

News from...

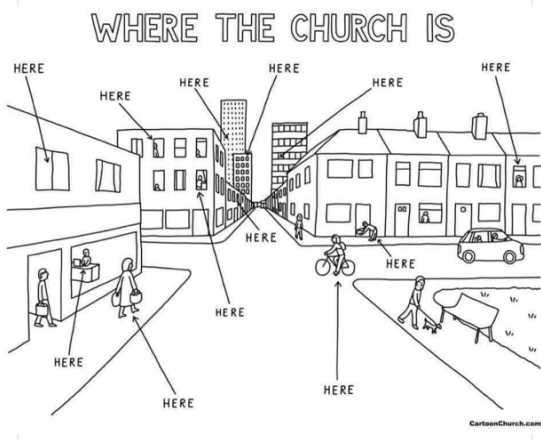


Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

JUNE 2020

A WORD FROM INTERIM PASTOR KIM...

The Life of the Pentecost Church “At Large”



“God’s Pentecost Project is far from over.

You and I are in the thick of it.”

—Dr. David Schlafer

Like you, I remember vividly the last Sunday I stood before a congregation and “sent” them to be the church dispersed. We stopped for a moment and noted it, not knowing exactly when, or how, the church would be gathered again. And of course, as it turns out, we have continued to gather weekly! And learned more about what it means both to gather, and to live as the church dispersed. But truthfully, I have always thought the real purpose of the gathering was actually the sending.

When we regather for services that start with a confession and forgiveness, for instance, we recap our time out in field. “So how did it go?” “Well, there were things I did that I screwed up. Things I should have done I didn’t do. Not everything reeked though, and I’m hoping to be here for help, and for forgiveness, in recommitting to try again this week.”

Hopefully as we gather, we experience a little Pentecost in an encouraging, challenging, destabilizing, transforming, and reorienting Word. We worship and adore God along with all creation and the hosts in heaven and remember that it’s really that ongoing and never-ending canticle of praise we’re called to join. We receive bread of life for daily faith needs. In our gathering we get clean clothes, rest, a meal, and recommitment to the journey...but the actual sending and celebration of our dispersal as a church is over quickly! “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” Or, these days, “The Host has ended the meeting!”

I remember Judge Winston Bone (Ray Walston!) on the old show Picket Fences, leading the court thru examination of their life together as community and the issues dividing them, showing compassion and butt-kicking in equal parts, then finally saying... “Go on, get out of here!”... acknowledging that any real justice and even mercy, would have to be practiced and adjudicated out there, not in the courtroom.

So in that way, we have always been the dispersed church, the church that wears its heart for justice and mercy on its sleeve wherever it goes. Which is wherever you go. But I don’t think we’ve ever made enough hay out of that call the Spirit makes to each of us to take up our parts in the body of Christ at large in the world, and that it is all holy work.

When I’ve thought about this “church at large” in the past, I have envisioned it as church living large - a gospel force with good news let loose on the world, our gifts unleashed for life-giving mission out there. While we are more clearly now “out there”, and not in our sanctuaries, our focus in these covid days has for some of us been rather smaller. Some of our holy work now is limited to home, and for some, our care there for ourselves and loved ones. Others have had to have a singular focus just to save our businesses, care for employees, provide essential services, and keep ourselves safe while keeping others alive.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Worship Matters
- Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth Discussions
- Council President's Message
- 2020 Graduates

The covid crisis has disrupted many of our callings in the world and to the community. Now, as we talk of restoration, we are called into God's Pentecost Project in local and national conversations about racism and economic struggle and inequities as we rebuild. In 1954, the Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches Report on the Laity stated: "The real battles of the faith today are being fought in factories, shops, offices and farms... it is said the Church should 'go into these spheres,' but the fact is that the Church is already in those spheres in the persons of its laity." So in this year of 2020, where are the opportunities for faith communities today? The spheres into which the church may grow, and those into which the church has already ventured, because you are there?

We've learned that it may be in the wireless technology of the Spirit of Jesus that continues to gather and scatter us. For worship this has worked pretty well for us and shown us a thing or two. But I think about how Paul once supposed he'd find a gathering of believers down by the river. Where are those places people might suppose they would find believers if not in the church buildings with steeples? How might they find us in cyberspace... and what would send them looking?

Beyond staying home to care for our neighbor, what are the opportunities for the church in being good neighbors and little Christ's, and witnesses to the gospel claims about resurrection and suffering and death. We are finding new ways. It may be in realizing anew that each of us is Immanuel Lutheran Church, God with us, and God with our neighbor, wherever it is that we are, with Jesus' Spirit of endless life unleashed in millions of us to join the song of all creation. We've realized profoundly that we can't "cancel" worship because it's the ongoing song of all creation all around us. If need be we can join the birds in their morning and evening prayer.

God's Pentecost Project is far from over, and you and I are called to be in the thick of it. I am curious about where God will show up in it, what will be revealed in these days, and how we can show up to it.

We celebrate the coming of the Spirit's power to unleash Jesus' love in everywhere the church goes... in you! I celebrate your vocation, your calling, to live that life on the cutting edge of faith!

Pastor Kim Beckmann
pastor@immanuelevanston.org

*Pastor's Page Art Credit: Where the church is cartoon (2020 version) – this cartoon is free to reuse.

JUNE SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

June 7 The Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14 Pentecost 2

Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
1 Peter 2:2-10
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

June 21 Pentecost 3

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28 Pentecost 4

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6-12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

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

WORSHIP MATTERS

Thanks to the cast of thousands for the lively experience of Pentecost in our service for this festival day.

In June, we begin with **Trinity Sunday**. This is the only festival of the church year that celebrates a doctrine of the church. We call on the three ways God is God for us, to create, save, and sustain our world.

"Ordinary time" is the older word for the Sundays we keep after Pentecost. We have a long stretch of the green and growing season of faith. You can think of it as the "porch sitting" time with Jesus. After the festival season that unfolds the major events of Jesus' life, we get some quieter time to reflect on Jesus' healing and teaching ministry, and what it means for our lives today.

We will have opportunity to lift up a few other things this June, however.

The ELCA has called for a **new commemoration day, June 17th**, to lift up the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9, the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. This year is the first year we mark this date in the liturgical calendar. <https://www.elca.org/emanuelnine>.

And while the Pride Parade and other events have been postponed or cancelled this year, **Pride Sunday** can still be lifted up at the end of the month. Happy Pride everyone!

EMANUEL NINE, MARTYRS, 2015

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina.

Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019.

Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.



MIDWEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH DISCUSSIONS

WEDNESDAY EVENING GATHERINGS CONTINUE

Throughout May, folks in our congregation have been gathering on Wednesday evenings to talk and pray. After beginning with prayers to gather and center us, we discuss one or more of the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.

We also devoted one discussion to readings focused on stories of feeding in the Bible to help think about the meaning of holy communion at this time of social distancing. In all of our discussions, we delve deeply into the context of each reading as well as its personal meanings for us.

We conclude with prayers for our congregation, our society, and ourselves, and with a beautiful compline hymn and a benediction to give us peace through the night.

*Yours in Christ,
Charly Yarnoff*

JOIN US ON ZOOM EVERY WEDNESDAY

◇ 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! Look for a zoom link in an eblast to join this meeting. Bring a bible if you are able, any version or translation is great, hard-bound or on the web such as <https://www.biblegateway.com>.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT...

Restoring the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

On May 27th, Pastor Kim and I attended a synod webinar presenting a quite comprehensive and detailed plan for reopening that mirrors the phases in Governor Pritzker's Restoring Illinois plan. You may have been hearing about the unique challenges churches will face while seeking to reopen: maintaining social distance, wearing masks, disinfecting our spaces after every use, and considering the greater risks involved in singing together, unison responses, sharing the peace, communion and fellowship.

These constraints, as well as constraints on the number of those who can gather, remain in place through Phase 4 and we'd need to figure out how everything at Immanuel can be done in our specific spaces while maintaining social distance at all times. If we decide to restart in-person activities before there is a vaccine or effective treatment, we'll also need to consider how we "invite and involve everyone" when many in the higher-risk categories may still need to stay at home.

