



Immanuel  
Lutheran  
of Evanston



"Faith That Feeds"

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

## June 2021 Newsletter

### Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

It's great to have made the move to Evanston. Susan and I are settling in and have appreciated the warm welcome that we have received from you and from many new neighbors. I'm looking forward to getting to meet you in person in the weeks ahead as many of the restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic are being lifted as more and more folks are vaccinated.



I know that many of you are wondering when and how we will be getting back to worshipping in the sanctuary and gathering for other in-person events that were curtailed 15 months ago. Let me assure you that the congregational leadership has begun some extensive conversation about how to do this safely while maintaining a workable option for simultaneously worshipping online. We had some good news recently in learning that we

received a Fund for Mission grant from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for needed technological upgrades (computer, cameras, mixers, etc.) to provide a quality worship experience for those who choose to join us online. Accolades go to Tom Couch and Lisa Larson for their work in applying for the grant. During one of the coffee time gatherings after worship this month (June 13th) council members will be leading a brief time of discussion to listen to expectations, concerns and questions around in-person worship. I encourage your honest participation, so that a wide spectrum of the congregation provides input before the next council meeting on June 20th.

I'm also looking forward to the upcoming Zoom event that our Anti-Racism Task Force is hosting on the 23rd (details in this edition). I believe this event could be of interest to many and encourage you to spread the invitation for others to attend (this could be as simple as sharing it from our church Facebook page. I watched the movie, Just Mercy, last summer and have read article about Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, and look forward to hearing about these Evanstonian's pilgrimage there. This event will take the place of our regular Wednesday Bible Study and check-in on the 23rd. Your participation in events like this one strengthen our resolve to be a community that welcomes all and seeks God's ways of justice for our community, nation, and world.

I continue to look forward to discovering together the creative ways that God will shape us and send us forth with a faith that feeds.

Deep Blessings,

*Pastor Mark*



#### Inside this issue

- June Scriptures
- Special Event—Anti-Racism Task Force
- Class of 2021
- Living Lutheran: An Evanston Story

## Immanuel Events

June 1		First day LGBTQIA+ Pride Month
June 2, 9, 16, 30	7:00 pm	Wednesday Adult Spiritual Gathering on Zoom
June 3	9:00 am	Quilters at Church
June 13	11:30 am	Informal Dialogue about In-person Worship
June 19		Juneteenth
June 20		Father's Day
	11:30 am	Council Meeting
June 23	7:00 pm	"Our Pilgrimage to Montgomery" via Zoom



## June Scripture Readings

### June 6, Pentecost 2

Genesis 3:8-15

Psalms 130

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

### June 27, Pentecost 5

Lamentations 3:22-33

Psalms 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Mark 5:21-43

### June 13, Pentecost 3

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Daily lectionary readings can be found at

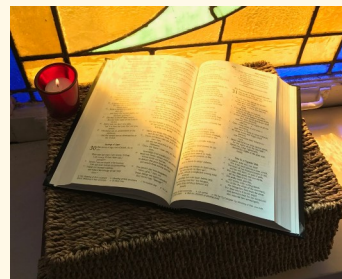
### June 20, Pentecost 4

Job 38:1-11

Psalms 107: 1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4: 35-41



### Wednesday Midweek Adult Spiritual Gathering 7 pm on Zoom

Our simple mid-week gathering (except for June 23rd) offers time for spiritual growth in Word and Fellowship. Check our website Calendar at [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://www.immanuelevanston.org) or the weekly email for Zoom meeting info and themes.

# Our Pilgrimage to Montgomery

*A journey in search of racial justice and understanding for a multiracial, multicultural, interfaith group from Chicago's North Shore to Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Sites in Montgomery, Alabama.*



**Wednesday, June 23, 2021**

**7:00 pm via Zoom**

Don't miss this panel discussion & slide presentation featuring a group of 26 individuals who traveled to Montgomery, and what they experienced. Q&A follows.

*"Our experience was a life-changing wake-up call to our history of racial injustice and compelled us to activism!"*

*--Bruce Bondy, Montgomery Traveler*

Advance registration is requested. Click on the link below. After registering, you'll receive information on how to join the meeting.

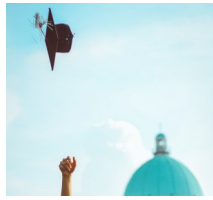
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqcuGhpzvjGdf150rpSXG7OI0PJ\\_2AXGVV](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqcuGhpzvjGdf150rpSXG7OI0PJ_2AXGVV)

Presented by the Immanuel Anti-Racism Task Force & The Montgomery Travelers.

**JUNE  
BIRTHDAYS**

- Jane Kaihatsu 6/2
- Erik Shearer 6/4
- Keith Knohl 6/5
- Anna Lamberg 6/7
- Benjamin O'Connor Mauk 6/17
- Tyler Knohl 6/24
- Theodore Otto 6/26
- Merle Shearer 6/30

**Congratulations, Class of 2021!**



Congratulations and best wishes to Keziah Yarnoff, who graduated from Bradley University in Peoria, IL, with a B.S. in Game Design-Video.

We want to celebrate all of our graduates who preserved during the challenging times of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Please send announcements of your grads to parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org.

**Seeking Housing for Clinical Rotation  
at Northwestern—Football**



Hello,

My name is Halle Owecke. I am from Rochester, Minnesota and I am a graduate student at Winona State University. I am getting my master's degree in Athletic Training, and am entering my second year in the program this fall. During our second year in the program we travel to different locations to

complete clinical rotations. My first clinical rotation in the fall will be at Northwestern University with their football team, and it will last 2-3 months beginning in early August. I am currently looking for places to stay during my time at NU. I do not have any connections in the Evanston area, and I am wondering if any of your members would be willing to house me while I complete my rotation at NU.

Here is a little bit more about myself: I am 28 years old. I have two bachelor's degrees; one in Biology from Luther College in Iowa, and a second in Movement Science from Winona State University. I have three years of work experience from two different physical therapy clinics in Rochester. I enjoy being outdoors, exploring new natural areas, and spending time with friends and family. Also, I am fully vaccinated against the Covid 19 virus.

Thank you for your time,

Halle Owecke: howecke17@winona.edu

Winona State University

MS Athletic Training Student; Vice President – WSU Athletic Training Club

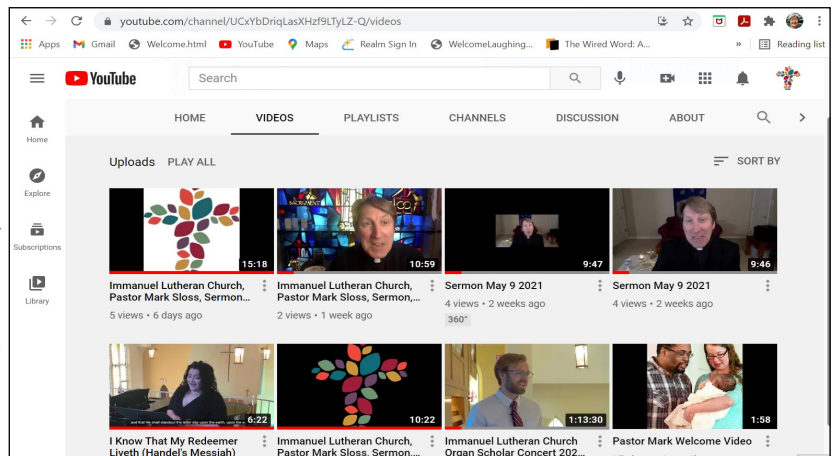
Class of 2022

**Watch Pr. Mark & Immanuel on YouTube!**

Pastor Mark's Sunday sermons are now available on our a YouTube channel! Go to youtube.com and in the Search function, type in "Immanuel Lutheran Church Evanston".

Not only will you see Pr. Mark's Sunday sermons, but also our inaugural video, Pastor Mark's Welcome Greeting, and performances by Soprano Ashlee Hardgrave and the 2020 Organ Scholar, Dale Nickell.

Please subscribe and share with your family and friends!





## From the May 2021 Living Lutheran: I'm a Lutheran: Nura Aly

By Erin Strybis, May 28, 2021

I've been playing violin since I was 8. Growing up, I was always part of youth orchestras, school orchestras and ensembles. Giving that to a kid is so important—a place to belong, and a place to be whoever they are in whatever way they can. I think that belonging to a musical group becomes even more important for kids with disabilities because there can be language barriers—some are unable to communicate their wants and needs in a way that's easily understood. Music can break through that.

Orchestra gave me a place where I could be more than just the girl in the wheelchair. I was born with spina bifida; I've lived with this my entire life. When people didn't know my name at school, I was known as the girl in the chair. At orchestra, however, I was just another musician.

When my mom and I searched for a church together, Grace is one of the places we decided to look at. We previously belonged to a Catholic parish but decided it was time to move on. Immediately we felt welcomed and comfortable at Grace. All of the things that had bothered me about Catholic mass were the things that were different here, like more inclusive language, more inclusive clergy and our pastor taking communion last instead of first.

The biggest difference between Grace and our old parish was the music. As a musician and music teacher, I experience life through the lens of music. There was more variety than I ever knew existed, which was really cool—our music director takes pride in utilizing diverse music. I really love that.

Playing my violin in any sort of worship space enhances my prayer. It's the way that I can express all that I can't put into words. I make myself available to play at Grace whenever they need me.

I'd wanted to teach music since high school. In college, I studied music for four years, then went back to school to get my teaching certificate. For the last nine years, I've taught private violin and viola lessons from my home. Although I paused in-person lessons due to COVID-19, in the interim I'm offering my students phone consults. I work full time teaching kids with disabilities at Park School. I've never been happier. I love my job. I love going to work.

As a musician and music teacher, I experience life through the lens of music.

My passions are disability advocacy and music. I feel like I'm fulfilling my dream of teaching in both of those realms, though I still have this dream of someday having an organization that teaches children with disabilities how to play instruments.

After we started going to Grace, I noticed there were things I couldn't be involved in because the sanctuary wasn't accessible to me. So they bought portable ramps and took steps to make me feel like I was welcomed. I was very moved. My congregation is small, so you feel like you're really in a family. You're not lost in the shuffle of things. There are real opportunities for you to make a difference and also for you to have the opportunity for a more enriched prayer and spiritual life.

My mom and I facilitate a monthly lectio divina group at Grace, first in person in the sanctuary and now via Zoom because of COVID-19. You read Scripture once, then sit in silence, then put into the space words that stand out to you. After the next reading you share feelings. Then, after the final reading, you say how God's calling you and how you might respond. It's not a traditional Bible study—you're putting reflections out into the room and letting them go.

At the end of each day, I do what Ignatius (a Spanish priest and theologian; 1491-1556) called the Examen. It's a gracefulness prayer for taking stock of your day, finding what went well, what didn't go so well, and then asking God for guidance for what's coming next.

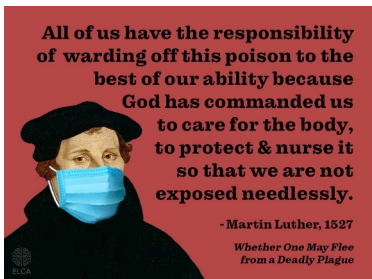
I'm a Lutheran because I am one of the marginalized: I am a disabled woman who is also half Egyptian. And I felt, coming into my church, Grace, that they were truly living like Jesus and welcoming the marginalized. Jesus wouldn't turn away people who are gay, people with disabilities or people of color. I cherish the actions of welcoming all, especially folks on the outer edges.



*Grace Lutheran Church, Evanston, Ill.  
Violinist, teacher assistant at Park School in Evanston, Ill.,  
violin/viola instructor and music minister at Grace*

## Notes from the Parish Administrator....

Church officers, Committee and Ministry Chairs: Please check your mail slots as mail is starting to pile up. If you need access to the office, please contact me at parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org.



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.