

October 2020 Newsletter

A Word from Interim Pastor Kim



“Lutheranism is a river, not a monument.”

It was the late Swedish bishop Krister Stendahl gave us this image for a reformation that is always reforming! Another saying that goes along with that one might be: “You never step into the same river twice.”

If this year has been about anything at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston, it has been about God’s power to re-shape your life together. Between Pastor Fry’s departure, the radical differences in the way you are worshiping and re-shaping your mission and ministry in these days of the Covid pandemic, taking up the charge to become more and more anti-racist individuals in an anti-racist church, and now anticipating the active phase of a call process for a settled pastor... you are in the white-water rapids of this river!

We celebrate the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation every year on Halloween. Martin Luther posted his 95 statements for church reform on the front door of the All Saints Church, or “Castle Church” in Wittenburg on All Hallows Eve, or the Eve of All Saints day, because that was a day that people would flock to church for the church’s name feast day as well as to remember the saints. It was sure to get attention. Martin Luther knew the power of the laity for reform.

On Reformation Sunday, we will begin a season of considering the power of generosity, the sharing of our gifts of time, talent and treasure given to us by God to shape and reshape our world and our life together. Together the people of God at Immanuel make a difference to one another and in the world. You’ll hear stories of that impact, and be asked to consider the impact you can make for the sake of love in your callings to share your life with others. What does it mean to be a reforming church today? What is God doing with us to reach the world with God’s message of love and life? How have you experienced God with us in Christ at Immanuel this season? What you are able to release into the world today is the seed that will bear fruit in the seasons to come.

The reformation is always reforming! I find it interesting that it is in the company of those who have gone before, the blessed saints, our founders, that we honor and celebrate the past of the church primarily by letting ourselves critique it, explore and examine where there is need of change, and let ourselves be drawn into the river of

God's future. My ordination sponsor, The Rev. Dr. Joseph Sittler, once shared the origins of the word "emerging". Emerging deals with what is being pulled out from the front, he said, not what is being pushed from behind. The Holy Spirit is always working, I believe, at that kind of change. We are being pulled into God's future by the Spirit.

We can't step into the same river twice. But knowing that it is the baptismal river, where God has claimed us forever, helps us take the plunge. It is an exciting, and important, time to be at Immanuel. God is with us.

*Interim Pastor Kim Beckmann
pastor@immanuelevanston.org*

October Sunday Scripture Readings

October 4, St. Francis Day

Micah 6:6-8
Psalm 9:1-10
Galatians 6:14-18
Matthew 11:25-30

October 18, Pentecost 20

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]
I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22



October 11, Pentecost 19

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 25, Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-24
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

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

Worship Matters



October 4th – Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi – PET BLESSING!

What a great year to be able to bless our pets! On our zoom worship, we are not limited by which pets will behave well at church! This Sunday in our pandemic season we can share the life and love we hold for our fish tanks, our turtles, our cats, hamsters, ferrets, birds and any other creature that shares our home!

At the time of pet blessing, you will be asked to "raise your hand" on zoom, and you can either bring the pet to the laptop, or take your device to your pet! We will celebrate the gifts of all creation, bless our beloved pets, and pray with St. Francis that God makes us instruments of peace.

October 11th – Feasts and Banquets! God prepares a fabulous meal for all.... and we share it!

We'll hear about God's work of setting a feast and our response to that invitation. We will follow worship with a **God's Work Our Hands Zoom-a-thon fundraiser** for front-line meals at Swedish Covenant to bring award winning Prairie Grass Cafe nourishment to medical staff there as they bring healing in a time of Covid.



October 18th – Pastor Robert Biekman, Director of Evangelical Mission at Metro Chicago Synod preaches and presides

Pastor Biekman is the synod staff person working with Immanuel's call process. Pastor Beckmann will be on vacation.

October 25th – Reformation Sunday: Alive in the Spirit — Active in Mission

The time of Covid re-shapes our celebration, but even more so we remember the ways God calls the church to new life in light of the Gospel through God's eternal Word and Jesus as the Word of Life among us.



We will be excited to premiere a joint choir video that will be used at both Immanuel and St. Paul worship. This is the opening day of our stewardship season. Steadfast in God's Word, we will hear how we remain Alive in the Spirit, and Active in Mission through the impact our congregation's worship life.



November 1st – Feast of All Saints

We lift up the newly baptized and the names of our blessed departed ones all held in the circle of God's eternal life. We bring the light which never dies to remember them.

To have a loved ones' name lifted up please fill out the (click) [Remembrances form](#) and email it to parish-admin@ilcevanston.org. If you're unable to use email, just give Jane a call at 847-212-4574 any day Monday – Friday from 9:30 am – 1 pm. Please

send/call your remembrances by Oct. 27th.

We would love to have the faces of your loved ones frame the anthem slide show as we remember the gift of their lives during the offertory. Rename the photo by the person's name as you would like it to appear in the slides Jimmy will create for the anthem. Send them by October 27th to [Jimmy's Dropbox for All Saints by clicking here.](#)

PASTOR KIM VACATION DAYS – OCTOBER 17-OCTOBER 22

Pastor Robert Biekman, Director of Evangelical Mission and Associate to the Bishop in our Conference, will be preaching and presiding on Sunday, October 18. Pastor Tim Brown at Trinity, Evanston, will be available for emergency pastoral care. You can reach Pastor Brown at 847-673-8564.



God's Work Our Hands 2020 Covid Edition

Join us, Sunday, OCTOBER 11th following worship at 11:30 am for a ZOOM-A-THON Benefitting Meals for Medical Workers at Swedish Covenant Hospital.

- **Celebrate God's Work connected to Our Hands** with a Faith That Feeds!
- **Join hands with friends to raise \$1,200** over Coffee Hour to
- **Provide meals to TWO shifts at Swedish Covenant** doing God's Work of healing and wholeness during our pandemic – a week's worth of fuel – provided by Prairie Grass Cafe.
- **Multiply those healing and whole-making hands** with the involvement of local food growers and server's hands as we uphold them with generosity!
- **Hear from those preparing and receiving the meals...**

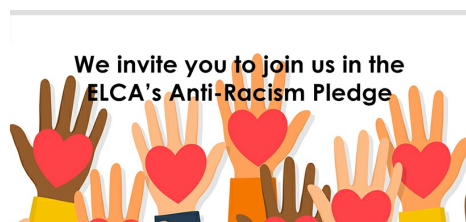


We are looking for anyone willing to provide small moments of entertainment! Card tricks! Music! Hands! If you have a few minutes worth of entertainment to share while pledges roll in please contact Charly at csy771@northwestern.edu
Just click - [God's Work Our Hands GoFundMe page](#) already set up and ready to share!

Anti-Racism Initiative

At its August 23, 2020 meeting, Immanuel's church council approved a motion that Immanuel:

1. Join other ELCA congregations in signing the [ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge](#) as Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston,
2. hold ourselves accountable within the life of our congregation to continue this work of becoming anti-racist,
3. encourage individuals to sign the ELCA Anti-Racism pledge, and
4. continue to provide opportunities for support, growth and accountability for our



members in becoming anti-racist individuals in an anti-racist church.

Further, in order to facilitate Immanuel's implementation of the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge, council approved the formation of a task force. Ten people have enthusiastically volunteered to join the task force, with its first meeting scheduled for September 29th. The task force co-conveners are Charly Yarnoff and Susan Ross.

While the task force works to discern how best to implement our anti-racism work at Immanuel, individuals are invited to commit to one or more action, such as study, prayer, learning and advocacy. Other actions include joining community groups working for racial justice and building or deepening relationships with Historic Black Churches.

Here are some updates on recent activities:

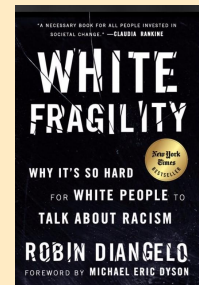
- **Education.** Many thanks to Diane Keely, who is leading a discussion of Robin DiAngelo's bestselling book, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Details of that discussion group appear elsewhere in this issue of *God's Hands*. This is a great opportunity to learn and share within a supportive, Christ-centered environment.
- **Building Relationships with Historic Black Churches.** As part of Immanuel's intention to begin building relationships with historic African Descent congregations in our community, church council approved a donation of \$138 from the Evangelism budget in order to participate as Immanuel Lutheran in the Ebenezer AME 5k virtual run/walk celebrating their 138th anniversary and partnership with Family Promise Chicago North Shore. The congregation hosted an outdoor service of lament for Jacob Blake on August 30th, and at least one member of Immanuel was in attendance. We look forward to other opportunities to deepen our relationship with Ebenezer AME and other Historic Black Churches.
- We encourage everyone to sign the [ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge](#) (click on the icon above) and participate in Immanuel's Anti-Racism activities!
- Our next meeting is Oct. 20, 7 pm - 8:30 pm.

Susan Ross

White Fragility Book Discussion #2

Tuesday, October 13, 7-8 pm
Diane Keely, Discussion Leader

This non-fiction best seller has led to many important conversations across the US since its publication in 2018. Our church community's second discussion of *White Fragility* will cover Chapters 4-7. We look forward to sharing more thoughts, perspectives, questions, memories. Join us!



Chapter 4. How Does Race Shape the Lives of White People, pp. 51-69

belonging – freedom from the burden of race – freedom of movement – just people – white solidarity – the good old days – white racial innocence – segregated lives

Chapter 5. The Good/Bad Binary, pp. 71-87

"I was taught to treat everyone the same." – "I marched in the sixties." – "I was the minority at my school, so I was the one who experienced racism." – "My parents were not racist, and they taught me not to be racist." – "Children today are so much more open." – "Race has nothing to do with it." – "Focusing on race is what divides us." – In Conclusion

Chapter 6. Anti-Blackness, pp. 89-98

Chapter 7. Racial Triggers for White People, pp. 99-106

To get to know author Robin DiAngelo and her personal history and professional development, here are some videos and interviews you can watch whenever you like. There are more options on YouTube.

- Michel Martin Extended Conversation with Robin DiAngelo on “White Fragility”/ Amanpour and Company, Jun 12, 2020 (17:13), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx-gUfQx4-Q&t=592s>
- Dr. Robin DiAngelo on “Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism”/Justice Reconciliation, Jan 17, 2020 (1:04:02), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0Bw0hiDFI4&t=89s>
- “A Discussion About Race” with Beverly Daniel Tatum and Robin DiAngelo/American Council on Education, Apr 9, 2019 (1:01:26), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsxy_ah6g2A
- “Deconstructing White Privilege” with Dr. Robin DiAngelo/General Commission on Religion and Race of the UMC, Mar 20, 2020 (20:01), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7mzj0cVL0Q&t=144s>
- Authors Robin DiAngelo and Ibram X. Kendi on “How to Become Aware of Privilege”/CBS This Morning, Jun 5, 2020 (6:30), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dteOQPzc_so&t=210s

We’ll meet again for our final Zoom discussion on **Tuesday, November 10** (covering chapters 8-12). There will be an email reminder before this discussion. Thanks go out to Charly Yarnoff who manages the Zoom links for our meetings. If you have questions, you can reach me at dianekeely@hotmail.com or 847.491.9144. Feel free to join the conversation on October 13 even if you missed the first meeting!

Diane Keely

October Birthdays

Andrea Knohl 10/1

Fran Bushhammer 10/16

Mark Kearns 10/14

Andrea Lamberg 10/17

Letitia Carlson 10/24

John Fridner 10/28



Community Notices

Click to read [notices](#) about Samara Grief Counseling, Connections for the Homeless Covid 19 Crisis Relief, Lutheran Campus Ministry @ Northwestern, and Grace Lutheran Church's Little Free Food Pantry

Blessing of Quilts

We blessed 120 quilts during the September 20th worship service. A big thank you for all the sewing skills and prayers that made these quilts possible!

The quilts from the previous year's efforts have been delivered to a warehouse in Elgin and will soon be on their way to Lutheran World Relief. Are you wondering where our past quilts have gone? The quilts from 2019 have arrived in Iraq, Georgia (the one in Europe) and Chile. Where do you think the 2020 batch will end up?



Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth Discussions Explore the Lectionary

JOIN US ON ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS!
(NO GATHERING ON OCTOBER 21)

7pm - 8 pm Brief check in and gathering prayer, and time around the Word. We discuss one or more of the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.

8 pm - 8:15 pm For those who would like to extend, a time for prayer on our thanksgivings, sorrows, personal and communal needs, prayers for our congregation, our society and ourselves, with a compline hymn and benediction to give us peace through the night.

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>. Look for the weekly eblast or go to www.immanuelevanston.org/calendar for the zoom links and info.



Call Committee

The work that goes into finding a new Pastor isn't all about talking to candidates or done only by the Call Committee. The Call Committee thanks all of those who continue to pray for us and for Immanuel's discernment process, those who offer words of encouragement, and those who are giving their time & talents to the process.

Many of Immanuel's members have updated their information on REALM and added a photograph. Tom Couch produced a video

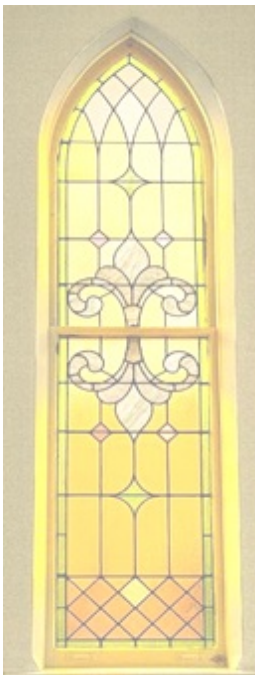


using photographs taken by Joe Simchak. The video was shown during Coffee Hour on 9/27 and will be shared with pastor candidates as an introduction to the building and Immanuel's ministries. The Property Committee and individuals including Laurie Stivers and Kathy Skelton are spending time & energy working to clean up the church building with the goal of getting it "tour ready."

There's lots to do and more hands are most welcome! At the end of September, the Call Committee (Tom Couch, Chris Djuric, Anne Heider, Tyler Heyl, Michael Kloster, Lisa Larson) completed initial interviews with two candidates and are in the process of deciding on our next steps in the discernment process.

Lisa Larson

Reopening Task Force Updates: Survey Results; Zoom Cottage Meeting on Oct. 8th



A little more than six months ago, Immanuel's council took two steps to respond to the rapidly developing global pandemic: we voted to suspend all in-person worship and we also voted to suspend group activities in the church building.

In May, Bishop Curry and his staff at the Metropolitan Chicago Synod released guidance about how congregations could make plans and decisions to reopen their buildings and resume normal in-person activities in a way that protects the health and safety of all people. In June, Council established a Reopening Task Force to interpret this synod guidance and develop our own plan. Three people were appointed to serve on this Task Force: Greg Hummel, Kit McCarthy, and Grace Yarnoff.

Over the following weeks, they studied the guidance from the synod, consulted with many constituent groups and individuals within the congregation, and conducted a careful survey of the entire congregation. ([Click here for Survey results](#)) This was all intense and difficult work, and on behalf of the congregation I want to give my deep thanks to Greg, Kit, and Grace, along with Steve Warner who assisted with the survey.

Last Sunday, Sept. 20th, the Task Force presented a motion about reopening to the Council which was approved. Based upon the views of congregation members expressed in the survey and upon the guidance offered by the synod, Council decided it would be best for Immanuel to continue to worship remotely through the end of the year and then at that time re-evaluate our options as we prepare for our annual congregation meeting.

Second, we will explore technological enhancements that can improve our remote worship experience and help us prepare for the future possibility that we will have a hybrid form of worship with some people worshipping in person while others are joining online. Third, for any group (internal or external) which wants to have an in-person event, the Re-opening Task Force will act as a consultant to ensure the event will be conducted in line with synod health and safety guidance; the Task Force will also help them prepare a proposal to council that would allow for such an event on a one-off, ad hoc basis, subject to Task Force's approval of the plan.

Finally, we want to give the congregation an opportunity to review the results of the survey and think about this motion that was approved by council and then discuss with one another. To that end, Pastor Kim and I will be hosting a **Zoom meeting for the**

congregation on Thursday, October 8th at 7 pm to review the results of the congregational survey and the motion approved by council, and to hear your comments and questions. **Please plan on joining us at that time.**

Again, I thank the members of the Task Force for their work on this challenging topic, and I thank all the people of Immanuel for their patience, flexibility, and resilience during this time.

Scott Romans
President, Congregational Council

Join Zoom Meeting on Reopening Immanuel

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8478307284?pwd=YkFYc092aHRsM2V3bnJ6QXd1cWpYdz09>

or dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 847 830 7284

Passcode: 112966

WE ARE ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT - AND ACTIVE IN MISSION! STEWARDSHIP SEASON AT IMMANUEL BEGINS REFORMATION SUNDAY

The church is anything but closed! God continues to call us into God's future alive in the spirit, and active in Immanuel's core identity and our mission. We are Alive in the Spirit, and Active in Mission as we: Worship God, Build Community, Welcome All and Work for Social Justice.

This year in our temple talks we lift up our shared life and the active impact made when we worship God with offerings of our selves, our time, and our possessions; signs of God's love to us. Join us for the kick off on Reformation Sunday and look for more details to come.

State of the Synod Video Event

The 2020 Synod Assembly has been postponed.

Nonetheless, the bishop and synod staff are planning to offer some virtual time for MCS members and congregations to reflect and celebrate.

On October 3 at 10:30 AM, we will be premiering a video event on the MCS Facebook and YouTube pages. You may watch the video, commenting and participating with others as it is premiered, or you may watch it after the event at a time that is convenient for you.

The video itself will highlight stories from MCS congregations, songs submitted from various ends of the synod, and brief reports from the bishop and synod staff. Think of it as an audio and visual online celebration of God's Spirit at work in and through our communities and at the synodical level. The video will be accompanied by a full written report from the bishop.



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*



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Give