

News from...



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

JULY— AUGUST 2020

A WORD FROM INTERIM PASTOR KIM...

APPROVED AND AWAITING CALL

You have your call committee now! Your ministry site profile is sent to the synod for approval and then throughout the ELCA, with the prayer the Holy Spirit will make you a match!

“Approved-Awaiting Call” is a technical term for the status of a candidate for ordination who has completed seminary studies and has the affirmation of a candidacy committee who has determined their readiness and best fit for ministry. But it isn’t until they receive the call of a congregation or ELCA-related ministry – until their arena for service calls them -- that they are ordained.

Probably when you think about your own relationship as a congregation to the status of “awaiting call” you are imagining you are awaiting a new pastor, but not necessarily a call. But the *congregation* also gets a call, too, when that pastor is called and installed among you. Your arena for service is first of all, the call of your baptism and your daily vocation, but together, it is newly defined in the gifts, perspective, Word, and the synergy of life together that your new pastor’s arrival creates in the community.

It may come as a surprise that you are also “approved.... awaiting call” -- as a candidate for a new pastor!

There’s a whole Facebook group dedicated to seminarians approved and awaiting call. It’s called “While We Wait; We Work”. It acknowledges there is work to be done, life to be had, hearts to be opened, minds to grow creative, horizons to be expanded, and calls to be continually refreshed while one waits. The call committee has its work defined in this call process, but what about the congregation?

Well, it’s summer, so our rhythm is a little different. And it’s the time of Covid. But one of the things I usually suggest is that everyone take a minute to catch their breath! When the new pastor comes, there will be a flurry of action and I hope you’ll all be refreshed and energized for it. We have this summer season of ordinary time to, as I say, do our “porch sitting with Jesus” and let the Word soak in. Join us on Wednesdays in July to consider the work of racial justice, and our call to be anti-racist individuals in an anti-racist church. Care for your spiritual growth and be ready for your new call as a congregation full of spiritual gifts just bursting with fruitfulness whenever it is your new pastor arrives!

We are also good stewards of one another. You’ll hear about ways we can stay connected, support one another, and help your new pastor get to know you and be in touch with you, as we update our Realm profiles, and learn how to use it as our church directory.

Then there’s your continued support for the ongoing work of Immanuel. You’ve held together! It’s a difficult season, with lots of economic uncertainty and such stress for many of our households, I know. Each week you still bring what gift you have that becomes the seeds now that support the harvest in mission, the work you and your new pastor will do, and the dreams you will have, together. We see that in blessing the Hunger Grants this summer, from the months of winter’s Farmers Market. I give thanks, even in this strange time, for all those who are jumping in with help for our new reality. Thanks to all who give and live generously out of an abundance of God’s grace and a sense of calling through the work of this congregation. Continued faithfulness and readiness here and now, today, is the best way you can support the new call when it comes for both you and your new pastor so it has the resources to thrive.

While we wait, we work, as we await our new calls to be alive to the voice of God and the needs of our neighbor.

Pastor Kim Beckmann
pastor@immanuelevanston.org



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WORSHIP MATTERS

A few of you have mentioned our communion bread looks appealing! It is also delicious. I share this recipe as one of many excellent communion bread recipes. Maybe we can trade them here, and stories that go with them.

We first started using this recipe with confirmands and first communion students in the first call I shared with my husband, Fred. The recipe was in an old confirmation curriculum. It was always a big production: finding enough measuring and baking utensils for the "teams". With children and youth, some of it was just teaching about how to work together, read a recipe, and clean up. It was fun, but took forever. Parents were always waiting in cars to pick the kids up while we waited for loaves to come out of the oven so they could have a taste. The rest, they proudly brought forward in the offertory procession. They could bring "their" loaves home to share after the service, and they were always eager to do so. I always think of them as I unwrap the little bread cloth I inherited somewhere along the way, and "bring it forward" as a precious gift for us all.

I've found that when it's just me, this recipe takes about five minutes to put together! But the other thing I've realized in sharing it with you during this pandemic, is that it tastes like the biscuits my mom used to make us when we had a snow day. I think these must be the main ingredients in Bisquick, with the baking powder as leaven. Mom would serve up the Bisquick biscuits with butter, of course. But Mr Biggs, the neighbor next door, grew concord grapes on the fence between our property line and his garden, and shared a box with mom every fall. She put up grape jelly in little jars with the paraffin wax on top, and this would be a treat on the snow day. I don't like jelly now. When I share this communion with you in the service, it tastes like the sweet taste of Jesus on my lips. But somehow, when I slice the rest of my communion loaf lengthwise in half after church, and pop it in the toaster to warm it up, it tastes just like a snow day with my brothers and sisters and my mom and I swear I smell concord grapes.

I give thanks for the gift of the communion of saints that allows us to share this meal with Jesus, the whole church on earth and the hosts of heaven, in this extraordinary time! I picked this bread as a good option in these days yeast hasn't been readily available. I'll never have this bread again without remembering this time I shared with you, either. I hope that you too, during these strange and difficult days of the Covid pandemic, have been able to find some surprising new discoveries, old discoveries and the love and strength of ties that bind us to Jesus and to one another.

—Pastor Kim

No Rise Time Communion Bread

Mix: ½ teaspoon salt

3 teaspoons baking powder

4 tablespoons shortening/oil

¼ cup powdered milk

¾ cup water

Note: It works without the powdered milk... maybe sub some milk for water

Add: 1 cup all purpose flour

1 cup whole wheat flour

Note: can be all all-purpose flour



Stir to form a lump. Pat and knead into one loaf. Divide into as many loaves as you'd like. I use this recipe for four. Pat smaller into a round and mark with a +cross. Place on cookie sheet and bake at 450, 12-15 minutes, or less for smaller loaves.

SUMMER WORSHIP

We used to call the summer season “ordinary time” in the church year. We do that porch-sitting after the festival time and absorb all Jesus’ teaching and what it means in our life that he lived among us. Jesus healed people. He taught. He opened our eyes to the miracle of God’s presence and desire for life, time and time again. While we are still often finding things to celebrate in our church and civic life this summer, the summer breeze and sultry sun of the Spirit in the time after Pentecost, is a welcome and ordinary time to grow in faith. Join us on zoom!



July

July 5 - We remember this nation and First Nations this holiday weekend. As we worship God with our offering, we lift up the \$9,500 worth of Hunger Grants coming out of this year’s shortened Indoor Farmer’s Market as part of the Faith that Feeds!

July 12 -The call committee has begun its work toward the call of your next settled pastor! We commission the call committee and give thanks for the work of the transition team completing the Ministry Site Profile that shares the hopes, dreams and mission of your congregation with prospective candidates. May God’s Holy Spirit bless this process.

July 19 & 26 – Starting on July 12, we will have begun a series of three agricultural parables! Jesus gets us outdoors to consider the Miracle of the Good Soil in the midst of crop failure; the Miracle of God’s Love and Patience as wheat and the weeds grow together til the last discerning minute; and in a last rush, a bunch of parables to present to us the Miracle of God’s Renewal, Growth... and.... Sufficiency!

August

August 2 – Come! Everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters! Everyone who is hungry, delight in rich food! Jesus invites us to a picnic on a grassy hillside, all have their fill.

August 9 – Have you ever been on a storm on the water? You know where we’re going with this: the story of Peter’s walking with Jesus over the waves. Jesus says come, and we get out of the boat.

August 16 – Pastor Kim will be on vacation and Pastor John Lang will be on zoom with you!

August 23 – Who do you say that Jesus is? Jesus hangs out with the disciples at his day’s version of the casino of the gods. Who are you betting on?

August 30 – After our summer of porch sitting, soaking in Jesus’ teaching about what God’s reign means for us, we start our turn toward the cross-shaped life of discipleship. We remember where we started. In the yoke with Jesus, where we find true rest....for our souls.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT...

I am happy to announce that at its last meeting church council elected six members of the congregation to serve on Immanuel's call committee. This committee will work very closely with the synod bishop and his staff over the course of our call process. Earlier in the month, council approved a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which gets published in the churchwide database used by candidates seeking new calls. Clergy candidates also submit a profile; the call committee reviews this information and then interviews the most suitable and desirable candidates. Ultimately, the call committee will make a recommendation for call to the full congregation at a special congregational meeting. However, since confidentiality is a critical part of this process, we should not expect a lot of detailed information from the call committee until that time.

The elected members of the committee are: Tom Couch, Christiane Djuric, Anne Heider, Tyler Heyl, Michael Kloster, and Lisa Larson, and Lisa will also serve as the chair. The work of the call committee is obviously very important and can be arduous, and we are grateful for each of these individuals for making this significant commitment. Please keep the call committee and its work in your prayers over the coming months.

Additionally, in last month's newsletter I reported that Bishop Curry had released a detailed template congregations can use to plan the renewal of onsite operations in their facilities. The synod's comprehensive template follows the five-phase framework in Governor Pritzker's "Restore Illinois" plan and considers multiple dimensions of church life within each phase. The template identifies risk factors each congregation must be aware of and address in developing their reopening plans. At the June meeting council also created a task force to review the synod's template and tailor it to the specifics of Immanuel's congregation, activities, and facilities. The task force includes the following individuals: Greg Hummel (chair), Kit McCarthy, and Grace Yarnoff. Each of them brings significant professional qualifications that will greatly aid the development of a responsible and caring plan. This, too, will be difficult work, so please join me in thanking these people and keeping them in our prayers as they move forward.

*Scott Romans
Council President
president@immanuelevanston.org*

MIDWEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH DISCUSSIONS

WEDNESDAY EVENING GATHERINGS CONTINUE IN JULY & AUGUST

Our Wednesday evening gatherings to offer opportunities for prayer, reflection, and discussion will continue in July and August.

In July, discussions will focus on issues of racial justice and equity, especially as we are guided by these words from Colossians 3:17: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." We will begin with a discussion of the "ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge." Subsequent gatherings will focus on other brief readings or videos. These will be made available before the sessions, but they will be short enough so that they can also be shared during the sessions themselves if you haven't had a chance to look them over beforehand.

In August, we will return to the format we used during Advent and Lent: Hearing folks' stories of events—whether ordinary or extraordinary—in which they've encountered God in the world and one another.

*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 our faith discussions.

◇ 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.

Look for a zoom link in an eblast to join this meeting.

JULY SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 5 Pentecost 5

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-35a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12 Pentecost 6

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19 Pentecost 7

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26 Pentecost 8

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119: 129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

QUILTING MINISTRY



Even though the church building is closed, quilting continues apace. Elizabeth and Iva are busy sewing tops at home. Chris D. matches them to backs and then sandwiches them with batting. Chris L., Iva and Laurie sew around the edges. Bert, Kathy S., and Mid tie them.

Bert has also done all five steps. Kathy has also sewn tops. Some of Bert's neighbors have asked for a quilt to tie or have donated sheets for backs. A few elves are busy driving the quilt stages around town as they advance through the process. To help coordinate the process and to keep quilting social, we Zoom together twice a month. If you would like to join us, look for a link in the calendar on the church website. It will show up on a Thursday morning. Our next sessions will be on July 2nd and

July 16th, both at 10:30 am.

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?

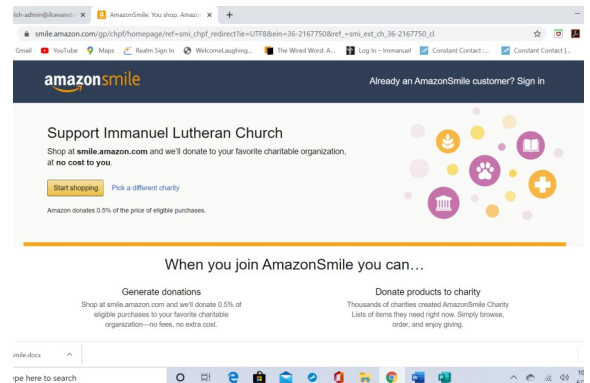
A reminder notice: Many of us make frequent purchases on Amazon ... books, appliances, shampoo ... you name it, you can find almost anything there. Did you know that Amazon will donate .5% of any eligible purchase you make to Immanuel Lutheran Church? That's right. You buy things, and without spending a penny more than you would otherwise, Amazon sends us a check to help support our ministry.

All you need to do is to sign up with Amazon Smile, which is a simple matter of following this link and selecting Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, IL as your preferred charity.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2167750>

(Or you can go to www.smile.amazon.com and search for "Immanuel Lutheran Church Evanston.")

Then, each time you shop with Amazon, instead of going to the Amazon site as you normally would, go to www.smile.amazon.com to make your purchases. It's exactly the same as the regular Amazon site, but it links your purchases to Immanuel. (Once you've registered Immanuel as your charity, even if you go to the regular site, it will ask you if you prefer to go to the Amazon Smile site instead, so you don't even have to remember!) There is no cost to you whatsoever, and with each purchase, you will be sup-



IN MEMORIAM

Doris Strom

We were saddened to hear of the death of Doris Strom on May 7, 2020, of a non-Covid-19-related illness. Doris was a resident of Three Crowns, and had been in hospice for a few weeks before her passing. Her family had been able to do some visiting and she was blessed with peaceful and comfortable last days.

Doris' faith was nurtured and shared at Immanuel. A family prayer service was held via Zoom on May 9th. May Doris enjoy the sight of God's face forever, and may we be held close in the communion of saints in love and blessed memory. Donations in Doris Strom's honor can be made to:

- Three Crowns Park, 2323 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, IL 60201
- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston
- Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, IL

Margaret Carlson

We were saddened to hear of the death of Margaret D. Carlson on May 28, 2020. We grieve with her children Letitia, Walter, Prudence, Ted and other family members, and ask God's comfort for them. In her later years, Margaret was a resident of Westminster Place Presbyterian Homes. The family had been using technology to read the classics to her in these last months. They report that Margaret died peacefully shortly after hearing a "rather pleasant" passage of *David Copperfield*, finally closing her book on page 680.

The family thanks the Immanuel community for the love and support shown to their parents, Margaret and LeRoy, continuously since 1959. We give thanks for the ways God's light shown through our sister Margaret. There was a limited family gathering for a funeral service and committal at Memorial Park held on June 6, 2020. We are grateful that through Zoom, many Immanuel members were able to participate.



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, Linda Edlund, 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*

PANDEMIC PROSE—Shared Stories of Life under COVID-19

Just Saying

We've lived in this new world for four months--and counting. I had no idea when our world shut down it would last so long, and I'm guessing the rest of us at Immanuel didn't either. Who knew we could turn on a dime and worship on Zoom and have coffee hour on Zoom?! A lot of time and effort went into that turning on a dime thing, and there's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes into our worship every week (here's looking at Jimmy, Sara, Greg, Pr. Kim, Tom, Scott and others). I've found our time together to be so grounding, and I'm so grateful for it. I love looking at all those little boxes containing faces and knowing that we're still here and hoping the day will come sooner than later when we can confidently and safely be together again. It might be awhile, though, with the news about rampant viral spread in communities that quickly and enthusiastically opened.

A couple weeks ago we did outdoor dining at Kansaku, which is just kitty-corner from Immanuel, and I sat so I could see the building. Somehow, it made me feel better.

True confessions: I haven't accomplished much, beyond shepherding the MSP process and baking a lot — and I did Zoom church once in my pajamas after brushing my hair and putting on some earrings. We don't have to think a lot about appearances in that format!

How about you? Is there anything you'd like to share from your pandemic life? Send it in an email to Jane (parish-administrator@ilcevanston.org) and we'll feature it in future Immanuel communications.

—Linda Edlund

Notes from the Parish Administrator Goes WFH

“WFH” has become common parlance for those of us fortunate to “Work From Home.” As Parish Administrator, I began working from my home in Park Ridge on March 16th and I still keep the same hours, M-F, 9 am—1 pm. I admit I enjoy my 10-second commute to my home office desk; the drive to Evanston in morning rush hour traffic could be long and capricious. I wasn't able to Call Forward the Immanuel Office phone, but I can check for messages remotely and do so hourly.

My office work has been by email and the flood of emails to parish-admin@ilcevanston.org has never waned. With Google Drive and Realm, all of the electronic files I need are available so I maintain my pre-Pandemic tasks. I still keep some hard file copies and have a growing pile of filing to do when I return to the office. I've had office supplies and postage stamps delivered to my home so operations have gone very smoothly. I was never a big online shopper but it's become a necessity. A huge shout-out to the essential workers in the warehouses and delivery drivers who made WFH possible, especially in March and April.

By now you've received several Immanuel electronic communications which have a new look. Starting in March Laura McDaniels and the Communications Team introduced Constant Contact as a means to “get the word out” about Immanuel's virtual Sunday Worship Service, Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth Discussion, and other happenings. I've enjoyed learning a new software which has more possibilities than sending a plain email.

While everything so far in my Immanuel WFH universe has gone well, there is one big downside. I've yet to meet in-person my new boss, Pastor Kim! We've had a few Zoom calls and we talk on the phone each week, though getting work done requires more agility when I can't just walk over to the Pastor's Office and show her a document. But we're managing successfully.

Over the past few months I've spoken to many of you over the phone but still I miss seeing everyone who used to drop by the office. However, as COVID-19 continues to strong-arm its way through our society, the safety of all is paramount. It's an enormous task to sort out all of the safety guidelines coming from the CDC, the ELCA, the State of Illinois, and the City of Evanston before resuming in-person activities at Immanuel. Thank you to the many well-wishers for your guidance about my job, especially at the beginning. Please know that I'm always ready to support this congregation, so don't hesitate to reach out. Stay well, stay safe!

—Jane B. Kaihatsu

JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Faith Yarnoff 7/1

Joan Guess 7/8

Patrick McCarthy 7/10

Meaghan Ross 7/15

Jim Rakowsky 7/20

Trixie Lipke 7/22

Kit McCarthy 7/29

Elizabeth Stegner 8/1

Grace Yarnoff 8/10

Olivia Knohl 8/20

Judy Kratochvil 8/21

Alice Hancko 8/22

Maren Baylaender 8/28

METROPOLITAN CHICAGO SYNOD

ANTI-RACISM EVENTS

The synod anti-racism team is called:

Another Pebble

Why “another pebble?” Check it out at <https://anotherpebble.org/...> and click on the tab to read the answer!!

July 11, 2020 10am – 11:30am

Antiracist Vocab—zoom event

Developing a shared language for working towards being an antiracist church. Register at <https://bit.ly/AntiracistVocab>. There is no charge. <https://bit.ly/antiracistvocab2020>



Other upcoming events – a day long Critical Cultural Competency workshop on July 18, and an Introduction to Systemic Racism day long event on August 22 sponsored by CROAR (Chicago Regional Organizing for Anti-Racism) and Crossroads national, are sold out! There is a waiting list. There is a sliding fee scale charge.

Check out the anotherpebble.org website for resources including book lists, recommended resources, and other events to assist us in becoming anti-racist individuals in an anti-racist church. CROAR events are often highly discounted with a subsidy by the Metro Chicago Synod.

St. Cyprian's Ecumenical Food and Clothing Pantry

6535 W. Irving Park Rd. • Chicago, IL, 60634 • 773.283.9178

located in United in Faith Lutheran Church's Ministry Center

4000 people need YOUR help!

4000+ people and growing. That is how many people are being served by St. Cyprian's Food Pantry—EVERY MONTH!!! St. Cyprian's Food Pantry, located at 6535 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, in the Ministry Center of United in Faith Lutheran Church, has been serving this many people since Covid-19 broke out in the Chicago area. The Pantry is running low on food, and now needs YOUR help. There will be a DRIVE-THRU FOOD COLLECTION on SUNDAY, JULY 19, from 1 pm – 4 pm. You can make food (non-perishable items) or monetary (cash or checks made out to St. Cyprian's Food Pantry) donations by driving to the Food Pantry entrance, behind the church. A Food Pantry volunteer will accept your donation.

Many of these people are your neighbors and they can use your help. One necessity that cannot be delayed is paying for groceries for themselves and their family. Through no fault of their own these people, very suddenly lost their source of income. Helping to restock the shelves of St. Cyprian's Food Pantry will help them with this very immediate need. For more information call 773.283.9178

NACHRICHTEN AUS BERLIN

JULY 2020



Insights and experiences from ELCA missionaries Marissa and Viking Dietrich in Berlin where Viking serves as Regional Representative in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Global Mission.

Dear Friends,

Our times continue to be “uncertain,” “troubling,” and “difficult.” Today, the EU opens its borders with member countries, and 15 other countries declared “safe.” The United States did not make the list of safe countries. Friends and relatives in the USA are in our prayers as they struggle to contain the spread of the virus which has already killed over 100,000 Americans.

The ELCA continues to be functioning according to CDC guidelines as well as state laws, and international travel restrictions for Global Mission personal continue to be in effect through July. Not only are we working from home and conducting our work via video conferencing, but other ELCA pastors working in Europe and the Middle East also continue to create online worship and use other online strategies to shepherd their communities. Each week, we hold a “virtual” gathering of ELCA leaders in our region, just to check in with one another and offer mutual support.

Many of us continue learning how to use online formats for our work. Recently, with the knowledge that many of the seminars and conferences planned for the coming year will need to be done online, ELCA Missionary Robert Moore (Director of the ELCA Wittenberg Center), Inken Woehlbrand (Director of the LWF Wittenberg Center), and I participated in such a training. In her practice session, Inken shared this image of a shepherd, with the one-word caption, “Hirtenlos”, or “shepherdless.” She asked us if we could identify with the image. Can you? Yes, at home, at our desks every day, we seem to be getting inundated with more emails and requests from colleagues, and we feel distracted from our ministries. The temptation is to get back to “normal”, but the pandemic is still a threat to lives, and it is likely that the way forward will not be a simple return to the past. Have we learned new ways to be the church during this crisis?

I have been impressed with the creativity and boundless efforts being undertaken by so many in so many different settings to create worship and other congregational events with online formats. Listening to pastors, I hear them saying online worship has enabled them to reach many more people than they usually would on a Sunday morning, but they are also saying it is difficult and stressful to work in this new format every week.

Could I record a reading of a lesson, intercessory prayers, or a sermon, and send it to you to use in your online worship? I want to thank all of you who support the work of the ELCA’s Global Mission through prayer, and important financial contributions.

—Viking and Marissa Dietrich



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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