe Immanuel ● 8:30am Organist practice ● 9am Adult Spiritual Formation ● 10:30am Holy Communion ● 1pm New Community Church Worship	6 ● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 6pm Weight Watchers	7 ● 1pm Thin Ice: Musical Rehearsal ● 7:30pm Choir Practice	8 ● 1pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 7:30pm Wilmette Band	9 ● 1pm Thin Ice: Intermediate/High School ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	10 ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	11 ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (
11 ● 8:30am Organist practice ● 9am Adult Spiritual Formation ● 10:30am Holy Communion ● 1pm New Community Church Worship	12 ● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 6pm Weight Watchers	13 ● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 6pm Weight Watchers	14 Valentine's Day ● 12pm Ash Wednesday Noon Service ● 1pm Thin Ice: Musical Rehearsal ● 7:30pm Choir Practice ● 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00	15 ● 1pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 7:30pm Wilmette Band	16 ● 1pm Thin Ice: Intermediate/High School ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	17 ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (
18 First Sunday in Lent ● 8:30am Organist practice ● 9am Adult Spiritual Formation ● 10:30am Holy Communion 2 more	19 Presidents' Day ● 8:30am Organist practice ● 9am Adult Spiritual Formation ● 10:30am Holy Communion	20 ● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 6pm Weight Watchers	21 ● 11am Three Crowns Service ● 1pm Thin Ice: Musical Rehearsal ● 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Dinner ● 7:30pm Choir Practice	22 ● 1pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 7:30pm Wilmette Band	23 ● 1pm Thin Ice: Intermediate/High School ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	24 ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (
25 ● 8:30am Organist practice ● 9am Adult Spiritual Formation ● 10:30am Holy Communion ● 1pm New Community Church Worship	26 ● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 6pm Weight Watchers	27 ● 12:30pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 6pm Weight Watchers	28 ● 1pm Thin Ice: Musical Rehearsal ● 6:30pm Midweek Lenten Dinner ● 7:30pm Choir Practice	Mar 1 ● 10am Daytime Quilters ● 1pm Thin Ice: One Acts ● 7:30pm Wilmette Band	2 ● 1pm Thin Ice: Intermediate/High School ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (	3 ● 9am Weight Watchers Meeting ● 10am Rakowsky Funeral ● 11am Organist practice ● 12pm North Shore Choral Society: (



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*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, socio-
economic status and marital status,
every ability and challenge.
We welcome believers and questioners,
and questioning believers.*

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE