

News from...



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

NOVEMBER 2019

A WORD FROM PASTOR KEITH...

"Give thanks for saints whose love is pure, a sparkling, precious stone: They show by what they say and do an inward beauty, warm and true, for God's concerns they own—God's love through them is shown."

("Give Thanks for Saints," ELW 428)

As we gather for worship on All Saints' Sunday, we come remembering those saints of God, those "ones being made holy," who have touched our lives and given us a glimpse of God's own love made manifest. As I stress each year at this time, "saints" are not only the "super-holy" folks the church has put on a calendar of commemorations throughout the year, but also the ordinary folks known to us who have sought to live in the path of God's love, however imperfectly. When we name those people before God on All Saints, whether aloud or in our hearts, the stories of how they have demonstrated that love can't help but come back to mind. In bringing to mind those stories, we realize that the "cloud of witnesses" are mysteriously present with us. The story goes on.

Have you ever thought about Scripture as a story that brings alive for us the encounters people have had with God across the ages? So often we want Scripture to be a rulebook, but at its heart, it is a beautiful and compelling story, sweeping in its breadth, that recounts how the Living God has interacted with people from the beginning of history, and how people have responded. There is great power in telling the stories.

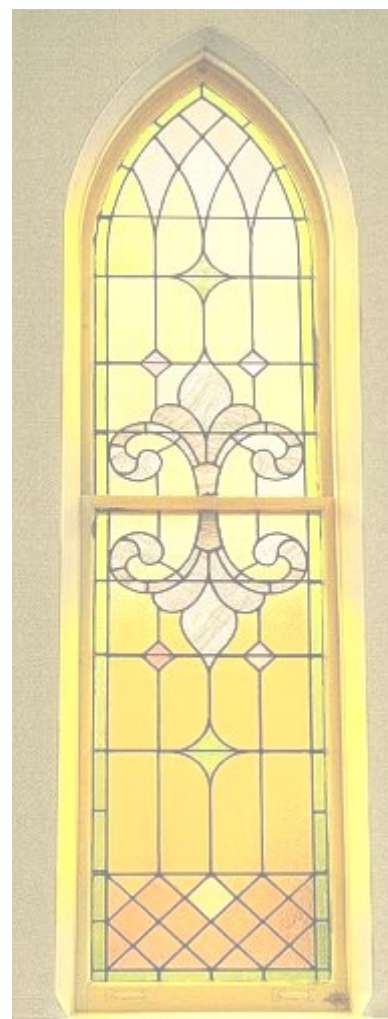
I think we need to tell the stories more often. Not just the stories of those saints who have come before—though telling those stories can move and inspire us. I think we need to learn better to tell *our* stories—the stories of how we have encountered God in our daily living and in the lives of those around us, and the stories of how we have seen God at work through one another.

The Congregation Council has begun a process of looking at our life together at Immanuel, as well as looking at where God is calling us next. The consultant we are working with, Brian Zehr, is encouraging us to look beyond coming up with a "five-year plan," and instead to develop a narrative, a story, about who we are and who God is calling us to be.

Next time you're in worship, look around you (or if you're not able to join us in worship, look around in your mind's eye). What are the stories you can tell about how God has touched you through one of the people in our assembly? What stories can you tell about the holy acts or words you have witnessed? What stories can you tell about how God has been present to you?

The next step is very important: Will you commit to telling that story aloud to someone? Maybe it can happen in a study group. Maybe it happens at coffee hour. Maybe you privately share with someone the story God has given you to tell about someone else. Maybe you go to the person in whom you have seen God's love and say to them, "Do you know how you have touched my life? When you said/did ... I experienced God's love through you." I genuinely believe that in telling the stories, we will deepen our love for one another and for God—and in doing so, we will enter more deeply into God's own story. The story goes on!

—Your brother, Pastor Keith



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UPCOMING EVENTS AT IMMANUEL

Nov. 3	<i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i> Café Immanuel 9:00 AM ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 10:30 AM
Nov. 7	Daytime Quilters 10:00 AM
Nov. 9	Evanston Go Tournament 8:00 AM
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 15, 22, 29	Warming Center 2:00 PM—5:00 PM
Nov. 17	Council Meeting 12:30 PM
Nov. 20	Three Crowns Service 11:00 AM
Nov. 23	First Indoor Farmers' Market 8:30 AM–1:00 PM
Nov. 24	New Community Church Holiday Dinner
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOV. 3

All Saints will be observed on Sunday, Nov. 3, at our 10:30 AM worship.

For many, this is one of the most meaningful services of the year as we give thanks to God for all those who have died in the Lord and whose lives have served as examples of holy living to us.

As part of the service, you will be given an opportunity to come forward and light candles in memory of those loved ones who now rest in the Lord. Names of those whom people have asked to be remembered will be listed in the bulletin, but you will be invited in the service to name any others you wish.

This is a beautiful time of remembrance and thanksgiving, and a great service to invite friends and family to attend, especially those who are grieving a loss.



MUSIC AT IMMANUEL

November is a wonderful end of the church year for music at Immanuel. We bookend the month with two feasts: All Saints Sunday and the Reign of Christ. We will offer Carl Schalk's motet-like anthem "Blessed are the Dead who Die in the Lord" for All Saints.

We fill out the month with pieces by two great composers: Thomas Morley's "I Know My Redeemer Lives" and Felix Mendelssohn's "Grant Peace We Pray." We finish the church year with a Bach chorale "Wie bin ich doch so herzlich froh." The tune is "Wie schön leuchtet" ("How Brightly Shines the Morning Star") which is more closely associated with Epiphany. The text we are using is from the final chorale from Bach's ordinarily first *Cantata for the Annunciation of Mary*. It leads us wonderfully into the new church year and Advent.



REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCT. 27

It was a great joy to celebrate Reformation Sunday in joint worship with our sisters and brothers from St. Paul Lutheran Church. This is an annual tradition that has become very important to many of us.

St. Paul's new pastoral minister, Pam Voves, preached. Members of Immanuel and St. Paul led in the various ministries of worship, and Pr. Keith presided. The music, which included a string ensemble and a joint choir, was stirring. Non-designated offerings went to support the work of Evanston Interfaith Action as they help our homeless neighbors.

We are interested in finding more ways that we could cooperate with St. Paul's in living out the Good News in our neighborhood. If you have ideas for how this could happen, please share them with the leaders of the assembly!





STEWARDSHIP – Ingathering Approaches!

Over the past few weeks, we have heard very personal stories from several members about how they feel called to respond to God's abundant grace with very specific commitments and practices: expressing gratitude, growing fruit of the earth, composting and recycling, sharing table hospitality, and experiencing and expressing beauty.

In the year ahead, how will you respond to God's grace? We invite you to consider this question and share your own answer by filling out the Commitment Card for 2020 and returning it on Ingathering Sunday, November 10th. Thank you!

SOCIAL MINISTRY–Immanuel's Warming Center Launches

This winter Immanuel is joining several other churches in Evanston in setting up hospitality centers for people who have few other alternatives to get out of the cold. The Immanuel Warming Center (in Fellowship Hall) will be open every Friday afternoon from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM from Nov. 15 through Mar. 27.

Every Friday, three volunteer hosts will welcome our guests, staff the center, and serve coffee. We need volunteers! If you're interested in being one of the hosts, please let us know. An orientation session will be held after coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Guests will relax by playing board games or cards, conversing, watching videos, or napping. (When you live on the streets, naps are important!) We are in need of sleeping pads and games (chess and other board games). Please see us if you have anything that you can lend us or if you can donate money to support this life-saving hospitality.

This shelter is part of the Interfaith Action of Evanston program for the homeless, ensuring that homeless individuals have a place to sleep, access to food, and a place to stay warm every day during the winter. We very much appreciate your help and support! *Nicolai Schousboe*

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Nov. 3, All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18
Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11–23
Luke 6:20–31

Nov. 10, Pentecost 22

Job 19:23–27a
Psalm 17:1–9
2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17
Luke 20:27–38

Nov. 17, Pentecost 23

Malachi 4:1–2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6–13
Luke 21:5–19

Nov. 24, Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1–6
Psalm 46

OUR NEW BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY HAS BEEN INSTALLED



Our new bishop, the Rev. Yehiel Curry, who was bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, on June 8, 2019, was installed on Saturday, October 19, 2019, at a festival worship service at the Tinley Park Convention Center. His six-year term began on September 1, 2019. Immanuel was represented at the service by Pr. Keith and Larry Lee.

