

News from...



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

APRIL 2020

A WORD FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT SCOTT....

My day job is in the financial industry. As some of you may know, last week was pretty rough in the financial markets. In my little corner of the market, conditions were actually more difficult than the worst part of the financial crisis of 2008. As we were weathering the storm last week, it brought to mind that earlier crisis. Back in those days I remember people saying over and over, “It would be unthinkable if X should happen.” And, “There’s no way we survive if Y occurs.” As it turned out, we blew right through X and Y and about eight or ten more of those dire predictions of doom as one-by-one they each came to pass. And yet we survived.

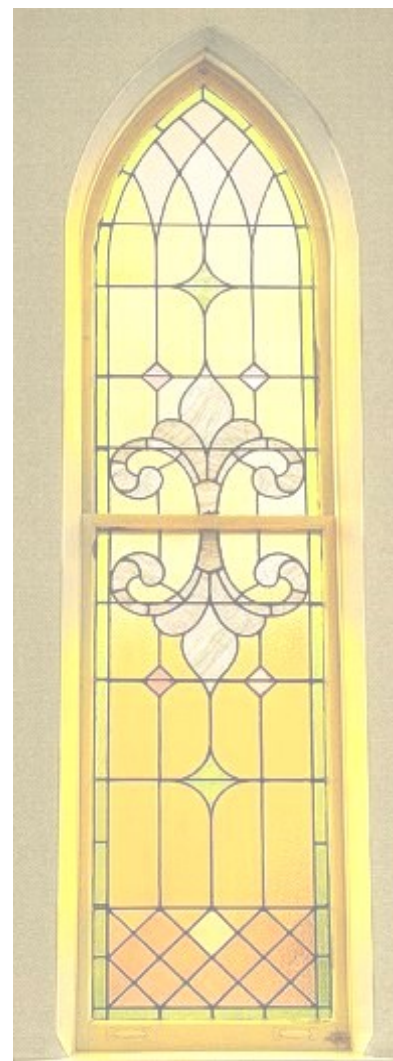
Thinking back to that earlier crisis reminded me of what those experiences taught me about *resilience*. Derived from the Latin term meaning *to jump back* or *to recoil*, the English use of ‘resilience’ was originally developed in the science of physics to describe how some materials can receive a blow or a shock but then *recover* or *bounce back* into their original shape. Rubber is resilient; rock salt is not.

It turns out the term also applies to people. When life delivers buffets and blows, we have the capacity to bounce back. As children, we all learned the lesson from our parents that when we fall, we get back up, dust ourselves off, and carry on. Further, we all probably have more resilience that we credit ourselves. We are more flexible and less brittle than we think: there is far more bend to us than there is break

And this month, we have learned how communities can be resilient, too. Boy, has Immanuel shown resilience. If, as part of an emergency preparedness exercise, we had been required to plan in advance how to worship together in the event we could not physically gather together, it would likely have taken months of thought and meetings. Yet two weeks ago, a Council decision to withdraw from the Sanctuary late on Friday night left the worship committee and Pastor Lang little more than 24 hours to figure things out. And not just them, but the whole community quickly adapted. Everyone had to make adjustments, either learning how to dial in by phone or downloading extra software to participate on a laptop. The first week we had no music, but we did have a lot of static, pauses, and echoes. Nevertheless, we did the thing the first line of our vision statement says we do: we worshipped God. The assembly offered praise and prayers even when we couldn’t assemble. We bounced back to our original shape.

I’d like to think that the Holy Spirit is the agent of our resilience. Despite all our worries—and remember, when it comes to worry, we need to pace ourselves! (Mt 6:24)—God gives us the energy and flexibility to bounce back. And more than bouncing back, God works in us the ability to respond, to hear the needs of others, and to act. Bert made sure to bring her laptop over to Mid so she could participate. Sara offered to gather and deliver groceries. Anne offered the peaceful presence of a walk in her neighborhood. Tom arranged to get food to the homeless. Here we find two more elements of Immanuel’s vision: we nurture community and we work for social justice.

Continued on the next page.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Adult Spiritual Growth
- Connections for the Homeless Food Drive
- MSP Update
- Farmers’ Market New Format
- Holy Week
- Interfaith Action Volunteer Opportunities

UPCOMING EVENTS AT IMMANUEL

Apr. 4 Food Drive for Connections for the Homeless, 8:00 AM
Outdoor Farmers' Market

Holy Week Worship (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) will be at 7:30 PM
Details to come in emails next week.



FOOD DRIVE FOR CONNECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

Immanuel is collecting items of food, personal health, and outdoor clothing for Evanston's Connection for the Homeless.

Please drop items off **on Saturday, April 4th between 8:00 and 10:00 am** at the Immanuel parking lot, where there will also be a pickup for people who have pre-ordered food from the farmers who normally come to our Indoor Farmers Market.

Immanuel has supported Connections for several years in its efforts to provide shelter for those who are homeless. At this time, they are in great need of:

- shelf stable items (especially soups in a cup, canned fruit, chili, etc.)
- travel-sized and pump hand sanitizers, travel-sized toiletries, Clorox wipes, and other cleaning supplies.
- can openers, spring jackets, and boots

Immanuel members will be in the parking lot on Saturday, April 4th to receive your donations.

Yours in Christ, Charly Yarnoff

MIDWEEK ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH DISCUSSION: SHARING OUR STORIES OF FAITH

On Wednesday, March 25th, 15 Immanuel members gathered at their laptops and phones to continue discussions of stories of our encounters with God in ordinary and extraordinary events.

Audrey Moy started us off by raising up a prayer for strength and resilience in these difficult times and then told the story of her grandmother, who, sustained by her faith in God, was a model of those qualities. This led to a thoughtful discussion of the roles that our own grandparents played in shaping who we are, as well as the ways in which we find ourselves sustained by our faith in God and the support of one another right now.



These midweek discussions will continue online via the Zoom app, so check your email for notifications.

Yours in Christ,
Charly Yarnoff

Council President's Message—continued from p. 1

So let us give thanks to God for resilience and the ability to respond. The days ahead are full of all kinds of uncertainty. But we have confidence in God and have seen the gifts that God delivers to us, and through us. Let us, then, carry in our hearts the prayer we have used to conclude our worship these past few weeks: "Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Scott Romans

president@immanuelevanston.org

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE UPDATE

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) task force is making great progress in readying this document for Council approval this month! Remember, this is the vehicle for telling a prospective pastor who we are and what kind of leader we're looking for.

Audrey Moy has been working on the demographics of Evanston. While we live in a diverse community, our congregation is not as reflective of this as we maybe can be--and there is room for us to grow in this regard. Mike Kloster provided a piece about outreach to new members (he has some great ideas!), but also noted with appreciation how our newer members have both been eager to get involved in the work of the congregation and have been warmly welcomed and invited into participation. Charly Yarnoff summarized the themes from the faith-sharing group. This group has provided a supportive place to talk about how challenging it is to talk about our faith in these times, especially as others may view religion as divisive, dogmatic, and personally threatening.

We are discerning, and comparing notes, about what are the most important qualities of a pastor for US. We want it all, of course, but we will probably all agree we won't put a priority on someone's skill in camping ministries!

Thanks to the congregation for your prayers of support for us and for the one whose heart is being made ready for us. And thanks for your willingness to answer questions, complete the survey, and share with us so that the MSP can be truly reflective of who we are and what we do.

Linda Edlund, Chair

- APRIL
BIRTHDAYS
- Michelle Darian 4/3
- Anne Marie Wilkinson 4/4
- Lucia Swanson 4/6
- Jaya Nambiar 4/12
- Joseph Simchak 4/16
- Jerry Larson 4/17
- Luke Moy 4/17
- Tiffany Rose Shiff 4/24
- David Nakic 4/28
- Susan Ross 4/28

IMMANUEL FARMERS' MARKET CONTINUES OUTSIDE PREPAID ORDER PICK-UP ONLY

Immanuel's commitment to the farmers' market continues in the age of Covid-19, although in a very different format.

