

News from...



Immanuel  
Lutheran  
of Evanston

DECEMBER 2019

### A WORD FROM PASTOR KEITH...

*"We are awaiting the coming of Jesus,  
yearning in darkness for light and for peace,  
longing at last to rejoice on that day  
when all people join in that feast."*

Those are the words we'll be singing each Sunday morning in Advent as our gifts are brought forward, both the gifts of our financial resources and the gifts of bread and wine, brought forth from the earth and from the work of human hands as a holy offering to God for the good of all.

There's something about this time of year that always makes both my body and mind want to slumber. Maybe it's the cold in the air that makes me huddle in on myself and just find a warm place to lie down and sleep. Maybe it's the darkness that slowly starts gathering at 3:00 in the afternoon, so that by 4:30 it's already dark. Whatever it is, my hibernation instincts kick in.

But it's precisely at this point in the year that we hear the cry to "wake up!" It's precisely at this time that we're told to rouse ourselves from slumber and to peer out into the darkness of our world to see the signs of dawn, to look for the buds of the promised spring.

It is at this moment in the year that we are reminded insistently by the scripture readings and songs we hear in worship that we are awaiting the coming of Jesus, the coming of that great day when all people will join together in a feast of fellowship and peace.

When we gather for work and worship, when we gather around the Lord's Table, we are playing out that longed-for reality, practicing it for the time when all people will enjoy the fruits of the earth's bounty and the blessings of peace. When we gather for the Farmers' Market, we support struggling small farmers and vendors, we support care for the earth, and we share from that bounty with those who struggle to find enough to eat through our grants to hunger organizations.

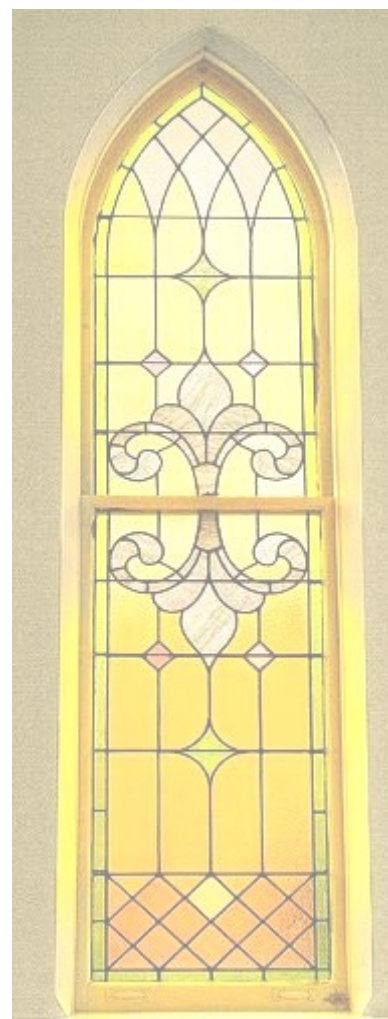
When we piece together quilts to be sent to people in distress around the globe, we are practicing the hospitality of the promised feast. When we serve breakfast at Café Immanuel, and sit down beside a person who is homeless and share a meal and conversation with them, we are practicing the fellowship of the great and promised banquet.

And now, on Friday afternoons, when we open our doors as a Warming Center for folks who need a place to come in and find a warm welcome, warm beverages, and a warm place to just sit or to doze for awhile, we are living out the vision of the feast where all have a place.

In Advent, in the darkest hour of the year, we hear the call to wake up, to rouse ourselves from slumber, and to shine the light of Christ into the darkness. We are awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom, the presence of God's own self, the full realization of the feast we've been practicing for so long.

Yes, we are awaiting the coming of Jesus. But we don't have to wait. We can practice the feast here and now. Let's bring our gifts. There's a banquet to prepare!

—Your brother, Pastor Keith



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AT IMMANUEL

Dec. 1	Café Immanuel 9:00 AM First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 4, 11, 18	Advent Evening Prayer, Wednesdays 7:00 PM
Dec. 5	Daytime Quilters 10:00 AM
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27	Warming Center, Fridays 2:00 PM—5:00 PM
Dec. 7, 21	Indoor Farmers' Market, Saturdays 8:30 AM–1:00 PM
Dec. 18	Three Crowns Worship
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9:00 PM
Dec. 29	Service of Lesson & Carols 10:30 AM



## SPECIAL WORSHIP EVENTS

### Sunday Worship in Advent

Each Sunday from Dec. 1 to Dec. 22, we gather for worship that begins with the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Our worship centers on preparing our hearts to welcome the great mystery of the Incarnation, the Word made Flesh.

### Midweek Advent Evening Prayer

On Wednesday evenings Dec. 4, 11, and 18, at 7:00 PM, we assemble for the ancient service of Evening Prayer. This beautiful candlelit service lasts a half hour, and is a wonderful respite from the busy-ness of the season. This year we'll be using a new setting called *Joyous Light*. Please join us, and invite your friends!

## MUSIC AT IMMANUEL

### Music in December

Happy New Church year as we prepare for Christ's birth most of the month of December. We will be returning to the more somber and penitential liturgical Setting 5 during this season.

The choir will begin with a new setting of the familiar Advent text "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Daniel Gawthrop. Advent 2 will sprout a Hugo Distler setting of "Lo How a Rose e'er Blooming." The pink Sunday of Advent 3. the choir will offer "The Yearning" by Craig Courtney.

We will close the season with Pr. Royce Scharf's hymn "The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem" arranged by Richard Wienhorst. (Pr. Scharf was a much-loved pastor of Immanuel a number of years ago, and he and his wife were hymn writers.) Christmas Eve will welcome soprano Ashlee Hardgrave back again as the choir offers a setting of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" by Andrew Risinger and a chant-based anthem "Dost Thou in a Manger Lie" by Martha Jones Burford. We will close the month and year of 2019 with a joy-filled Lessons and Carols.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY—Immanuel’s Warming Center: Update

As of November 15th, Immanuel now provides a place to stay warm and safe for Evanston’s homeless community every Friday afternoon (from November through March). We thus become part of the city-wide network of warming centers and soup kitchens coordinated by Interfaith Action of Evanston. Other congregations involved in this ministry are Beth Emet Synagogue, Bethany Baptist, First Congregational, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Lake Street Church, Second Baptist, St. Mary’s Catholic, St. Mark’s Episcopal, St. Paul’s Lutheran, and the Unitarian Church.

The network has been in place for several years. Last winter we learned that there was a need for a host congregation on Friday afternoons, and after much conversation and planning, Immanuel agreed to take on this ministry.

On our first day, Immanuel’s volunteers were ready with hot drinks, snacks, and a stack of sleeping mats. Beginning at 2:00 P.M., we welcomed ten guests from the cold outdoors into the warmth of Fellowship Hall. Some of the guests sat at tables, but most found a space on the floor where they placed one of the mats alongside their belongings and slept for most of the three-hour time slot. All of the guests were ready to leave by 5:00. Many of them expressed their gratitude for the congregation’s welcome as they departed.

Three volunteers are needed for each Friday through March. Volunteers should arrive early to prepare coffee and get things in place, and then stay for a short while afterward to straighten up. The leader of this ministry is Nicolai Schousboe. See him to find an available time if you’d like to volunteer your help. We can also use contributions toward snacks and drinks. —*Stephen Warner*

## INDOOR FARMERS’ MARKET—ANOTHER RECORD CROWD

The 2019–20 Indoor Market season is underway! On November 23, Immanuel welcomed more than 1,200 shoppers to our space. Wow!!

While fresh produce brings people in the door, the market is also an evangelism tool for the congregation. By revealing our ministries to the public, we are presented with opportunities to start conversations and build relationships. This can be done in so many different ways: chatting around the table while enjoying treats from Curt’s Cafe, writing postcards at the advocacy table, tying quilts in the Maker Space, presenting music in the sanctuary, greeting people at the door...

