

January 2021 Newsletter

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS!

A Word from Interim Pastor Kim

THE EPIPHANY STAR RISES ON A SEASON OF REVELATION

Last Sunday our children led us into the season with their stars. They were scratching the surface to reveal something previously covered, now newly exposed, as part of the beautiful pattern of life revealed as the story of God's love for the world.



This is the season for letting our selves see beyond the surface, and being led into a deeper reality of God's hopes for us, in the gift of Jesus.

Have you ever been snorkeling? Every time I put my snorkel mask on, and stick my face in the water, I find myself amazed at this life, this incredible world of reefs and fish that was going on all the time under the seemingly flat surface of a bay above. Who knew?? The Epiphany season revealing the love and grace of God is also like that: redeeming, transforming, creative work going on all the time, whether we are aware of it or not. We pray to have our eyes opened to it, to see it in Jesus, to find ourselves tuned into the music of the universe that is the song of all creation.

This ongoing revelation is also the life of Immanuel. It seems as though every conversation I've had, even though I've just scratched the surface of your lives over a telephone wire, has revealed your individual giftedness and passion for the world God loves in our work, and abundant gifts I've already discovered are part of your life together, built over time by faithful stewards and members. Even though I've only gotten to know you as a "zoom church", wherever I "stick my face in the water" here I see a depth of giftedness, joy and commitment to sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus.

In this season of pastoral transition, in the middle of a global pandemic, as we experience ever more clearly the racial and economic injustice revealed in this crisis, we've made opportunities together to gain perspective and more deeply reflect on what is exposed about God's rule and will in this coming of Jesus to bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. As you meet a pastoral candidate, and have them get to know you, what even more amazing, surprising gifts of God's ongoing grace may we encounter when you stick your faces in the water of the baptismal life and immerse ourselves in this season of transition and revelation at this time in Immanuel's story?

Your generosity, the wealth of amazing talent, and deep pools of leadership and commitment reveals God's own abundant life and poises Immanuel to live out its calling now and into the future. Through you, God works in the life of this congregation and the life of this world, each a piece of the truth and beauty that is God's revelation of love. This is how our God works.

Epiphany calls us into a new perspective. This is a time to show up to God's future. There's a world of God's loving and gracious activity going on all around us, all the time. Prepare to be inspired. Prepare to be dazzled. May the light of Christ reveal that rich and amazing world in this season and throughout this new year.

January Sunday Scripture Readings

January 3, Epiphany Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
Matthew 2:1-12

January 10, Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 17, Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24, Epiphany 3

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
Psalm 62: 5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 31, Epiphany 4

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 11
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

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



Worship Matters

Sundays in January, 10:30 am on Zoom

January 3, EPIPHANY SUNDAY

We observed the rising of the star, and the feast of Epiphany, with news of a pastoral candidate on Immanuel's horizon.

January 10, BAPTISM OF OUR LORD: CHALK THE DOOR AND LIGHT THE WORLD!

We step over the threshold into a New Year of God's love at Immanuel and bless the portal to our assembly with an Epiphany church blessing. How will you chalk and mark the lintel and doorway into our zoom church? A doorway that invites others into worship? Creativity is encouraged! Click on the door photo for a special blessing!



We will also be remembering our baptisms this week. Bring a bowl of water, and some way to "let your light so shine"! Suggestions: halo virtual filter, cell phone flashlight, last of the Christmas lights, a candle!

January 17, 2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – WORSHIP LED BY YOUR PASTORAL CANDIDATE AND CALL VOTE SUNDAY

Jesus approaches the disciples and invites them to "Come and See". Please mark your calendars and attend worship, as your candidate for pastoral leader brings the Word. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Renewer of Society, is commemorated on January 15 and remembered by the church.

January 24, 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

What makes the call so compelling? Jesus also calls Immanuel into the ministry of discipleship in these days.

January 31, 4th SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY

Worship is disrupted as Jesus stops to provide healing in the midst of the chaos. In this pandemic year, on Reconciling in Christ Sunday we celebrate the ways Jesus has

shown up as we've shown up together to continue Jesus' healing ministry to one another and our community.

Sunday School News

Wanna teach?

Our Sunday school has continued to meet twice a month, just prior to worship, over zoom. We give thanks for our teachers, Susan Ross and Tyler Heyl, and our students in the Kloster and Hanson/Yarnoff households. Immanuel is in need of another Sunday School teacher. Please let Pastor Kim, or Susan or Tyler know if you might be interested!



Midweek Gathering

The Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth Discussion on Wednesdays will resume our gatherings for prayer, check in, and conversation around the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.

On January 13th, instead of our usual gathering, you're encouraged to attend another virtual event, *Dismantling White Supremacy in the Church: A Conversation with Rev. Lenny Duncan*, sponsored by the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University. Please scroll down further in this Newsletter for details.



JOIN US ON ZOOM

- 7:00 – 7:45 pm: Brief check in and gathering prayer, and time around the Word.
- 7:45 – 8:15 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.
- We'll take up lessons from our lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.
- 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>

January Music at Immanuel

The new year has kicked into full gear with new choir anthems and music awaiting each zoom service to its fullness. The choir celebrated Epiphany with the beloved favorite of Martin Shaw's "Kings of Glory" story telling anthem of the wise seekers following the star.

The Baptism of our Lord will be greeted musically with a Richard Shephard setting of the Christmas Carol "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day," which chronicles the birth of Christ into His baptism with a lovely refrain, "Sing O my Love, This Have I done for my true love." The rest of the month continues with the faithful Anton Brickney motet "Locus Iste" (This place was made by God, an inestimably holy place. It is without blame.) and a John Nares (1715-1783) setting of Psalm 139:23-24: Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart: prove me, and examine my thoughts. Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

The choir will close the month with a new original work by Mark Schweizer called "Undivided Mystery". This sweeping melody gracefully summarizes the Holy Trinity over a waltz-like motion. We look forward to sharing this beautiful music with you all.

If you missed it, here's a link to the Silent Night Assembly Video which premiered on Christmas Eve. Thank you to all who submitted audio/video and to Jimmy, for compiling and editing the piece.

[Click to watch "Assembly Silent Night" video](#)

Reminder: Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 17th

As first announced during worship on January 3rd, I am delighted to report that council is recommending to the congregation that it call a specific candidate to serve as its next settled pastor. A Special Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, January 17th following worship at which the congregation will consider and vote upon council's recommendation. A separate email has been sent under my name providing details about the work of the call committee and council's recommendation. There are also a number of opportunities to learn more about the candidate and discuss with members of the call committee, as well as to prepare to vote by attending pre-meeting Zoom tutorials. If by chance you did not receive the separate email announcing the Special Congregational Meeting, please be sure to contact Jane or myself as soon as possible.

Scott Romans
President, Congregational Council
president@immanuelevanston.org

Important Events

Sunday, January 10th, at coffee fellowship following worship: talk with call committee members during break-out sessions

Thursday, January 14th, 7:00 p.m.: Pre-meeting Zoom Tutorial

Saturday, January 16th, 10:00 a.m.: Pre-meeting Zoom Tutorial

Saturday, January 16th, 2:00 p.m.: Zoom Meet-and-Greet with the specific candidate

Sunday, January 17th, 10:30 a.m.: The specific candidate presides and preaches during worship

Sunday, January 17th, at coffee fellowship following worship: The specific candidate meets the community and answers any further questions

Sunday, January 17th, following coffee fellowship: Special meeting of the congregation to consider motion to call the specific candidate

Immanuel ANNUAL MEETING Events

IMMANUEL BUDGET PREVIEW MEETING JANUARY 24th at 11:30 am following worship

Immanuel's budget for 2021 is our Mission Plan for the year. As we prepare for the Annual Meeting, please attend to become informed, ask questions and consider how the congregation is receiving and allocating resources to support our core mission, ministry and life at Immanuel. Materials will be sent prior to the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

IMMANUEL 2021 ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 31st
at 11:30 am following worship

The annual meeting reviews accomplishments of 2020, and sets the course for the year ahead in God's grace and call to us as a congregation. An agenda and materials for the meeting will be sent electronically later this month.

All are welcome to attend. A reminder that Voting Members are confirmed members who have communed and made an offering of record through the congregation in this or the preceding year.

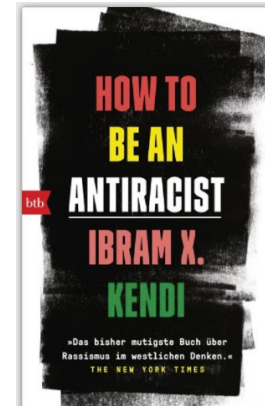
Anti-Racism Initiatives

New Book Discussion

As a follow-up to our Fall discussions of the book *White Fragility*, starting in January we will hold three monthly discussions of Ibram X. Kendi's 2019 best-seller *How to Be an Antiracist*.

As one reviewer comments, "Ibrahim Kendi uses his own life journey to show us why becoming an antiracist is as essential as it is difficult. Equal parts memoir, history, and social commentary, this book is honest, brave, and most of all liberating."

The book is available in hardcover, ebook, and audiobook.



We will discuss *How to Be an Antiracist* in three 1-hour Zoom sessions in January, February, and March. **The first session will be Tuesday, January 26th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.** The February and March dates will be announced later.

For the January session, please read the Introduction through Chapter 6 ("Body").

Melanie Anderson has volunteered to facilitate the discussions.

There will be an email reminder before each discussion. Charly Yarnoff will manage the Zoom links for the meetings. If you have questions, you can reach Melanie at melanieanderson3323@gmail.com, and Charly at csy771@northwestern.edu.

We hope you'll join members of our congregation and the larger church in this justice and peace initiative.

Melanie Anderson
Charly Yarnoff

Dismantling White Supremacy in the Church: A Conversation with Rev. Lenny Duncan

**Sponsored by Lutheran Campus
Ministry at Northwestern University**

**Wednesday, Jan. 13th
7:00-8:00 pm
Registration required by Jan. 11th**

In place of our usual Midweek Gathering, we encourage you to join this special Zoom presentation sponsored by the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University.

Reverend Lenny Duncan is an ordained ELCA pastor and author of *Dear Church: A Love Letter From A Black Preacher To The Whitest Denomination In The U.S.* In reviewing this book, Pastor Heidi Neumark of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan wrote:

"Lenny Duncan has given us a bold and fearless book filled with unsettling but indispensable insights into the stranglehold white supremacy inflicts upon our churches. At the same time, we feel a holy, ferocious love radiating from every page. This book should be required reading for all who love our church and lament our failures."

Rev. Duncan's presentation promises to be a thought-provoking and energizing opportunity for Immanuel members to follow through on our ongoing anti-racism efforts and to support Northwestern's Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Registration for this Zoom event is required. You can register by Monday, January 11th at this link: bit.ly/lcmduncan

DISMANTLING WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE CHURCH: A CONVERSATION WITH REV. LENNY DUNCAN

WED, JAN 13, 2021
7 PM - 8 PM CST ON ZOOM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register by 1/11 at bit.ly/lcmduncan

WRITER. WITNESS. AGITATOR.



Lenny is the author of "United States of Grace" & "Dear Church". Born on 62nd and Race in West Philly, he now lives in the Pacific Northwest. Lenny is a nationally recognized writer, speaker, preacher, thinker, and agitator who has centered most of his theological work in the task of dismantling White Supremacy in Christian community. Lenny is just another Black queer writer trying to survive America. He loves hip hop, tattoos, Jesus, liberation, and most likely you.

PRESENTED BY:

Northwestern MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AFFAIRS



HEROS Martin Luther King Legacy Workshop

Audrey Moy serves on the Education Committee of HEROS and is part of the organizing efforts of this event. She encourages the Immanuel Community to attend this important workshop.

Sunday, January 17th
2:00 – 4:00pm

Join us for a virtual anti-racism workshop to assess and honor Dr. King's legacy in our community. Take action on how we can achieve Dr. King's Beloved Community here in New Trier Township.

Five breakout rooms will include:

- Affordable Housing
- Local Education
- Hidden Stories: Researching Local History
- Civic Engagement
- Beginning Your Anti-Racism Journey

Register here

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtcO6pqDMuHNI1pQBH4Sn46c7eCTjUgeIz>

HEROS MLK LEGACY

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP MLK Weekend SUNDAY, JAN 17 2-4 pm

Our Focus

- ☆ Dr. King's 1965 speech in Winnetka
- ☆ Steps we can take locally to create Dr. King's "Beloved Community"

5 Breakout Rooms to Choose From

- Affordable Housing
- Local Education
- Hidden Stories: Researching Local History
- Civic Engagement
- Beginning Your Anti-Racism Journey

Healing
Everyday
Racism in
Our
Schools

Pulitzer winner Isabel Wilkerson to speak at U. of Chicago's MLK

commemoration



Join the University of Chicago as we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and reflect on our collective responsibility to work towards a more equitable society.

Keynote Speaker: Isabel Wilkerson

Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 6 p.m. CT

Virtual Event - to register, please click [here](#). The event, which is free and open to the public, will be livestreamed via the University of Chicago's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Captioning will be available.

Council Candidate Introductions

The Nominating Committee (Dana Barron, Sara Krentz, Scott Romans, and Charly Yarnoff) is pleased to announce the following candidates for election to Council at the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021. To help you get to know them, this year we invited the candidates to write brief statements about themselves and their time and involvement at Immanuel.

Steve Warner

My wife, Anne Heider, and I have lived in Evanston since 1980. Neither of us has a Lutheran background. In 1992, invited by Lee and Ruth Wilkinson, we first visited Immanuel, and we visited more and more frequently over the ensuing years. We began pledging in 1995, and joined the congregation in 1997.

I have served two terms on Council, in (to the best of my recollection) 1999-2002 and 2010-2013. On the council, I have served as secretary.

My busiest time at Immanuel was serving on the Youth Advisory Board in 2002-2009. The youth group sponsored Immanuel's Indoor Farmers Market in November, when we offered the "Cheap Eats Café," and cooked for "Souper Bowl" and the annual Easter Breakfast. In 2003, along with Susan Ross, I was one of two chaperones of Immanuel's delegates to the Youth Gathering in Atlanta. That was a very rewarding experience.

During the 2013-2014 Pastoral Search process, I served on the Ministry Site Profile committee, for which I helped design and administer a congregational survey. I then served on the call committee that brought Pastor Keith Fry. Early in 2020, I assisted the Ministry Site Profile Committee to design and administer another congregational survey.

In 2014-2015, I was Immanuel's liaison to Evanston First Night and organized volunteers for those two New Year's Eve celebrations.

In 2016, I was a delegate (with Sara Krentz) to the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly.

In 2019-2020, I was a volunteer for Immanuel's Friday afternoon warming shelter. When we return to the building, I will resume my duties as an usher.

Grace Yarnoff

I've been a member of Immanuel my entire life. I was baptized at Immanuel, married there, and am now lucky enough to have baptized and be raising my son, Logan, at

Immanuel as well. I am currently a graduate student at UIC working towards becoming a Doctor of Nursing Practice with a focus in Midwifery. My most recent involvement in church leadership activities has included serving a first term on church council, being a member of the Active Welcome Task Force, as well as working with the Reopening Task Force during the pandemic. I look forward to continuing to serve in whatever way I can!

January Birthdays

Caroline Nakic 1/3
Nicolai Schousboe 1/3
George Otto 1/6
Rachel Tollett 1/8
Sara Krentz 1/11
Jim McCarthy 1/12
Elizabeth McDaniel 1/13
Jessica Nakic 1/27
Ryan Knohl 1/29



Community Thank You to Immanuel



Click to read letters from our community partners.

Realm Reminder

Just a reminder to everyone that Immanuel has an online directory. Have you checked out your entry yet? Quite a few of us have updated our entry in 2020. The online directory has an advantage that it can be updated at any time, but it is important to make sure your entry is up to date. You can access the directory by going to onrealm.org.



If you have never accessed it, or have forgotten your ID and password, contact our Parish Administrator Jane by email at parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org or call her at 847-212-4574. She can help you with your ID (which is just your email address) and password.

When you get in, please update your photo, especially if it is now blank. You can also add a second photo of your whole family or showcase a hobby. Once you get in, if you still need assistance, contact Bert Mount (847) 767 5732 and she can help you with how to update the data and how to put in the photo.

Thursdays Coffee & Connections

On Thursday mornings at 9:30 am, we're offering a new weekly Zoom fellowship opportunity for anyone who'd like to join in. We're all pretty much stuck at home for most of our days, so why not make a cup of coffee



or tea and settle in for a little check-in? It's a chance to see how everyone is doing, to maybe ask for a little help with something and share how we're coping and passing our time.

This group is hosted by Linda Edlund. Drop in!

[Click to Join Zoom Coffee & Connections](#)

Pandemic Prose

Patience...

The not-normal Christmas and not-normal New Years are behind us now and, as I write, it's another cold, dreary day outside. I've got a three-day supply of sunshine in my heart, now depleted, and my inner sprite, Our Lady of Perpetual Cheerfulness, seems to have left town. (No worries, she'll be back!). News reports remind us we've been living in COVID mode for 10 months, but it feels so much longer. I've grown weary of making the best of things, and let's just say the novelty of hunkering down has faded.

This time has brought great and pervasive loss--empty chairs at holiday tables when loved ones died or stayed home, arts and concerts and theater venues shuttered and on life support; large and small businesses closed, restaurants lost and empty. And we still have to wait for this to be over.

Patient waiting is not my strong suit, but when I look at what patient waiting has brought in these last months, there's much that's good. There are dear ones who've stayed safe and healthy, if bored and sometimes lonely. Ironically, via Zoom, there are some people I feel closer or more connected to. We're on the brighter side of the longest night; we waited for the Baby Jesus, and he came to us again. We've waited for vaccines and now we've got places in line, even if we don't know the details yet. There's a new pastor ready for our call to him.

Hang in there! Remember, there is nowhere we can be where our loving God is not with us, including in the 'hunkering down' and the winter.

Linda Edlund

Community Opportunities

Walk for Warmth 2021, North Shore Exploring Grief Group, Spiritual Training

Upcoming Event for Interfaith Action of Evanston
Walk for Warmth (on wheels) on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021

- When: January 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 11:00am-12:00pm
- Where: Evanston, starting at the Civic Center
- What: Drive in a "parade" the 2-mile circuit of IAE overnight shelters.
- Who: Families, folks, and youth of all ages can show compassion and creativity by decorating their car and driving all or part of the route.
- Why: On MLK's National Day of Service, January 18, Walk for Warmth on

Wheels will be raised for funds to operating the Emergency Shelters and heighten community awareness of people in Evanston who are homeless

- Please consider donating by clicking [here](#).


WALK FOR WARMTH ON WHEELS

We need your help! Evanston's people who are homeless need a warm place to sleep. Please donate to make it happen.



Start at the Civic Center and drive along the route to see the six faith communities that host our shelter. Or, just sponsor a participant.

Pre-registration is required. There will be no on-site registration. Click here to register and/or donate: <https://tinyurl.com/IAEWqWzj>

Or to donate on your smartphone: Text GIVE to 847-780-2106



JANUARY 18, 2021
11 AM to 12 PM
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
A Family Friendly Event
Civic Center Parking Lot
2100 Ridge Ave.

North Shore Exploring Grief Group



SamaraCare Counseling
Formerly Samaritan Counseling Center

Are you or someone you know grieving the loss of a family member, partner, or friend? If so, find comfort and support in SamaraCare's North Shore Exploring Grief Group. This program is offered virtually in two 8-week sessions. These local congregations have come together to sponsor this program, making it available at no cost to participants.

Our Exploring Grief Group provides a confidential, educational, and non-judgmental environment. It encourages attendees to cope with their loss and continue to find meaning in their lives. This group is facilitated by Joellen Houck, PhD, M.Div., LCPC, who has extensive experience counseling people in areas including grief and loss.

To register for either 8-week session, please contact Joellen at 847-446-6925, ext. 415 or Joellen@samaraconcounseling.org. Space is limited.

Sponsored by Christ Church Winnetka, Kenilworth Union Church, Winnetka Congregational Church


Meets Every Thursday 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Virtual Sessions!

Fall Session:
October 15, 22, 29
November 5, 12, 19
December 3, 10

Winter Session:
February 4, 11, 18, 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Starting 100% Spiritual Care Training at Bp. Anderson House




Are you looking for a way to keep connected during these long winter months? Do you have a heart that wants to be there for others, to listen and be present? If so, Bishop Anderson House is offering our Spiritual Care Visitor Training Program, beginning on Saturday, January 30, 2021. The program begins via Zoom with a virtual retreat (these are mandatory sessions: January 30 - 10 AM - 12 PM and 1:30 - 3 PM; February 6 - 10:12. You will continue your training by taking seven online modules covering a variety of topics, completing two verbalisms, and providing two hours of spiritual care weekly via phone or videoconference at the direction of your faith community leader. A \$50 application fee is due when you apply to conduct a background check, which must successfully be completed prior to the start of the retreat. Please see our [website](#) for further details on the program or to begin your application. All applications are due Monday, January 18. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Lessner, Registrar, at 312-563-8825 or kim_lessner@bpah.org.

Creating a Healthy Society

Protect yourself and your neighbors – wear a mask, practice physical distancing and wash your hands. We all share the responsibility for creating a healthy society, as Martin Luther reminds us in his 1527 essay “Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague.”

All of us have the responsibility of warding off this poison to the best of our ability because God has commanded us to care for the body, to protect & nurse it so that we are not exposed needlessly.



- Martin Luther, 1527

Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague

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*



Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston, 616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201-4413, 847-864-4464
www.immanuelevanston.org



Give