On April 4th, a small number of vendors will gather in the parking lot to distribute pre-paid orders. Chris and Laura will be on-site to greet and steward the gathering. The building will remain locked.

Participating vendors will continue to make a donation to Immanuel that will be used to alleviate hunger in our community and beyond. This event continues to be a witness to the community and an opportunity to connect with the community at large.



APRIL SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Apr. 5, Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66

Apr. 9, Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10]
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17 31b-35

Apr. 10, Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53: 12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

Apr. 11, Easter Vigil

Romans 6:3-11
John 20:1-18

Apr. 12, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Romans 6:3-11
John 20: 1-18

Daily lectionary readings can be found at www.dailylectio.net

Alleluia! Christ Has Risen!

HOLY WEEK IN THE TIME OF A PANDEMIC 2020

Dear Ones in Christ,

This year we are being kept at a distance from one another for the sake of protecting one another from the COVID-19 virus. Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching and we need to observe the solemnity of Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord in our own places of residence. I offer here some simple ways of participating in these holy days. Each day will have a Bible reading, a prayer, and a simple craft idea and/or action.

PALM SUNDAY

Read Matthew 21:1-17 and Psalm 31:9-16. Pray for those who cannot enter or leave their cities.

+Make a palm branch to wave during the Sunday procession.

—Take piece of copy paper, or part of a grocery sack, or newspaper.

—Trace an outline of your hand. Make five or six of these.

—Cut out your hands and roll the wrist end around near the top of a stick or pencil or straw with fingers pointing upward and secure with tape.

—Repeat by attaching another hand just below the first and taping it as well.

—When you have attached several, shake it out and maybe even curl the fingers back a bit.

—On Palm Sunday, wave these during the Dedication of the Palms and the Gospel reading.

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

Read John 12:1-11 and Psalm 36:5-11. Pray for doctors and nurses and first responders who anoint the sick and dying with the best medical help available.

+Take drop of olive oil (or other cooking oil) and anoint yourself and/or one another with a cross on your forehead in the name of Jesus.

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Read John 12:20-36 and Psalm 71:1-14. Pray for those in other countries around the world who are suffering from the corona virus. If you know your own country of origin, pray especially for the people there.

+Light a candle when you pray, remembering that Jesus is the Light of the World— the Light no darkness can overcome.

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Read John 13:21-32 and Psalm 70. Pray for those who are responsible for preparing—transportation workers, mail carriers, delivery people, manufacturers, utility workers, sanitary workers—all of those who keep things running as we prepare for the coming events.

+Make a “Thank You” sign and put it up on your door or on your mailbox or on your garbage can—anywhere one of the helpers in this time might see it.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Read John 13:1-17 and 31b-35 and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19. Pray for all those people of the world who cannot wash their hands today because they are homeless or live in remote areas where there is no water or too little water. Pray for their safety and health as they face this pandemic.

+Wash your hands! This time wash your own hands and/or those of others in your dwelling and do so remembering Christ’s love for us and the Lord’s mandate to love one another as He loves us. This will be part of the Maundy Thursday worship as well.

GOOD FRIDAY

Read Matthew 26:1-27:61 and Psalm 22. Pray for those who suffer and die this day from the pandemic, from violence in the streets, from warfare, or from peril or storms.

+Make a cross. Use stick or paper or material—use your imagination and whatever materials you have at hand.

During the Adoration of the Cross part of the Good Friday service, lift your crosses to remember the Lord’s Crucifixion. When we can be together again, bring your crosses to church and we can hang them on a piece of twine or cloth to be displayed.

HOLY SATURDAY

Read Matthew 27:57-66 and Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16. Pray for those who are alone and waiting for this critical time to pass.

+Rest today. Make your own quiet time. Read. Sew. Just sit and pray and think. Meditate on what God has done for us.