It will be a challenge to figure out all these issues, but I think we have a significant amount of time to do this. If you'd like to read the synod's framework for yourself or watch the webinar that includes helpful information from Dr. Deb Burnet of the University Chicago Medicine, Bishop Curry, and other synod leaders, you can find it at http://www.mcselca.org/congregation/covid-19_resourcesresources_for_being_and_doing_php/

Ultimately, the resources that the synod has provided will allow church council to work toward re-opening aspects of our life together in a way that is legal, safe, and expresses our love for neighbor. As a plan unfolds, we'll want the congregation to be informed, and there will be times to receive your input as well.

I share the sadness of many in our congregation about being in this situation. But I don't want to end my report on a sad note. In reality, I think there is an important silver lining for Immanuel:

Now is the hour for small churches like ours.

Through tools like Zoom, we can still gather as a community. We can see most everyone in our community and, in small groups, hear from anyone who wants to speak. Worship now feels different, but it is communal and it is interactive. We can pray together and check in with one another. Under the same circumstances, larger churches just can't do this as effectively. So, as we move forward through this pandemic, let's plan carefully on the safest way to reopen in the future, and in the meantime, make the most of our resources and commit to continue being church in this challenging environment.

*Scott Romans
Council President
president@immanuelevanston.org*

CONTACTING PASTOR KIM BECKMANN

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 days other than Monday, please feel free to reach out by email at pastor@immanuelevanston.org.

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

Pastor Kim Beckmann

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO IMMANUEL'S 2020 GRADUATES!

We celebrate with Luke David Moy and his family. Luke graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sociology. We look forward to the ways he will be sharing his gifts with the world.

Julie Grafe graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago on May 17, 2020. We are proud of her accomplishments and were able to celebrate with her at Coffee Fellowship on May 24th. To those of you who were unable to join that celebration, we share this message:

"On Sunday, I will graduate. I wish I could say I'm excited. But that would be too simple. I come from a long line of Lutheran pastors but I never really saw myself as following in their footsteps. I told myself my cousin Hubert was the pastor in our generation.

I prayed, asked for discernment and had several experiences I couldn't help but call "signs" over the years. When I decided to apply to seminary, there really was no other choice but LSTC, where all the pastors in my family had gone. LSTC gave me relationships and opportunities that formed me for the ministry God is calling me to do. From the very first class I took to my final year internship, I have had amazing experiences that affirmed and shaped my gifts. I am so grateful.

The spirit who guided me to enter LSTC and become a second-career pastor is still guiding me - and my fellow graduates - now into new ministries, into the exciting future God has in store for our church. We look forward to sharing those blessings with you.

Peace,

Julie Grafe, MDiv '20"

***If there are other 2020 graduates in the congregation, please let us know and we would love to celebrate with you! Send names schools, and degrees (if applicable) to parish-admin@ilcevanston.org.**

Message From the Bishop

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I am grateful for those of you who have reached out to me recently, and those who have encouraged me to write a statement about the events taking place in this country. As one of two African Descent male bishops in the ELCA, that is what I am doing here. Please know that as I write, my emotions are still raw, painful, and constantly changing. But here is what I have right now.



On the morning of Tuesday, May 26, 2020, I saw the headline shared by Bishop Pat Davenport in a Facebook post, and I cried. Skipping over the commentary, I clicked on the link. Immediately, I became fixated on the posture, the eyes, and the sounds of George Floyd as life began to leave his body and his face began to change. I moved my cell phone closer to my face and I continued to stare. I thought of myself, my brothers, my nephews...

I saw all of us in this, our neighbor, George Floyd. What's next? I wondered. Will racial profiling lead to an officer's knee on my neck? As George stopped breathing, I paused the video. I closed my eyes, and I cried some more. I cried for George Floyd. I cried for Ahmaud Arbery. I cried for Breonna Taylor, and for Dreasjon (Sean) Reed. I cried for Trevon Martin and Tamir Rice. I cried for Walter Scott and Laquan McDonald. I cried for all of these children of God, and for the countless others, known and unknown, who have fallen at the hands of racism and brutality.

As my tears slowed, I felt compelled to sit in the tension of the moment. Hoping against hope, I restarted the video—looking for some sort of resurrection. Instead, I saw Officer Chauvin's knee. His demeanor was so cavalier, and he appeared to be so comfortable, that one might mistakenly think that this act of murder was normal or routine.

I shared the video with the hashtag #ImTiredOfThis and turned off my phone. I was not okay! And yet, like all among us who experience racism, micro-aggressions, over-policing, and harassment every day, I quietly packed away this experience and returned to my life routines. But the things we pack away can't stay packed away forever.

Within communities impacted the most by both police brutality and COVID-19, suppressed trauma has been transformed into direct action and civil disobedience, empowering communities to organize for justice throughout Metropolitan Chicago, Minneapolis, and the United States.

Unfortunately, some suppressed traumas have also ignited looting and the destruction of property. Such activity is neither the cure for the pandemic of systemic racism nor the perpetual brutality exercised against Black and Brown bodies, but it is a symptom of these things.

When developing a cure for a disease, doctors, scientists, and specialists of all kinds assemble with one common goal—to find a cure. Distinct from simply treating symptoms, a cure gets at the root of the thing that was causing the symptoms in the first place, so as to eradicate the disease.

Family in Christ, we need a cure. Our siblings are dying. If we choose to remain silent while benefiting from privilege, then we become complicit in that death, ensuring that justice and change will not be achieved.

Social statements are good and fine, but for change, for real and lasting change, we need to be in relationship. We need to come together with a common goal, striving collectively to eradicate racism and injustice in our communities, in the church, and in the world. May it be so, and in the words of 1 John 3:18, may it be so not in word or speech alone, but in action and in truth.

In this season of Pentecost, I pray for the Spirit to fill us all again with a renewed passion for God's reign of justice and love, and a deepened desire to live out God's mission in this synod, to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and do justice—liberating, life-giving justice—in Jesus' name.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bishop,

Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA

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 miss Immanuel's ministries and look forward to resuming them. 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! Please contact Pr. Kim if you're interested in exploring this way.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jane Kaihatsu 6/2

Erik Shearer 6/4

Keith Knohl 6/5

Anna Lamberg 6/7

Benjamin Mauk-
O'Connor 6/17

Tyler Knohl 6/24

Tyler Heyl 6/25

Teddy Otto 6/26

Merle Shearer 6/30



May 26, 2020

Dear Audrey,

Amidst the brutality of the pandemic, there are acts of kindness giving new meaning to the word “community.” The efforts of Immanuel Lutheran congregants supporting the cloth mask project clearly fall into this category.

Thank you to all the heroes contributing fabric, elastic, and sewing talent, to those “getting the word out,” and to those sending their prayers. Surely, this is the meaning of “grace”: that the happenstance of our daughters being in the same classroom some twenty years ago led to families receiving masks made with the love and care of your church members.

I recently read a study that if 80% of Americans wore masks, COVID-19 [infections would plummet](#). In and of itself, the act of giving masks is significant. But this effort is turning out to be about even more.

As schools closed in March, and we were checking in with families, we realized some were unaware for several weeks that schools have free meal pickups or about the availability of computers for their children’s online learning. Indeed, schools have completely lost all connections with many students because families are displaced as jobs are lost and loved ones fall ill. There is a need for reliable channels of communication to deliver vital school and safety information and uphold the sense of community.

Since the beginning, Stand for Children was providing five cloth masks, as well as census and health/safety information, to each family, free of charge. Families opt-in to receive the packages, and we mail direct to their homes. We soon realized the mailings were an opportunity for schools to connect tangibly with their students, so principals started writing notes of care. This project has also evolved into a reliable way to verify, at scale, where a large set of families are currently located. We hope to expand this effort into a vibrant, ongoing effort to connect families and their schools and one another.

The fallout from the pandemic is far from over. Every stitch sewn into every mask, and every good wish from Immanuel Lutheran congregants, supports these families.

Thanks for standing with us,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mimi Rodman".

