

News from...



Immanuel Lutheran of Evanston

JANUARY 2019

A WORD FROM PASTOR KEITH...

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

I love the season of Epiphany, largely because it has this recurrent theme of light shining in darkness. Many of us find this time of year challenging, with scant hours of sunlight, gloomy, gray days, and darkness that descends so early each evening. It's easy to let that darkness begin to influence almost everything in our lives...our moods match the gloom, and we are inclined to want to hibernate, curling in upon ourselves.

Then we look at the news, and so often it seems that the gloom has tinged everything. We see horrible famine, political conflict, hatred and violence, financial uncertainties. At some point, we're tempted to just turn our eyes away and curl up in a ball to drift off to sleep.

But the Light persists. The Good News is that, no matter how dark or gloomy things may seem, this powerful, penetrating Light makes its way into this world and into our lives, and shines into dark places.

Jesus called us "children of Light and of the day." The Light of Christ shines in us and through us, dispelling the gloom around us, and shining out of us with hope for all those who sit in darkness. You and I are light-bearers.

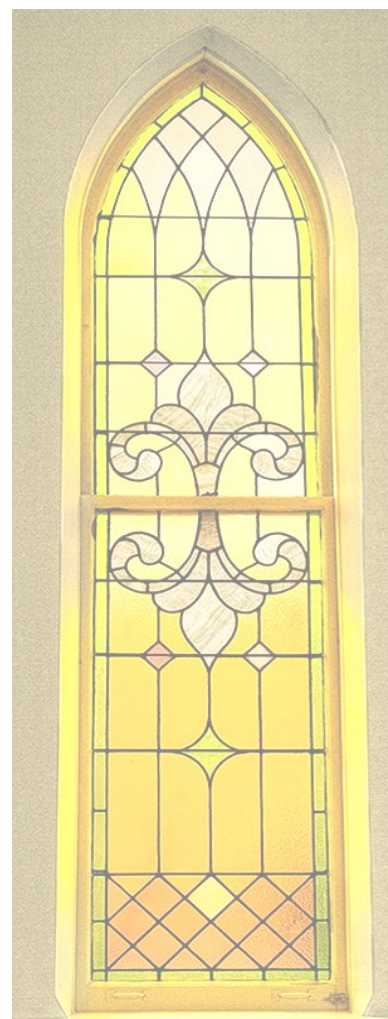
I was reminded on Christmas Eve, as we passed the flame from one to the other during the singing of "Silent Night," that our little individual lights may flicker and waver, but when we gather together, the Light begins to fill the room. Even though some candles were stronger than others, and some barely flickered, together they offered an embracing warm glow.

That's a beautiful metaphor for the community of faith. We each are light-bearers in our daily lives. But when we come together to worship and work as a body, the Light is magnified and strengthened.

Will you commit to bearing Light together in this coming year? We are a small congregation, to be sure. But we are shining some very bright Light into the dark places of our world, in our individual callings and ministries, but also in the ministries we do together. When we commit to joining our small lights together by coming together in worship, by volunteering in our public ministries, by giving of our resources, we participate in Christ's own work of being Light in a world that sits in darkness, longing for light.

In Epiphany, we remember our baptism, and the charge we were given: "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven." Come join in brightening the Light that is shining through Immanuel!

—Your brother, Pastor Keith



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- Spiritual Growth Group Lectionary Study
- January Scripture Readings

Upcoming Events at Immanuel

| | |
|------------|--|
| Jan. 5, 19 | Farmers' Market 8:30 AM |
| Jan. 6 | Café Immanuel 9:00 AM |
| Jan. 20 | Council Meeting 12:30 PM |
| Jan. 25 | Evening Quilters 7:30 PM |
| Jan. 27 | Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 PM |



Special Worship Events

Welcome to Our Newest Member!

On Sunday, Dec. 23, we were happy to welcome Melanie Anderson into full membership in the congregation. Melanie has been involved with Immanuel in various ways for about 12 years, and decided to formalize her commitment to the congregation and its work. She is married to Tom Couch, and volunteers each month with Café Immanuel. She is mother to Evan, a student at ETHS, and Carolina, an actress in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. She is also a gifted sewer, and creates beautiful quilt art. In her professional life, she is a financial planner.

Welcome to Melanie! While she is familiar to many, please make a point of expressing your appreciation for her presence among us.



Annual Congregational Meeting, January 27, 2019

On Sunday, January 27th at 12:00 noon, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

In addition to regular business, the agenda will include ratification of amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws. These amendments were approved at last year's meeting and have been certified by the Synod. By our constitution, they must now be ratified by a second vote in order to take effect. Documents detailing the proposed amendments and the rationale for adoption have been sent to voting members.

Per Immanuel's Constitution, to be a voting member you must have communed within the past year and must have given a contribution of record. Proxy voting is not allowed by our constitution. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

—Sara Krentz
Congregation Council President

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Caroline Nakic 1/3
Nicholai Schousboe 1/3
Robert Fried 1/5
Rachel Tollett 1/8
Hadley Stang 1/9
Bruce Broten 1/10
Sara Krentz 1/11
Eliza McDaniel 1/13
Margaret Carlson 1/20
Jessica Nakic 1/27
Ryan Knohl 1/29

Other Events of Interest

Elliott Chapel Organ Recitals

Jill Hunt

Monday, January; 28, 1:30 pm
Presbyterian Homes; 3200 Grant St., Evanston, IL

Alloy Horn Quartet

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 4:30 pm
Lutheran Church of the Ascension
460 Sunset Ridge Rd., Northfield, IL, 847-446-8335

The Alloy Horn Quartet, a collection of four talented female French horn players, will delightfully demonstrate the power and beauty of this mysterious instrument. Their repertoire will include both familiar and new favorites, including the genres of classical, opera, musical theatre, folk, and American Spirituals.

Caroling for Immanuel's Elders

On Saturday, Dec. 29, a sizeable group of Immanuel folks set out to brighten the holidays for Immanuel's eldest members.

We began at the Presbyterian Homes, where we sang for Margaret Carlson, then progressed to Three Crowns, where John and Doris Strom, Judy Hokenson, and Mildred Carlson were the audience (along with other residents who joined us).

Following a pleasant lunch at Three Crowns, a group drove out to Long Grove to visit Lynn Carson, who lives at Harbor Chase. Several other residents gathered with us in front of the fireplace as we sang the joy of Christmas.

Thanks to Laura McDaniel for organizing this tradition, and to all the Immanuel folks who came to sing and to express our love for these dear elder members!



Adult Spiritual Growth for January

Do you ever hear the scripture readings in worship and wonder what they mean or how they fit together? Come join the Adult Spiritual Growth group as we study the readings for each Sunday's lectionary.

We gather at 9:00 AM downstairs. We'll read and discuss the readings for that day so that when you go to worship, you'll already have some insights into what you will be hearing. No book is required...just come and listen, then ask questions and discuss!

Indoor Farmers' Market

2019 Indoor Farmers' Market Dates:

January 5 & 19 **February 2 & 16**

March 2, 16, & 30 **April 13**



JANUARY SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 13 Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43: 1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 20 Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 7 Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

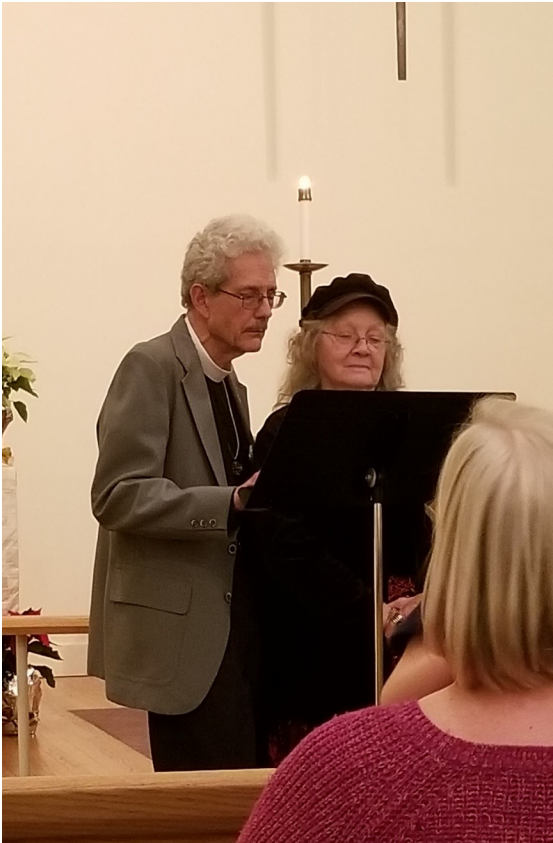
Morehead Family Christmas Praise

We were blessed this Christmas by the family of Music Director Jimmy Morehead, who presented an evening of Christmas Praise. This is part of a tradition the Moreheads developed 30 years ago, when they gathered as a family to sing and make music. Eventually, they began sharing their evening with congregations and the public.

For 90 minutes, they sang, played organ, recorder, and percussion, and offered music from across time and from around the world. About 65 people were present. An offering of more than \$400 was taken to benefit Interfaith Action's emergency shelter.

Following the program, there was a wonderful reception prepared by Immanuel members Kim Miller and Hal and Melisa Larson. Clean-up was assisted by Kevin and Laura McDaniel and Pr. Keith.

Many thanks to Jimmy and to all who had a part in this evening of fellowship and praise!





Interfaith Community: Emergency Overnight Shelter Will Now be Open Every Night!

Because of a generous donation from First United Methodist Church, the EOS will be open every night through February. After the tragic murder of a homeless woman, Daisy Major, in front of their church last month, FUMC is tapping into a special fund so that the EOS can be open nightly. We are extremely grateful for their gift! Interfaith Action will need more volunteers to step up and fill the overnight spots. If you are interested in being trained as a volunteer, please contact Nicolai

Your Donations Keep us Going!

Interfaith Action appreciates the donations they receive from area faith communities and individuals. They are always in need of toiletries, hats, gloves, socks, ear buds, and snacks. Please contact them if you have items to donate. Photo: Hot beverages provided by the Unitarian Church of Evanston.



| <u>Emergency Overnight Hosts/contacts</u> | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 12/1-12/15 | St. Paul's |
| | 1004 Greenwood |
| 12/16-12/29 | First United Methodist |
| | 516 Church |
| 12/30-1/12 | First Congregational |
| | 1445 Hinman |
| 1/13-1/26 | Unitarian Church |
| | 1330 Ridge |
| 1/27-2/9 | First Presbyterian |
| | 1427 Chicago |
| 2/10-2/23 | Beth Emet |
| | 1224 Dempster |

Living into Future Directions 2025

On Monday, February 11, 2019, ELCA Disability Ministries will host a free afternoon workshop (1-4 p.m.) introducing a Companionship model of Mental Health Ministry led by Pathways to Promise.

A two-day train the trainer seminar will follow in May 2019. Also, on Wednesday February 13, 2019, ELCA members will gather in three new ministry teams at the Lutheran Center for worship and networking.

There are three ways in which one can join with others in a shared interest:

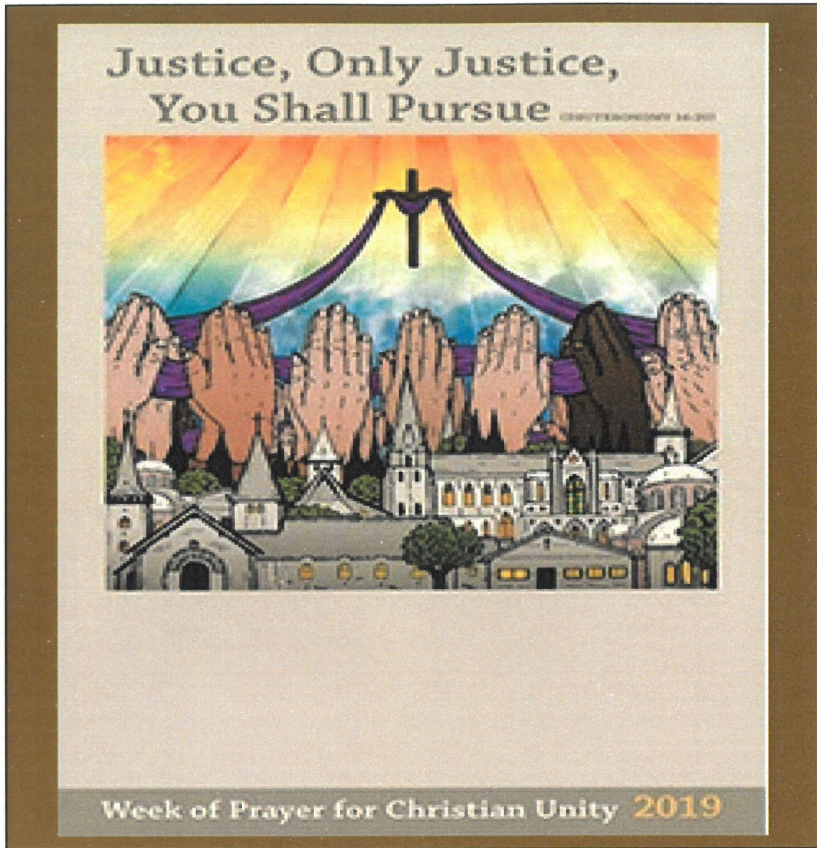
- The Localized Active Ministries Team has monthly conference calls to share best practices, be supportive of new initiatives, and learn about trends, and how to strengthen long-term efforts.
- The Resource Development/Tools for Adaptive Practices Team addresses ways for children, youth, and families to grow in their faith formation. From being baptized, to understanding the catechism and confirmation, to finding a place (vocation) in the world, everyone looks for ways to love, serve, and worship; people with varying abilities do, too. Help identify ways for ministries to more fully engage all people in the church.
- The Grant Review Team helps ELCA Disability Ministries make decisions about what grants to approve and publicizes the outcome.

If you are interested in joining a Disability Ministries networking team or learning more about the Pathways to Promise introductory workshop or two-day training, send your full name, ELCA congregation and synod name, and e-mail address to Disability.Ministry@elca.org or call Carol at 773-380-2604.

Notes from the Parish Administrator

You've Got Mail! Church Leaders/Committee Members: Mail Call! Please check the slots by the Church Office.

Lost and Found: Please check the coat rack near Fellowship Hall for various items.



**EVANSTON WEEK OF
PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY
THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 2019
7:00 PM**

First Congregational Church

(United Church of Christ)

Rev. Dr. Ann L. Rosewall, Senior Minister

1445 Hinman Ave at Grove, Evanston
www.firstchurchevanston.org

This ecumenical worship service has as its theme the words of scripture: "Justice, only justice, you shall pursue." Together we celebrate Christian unity and hear the call to live in solidarity and collaboration as agents of justice and peace.

Preacher:

**Rev. Dr. Michael Nabors,
Second Baptist Church**

Multi-congregation

Choir

(rehearsal at 6:00 PM)

**Congregations and
clergy from all
denominations invited
to participate**

**All are
welcome!**



IN A TIME OF POLARITY

Friday Night, February 8th / Saturday Day, February 9th, 2019

Grace Lutheran Church • 1430 South Boulevard Evanston, IL 60202

Fri: 6pm - 9pm, Sat: 9am - 2pm (Meals included)

Suggested Donaton: \$20

RSVP by Monday, 1/28 : churchoffice@graceevanston.org / 847.475.2211

Are you concerned about our country's political divide? Are you looking for hope? Join Mary Mrgulalski, Mark Bowman, Annie Rosenthal, and Pastor Daniel Tallon Ruen for this important prayer retreat. Mary is an Ignatian Prayer Associate and Certified Spiritual Director. Annie is a certified Better Angels moderator (see better-angels.org for more info about her work), and Social Worker. Mark is the Director of Music at Grace, and Daniel is the pastor. Come for great food & music, learn about the power of Ignatian prayer, and gain information on the nationally recognized Better Angels philosophy: a movement of concerned citizens, devoted to bringing our country back together with civility and cooperative action. For more info on Grace Lutheran, see graceevanston.org



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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, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE