

News from...



MAY 2020

## A WORD FROM PASTOR KIM...

Some years ago a colleague's phone call interrupted a quiet day in the office. I'm sure I brightened at the sound of his voice – there was always good energy there. But I was glad it wasn't zoom, and he couldn't see my face on the other end of the phone line when he said he was calling to tell me he'd accepted a call to another synod.

I wished him well, of course. As soon as I was able to speak again, I was able to summon up a faith frame to let him know how much I had valued his neighborly presence in my life, understood it wasn't going to be like that anymore, and could both rejoice in the past and let it go because of the nature of our relationship in Christ.

I think I put it like this: that in the body of Christ we are called to love one another deeply, but loosely. The nature of our work in this body plunges us deeply into things that matter, usually quite quickly, basing our relationships and bonds in those deep-down experiences.

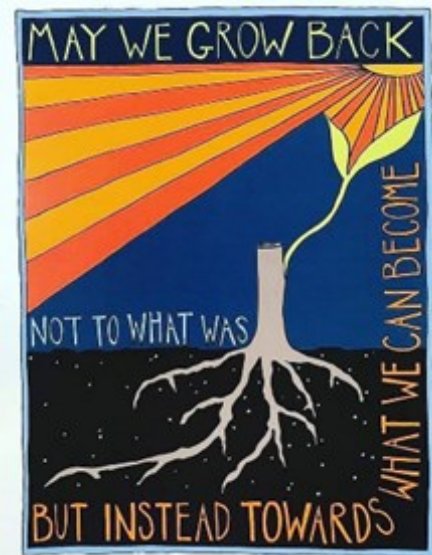
But the other truth of the matter is that we are a Sent people. The reign of God is on the move! By nature, the Holy Spirit, the wireless Spirit of Jesus as our Saving Christ, is always breaking up "that ol' gang o' mine", sending us here and there like free-wheeling yeast spores to grow that kingdom, the kin-dom, of God. We've perhaps never felt that more keenly than in these months as we've been "Sent" for the last time for awhile from our sanctuaries to live as the dispersed church, either on the front lines at work, or sheltering at place from home, gathering as we can in new ways, and learning to hold our notions of church both deeply... and loosely.

We can do that because we know that near or far, in life or in death, the communion of saints keeps us one in the body. Holds us close in love and blessed memory. That doesn't mean we don't gulp hard, sigh, cry bitter and agonized tears, or scream and yell when the faces and voices that have brought life and energy into our lives are no longer available on a daily basis. Especially in these days when not just calls to new ministries, but when death, and covid, may part us so wrenchingly. But it does give us something to cling to, a frame of faith to bring comfort, joy, the restoration of trust, and meaning to this letting go... a fact of life in the Body.

I've been reflecting again on this "deeply but loosely" loving way of life in the past few months as so much of what we have counted on and sometimes taken for granted in life is challenged and in coming to Immanuel as your interim pastor. Since interim pastors are not eligible to be considered for the permanent call it's an opportunity for both you and I to practice loving deeply, but loosely. The way I've been thinking about it lately is being immediately and fully involved, deeply engaged in this present, but only loosely attached to the future which God is unfolding! I hope we can practice this way of life in these next months as God seems to be doing something new with the church, and as rehearsal for your deep and loving welcome of your next settled Servant-in-Christ, and even for his or her eventual news of departure.

This a good skill to develop in ALL these interim and transitional days, as the Holy Spirit is always mixing it up, keeping us loose, and sending us, in the promise that the ties that bind us are faith's assurance of being held tightly in God together forever.

Pastor Kim Beckmann  
[pastor@immanuelevanston.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelevanston.org)



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## WEDNESDAY EVENING GATHERINGS TO RESUME!

Back by popular demand, the Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth Discussion will resume where we gather for prayer, check in, and conversation around things that matter.

### JOIN US ON ZOOM BEGINNING THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 6th

◇ 7 pm – 7:45 pm: Brief check in and gathering prayer, and time around the Word

◇ 7:45 pm – 8 pm: For those who would like to extend, a time for prayer on our thanksgivings, sorrows, personal and communal needs closing with a compline prayer.

Hold this space! Our first Wednesday will take up one or two of our readings for the upcoming Sunday, but programming may vary! Look for a zoom link to join this meeting.

## CONTACTING PASTOR KIM BECKMANN

Thank you all, for the wonderful welcome and gathering in meet and greet cottage meetings, and the special liturgy of welcome for the beginning of this interim ministry with Pastor Biekman, Associate to the Bishop of our Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The special music and the spirit of joy lifted us all.

As you may know, I have been called to be among you part-time at 30 hours per week.

Monday is my day off, and I generally attempt to keep that as a sabbath for our clergy-couple household. But during this work from home time when I don't have regular days on site, on other days, or in case of emergency, please feel free to reach out by email at [pastor@immanuelevanston.org](mailto:pastor@immanuelevanston.org).

Jane is monitoring the office phone at her location and will forward any of those calls to me.

—Pastor Kim Beckmann

## ABOUT THE PASTOR'S PAGE ART...

The artist Jen Bloomer was gracious enough to allow me to use her hopeful and dynamic art for this month's pastor page. She writes, including for all of us some direction to others of her justice oriented graphics and among her other offerings, free downloadable coloring pages on her website.

*Thank you for your email. You are welcome to use the image in your newsletter. I created it to be spread and shared in the world. You can download for free as a coloring page on my website: [www.radicistudios.com](http://www.radicistudios.com) or if you prefer I grant you permission to use the color version in your newsletter article. Take good care. Jen*

## MINISTRY SITE PROFILE UPDATE

### Congregational Survey Completed

Charly Yarnoff and I were commissioned by the Ministry Site Profile Task Force to design and implement a survey of the congregation to help answer questions of who we are and what we're looking for in a new pastor. These are the questions the Ministry Site Profile addresses.

For this purpose, we edited the survey conducted in 2013-2014, when Immanuel was in the interim between Prs. Frank Senn and Keith Fry. Both surveys used resources of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and were made available on Survey Monkey. The current survey was launched on Thursday, April 2, to a list of 113 members and friends of Immanuel and concluded on Monday, April 27, with 72 respondents, for a rate of return of 64%. In the business of church surveys, that is a very respectable rate of return. Thanks to all who took part in the survey.

The survey data were made available to me on Tuesday, April 28, but the Task Force has not yet had time to digest them. Nonetheless, insofar as the respondents to the two surveys fairly represent the congregation in these two years, 2014 and 2020, we can say a few things about changes in the make-up of the congregation and people's involvement in the church. Compared to 6 years ago, we have fewer very old (75+) and young (under 35), and more middle-aged people; fewer retired and more full-time employed; proportionately more married couples and fewer single persons; proportionately more people new to Evanston and new to the church; and even more people with post-graduate education (54% vs. 43%). These are small changes, and I doubt that many of you would find them surprising.

What is more interesting to me, at least, are changes in levels of involvement. There are slight upticks in the proportion reporting that they attend worship every week (51% compared to 44%) and that they are members of one or more church committees or groups (78% vs. 72%). These figures are consistent with the Task Force's perception that, although our membership is smaller, the members are more involved, or, colloquially, we're leaner as a congregation but more fit. The question we asked about respondents' sense of Immanuel's identity and vision yielded especially striking changes along these lines. To the question, "It is easy for me to tell my friends what is unique about Immanuel," 54% strongly agreed in 2020, compared to 30% in 2014. To the question, "Immanuel's identity is one with which I feel comfortable," 63% strongly agreed in 2020, compared to 32% in 2014. To the question, "I have a strong sense of belonging to the congregation," 58% strongly agreed in 2020 compared to 44% in 2014.

There is much more information to be gleaned from the survey about us and our vision that will be of use to the Task Force and the eventual call committee. But for now, it's clear that morale is high.

—Steve Warner

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Christiane Djuric 5/8

Teresa Simchak 5/8

Spencer Moy 5/12

Kathryn Skelton 5/17

Pr. John Lang 5/21

Nancy Darian 5/24

Mary Ann Kearns 5/31

## MAY SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

### May 3 Easter 4

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

### May 10 Easter 5

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

### May 17 Easter 6

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

### May 21 Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesian 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

### May 24 Easter 7

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

Daily lectionary readings can be found at [www.dailylectio.net](http://www.dailylectio.net)

## EVANSTON GROUPS ARE STILL SERVING OUR COMMUNITY – YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THIS WORK

It's been difficult putting Immanuel's rich ministries to the community on hiatus during shelter in place orders. In a meeting of the Evanston ministerial group, we reviewed a few organizations that are doing work and where volunteering, or doing planning on online meetings, for those most affected or under-resourced for shelter in place are being accomplished.

INTERFAITH ACTION OF EVANSTON at <http://www.interfaithactionofevanston.org/>

They report the need for volunteers at the hospitality center, especially if you are in the lower risk categories during this time of covid. If you yourself have been less financially affected, they invite donations through the website, and also have a list of needs on an Amazon Wish List.

CONNECTIONS FOR THE HOMELESS – EVANSTON at <https://www.connect2home.org/>

As you may imagine, it is difficult to shelter in place and wash hands frequently and maintain social distance if you are without a home. During this crisis, many of those without homes in Evanston have been temporarily housed in hotel rooms and also received meals there. The organization is meeting to consider how our neighbors can be assisted once shelter in place is over and this type of housing is no longer available. If you are interested in being part of this work, the website offers some ways to connect, as well as to donate if you are able to do so at this time.

We hope that soon Immanuel's own ministries can be up and running. In the meantime, any connections to other community organizations that can be deepened at this time, will strengthen our relationships and care for our neighbors in the time to come!

## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT....

It was a great pleasure and honor to introduce the Rev. Kim Beckmann to the congregation as we installed her as our Interim Pastor last Sunday. In the week prior to that occasion approximately 60 people joined one of four different Zoom Meet & Greet Sessions, and I know Pastor Kim is really starting off at full speed. Her inaugural sermon will be this coming Sunday (May 3rd) and her first newsletter article is available to you in this issue of the newsletter. If you haven't already, please do make sure you reach out to welcome Pastor Kim.

One thing we can do to help Pastor Kim and also whoever will ultimately be called as our permanent Pastor is for each of us to update our profile in Realm. Realm is the system our Financial Secretary uses to keep track of financial contributions to the church, but it also serves as an online church directory. So, if someone wants to write me an email or give me a call, you can look me up in Realm and get all my basic contact information. There is also a place where you can upload a profile picture, and this is the part where we could really help Pastor Kim—and a new permanent pastor—get to know us more quickly. Log in to Realm by clicking [this link](#). If you don't have login credentials or are having trouble logging in, please contact the Parish Administrator at [parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org](mailto:parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org).

Linda Edlund has been leading the task force that is working on our Ministry Site Profile, and they are just putting the finishing touches on their work product before submitting it to council. I had the opportunity to sit in on one of their work sessions recently, and I can report that this is an energetic and hard-working group of people. It was fun to observe, and I want to thank each of the people involved with this effort. As council receives the MSP, we can now also start to work appointing members of a Call Committee. Watch for news from me on this in the near future, as we will definitely want to get congregational input in thinking about the composition of this important committee.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Worship Committee and our musicians Jimmy and Greg for all they have done to make worship so meaningful during this period of separation. I find it so encouraging that our worship is live and involves so many in our community. Sara, Jimmy, Greg, the choir, and many others have worked so hard to make this happen, and have added many enhancements over time. I also want to thank everyone who has joined us for worship; I know the new online platform has required each of us to stretch our computer skills a bit, and I am grateful for that. It is so wonderful to be able to see so many live faces each Sunday morning, and this worship experience really speaks to the strength and vitality of our community.

Scott Romans  
Council President  
[president@immanuelevanston.org](mailto:president@immanuelevanston.org)

### 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*

## INVITATION TO MAKE MASKS....

Immanuel member Audrey Moy is available to assist by picking up your masks and delivering them to the coordinators of Stand for Children. Please contact her if you need a mask pick-up.



The communities of color on the South Side of Chicago are among the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. **You can help save lives by making cloth face masks.** Stand for Children will send your masks directly to families who live in these neighborhoods. **Here's how you can stand with the South Side.**

- Follow the instructions below for making masks. (There are versions for those handy with sewing machines and those who are not.)
- Please wear your own mask and make sure your hands are clean when you make masks.
- Package each mask individually in a new, resealable Ziploc-type bag.
- Put the masks in the plastic box on porch of the Rodman's home at 1709 Forest Avenue in Wilmette (yellow house). If you need to mail or have masks picked up, let us know.
- Stand for Children will be mailing masks throughout the Spring. The sooner you donate masks, the sooner they'll reach families. We'll accept a few, or as many as you have, at a time.
- Post a picture on  and  of you making and wearing masks using #Stand4ChildrenMasks.

Can't make masks but want to help? Make a tax-deductible contribution [here](#).

### Questions?

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540.525.8398



[stand.org/Illinois](http://stand.org/Illinois)



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### IF USING A SEWING MACHINE

Instructions are [here](#). (See "For Those Who Sew.") However, if you are using another pattern for making cloth masks with a sewing machine, we will gladly accept them as long as they are clean and high quality.



## IF NOT USING A SEWING MACHINE

For each mask, you need:

- A clean piece of cotton fabric that measures about 12 inches by 21 inches. Bandanas, t-shirts, pillowcases, and dress shirts are good options. Each bandana is large enough to make two masks.
- Two pieces of cloth ribbon, each cut about 21 inches long. Ribbon that is about ½ inch wide works well but so do unused shoelaces. The key is something longer that will loop comfortably around the ears and can be untied to adjust for fit. One cloth ribbon option is [here](#).
- A bit of needle and thread (you'll only be sewing a few stitches) OR no-sew permanent fabric glue.
- Ruler and scissors.
- Small Ziploc or other brand of resealable plastic bag.



**STEP 1.** Flatten the clean piece of cotton fabric on a table in front of you as if it were a placemat. Fold the fabric on its long edges into half so that it is now about 7 or 8 inches tall.



**STEP 2.** To start making ear loops, lay the two ribbon pieces vertically across the fabric at one-third and two-thirds of the way across the fabric.



**STEP 3.** Fold the left end of the fabric across **to meet the ribbon** on the right side. Then fold the right end of the fabric over to the left edge of the fabric.



**STEP 4.** Make three simple stitches on the left edge (or use dabs of fabric glue). The blue tape shows where to do this. Do not sew through the ribbon. If using fabric glue, let it dry completely.



**STEP 5.** Tie the ends of each ribbon securely but not terribly tight because the wearer will adjust the ribbon so the mask fits onto their face snugly. Place the mask in a small resealable plastic bag and seal it.



**Lutheran Campus  
Ministry  
at Northwestern  
Virtual Showcase**

Join us Online via Zoom for Music and  
Conversation with Students

**SATURDAY MAY 16, 2020 • 7:00 - 8:00 PM CDT**

ADMISSION (ACCESS TO ZOOM LINK): \$40  
ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF LCMNU

To purchase access, go to  
**[bit.ly/LCMNU-Show-2020](https://bit.ly/LCMNU-Show-2020)**

**Cannot attend but want to  
support the Ministry?**

Contact the LCMNU office at  
[lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu)

Or call: 847-864-7849

You may also mail a check to:  
LCMNU, 2204 Orrington, Evanston, IL 60201

Learn more about LCMNU:

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

[facebook.com/NUlutheran](https://facebook.com/NUlutheran)



**LUTHERAN  
CAMPUS MINISTRY  
AT NORTHWESTERN**

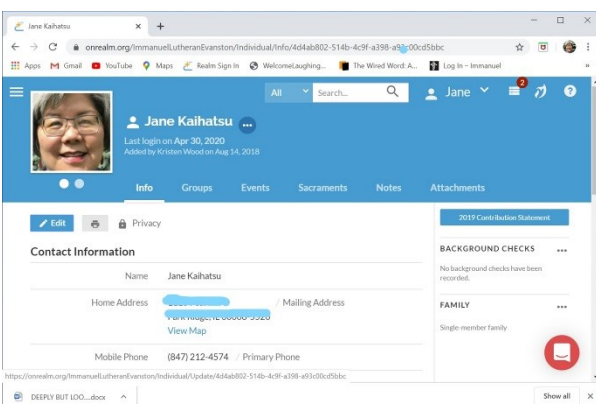


## Notes from the Parish Administrator

### Realm Accounts & Profile Updates, Including a Photo

By now all members should have received 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. Also check your Spam or Junk folders in case your email system doesn't recognize the Realm Sender.

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*.



Additionally, if you have a photo, please try to upload your photo to your Profile picture spot. As Scott Romans noted in his message, when our new Pastor joins us, undoubtedly they will look to Realm as an important resource to get to know the congregation. Having a photo with a name will be a huge help! (I wish I'd thought of this when I first joined Immanuel, too!) And if you're not sure how to upload your photo, you can send it to me at parish-admin@ilcevanston.org, and I can upload it to your profile for you.

### Photography Policy of Immanuel Members

Note that the photo for your Realm Profile Photo will be on your Realm Profile only, and will not be published anywhere else. But for church events or special worship services, we often document our Church Story with photos. Any member requesting that their photograph not be used in any church publication/website will be honored. The member's request should be in writing on an approved form. A list will be provided to those responsible for photographing/video graphing and publishing images of church activities. Copies of Immanuel's Photography of Members Guidelines are available in the Church Office, or you can contact me at parish-admin@ilcevanston.org and I will send you a copy. The photography of minors requires a release form from the parent or guardian.

**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) but I can access phone and email messages remotely.



## GETMEPECHI—COLLECTING MEDICAL SUPPLIES

GetMePEChi is a grassroots organization comprised of medical students, health professionals and volunteers from Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chicago, Rush, Loyola, Rosalind Franklin, University of Chicago, and Midwestern University. We are working to support front line medical providers fighting COVID. Our mission is to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for hospitals in need. Without adequate N95 Respirators and other PPE, healthcare professionals will get sick. They will get other healthcare professionals sick. There will be nobody to care for patients. You wouldn't send a soldier into battle without armor. Why are we sending our doctors into an infectious environment without adequate protection? We must do better.

I'm reaching out to you to ask if you, your friends or company has any supply of N95 or other particulate filter masks, face shields, gloves, safety goggles, coveralls, dust/surgical masks, or other protective equipment you would be willing to donate. We are collecting materials to allocate to local hospitals that the Illinois Department of Public Health deems most in need. Many hospitals have already declared critical shortages and have emergency room staff wearing makeshift equipment to care for critically ill patients. Our hospital staff need this protective gear to properly care for all patients, minimize the risk of spread, and protect themselves to prevent a shortage of medical personnel.

We appreciate any donation possible!

If you currently have PPE that you would like to donate, please fill out this form and a member of our team will contact you: <https://forms.gle/N19okeJuWxApLyYD8> We will arrange to come to your home or business and do a no contact pick up which we then deliver to the hospitals.

If you have any questions or want to get involved, email [GetMePEchi@gmail.com](mailto:GetMePEchi@gmail.com). Thank you so much for your generosity to help our healthcare members on the front lines!

One Mask Can Save Lives

Lee Starr: [leestarrusa@yahoo.com](mailto:leestarrusa@yahoo.com), 847-425-1386.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



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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.