How can we build and expand what we show and tell at the market? What are you passionate about? May God inspire you to share your story!



### 2019–20 Indoor Farmers' Market Dates:

**December 7 & 21**

**March 7 & 21**

**January 11 & 25**

**April 4**

**February 8 & 22**

**8:30 AM–1:00 PM**



## DECEMBER SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Dec. 1, Advent 1

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13: 11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

### Dec. 8 , Advent 2

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### Dec. 15, Advent 3

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5 -10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### Dec. 22, Advent 4

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80: 1-7, 7-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14

### Dec. 25, Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus: 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

### Dec. 29, Lessons & Carols

Isiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

David Johnson 12/1  
Ronald Laudert 12/2  
Laurie Stivers 12/4  
Mildred Carlson 12/6  
Steve Warner 12/7  
Laura McDaniel 12/8  
Nicholas Senn 12/11  
Ernest LeVon 12/17  
Alexander Ross 12/17  
Julie Shiff 12/21  
Zachariah Yarnoff 12/24  
Kerstin Litwin 12/29

## Poinsettias - For Christmas

As is tradition at Immanuel, we are planning to have poinsettias adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Christmas. If you are interested in ordering Poinsettias, please complete the information below.

A six inch pot will cost \$20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

Please indicate for bulletin:

\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please place the completed slip along with a check made payable to Immanuel in the offering plate or drop off in Church office.

**Orders due by Sunday, December 15, 2019**

## INTERFAITH ACTION NEWS



### SAVE THE DATE for our Walk for Warmth

January 20, 2020, 11 am—1:30 pm

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

A Family-Friendly Event

Walk 2 miles with your family and friends along the route of the 6 faith communities that host our shelter. Our homeless neighbors will thank you! To register or donate: [ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org](mailto:ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org). (847-475-1150). See flyer in the back of this newsletter.

## DISCERNMENT PROCESS

*Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7)*

As part of our discernment process for deciding which persons God is calling forward from the Assembly to serve as leaders on our Congregation Council, we are asking all baptized and confirmed members of the congregation to prayerfully name one person they believe the Holy Spirit is lifting up as a leader. These leaders must be baptized, confirmed members of the congregation.

The following persons are continuing their service on Council, and should **not** be listed:

<b>Tom Couch</b>	<b>Greg Hummel</b>	<b>Scott Romans</b>	<b>Grace Yarnoff</b>
<b>Linda Edlund</b>	<b>Sara Krentz</b>	<b>Erik Shearer</b>	

The following persons have completed one term on Council and may be listed for a new term:

<b>Melisa Larson</b>	<b>Susan Ross</b>	<b>Jim Skelton</b>
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In addition, the following person has completed two full terms, and is not eligible for immediate reelection:

**Kevin McDaniel**

Please discern prayerfully the name of one person you feel is being called to this ministry. We will invite you to write down the name and turn it in during worship on Sunday, Dec. 15. If you are unable to attend that day, please forward the name to the church office so that it can be taken into consideration.

## CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING AT IMMANUEL

The Congregation Council is looking at providing an opportunity for members to be trained in the following:

- CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)
- Heimlich Maneuver (for responding to choking persons)
- Use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator)

The purpose is to equip members of the congregation who are regular attendees of worship and church events with the necessary training to be able to respond in the event of a medical emergency. The cost is \$90.00 per person, and if you are able to assist the church with this cost, please do so. If this is a challenge, please let us know.



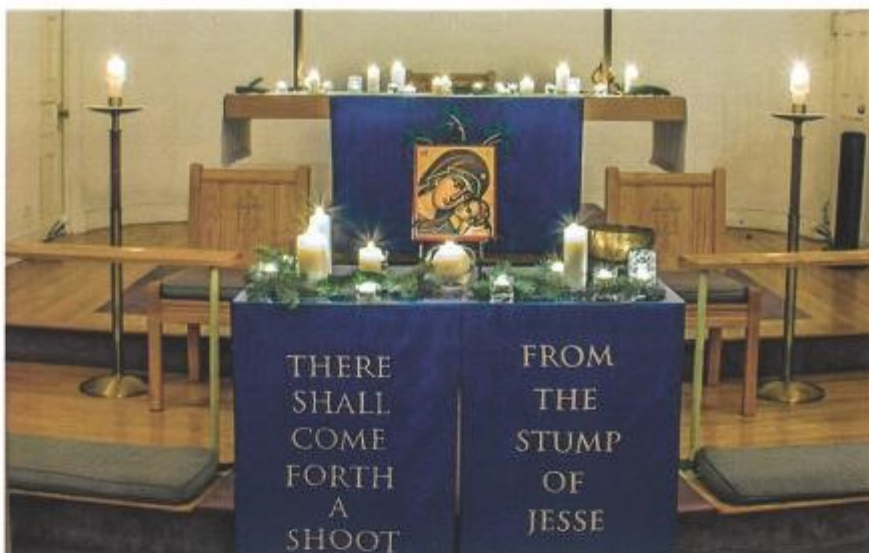
If you are interested in attending a training session at the church on a Saturday in January (date and time to be confirmed) for approximately 4 hours, please respond to the Church Office or [parish-admin@ilcevanston.org](mailto:parish-admin@ilcevanston.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

Sung  
Evening Prayer

Wednesdays  
7:00 p.m.

Join us each Advent  
Wednesday for lyrical  
prayer in anticipation  
of Christ's birth.

Joyous Light!



Christmas Eve  
9:00 p.m.

Come rejoice in the birth  
of baby Jesus, God's  
promise of peace to all.

Silent Night, Holy Night

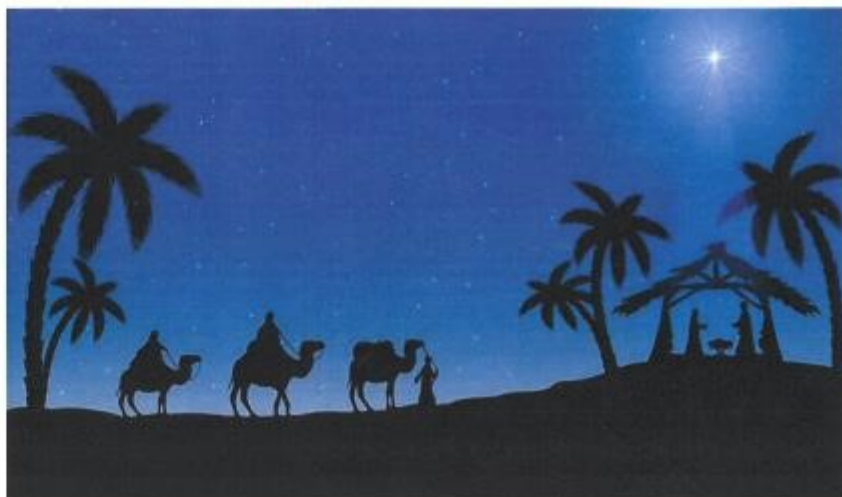


Lessons & Carols

Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.

Ring in the new year  
with the stories and  
songs of the season.

Oh, Morning Star!



# By Any Greens Necessary:

*The Intersection of Faith, Food and Ecology as Agents of Transformational Change and Community Renewal*



*Presented by*

**Monica Brown Moss**

*Trinity United Church of Christ*

**December 5, 2019, 7 p.m.**

*Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
1100 East 55th Street*

*Free and open to the public*

Monica Brown Moss is a graduate of Spelman College and Columbia University, Teachers College. Born and raised in the South, Monica considers time spent on her grandparents' farm and gatherings around the family table as her first and most impactful classroom experiences. Monica serves at Trinity United Church of Christ where her husband, the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III is the senior pastor.

This is the keynote lecture for a symposium on Ecology and Theological Education, December 5-6. For more information contact Professor Barbara Rossing, [brossing@lstc.edu](mailto:brossing@lstc.edu)

*Sponsored by*



*"When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence.*

*- Author unknown*

Trinity United Church of Christ, located on the South Side of Chicago, utilizes the multi-faceted power of food as an agent of transformation and liberation. This presentation explores the intersection of faith, food, health equity and community change as well as the process of cultivating a culture of holistic health within a unique spiritual context.

