



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston



"Faith That Feeds"

www.immanuelevanston.org

We believe that faith should feed and nurture our spirits.
We believe also that faith should lead us to feed people
in the many different ways they hunger,
both physically and spiritually.

April 2021 Newsletter

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

Who at Immanuel could have imagined back at the beginning of 2020 that worship during Holy Week and Easter would take place via Zoom for the second year in a row? And yet, as



many have discovered, using Internet technology to gather for worship doesn't necessarily diminish the sacred nature of our worship. I'll be the first to admit that it's much easier to let the space we're in help us enter into the proper spirit when we assemble in the sanctuary. So when we're at home online, we have to be more intentional. And I wonder how learning to worship electronically might be teaching us some important lessons about creating the necessary inner space to center our lives on God no matter what physical space we're in. It calls to mind for me the conversation Jesus had with the woman at the well in

the fourth chapter of John: "Woman, believe me the hour is coming when you will worship the Father, neither on this mountain, or in Jerusalem...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him." (John 4:21,23)

The spirit with which we enter into worship matters more than the space. I'm looking forward to joining with you in spirit and truth as we assemble online for Holy Week and Easter worship. With a sense of solemn sacredness we enter into the Great Three Days that connect us to the story of God's saving actions through the death and resurrection of our Lord. We'll once again hear Jesus call us to embody his new commandment on Maundy Thursday as we recommit to being servants of Christ. On Good Friday we'll gather to follow the story of Jesus' final hours and together venerate the mystery of the cross. Then on Saturday evening at the Easter Vigil, we'll hear some pivotal readings from the Hebrew Scriptures as we wait, yearning to hear and celebrate the Good News of Easter. Then on Sunday morning we'll gather once again for Festive Easter Worship.

Two songs come to mind for me as I contemplate how God guides us from Good Friday to Easter, from death to life. The first is a paraphrase of Psalm 23 with the refrain, "Shepherd me O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life." And the second one comes from Desmond Tutu, "Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death; victory is ours, victory is ours, through God who loves us." Each Holy Week and Easter brings ample opportunity for the healing and transformation of our lives.

God's goodness and love will be a trustworthy inner guide for us as we begin to emerge from the constraints of this global pandemic. I wonder how best we'll apply the lessons that we've learned as we strive to be a strong vibrant worshipping community tending to supportive and loving relationships with one another, working for God's ways of justice, and extending God's welcoming love to all.

I look forward to our discovering together.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Inside this issue

- Holy Week Schedule
- April Scriptures
- In Memoriam
- Overflowing Possibilities
- Interfaith Action Update

Immanuel Events

Apr. 1	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday
Apr. 2	7:30 pm	Good Friday
Apr. 3	7:30 pm	Easter Vigil
Apr. 4	10:30 am	Easter Day
Apr. 7, 14 21, 28	7:00 pm	Wednesday Adult Spiritual Gathering
Apr. 8, 22	10:30 am	Knitters & Quilters
Apr. 11	3:00 pm	Pr. Mark's Installation
Apr. 18	11:30 am	Council Meeting



Pastor Mark's Installation

Please join us for the Installation of Pastor Mark Sloss on Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 3:00 pm via Zoom. Bishop Yehiel Curry will preside over the installation. Watch for that week's *Immanuel Newsfeeds* for Zoom link information.



Preparing for The Great Three Days Worship

For Holy Week, here is a list of additional items you might want to have for each service. Please see the next page under Easter Day or the website calendar for Zoom meeting info.

Maundy Thursday: 7:30 pm, April 1st

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

- Bowl of water and towel for washing
- Communion materials
- These items can be stripped off the home altar at the end of the service

Good Friday: 7:30 pm, April 2nd

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.

- Cross for holding during veneration

Easter Vigil: 7:30 pm, Saturday, April 3rd

On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed!

- Candles, electric candles, flashlight, dimmer lights
- Bells to ring at home
- Bowl of water for affirmation of baptism
- Festival Communion

April Scripture Readings

April 1, Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 2, Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

April 3, Easter Vigil

Romans 6:3-11

John 20:1-18

April 4, Easter Day

Acts 4:32-35 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

April 11, Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 18, Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

April 25, Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

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



Easter Day: 10:30 am, Sunday, April 4th

This is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643828175?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643828175?pwd=NlhOVWl4M3dRZ2lIUUNUY1BFTVpHZz09)

[pwd=NlhOVWl4M3dRZ2lIUUNUY1BFTVpHZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643828175?pwd=NlhOVWl4M3dRZ2lIUUNUY1BFTVpHZz09)

Meeting ID: 816 4382 8175, Passcode: 510248

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81643828175#,,,,*510248# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

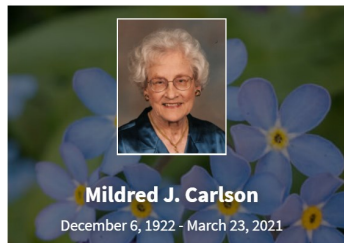
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Passcode: 510248



Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

In Memoriam...



As many of you might know, Mid was not only Immanuel's oldest member but she had been baptized in this church and attended Immanuel her entire life. A private service was held on Friday, March 26th. If you would like to make a donation in Mid's memory, here are some of the funds to which you could designate your donation: the Memorial Fund, the Special Music Fund (honoring Mid's many years in the choir), or the Quilt batting fund (honoring Mid's many years working on Lutheran World Relief quilts).

A contact for receiving cards is Mid's niece:

Marilyn Lord

5072 Donovan Street

Franklin, TN 37064



The following is an obituary which appeared on the Donnellan Family Funeral Services website, where you can leave tributes and memories: <https://www.donnellanfuneral.com/obituaries/Mildred-J-Carlson?obId=20466364#/obituaryInfo>

Mildred Jean Carlson died peacefully on March 23, 2021, at the age of 98. Mildred was born on December 6, 1922, to Axel T. Carlson and Jennie Johnson Carlson. She was a resident of Evanston her whole life. Her parents built their home at 2023 Noyes Street before Mildred was born, and she lived there until moving to Three Crowns Park six years ago.

Mildred loved her family—her parents and her older brother Harold. Later in life, she took care of her parents as well. She was devoted to her nieces Marilyn and Janine, and to their husbands, children, and grandchildren. She made trips throughout her adult life to Tennessee and Colorado to visit these families.

"Mid," as she was known to her friends, had a long and successful career with the Continental U. S. Bank, where she was among the first women to become a vice-president. She was a lifelong member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Evanston. She sang in the choir for decades and was an enthusiastic member of their quilting group.

Mildred loved to travel and made regular trips to Sweden, where both of her parents were born and where a few relatives and friends remained. She belonged to a Swedish book club into her nineties, always interested in learning more about the language and culture.

Mildred was a generous and discerning gift-giver. She loved to shop for exactly the right present for an infant great-grandniece, a ninety-year-old friend, and everyone in between. Her choices were always exceptional. Particularly exquisite were gifts she brought back from her trips to Sweden, whether an Orrefors crystal vase or a straw Christmas ornament.

She loved to have fun, too. At her niece Hannah's wedding in 2006, she danced the night away with all the young people, showing the energy of a 30-year-old. She relished her annual neighborhood picnics on Noyes street and talked later about the fun she had conversing with those on the block.

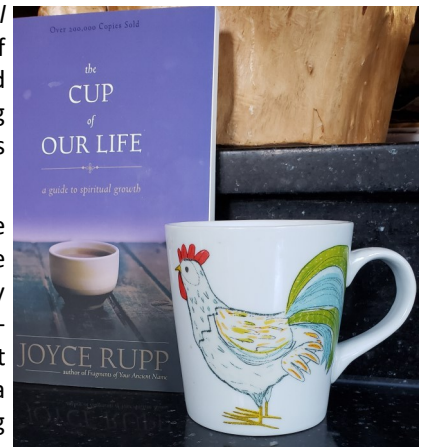
Her parents, her brother Harold, and an infant brother Teddy preceded her in death. She is survived by her nieces, Marilyn Lord and Janine Rider, their husbands John and Kirk, grandnephews Tim, Warren and Kent, grandnieces Jennifer and Hannah, and greatgrands Alexis, Willa, Owen, Elgin, Julianna, and Axel.

Interment Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 616 Lake Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Or a charity of your choice.

Overflowing with Spiritual Possibilities

The Wednesday evening study group used the book *The Cup of Our Life; a guide for spiritual growth* by Joyce Rupp during Lent. Ms. Rupp asks you to pick a cup to use as the focus of your daily prayer and meditations. For six weeks there are daily devotions, meditations and prayers centered around your cup. Using a personal cup is an interesting exercise in using the ordinary to focus prayers and anchor meditations. I picked my usual water mug for this study but it made me think about other cups in my house and their spiritual possibilities.

We have a large collection of mugs at my house. There are so many that some live in the basement pantry and get switched out occasionally with cups in the kitchen cabinet. There are mugs with pictures of children and grandchildren, favorite travel locations, Disney themes, slogans, whimsical art and lots of dog/pet rescue themes. And, of course, the seasonally appropriate holiday themes. This collection allows you to pick a mug to fit just about any mood. Feel like a Disney Princess? Or more like one of the 7 dwarfs? Do you need a smiling infant, toddler or grown child to start your day? How about a pile of silly, tumbling hippos? Flowers? Crossword puzzle? A visual guide to sushi, in English and Japanese? We got you covered.



I cycle through several morning coffee options, “Fur Mama”, “Goal Digger” and the tumbling hippos mentioned above are favorites but the mug I use most often has a colorful chicken on it and says “Rise and Shine.” While I did not pick this mug for my Lenten devotion focus I keep thinking about it during my devotions.

“Rise and shine!” “Rise and shine!” I used that phrase a lot over the years to wake up children for daily activities. Turns out that it is not what adolescents and teenagers want to hear from a cheerful Mom first thing in the morning! And while those adolescents and teenagers rose out of bed any shining going on was hidden under grumbles and groans.

I’m not much different than my teenagers were. Most days I don’t shine, at best I twinkle and at worst I smolder. Oh, I have lots of justifications for not shining—a long “to do” list, lousy weather, covid angst everywhere I turn, just to name a few. I think that the mornings I grab the rise and shine chicken mug are the days God knows I need a reminder to at least try to shine.

Participating in this Wednesday evening study group has deepened my ability to see God in the ordinary and that is a valuable skill throughout the year, not just in Lent.

—Chris Djuric

Dear Immanuel Family,

I truly appreciated your cards, your concern, your memories of Ernie and your expressions of faith. They all meant a great deal to me at this time. God’s blessings on you and yours.

Elizabeth Stegner



Wednesday Midweek Adult Spiritual Gathering

7 pm on Zoom

Our simple mid-week gathering offers time for spiritual growth in Word, Song and Fellowship. On Wednesday, April 7th, we will finish up “The Cup of Our Life” series with “The Cup of Blessing”.

Check our website Calendar at www.immanuelevanston.org or the weekly email for Zoom meeting info. More details about subsequent Midweek Adult Spiritual Gatherings themes will be available later.

**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**

Michelle Darian 4/3
Jaya Nambiar 4/12
Joe Simchak 4/16
Jerry Larson 4/17
Luke Moy 4/17
Susan Ross 4/28



Interfaith Action of Evanston is launching SNAPGap for 2021!

We know the federal SNAP program is a great way to help people below the poverty line with grocery items, but it doesn't cover toiletries, soap, shampoo, etc. Please help us fill in the gaps. This month we're collecting shampoo, body wash and disinfecting wipes. Contribute any or all 3 and whatever quantity works for you. We appreciate all donations. Items will be distributed through the monthly ProduceMobile in James Park.

Items: Shampoo, Body Wash, Disinfectant Wipes.

Order online or buy at your favorite store, either our brand or your favorite.

Online information : <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/EU78AK7T6LVH/>

ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

Drop off information: First United Methodist Church of Evanston , 516 Church St., Evanston

Drop-off days:

- Saturdays, March 20 thru April 10: 10:30-1:30
- Sundays, March 21 thru April 11: 12:00-2:00

Thank you for helping neighbors in need! Please contact me if you have any questions or need any help in arranging drop-off.

Thanks for your help,
Nicolai, cell. 847.337.4792

Advocacy Committee

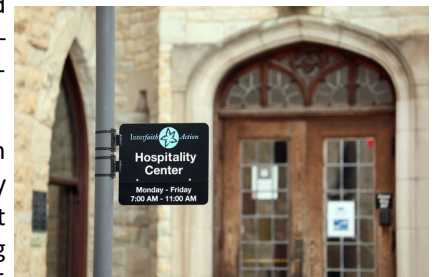
From Shelter to Housing

COVID-19 has revealed the scope and complexity of housing insecurity in Evanston. The City of Evanston's update report on Affordable Housing and Homelessness, presented to City Council on January 19, 2021, outlines the situation. The current network of services has been developed by Connections for the Homeless, Interfaith Action of Evanston, and Family Promise Chicago North Shore over the past several years. However, the City report confirms what these organizations have recognized: the need for a long-term plan that includes permanent facilities for individuals and families and wraparound services with the capacity to serve people in varying stages of housing insecurity. While the City's report documents numbers and services, the following description offers a daily account of the challenges and ordeals confronting people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Evanston.

The Unsheltered Landscape

Every night, from mid-November to March, a line of frigid faces appears at an Evanston church or synagogue seeking shelter from the Midwestern winter. If people are lucky enough to be in the first 40 (or 20 during the pandemic), a cot and blanket are provided at the faith community serving that night as an emergency overnight shelter, coordinated through Interfaith Action of Evanston. To prevent the hours-long lineup during the pandemic, the 20 people filling the cots sign up in the morning for a spot the following evening. Anyone arriving at the door in the evening is given a CTA transit card if no cot is available.

At 7:00 in the morning, a parade of people with all their worldly goods makes its way from the shelter to the Hospitality Center at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Ridge Ave. Here, they can eat breakfast, drink hot coffee, and talk with an employment counselor who will assist job searches. Computers and training are available for accessing information and gaining skills. This Hospitality Center has been serving people experiencing homelessness for 35 years.



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Advocacy Committee—From Shelter to Housing

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The daily migration continues from St. Mark's, where the Hospitality Center closes at 11:00 am, to one of two places. Soup kitchens and sack lunches are handed out at faith communities in the downtown area. Connections for the Homeless, located in the basement of Lake Street Church, offers facilities where people can shower, do laundry, check in with case managers, seek medical assistance, and find out if they have made it into the Margarita Inn, Connections' current shelter that offers access to facilities every day around the clock. However, the Lake Street facility closes at 2:30 pm.

With libraries, fast food restaurants, and other facilities closed during the pandemic, St. Mark's has become Interfaith Action's afternoon warming center, open from 2:30 to 8:30 pm. Snacks are available at the warming center, and faith community soup kitchens offer full meals or sack lunches that people can pick up and take back. When the warming center closes, men and women travel to the current site of the emergency overnight shelter, and the cycle begins again.

This pattern has evolved in the past three years, accelerating significantly in the last nine months of the pandemic. Interfaith Action's every-winter-night emergency overnight shelter is relatively new—just three years old. Connection's commitment to sheltering people 24/7 developed in response to the pandemic in 2020, when the organization negotiated rooms with Evanston hotels to house people who had no permanent place to quarantine. In the fall, Connections continued its commitment and leased the Margarita Inn for nine months. Here, up to 80 people are sheltered as they await more permanent circumstances.

Connections for the Homeless collaborates with Interfaith Action and Family Promise Chicago North Shore, both of which work with a network of faith communities to provide immediate shelter. Interfaith Action concentrates on adults of both genders; Family Promise keeps families together. While emergency shelter is the first step, the second is long-term shelter at the Margarita Inn, where residents can stay until affordable housing is established. For families, Grace Lutheran Church becomes the residence at night, while First Congregational Church House serves parents and children during the day to better cope with the challenges of schooling and safety. Case workers with Connections and Family Promise are committed to finding permanent housing for these individuals and families. Once an individual or family moves from the Margarita Inn, someone from the emergency overnight shelters can take their place. Progress in keeping the process moving forward is dependent on the availability of affordable housing.

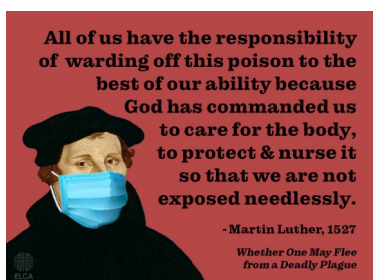
The City report shows that from March to December 2020, the unhoused population totaled 327 people, 70 of whom were children. Many faced an immediate need for both shelter and overnight housing. Of these, 78% are Evanston residents. Connections and Family Promise found permanent housing situations for 177 people. Some 109 came from shelters. A total of 34 households have rehoused with 12-month leases, using federal, state, and local housing subsidies since the start of the pandemic. Who are the people behind these numbers? They are individuals and families that are experiencing eviction, job losses, mental health issues, or substance abuse. All are struggling to get through the day.

The Future

The goal among homeless and housing experts and advocates focuses on "housing first." This approach "prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life." Research and experience show that until people can be sheltered and housed, other goals—such as finding a job, addressing mental health issues, or overcoming substance abuse—are too difficult to accomplish.

The challenge of moving from shelter to home is compounded by Evanston's inadequate supply of affordable housing for individuals and families with low to moderate income. It is a problem shared with cities and communities nationwide. While no clear remedies have been identified, it is increasingly evident that solutions will incorporate a range of strategies involving developers, landlords, neighbors, finance, and zoning and that finding answers will require creativity, invention, and open minds.

The current network of faith communities and a leased hotel is a short-term solution to a situation that can only improve with a long-term commitment. Establishing Evanston facilities that can shelter individuals and families experiencing homelessness until permanent housing can be found is a priority. Without it, the Evanston community is treading water in an increasingly rising tide.





PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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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.