

## February 2021 Newsletter

### A Word from Interim Pastor Kim...

#### **DEEPLY AND LOOSELY PART II**

Now is the time in interim ministry when we get to practice the “loosely” part of loving deeply but loosely as Sent people in the body of Christ.

When I wrote this paragraph for last May’s newsletter, I was thinking about Pastor Fry, and Pastor Lang, but knew it would eventually be about my own moving on as well, and all the leave-takings of life...



*The reign of God is on the move! By nature, the Holy Spirit is always breaking up "that ol' gang o' mine", sending us here and there like free-wheeling yeast spores to grow that kingdom, the kin-dom, of God. So those of us that are kin in this family of God, learn to love both deeply... and loosely. We can do that, because we know that near or far, in life or in death, the communion of saints keeps us one in the body. None of us is ever truly lost to one another. That doesn't mean we don't gulp hard and miss people when the faces and voices that have brought life and energy into our lives are no longer available on a daily basis. But it does give us a frame of faith to bring comfort, joy, the restoration of trust, and meaning to this letting go... a fact of life in the Body. It's a good skill to develop as the Holy Spirit is always mixing it up, keeping us loose, and sending us, in the promise that the ties that bind us are faith's assurance of being held tightly in God together forever.*

I appreciate that you have been willing to let me in, and that we’ve been able to go deep places together for the sake of the Gospel and staying afloat in pandemic days. Know I will always give thanks for our time together, and that the life we shared will ripple on as I come among other communities having had the experience of your giftedness. I’ve written in this year’s annual report about the way you’ve held together, and shown up for one another and for God’s sustaining grace. We’ll always have this: the year we shared that will only ever have taken place in the zoom church, mediated through the gift of technology in a cyberspace that is held by God. While we won’t have had the experience of each other that we might consider more “dimensional”, we surely have made the most of this time that was intimate, creative, and unique. My two prime directives for our time together were to “enrich zoom worship” and “keep us together”. As I’ve pointed out elsewhere, it was always your committed and vibrant presence, heart, soul and faith that has made that possible.

I give thanks for your staff: for Jane’s flexibility and skills as a communicator, layout artist and coordinator. For Jimmy’s extraordinary skill and good cheer in stepping way out of his job description to lead song and make every Sunday graphically and thematically inspiring. Greg and Laurie have reminded us of the heritage of Immanuel’s musical tradition in providing organ preludes. Sara has served as volunteer staff in bulletin preparation on the zoom worship team and in her tech deacon role that keeps us safe and smooth, and even watches out for us when we don’t know we’re off mute! Scott met with me weekly to coordinate council’s involvement in keeping our life-raft from taking on water. The personnel committee (Audrey, Sara and Scott) met quarterly to review priorities and assess how we had met them together. Susan made sure I got my check even by looping in family when the postal service let us down, and wrangled the benefits in a complicated set up. Tyler encouraged me in my videos. The Kloster and Yarnoff families made our Sundays joyful and spiritual growth supported.

*Continued on the next page....*

### Inside this issue

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- New Council Elected
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- HEROS Events
- Updating Realm

## Immanuel Events

Feb. 1		First Day of Black History Month
Feb. 3, 10	7:00 pm	Midweek Adult Spiritual Formation Gathering
Feb. 4, 18	10:30 am	Quilters on Zoom
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25	9:30 am	Coffee Connections
Feb. 17	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship
Feb. 21	Noon	Council Meeting
Feb. 23	7:00 pm	<i>How to Be an Antiracist</i> Book Discussion
Feb. 24	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Gathering
Feb. 28		Pastor Kim's Last Sunday



### A Word from Interim Pastor Kim, continued....

Each one of you played an important role in making this such a memorable year, which is the part that's always difficult about starting to name names. I have had wonderful conversations with so many of you it would take the entire directory to call the roll. All of you in various capacities who have seen what's needed and done it to keep Immanuel thriving, and together in this time of Covid. You should all be enormously proud of the whole-church effort that should give you great satisfaction and confidence in your new directions.

I give thanks for this life together we've shared and all your hospitality and receptiveness to building ministry together. Soon the new chapter unfolds as Pastor Mark begins ministry. This is a truly exciting time. You will all remain in my thought and prayer as together you continue to build Immanuel toward a future and new life God is always pulling us into!

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

## Music at Immanuel in February

February will greet us with another swath of wonderful anthems and music for our Zoom worship. We begin the month with a 16th century motet "Spirit of Mercy" by Jacques Arcadelt. For Transfiguration Sunday, the choir and Tom offer a Stephan Casurella anthem "O Love! O Life!"

For Ash Wednesday, we will join two Eastern Pennsylvania Lutheran congregations for a choral setting of "Create in Me A Clean Heart." In remembrance of the cherished Lutheran musician Carl Schalk, we will offer his anthem "As the Sun with Longer Journey." We close the month but begin Lent with Ronald Corp's new setting of "Take up your Cross." We welcome the instrumental offerings by Greg Hummel, Laurie Stivers and Christine Kraemer. We look forward to beginning our Lenten journey together.

## Worship Matters

### February 7<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – Service for Healing

Jesus turns from worship in Capernaum to find Peter's mother-in-law in need of a healing hand. When she rises to serve, Jesus turns to the crowds who come for healing. We too come to Jesus for tender mercies, in healing prayer.

You are invited to bring a small dish of oil if you would like to participate in anointing.



# Worship Matters...

## GET READY FOR LENT! PREPARE TO SAY FAREWELL TO THE ALLELUIA on February 14th

You're invited to make an ALLELUIA and find a box or folder to "bury" it in for the Lenten season. Be as creative as you wish- from a scribble on a piece of paper, to a coloring sheet, to a chain of letters, or a small sewn banner! Here are some links to coloring sheets!

<http://eastertemplate.com/easter-alleluia-coloring-page/>

<https://www.fun365.orientaltrading.com/download/easter-stained-glass-free-printable-coloring-page>

[http://www.mycatholicsource.com/mcs/pca/coloring\\_book\\_alleluia.htm](http://www.mycatholicsource.com/mcs/pca/coloring_book_alleluia.htm)

### February 14th – Transfiguration Sunday, and Valentine's Day!

Jesus shines with God's light on the mountaintop at the culmination of Epiphany's season of revelation. Prepare to sing the Alleluias with joy! We won't be saying it again until Easter! We'll hold up or point to our banners every time Alleluia appears, before we box them up and make them the secret of our hearts until Easter's feast.



And what do valentines have to do with the liturgy? We'll find out!

### February 21st – First Sunday in Lent

Every first Sunday in Lent we hear the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. This year, we hear it from the gospel of Mark, along with the story of Noah's Ark.

### February 28th – 2nd Sunday in Lent – Farewell to Pastor Kim

When we follow Jesus, discipleship leads us to the cross and through the cross, to the release of new life. Our service concludes with a thanksgiving for the completion of our sojourn in interim season, and a recognition of the conclusion of Pastor Kim's ministry among us.

## Alleluia Images for Easter

We are collecting images of everyone's "Alleluias". Please take a photo of a note, a craft project, something painted, or colored, or made to put away for lent and then I'll use the images during the Alleluia anthem on Easter Sunday. Please submit them to the Drop-box link provided! The more the better!

Here's the link to the Dropbox for collecting the Easter Alleluia pics:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/3FVIP6DfYkqX8VUffhGi>

### February 17th – Ash Wednesday

Worship at 7 pm

Join us for a brief service inviting us into the season of Lent. We enter the season confessing the ways we yearn to turn to God for life, and receiving the cup of blessing in Holy Communion. In this pandemic year, we will not be imposing ashes. The service will feature a special joint choir anthem with Immanuel members along with Christ Lutheran and other Allentown, Pennsylvania congregations to lead us into the season of meditation and renewal.

There may be a few congregations in the area you may hear of who are doing some drive by Ashes to Go. We'd love to circulate a list for those who would appreciate knowing of this option.

Our theme for the remaining Wednesdays will be "The Cup of Our Life"

### February 24th – Wednesday Midweek Worship

Worship at 7 pm

Week 1: *The Cup of Life: A Guide to Spiritual Growth*, by Joyce Rupp

Our simple mid-week gathering worship offers time for spiritual growth in Word, Song and Fellowship.

What cup will you bring as a symbol to Wednesday worship as "the cup of your life"? What is its story?

While it is not necessary in order to participate, Pastor Mark invites you to consider purchasing this daily/six week themed meditational resource for lent. Many used copies available! <https://www.amazon.com/Cup-Our-Life-Spiritual-Growth/dp/1933495316>



# We Remember the Life of Ernie LeVon

## Ernest F. LeVon

December 17, 1931—January 13, 2021

We give thanks for the life we shared with our brother in Christ, Ernie LeVon who died on January 13th. We commend him to God's loving care. In conversation with Ernie's wife Elizabeth Stegner, this passage from Colossians 3 came to mind as we reflected on Ernie's manner and life in God:

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*



A memorial service will be held as soon as it is safe to do so.

Ernie's son Steven LeVon and grandson Sam have sent the following obituary and asked us to share it with the congregation. The following is an obituary which was shared by Ernie's sons Steve and Sam LeVon:

Ernie LeVon fell asleep in Jesus on January 13, 2021, at the age of 89. He was born and grew up in Chicago, attending public schools, Steinmetz High School, and Wright Junior College. With younger brother Dick (Rollin), he joined Boy Scouts and built and flew model airplanes. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout. They also spent some happy summers at their family's farm in Marengo, Illinois, with Uncle Jamie, Aunt Elizabeth, and their cousin Edwin.

Ernie completed his Bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of Illinois. There he met his future wife, Georgine Stough. They moved to Ann Arbor when he entered graduate school at the University of Michigan. In Ann Arbor their son Steven was born, and Ernie completed his Ph.D. He was hired by G.D. Searle, a pharmaceutical company in Skokie, Illinois. They rented an apartment in Skokie, during which time Peter was born. They soon bought a house in Morton Grove, Illinois, and while there, Paul was born. From there they moved to Evanston, Illinois, where all three sons graduated from high school, having participated in scouting, music, sports, and various part-time jobs. During these years they took many family road trips to visit grandparents, other relatives, and several national parks in the U.S. and Canada, many times camping along the way in a tent.

After a divorce, Ernie married Verena Asher and moved into a home on Greeley Avenue in Evanston, which also became the last home of his dad, Walter LeVon. The three sons as well as stepson Bernhard would visit during vacations from college. When Ernie was awarded a management position in the Nutrasweet division of Searle, he and Verena moved to Frankfort, Illinois, south of Chicago, near the factory. He traveled to Japan several times to learn how to produce the sweetener in market quantities. After his retirement, he and Verena made a nationwide search for their dream retirement location. They eventually bought a log house in the Cascade Range of Washington state. In that lovely setting they learned storytelling and took guitar lessons, as well as entertaining relatives, sometimes for a week at a time. When Verena's health made it too difficult to continue the country life, they moved back to Evanston. Ernie cared for her at home until her death.

But that was not the end of the story, because he began dating Elizabeth Stegner. After they married, he moved into her condo, joined her art classes, did some traveling with her, and enjoyed getting to know her daughters, Martha and Sarah, and their families. When he and Elizabeth thought it would be best to move into a retirement community, they chose Westminster Presbyterian Home in Evanston. There they made new friends and got involved in various activities, including bus trips to the Art Institute and the Chicago Symphony. During 2020, Ernie received care in the assisted living unit and finally the memory care unit. Elizabeth was as involved as she could be, given the Covid restrictions, even sometimes testing the limits. He passed away peacefully, with Elizabeth at his bedside.

Ernie was an outdoorsman. He fished, hiked, camped, and canoed throughout his life, enjoying the wildlife and flowers along the way.

He was a patron and practitioner of the arts. He attended operas and symphony concerts with his wife and appreciated any public concert or private recital where his children or grandchildren performed. In retirement he picked up guitar, made a study of storytelling, and took lessons to develop his gift of drawing.

*Continued on next page...*

## February Scripture Readings

### February 7, Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

### February 21, Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15



### February 14, Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

### February 28, Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

### Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20 –6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 15-21

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

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### *We Remember the Life of Ernie LeVon, continued ...*

His profession was science. As a chemist he received 64 patents in 19 countries, including eight U.S. patents, during his career (news to his relatives today, because he never talked about them). He kept so quiet about his achievements that, in high school chemistry one day, my teacher announced to the class that he had just heard my dad give a presentation at Northwestern University—Dad had never said a word about it to me. But science was also a hobby to him. Not only did he do science demos for his sons' Cub Scout dens, but he also carefully considered any phenomenon that arose in his everyday life, trying to figure out what caused it. His enthusiastic use of Equal from the time it hit the market may have been a personal experiment to test the long-term safety of NutraSweet.

He was also astute in business, patriotic, and he kept himself informed on current events. But perhaps first of all, he was a family man. He regularly visited his parents and never missed the family parties for birthdays and holidays. He took us to Indiana for his mother's family reunions as long as they continued. He looked up relatives when traveling through states as far-flung as Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Washington, and New Jersey, as well as Switzerland. Many of our family vacations were spent exploring Florida and New Mexico while visiting our grandparents in those states. And 18 days before he left us, he summoned his failing faculties to recognize, greet, and encourage his wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in an online meeting, since no one was allowed to visit him due to the pandemic precautions..



## Council News

The new Council for 2021-22 was elected at the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2021, and will be installed on Sunday, February 7th. Steve Warner was newly elected.

We thank the following outgoing Council members as their terms of service end: Greg Hummel, Sara Krentz, and Erik Shearer.

**2020–21**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church of Evanston**

**Leadership**

Grace Yarnoff, *Congregation President*

Melisa Larson, *Congregation Vice President*

Scott Romans, *Congregation Secretary*

Dana Barron, Tom Couch, Linda Edlund,  
Bert Mount, Jim Skelton, Steve Warner  
*Congregation Council Members*

Susan Ross, *Treasurer*

Mary Ann Kearns, *Financial Secretary*

Elizabeth Stegner, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hal Larson 2/1

Linnea Balder 2/8

Jimmy Morehead 2/11

Jim Skelton 2/11

Laura Skelton Yakovenko  
2/11

Nicole Darian 2/12

Steve Andes 2/14

Gretchen Gurujal 2/14

Kim Miller 2/15

Keziah Yarnoff 2/18

Rebecca Bernstein 2/24

John Otto 2/24

Greg Hummel 2/25

Joanne Shearer 2/25

Sarah Stegner 2/25

## How to Be an Antiracist Book Discussion on Zoom

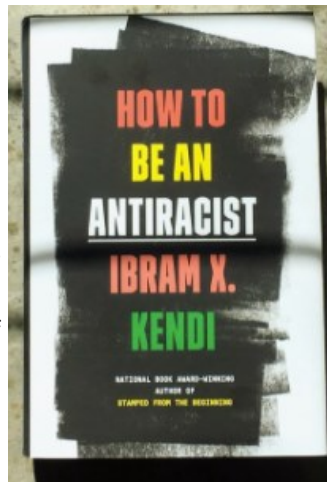
Discussion continues on the Ibram X. Kendi's 2019 best-seller *How to Be an Antiracist*.

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."

**Tuesday, February 23 at 7 pm**

Led by Melanie Anderson. Read Chapters 7-10.

Check email or church website calendar for Zoom info.





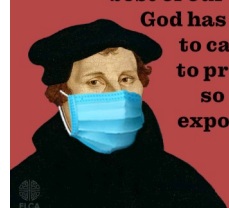
**MCS SYNOD ASSEMBLY  
2021**

**GOOD STEWARDS**

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021  
TIME: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
WHERE: VIRTUAL

LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF  
GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER GIFT  
EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED.  
1 PETER 4:10

**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*

Click on the flyer to register

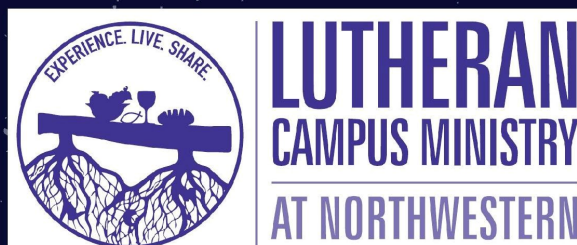


# LCMNU TRIVIA NIGHT

**FEBRUARY 19, 2021 | 6-7:30PM | ZOOM**

Register at <http://bit.ly/lcmnutrivia> by  
5pm on Feb 18  
**\$10/TEAM (UP TO 4 PEOPLE)**

All proceeds will go to local community  
organizations that LCMNU supports:  
Connections for the Homeless, Bridges to  
Home, and Purple Pantry





Our goal is to keep you informed about what is happening in our community to make us more diverse and inclusive. Our path to becoming an anti-racist community may seem like a marathon. Like most things worth doing, it will take energy and determination. At the same time, HEROS members share a good dose of camaraderie, joy and optimism. We are glad to have you join us on this journey! (Ed. Note: Immanuel member Audrey Moy is on the HEROS Education Committee.)

### **BLACK LIVES MATTER SIGN AVAILABILITY**

If you are interested in a yard sign please contact Jennifer Lind at [ryan6lind@comcast.net](mailto:ryan6lind@comcast.net). She has plenty to share.

## **RESOURCES**

### **TEACHER / PARENT RESOURCES**

There have been many teachable moments in 2021 for our young citizens. Following are some resources to discuss some of these moments in or out of the classroom:

*Reflecting on Amanda Gorman's Inauguration Poem: The Hill We Climb*

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/reflecting-amanda-gormans-hill-we-climb>

*Assessing the Strength of Democracy: How do we know if democracy is succeeding or failing?*

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/assessing-strength-democracy>

*The Hope and Fragility of Democracy in the US*

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/hope-and-fragility-democracy-united-states>

*Political Polarization in the US*

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/explainer/political-polarization-united-states>

## **Upcoming Events**

Discussion of the film *The Long Shadow*

Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 7:00 - 8:00pm

Conversation and Q&A with Frances Causey, Director of the documentary, *The Long Shadow* - a film that traces a family's legacy of white privilege, placing it in the context of the history of anti-black racism in the USA. You can stream the film for free between Friday, February 19 and Friday, February 26 or watch anytime on Kanopy with your local library card.

Register for the event at this link: <http://wilmette.libnet.info/event/4776729>

Stream the film at this link: <http://thelongshadowfilm.com/libraries>

## **NEXT GENERAL HEROS MEETING**

Sunday, March 21st, 2021 2:00 - 4:00pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtdCqzIqGdJ7OWFu7kul8qvmniMm3Ap\\_](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtdCqzIqGdJ7OWFu7kul8qvmniMm3Ap_)



## Notes from the Parish Administrator

Elaine Nelson has a new mailing address. If you would like her new address, please contact Jane at parish-admin@ilcevanston.org or call the church office at 847-864-4464.

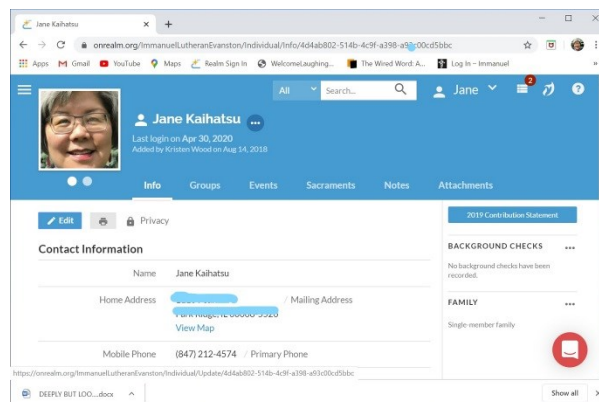


### REMINDER: Realm Accounts & Profile Updates, Including a Photo

Last year all members received an email invitation or reminder about setting up their accounts and/or updating their Member Profiles on Realm, the church member database. If your link has expired, please let me know at parish-admin@ilcevanston.org, and I can send you a new link. Also check your Spam or Junk folders in case your email system doesn't recognize the Realm Sender.

Current and updated Realm Profiles will give Pastor Mark yet another tool to get to know our community and keep in touch during the suspension of in-person activities. The information is accessible only to members who have an active account. Please review your profile carefully, make updates as needed and *be sure to answer every question*.

Additionally, if you have a photo, please try to upload your photo to your Profile picture spot. And if you're not sure how to upload your photo, you can send it to me at parish-admin@ilcevanston.org, and I can upload it to your profile for you. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and if you have any questions, please contact Jane at 847-864-4464 or parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org.



### Photography Policy of Immanuel Members

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

## From the ELCA...

For all of the snow shovelers out there, click on the box to watch Bishop Eaton's message:



**Bishop Eaton**  
@ELCABishopEaton

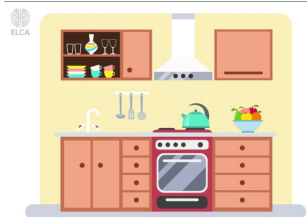
Take some time to give yourself the freedom to pay attention to the world around us and to study the creation, because when we study the creation, we draw closer to the Creator. [pic.twitter.com/Af3DmuQeGC](https://pic.twitter.com/Af3DmuQeGC)

1/31/21, 8:15 AM

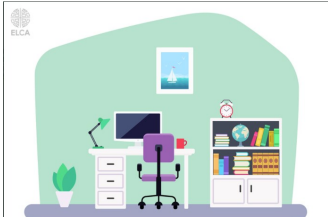


## Blessings for Every Day...

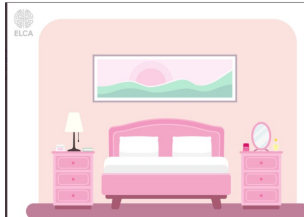
We thank God for the gifts of home while honoring the ways people practice their faith in their life at home: chores and hobbies, cooking and eating, ways of relaxing, caring for our bodies, and connecting with creation. Read these blessings as you move about your home. #Prayer



O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on those who prepare food here, and make us all ever thankful for daily bread.



O God, grant that those who learn in this place may use knowledge to heal & help your world. Draw us together through our technology for every good purpose.



Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.



O God, you make holy what is ordinary and earthly. Bless us as we care for our ordinary, marvelous bodies.



616 Lake St.  
Evanston, IL 60202

Phone: 847-864-4464

E-mail: [parish-admin@ilcevanston.org](mailto:parish-admin@ilcevanston.org)

Website: [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://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