*Bending Towards the Light:*

Top Jazz Artists, Vocalists and Dancers  
Jazz settings of Christmas carols  
tell the Christmas Story  
with angels, shepherds and kings

# JAZZ NATIVITY

FOR ALL  
AGES

**Saturday, December 7 at 4PM**



*A benefit for Chicago Canine Rescue*

**Saint Luke Church**  
1500 W. Belmont, Chicago

**Free Admission Free Parking**

**Wheelchair Access**

**Pets Welcome**

A freewill offering benefits  
Chicago Canine Rescue

Meet Adoptable Pets  
before and after the show.

Pet Blessing at 3:30

773-472-3383

[stlukechicago.org/jazz](http://stlukechicago.org/jazz)







A Visit with Amy-Jill Levine  
**“Light of the World” Advent Series**

*December 7 & 8, 2019*

*Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.*

**Community Event: “Understanding Jesus Means Understanding Judaism: Why and How Christian Preaching and Teaching Goes Wrong”**

*Sunday, Dec. 8 at 9:15 a.m.*

**All-Church Sunday School: “Why the Connection Between Jesus and Judaism Matters”**

*Sunday, Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m.*

**Worship Service, Dr. Levine preaching: “The Voice in the Wilderness: Calling Out and Calling In”**

All events are free, open to the public, and held at First Church, 516 Church Street, Evanston. For additional information, please contact Rev. Grace Imathiu at [grace@faithatfirst.com](mailto:grace@faithatfirst.com) or

**Amy-Jill Levine** is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. An internationally renowned scholar and teacher, she is the author of numerous books including *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Bible and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us*. She is also the co-editor of the *Jewish Annotated New Testament*.

Dr. Levine’s new book, *Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent* (2019), inspired First Church’s Advent theme and is our One Church, One Book selection for 2019.



[www.faithatfirst.com](http://www.faithatfirst.com)



# *SANKTA LUCIA SERVICE*

A Swedish festival of light  
in both Swedish & English

**Sunday  
December 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
3637 Golf Road  
Evanston, IL 60203  
847-673-8564  
office@trinityevanston.org  
www.trinityevanston.org**



**Music by NORDIC VOICES of CHICAGO**

**STORY AND CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT**

**LUCIA'S COURT and TOMTE NISSE (ELVES)**

**SCANDINAVIAN TREATS FOLLOWING**

# WALK FOR WARMTH



We need your help!  
Everyone in Evanston needs a  
warm place to sleep.  
Please donate to make it happen.

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**JANUARY 20, 2020**

**11 AM to 1:30 PM**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
A Family Friendly Event

Walk 2 miles with your family and  
friends along the route of the 6 faith  
communities that host our shelter.

Our homeless neighbors will thank  
you! To register or donate:

[interfaithactionofevanston.org](http://interfaithactionofevanston.org)

(847-475-1150)



## Notes from the Parish Administrator

**Lost and Found:** A small key with an orange tag (looks like the key to a storage locker) was found in the church parking lot.

Scarf found 11/25/19 in hallway outside of Fellowship Hall.



Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church  
On behalf of Thin Ice and  
their Youth Action Board.  
Thanks you for allowing us  
to host our Halloween Teen  
Dance Fundraiser.  
It was a huge success!  
Thanks Again  
YAB (youthactionboard)

## OTHER EVENTS

### "Every Star" (Advent)

**Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 4:30 pm**

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

The Promise of Christmas Joy to Every Child, Every Home, Every Heart. Choirs and Carols, Brass and Percussion, The Story of the Holy Child. *Every star shall sing a carol; every creature high and low. Come and praise the king of heaven, by whatever name you know. God above; Us below. Holy is the name I know.*

All performances are free. Donations are accepted.

### 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*



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E-mail: parish-  
admin@ilcevanston.org

Website: [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://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