Mimi Rodman
Executive Director, Stand for Children Illinois
mrodman@stand.org

PS: On the next page is a donation form for those contributing gifts-in-kind.

GIFT IN-KIND DONATION RECEIPT

STAND FOR CHILDREN is a non-profit education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability.

DONOR INFORMATION

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

DONATION INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF DONATION: _____

DATE OF DONATION: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION

Your gift to Stand for Children Leadership Center is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by IRS regulations. No goods or services were exchanged for this donation. Please retain this receipt for your tax records. Stand for Children Leadership Center Tax ID # 52-1957214. Please contact Illinois Executive Director Mimi Rodman at mrodman@stand.org, or State Operations Coordinator Aranda Stathers at astathers@stand.org, with your questions.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

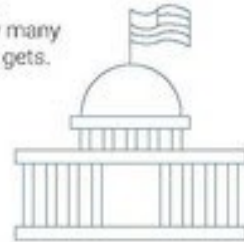


It's in the Constitution.

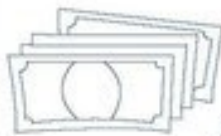
The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.

It's about fair representation.

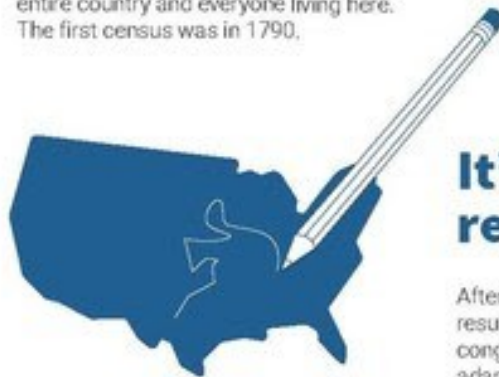
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It means \$675 billion.



Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



I'm challenging you to

complete the

2020 Census

today.



#shapeyourfuture

Please contact Pr. Kim if you're interested in being a part of the virtual march as Immanuel.



Poor People's Campaign

Dear Partners in Ministry,

In this time of crisis God's call to address interlocking injustices of racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental degradation, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism rings louder than ever.

Before the pandemic, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, produced a national audit (www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/the-souls-of-poor-folk-audit/), calculating that 140 million people (close to half our country's population) was either poor or low income, struggling each day to survive.

As we all know, that terrible number has now swelled to even greater proportions. That's why I and leaders of my church are called to heed the historic call of witnesses like Marian Wright Edelman and The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, who began the first Poor People's Campaign in 1968.

We have the opportunity to be part of a faith-rooted, affirming, joyful, and broad-based movement for change in our world. Both our Metro Chicago Synod and Churchwide Assembly signaled their specific support for the Poor People's Campaign in 2018 and 2019, along with major interfaith bodies across the U.S.

We hope you might prayerfully consider your own place within it. I ask you to join together as beloved Lutheran siblings, adding our important theological voice to the largest mass digital rally of its kind on June 20th, 2020 at www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june2020.

As we say in the movement: Everybody In! Nobody Out!

God's peace, strength, and joy,

Pastor Daniel Ruen
Grace Lutheran Church, Evanston

COVID-19 Resources for ELCA Congregations and Members

With the outbreaks of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and around the world, our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, those in need and those hurting and searching for peace. Resources are available to help congregations and members stay connected and resilient during this crisis. Visit ELCA.org/publichealth for online worship best practices, FAQs regarding government assistance programs, video messages from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and resources to help you practice your faith at home.

Information security webinar

A webinar on information security was recently presented to the ELCA churchwide organization. Watch the recording to learn how to avoid phishing email attacks, how to protect sensitive data and prevent malware infections, and what to do if your data has been breached. Find the video, slides and FAQs at <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Information-Technology#Webinars>.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center Getaway for Families

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center is a 640-acre, year-round retreat and camping center in the heart of the Rock River Valley of Northwestern Illinois. LOMC is open starting May 29 for immediate households (of any age) to come and enjoy a stay in our 640 beautiful acres. Stay in your own building, cabin or campground site and enjoy activities led by LOMC staff. More information at www.lomc.org.





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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