The bishop served as pastor of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995, and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2013.

The service was a joyous one, lasting for more than three hours. There was a mass Gospel Choir that sang very exuberantly. Bp. Curry was installed by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. A large number of ecumenical guests were present, including a representative of the Chicago Archdiocese who read a letter of greetings from Cardinal Blaise Cupich.

We give thanks to God for Bp. Curry and for the ministry which the Spirit has called him to exercise among us.



INDOOR FARMERS' MARKET 2019-2020 RESUMES NOV. 23

Join us for a new year of the Indoor Farmers' Market, beginning Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8:30 AM-1:00 PM. Last year on opening day 1,200 visitors and shoppers streamed through Immanuel's doors!

Shopping at the IFM funds grants given to agencies fighting hunger, with over \$23,000 distributed to-date. Local favorite and partner Curt's Café offers breakfast.

2019-20 Indoor Farmers' Market Dates:

November 23 **February 8 & 22**

December 7 & 21 **March 7 & 21**

January 11 & 25 **April 4**

8:30 AM-1:00 PM

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dana Barron 11/4

Thomas Nakic 11/5

Steve Bodine 11/10

Cynthia Carson 11/20

Edward Carlson 11/11

Christine Imhoff 11/12

Jack Cudecki 11/13

Jean Kantner 11/15

Mesrop Darian 11/30



A Look at Our Morning Shelter

Open mornings Monday through Friday, 52 weeks a year, 7:00 AM–11:00 AM. Located at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Avenue. Guests receive breakfast and a safe place to sleep. We are always accepting donations for personal care items as well as foods like pastries, juice or frozen waffles.

Other Services

Our Morning Shelter also has Job Counselors who provide advice, encouragement and workshops for guests seeking employment. Computer trainers assist with online applications and resumes. Donations for USB drives and reams of paper are always appreciated!

Evanston Producemobile 2019 –2020

Greater Chicago Food Depository’s Producemobile, in partnership with Interfaith Action and The City of Evanston, takes place every second Tuesday of the month at the Robert Crown Center (1701 Main Street). Approximately 30–35 volunteers are needed each month to unload produce from trucks, sort and bag food items, and then serve it to our guests. Thanks for helping us get food to our hungry neighbors—and please feel free to share this invitation with your friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information on the Producemobile, or other services targeting hungry and homeless people in Evanston, please contact Interfaith Action of Evanston at (847)475-1150, or see our website: www.interfaithactionofevanston.org

For more information on other food service initiatives outside of Evanston, please contact the Greater Chicago Food Depository at (773) 247-FOOD.

ELCA Good Gifts: Brand-new gifts, Cards and Online Store

The new ELCA Good Gifts catalog is here, and so is a new and improved [online store](#). Shop now to find a dozen brand-new gifts ([manure](#), anyone?) as well as returning favorites: goats, water wells and school fees for a girl. Each gift goes on to make a difference in the world. When you give in honor of a friend or loved one, you can mail, email or download a card to let them know. [Resources](#) such as coin boxes, Christmas cards and Advent tree ornaments are available to help make your fundraiser a success. Browse gifts and resources at ELCA.org/GoodGifts. Start planning your Christmas gifts now!

“Living Lutheran” Reader Call

From Ruth and Naomi to Moses and Aaron, the Bible is rich with tales of friendship. How do friendships enrich your faith? By Oct. 30, send your 300-word story—subject line “Friendship”—to livinglutheran@elca.org for an opportunity to be published in “Living Lutheran.”

“A Life-Changing Experience”

—from ELCA “STORIES OF FAITH”

Kay Ressel, an ELCA pastor and director of Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries, stresses that a pillar of her work in Jesus’ name is to challenge people’s beliefs about Native Americans and to “hold people accountable for how they engage in ministry.”

“My job is to push you out of your comfort zone so you come to a different way of knowing the Lakota people,” said Ressel, who is not Native American. Headquartered on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and funded in part by Mission Support from the South Dakota Synod and the churchwide organization, Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries serves a geographic area that, at 3,500 square miles, is larger than Rhode Island and Delaware combined.

In 2000, Lutheran Lakota Shared Ministries opened a retreat center to house visiting teens who came to do missionary projects on the reservation.

“It was very appropriate in that time, but we knew we could do better,” Ressel said. “Our focus now is on learning and listening to people’s stories, getting to know one another, sharing time together, sharing meals.... After we develop relationships, we find ways to work together.”

The ministry still offers what Ressel refers to as “threshold ministries,” with household items—diapers, sandwiches, hygiene kits, blankets—passed out the door to those in need.

In addition, there’s the Lutheran/Lakota Job Corps, which employs about a dozen community members in numerous roles. Staffers work with visitors who have come to the reservation to lend a hand and, more importantly, to gain a new perspective. This cultural-immersion ministry receives a variety of groups annually.

Tammy Jacobi did a 10day immersion in January 2018 as part of her studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary. The experience brought her face-to-face with her own privilege, which she found humbling.

“Given what we take for granted as daughters, mothers, wives living in western Christianity, the immersion was eye-opening,” Jacobi said. “[It] was a life-changing experience. Everyone had a lesson to teach, a story to tell.”



OTHER EVENTS

Jory Vinikour, Harpsichordist

Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 at 4:30 PM

Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Rd., Northfield, IL, 847-446-8335

Recognized as one of the outstanding harpsichordists of his generation, Jory Vinikour’s artistry is “vibrant, flexible, clear and keenly attuned to the music demands” - *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Born in Chicago and schooled in Paris, his solo repertoire ranges from Bach to Poulenc to Nyman, and he appears regularly in the finest opera houses and festivals around the world. Jory will be joined by the famed Black Oak Ensemble for a portion of his performance. All performances are free. Donations are accepted.

Notes from the Parish Administrator

You've Got Mail! Church Leaders/Committee Members: *Thank you for checking your mail and clearing out your mail slots!*


But there's always more....

Lost and Found: A denim jacket with many appliques and a black hoodie were left in Fellowship Hall after Reformation Sunday's potluck.



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

\$20 BY 2020
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University

-  \$20 buys Wednesday Night Supper for one month for one student.
-  \$50 buys two books for one student for 21 the education hour.
-  \$100 covers the cost for one student to attend a leadership retreat.

Our goal is to have **100 new friends** of the ministry pledging a monthly donation of \$20 or more by 2020.
Become a sustaining monthly donor.

\$20 BY 2020

Become a sustaining monthly donor of LCMNU.

Your support makes the mission of campus ministry come to life.

Monthly pledge: \$20
 \$50
 \$100
 Other: _____

If you are already a sustaining donor (\$20 monthly or \$240 annually):

Pledge to increase your donation by: \$20
 \$50
 \$100
 Other: _____

Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____

Your 2019–20 ILC Leadership

Sara Krentz, *Congregation President*

Linda Edlund, *Congregation Vice President*

Susan Ross, *Congregation Secretary*

Tom Couch, Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Kevin McDaniel, Scott Romans, Erik Shearer, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff

Congregation Council Members

Joe Simchak, *Treasurer*

Mary Ann Kearns, *Financial Secretary*

Elizabeth Stegner, *Assistant Financial Secretary*



Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

Twenty-first annual

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 7:00pm
St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church
806 Ridge Ave., Evanston

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Grace Imathiu

First United Methodist Church, Evanston

Interfaith Community Choir

Led by Ace Gangoso

Director of Music Ministry
St. Nicholas Parish

Sponsored by

Interfaith Action of Evanston



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www.interfaithactionofevanston.org

An opportunity for a freewill offering will be provided to support the Interfaith Action of Evanston mission.



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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