EASTER VIGIL—Saturday Evening

Read Isaiah 55:1-11 and Psalm 23 and John 20:1-18 . Pray this evening, thanking God for the blessings of this life and for the blessings promised to sin the Life to Come. Give thanks to the Lord for sending God’s only Son into the world to save the world. Pray for those who are working to save the world in our time.

+Start making Easter flowers tonight. You can make a “Lilly” by using white paper or any colored paper, tracing a hand print, cutting it out, and taping the wrist end to a pencil or stick or straw. Curl the fingers back to open the bloom. Use your imagination to make other kinds of flowers from paper, cloth or whatever materials are at hand. When we are able to return to the church, we can make bouquets of these for the altar and for the table in the fellowship hall.

EASTER DAY

Read Matthew 28:1-10 and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-28

Give thanks to God for the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pray that God’s peace and healing will encompass the earth and strengthen the weak and those holist them up.

+Make more Easter flowers. Use your own imagination. We can have beautiful, colorful bouquets when we return to church at a later date.

God bless your one and all.
Pastor John Lang



HOW CAN I HELP?

PRODUCEMOBILE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS UNDER AGE 60

Volunteers under age 60 needed to bag and distribute produce at the April 14 Producersmobile distribution at Robert Crown Center, approximately 8 AM-11:30 AM. Email Rita Bailey: at ritabee@gmail.com or sign up under “Get Involved” on the IAE website at www.interfaithactionofevanston.org

HOSPITALITY CENTER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS UNDER AGE 60

Volunteers are needed to greet people at the door. For more information or to sign up, contact Sue Murphy, M-F, 7-11AM at 847-869-0370 or email her at: ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org.

Or click this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ySup-faBkYRsjorZspmSlg-_uFmUdmbi_2Z3fLrBc20/edit?usp=sharing

DONATE SUPPLIES

Click on the Amazon Smile on the IAE website at www.interfaithactionofevanston.org to see a list of food and cleaning supplies that can be delivered directly to the IAE Hospitality Center for people who are homeless.

DONATE TO MEALS FOR SOUP KITCHENS

With a shortage of volunteers to prep and serve our traditional meals, soup kitchen teams have turned to local restaurants to provide meals. Help defray this huge extra cost by making a donation on the IAE website at www.interfaithactionofevanston.org under “Donate” or send your check to: IAE, PO Box 1414, Evanston, IL 60204

VOLUNTEERS UNDER 60 NEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE SOUP KITCHEN MEALS

Soup Kitchens need volunteers under 60 to hand out bagged meals to our guests at the door. If you are interested, contact Mary Beth at: mbc.roth@comcast.net

2020–21 ILC Leadership

Scott Romans, *Congregation President*

Melisa Larson, *Congregation Vice President*

Sara Krentz, *Congregation Secretary*

Tom Couch, Greg Hummel, Melisa Larson, Dana Barron,

Bert Mount, Erik Shearer, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff

Congregation Council Members

Susan Ross, *Treasurer*

Mary Ann Kearns, *Financial Secretary*

Elizabeth Stegner, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

Notes from the Parish Administrator

Realm Accounts & Profile Updates

In the near future, all members will receive an email invitation or reminder about setting up their accounts and/or updating their Member Profiles on Realm, the church member database. You might have gotten an invitation initially when Immanuel members were entered into the database in 2017. If your link has expired, please let me know at parish-admin@ilcevanston.org, and I can send you a new link.

Current and updated Realm Profiles will give us yet another tool to keep in touch during the suspension of in-person activities. The information is accessible only to members who have an active account. Please review your profile carefully, make updates as needed and *be sure to answer every question*.

Contact Info: In recent months there have been situations where the Church has needed to contact someone outside of the congregation on behalf of a member.

Therefore, we're asking all Immanuel Members to send the information of your preferred contact person, especially for in case of an emergency. Please send to the Church Office:

- Your Name
- Your Preferred Contact Person's Name
- Best contact phone number (i.e., cell phone instead of a home/work phone)
- Email address

Thank you for your assistance in these matters and if you have any questions, please contact Jane at 847-864-4464 or parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org. I'm WFH (working from home) which at times feels like living on North Runway 9L27R at O'Hare, but I can access phone and email messages remotely.



CALL FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS!

Dear Friends,

Last week we asked you to hold off on advocacy to give community leaders time to launch plans for our neighbors who have no housing during this turbulent period. Since then, several steps have been taken by a coalition of organizations and institutions, including Interfaith Action of Evanston, Connections for the Homeless, Family Promise, Curt's Café, the YWCA, the Evanston Community Foundation, and the City of Evanston.

- Portable bathroom facilities and sinks have been installed close to Evanston soup kitchens.
- Housing for individuals and families has begun at area hotels and motels.
- Additional group housing has been established at Lake Street Church.
- Soup kitchens are partnering with Curt's Café and other area restaurants to distribute food.
- The Hospitality Center is open as usual.

These efforts will continue and evolve in the weeks ahead.

What do we need now? **We need young volunteers.** Many people who have worked the soup kitchens, Hospitality Center, and other activities are in the at-risk category (60+ years). We need them to stay home. Volunteering at Interfaith Action could be a rewarding experience for healthy high school and college students—those without older parents or grandparents in their daily lives. Do you know of young people who might volunteer? If so, we urge you to spread the word and have them/you contact Sue Murphy at ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org or sign up here to work at the Hospitality Center. For volunteering at Connections for the Homeless, check out their website here. <https://www.connect2home.org/volunteer.html>

Finally, you might also consider emailing a word of thanks to Evanston city officials—our aldermen and mayor—who have been listening during this time, as well as the Evanston Community Foundation, which helped forge a significant coalition of organizations and institutions. Expressions of gratitude that we can all work together from our various roles in the community are always welcome.

And thanks to you, too, for your concern and support of our unsheltered brothers and sisters. We hope you are staying healthy and finding moments of calm in these stressful times.

— *Interfaith Action Advocacy Committee*

Melissa Appelt, Ginny Ayers, Richard Cahan, Wynn Graham, Sue Loellbach, Tracy McKeithen, Toni Rey, Nicolai Schousboe



INTERFAITH ACTION IMMEDIATE NEEDS: DOOR GREETER VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION AND SIGN-UP

<http://www.interfaithactionofevanston.org/>

Open mornings Monday through Friday 52 weeks a year. 7am – 11am. Located at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave. Guests receive breakfast and a safe place to relax or sleep. Job counselors provide advice, encouragement and workshops for guests seeking employment. Computer trainers assist with online applications and resumes.

Door greeters sit in specific locations to ensure that guests remain in designated areas. Depending on where you are sitting, close interaction is minimal. If you are positioned by the entrance/exit, you will be asking guests to sign out when leaving, so there is some interaction there. Time slots for volunteers are from 7am - 9am and 9am - 11:05am. M-F

Many of our volunteers have been with us for years and are over the age of 60. Understandably, some are not comfortable volunteering during this time.

We are looking for youngish people (18+) to help us out. The position responsibilities are minimal and you are welcome to bring a book or electronic device. If you are interested, please contact ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org to find out which time slots are available, as some dates have been filled. We only need one person per slot. We ask that you:

1. Please show up on time.
2. St. Mark’s is located on 1509 Ridge Ave. Enter through the office door. This is facing Ridge Ave. and is set back from the street. Parking is available in the driveway out front and it is only reserved for handicapped people on weekends (the sign might be confusing).
3. Walk up the flight of stairs and there will be Sue Murphy’s (Executive Director) desk. She will welcome you and tell you where to go.

Thank you! If you cannot make it, please let us know ASAP at ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org



616 Lake St.
Evanston, IL 60202

Phone: 847-864-4464

E-mail: parish-admin@ilcevanston.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, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge. We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE