



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.

September 2021 Newsletter

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

As summer winds down and the trees turn colors and begin to lose leaves, I wonder how our lives will change this season. What do we need to let go of? What do we need to grieve? I was



struck by the simple, yet profound, assertion that Ann Lamott makes in her book, *Small Victories*, that grieving is the only way to heal grief. Since it's uncomfortable, our natural tendency is to avoid it, yet it's only by embracing our sadness and heartache that we may experience a cathartic release and a new place of peace as we enter our sadness and maybe even let tears flow. Whenever we hold back or avoid our grieving, we inhibit ourselves from fully experiencing the abundant life that Jesus came to bring.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to put constraints on how we live, our whole society grieves the loss of connection that comes through handshakes and touch and the loss of a unified effort to inhibit spread of the virus through masking and vaccinations. One of the benefits of belonging to a congregational community is in having friends in Christ in which to share our life journeys. Here we find traveling companions through our sorrows and our joys. As Henri Nouwen once observed: We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain.... The more able we are to receive the different gifts our friends have to give us, the more able we will be to offer our own unique but limited gifts. Thus, friendships create a beautiful tapestry of love.

In community we journey together through the many seasons of our lives letting go of what we need to let go of in order that new shoots of learning and insight might emerge. Just as the trees lose their leaves, we can let go of whatever keeps us from being our most whole and true selves. We can dredge out the clogged gutters that inhibit God's love from freely flowing through us. We can participate in communal activities that support and assist others on their journey, while simultaneously providing the sustenance we need for our own.

Starting on September 19th we'll have an opportunity on Sunday mornings (9 am -10 am) before worship to gather and share our journeys in a hybrid format, either in person or online. We will gather as the body of Christ to dive deeper into what it means to live out our faith. I believe that our faith formation happens in and through trusted relationships, and that faith is more often caught than taught. We discover from one another how to give ourselves away in loving service to the world and we reap rich blessings in doing so. The planned format will be to watch a brief video clip to prime the pump of our discussion on various topics. You'll find a planned schedule of topics in this newsletter. The Zoom link for those who desire to be present from home will be on our website and in the weekly *Newsfeed*. I'm excited to journey with you on this adventure of faith. And I trust the Spirit to be our guide.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Inside this issue

- Sunday Adult Spiritual Study
- God's Work Our Hands
- Faith, Justice & Reparations in Evanston
- SNAPGap Drive

Immanuel Events

Sep 2	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Sep 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 pm	Wednesday Adult Spiritual Gathering on Zoom (No gathering on Sept. 1)
Sep 19, 26	9:00 am	Sunday Adult Spiritual Formation Discussion
Sep 12	10:30 am	God's Work Our Hands Sunday
Sep 19	12:30 pm	Council Meeting



September Scripture Readings

September 5, Pentecost 15

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 19, Pentecost 17

Jeremiah 11:18-20 or Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22

Psalm 54

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 12, Pentecost 16

Isaiah 50:4-91

Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 26, Pentecost 18

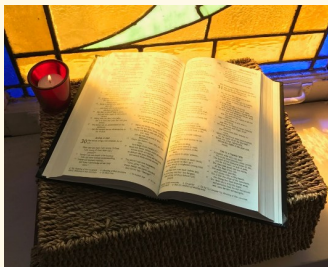
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16m 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:13-20

Mark 9:38-50



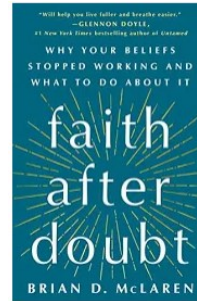
Revised Common Lectionary daily readings can be found at <https://www.dailylectio.net/calendar>

Feeding One's Faith – Sundays 9 AM -10 AM

Join us both In-person and/or live streaming for studies about faith. Gatherings include viewing short videos and book discussions. Check the weekly *Immanuel Newsfeeds* for Zoom info.

Kick off: September 19: Henri Nouwen: *Being the Beloved of God* (part 1)

September 26 – October 3: Book Discussion on *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It*, Brian McLaren (Wilmette and Evanston Libraries have copies) [Read a short review here.](#)



October 10-17: The Cross and the Lynching Tree: Religion and Violence – James Cone

October 24: The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery – Sermon by Otis Moss III, (from May 17, 2020)

October 31: Reformation Sunday (joint service with St. Paul) – no session

November 7-14: *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*, Barbara Brown Taylor

November 21-28: How to Read the Bible - videos from The Bible Project

www.bibleproject.com 4 short videos on Introduction to the Bible.

December 5: Henri Nouwen: *Being the Beloved of God* (part 2)

December 12 – 19: Prayer (The teachings of 2 Richards, Rohr and Foster)

What is Contemplative Prayer and Why is it so Needed? with Fr. Richard Rohr -12/12

Richard Foster – Celebration of Discipline (Prayer) -12/19

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nina Cudecki 9/1

Gloria Meldman 9/4

Allison Lamberg 9/7

Melisa Larson 9/7

Lawrence Lee 9/12

Elaine Nelson 9/14

Pr. Mark Sloss 9/14

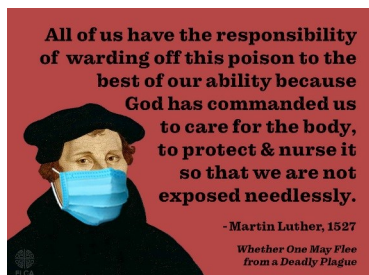
Glynis Kloster 9/16

Marlene Chastain 9/19

Brian Lamberg 9/28

Wednesday Midweek Adult Spiritual Gathering 7 pm on Zoom

Our simple mid-week gathering begins for the Autumn on Sept. 8th. This gathering offers time for spiritual growth in Word and Fellowship. Check our website Calendar at www.immanuelevanston.org or the weekly email for Zoom meeting info and themes.



Donations are needed for God's Work Our Hands Sunday!



Immanuel, along with other Evanston congregations, will engage in service in our community on Sunday, Sept. 12th. We are one of over 9,100 congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands” performing service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God’s love. Join us as we do God’s work with our hands!

Because of the pandemic, we are encouraging donation of items to three important local service efforts. This is an especially good way for families to be involved in God's Work Our Hands in a safe and comfortable way. So that you can begin getting these items now, we've listed the organizations and their needs below. You can drop off the items at church on Sept. 12, or at the Grace Lutheran Church parking lot at 1430 South Blvd on Sunday, Sept. 12th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Volunteers will be there to receive the items. Monetary donations are also welcome!

Interfaith Action of Evanston Hospitality Center, open mornings Monday to Friday all year, provides a nurturing environment for guests from Hilda’s Place and Entry Point. They need:

Toiletries Pre-packaged Snacks Earbuds E-Readers

Grace Lutheran Little Free Pantry needs:

Canned Goods Other Non-perishable Food Items Pet Food

Connections for the Homeless is the leading agency in the northern suburbs delivering essential services to people facing homelessness and housing insecurity during the pandemic. They need the items listed below, especially canned good, toiletries, and adult socks and underwear.

CANNED + SHELF-STABLE FOODS

*Chips, Goldfish, Pretzels in Individual Packages
Individual Milk
Other individually packaged snacks
Protein Bars
Soup in a cup
Microwavable food
Canned food with pop-tabs*

ADULT CLOTHING

*Adult Men's Summer Clothing
Adult Underwear & Boxers
Pants & Shorts size 30 and Above
T-Shirts
Sneakers size 9 and Above
Ponchos & umbrellas*

OTHER ITEMS

*Can openers
Backpacks
Rolling Suitcases
Razors
Unopened Travel & Regular-Sized Toiletries: deodorant,
body wash, shampoo, and lotion*

*NOTE: We are NOT currently accepting women's clothing
besides underwear and t-shirts.*



Hello! Is your faith community looking to engage with a project on **God's Work Our Hands Sunday?**

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University (LCMNU) needs some basic TLC before we welcome students back to campus later in September. We would love your help! Our project includes interior cleaning, exterior painting and weeding on the grounds.

We would welcome 10 - 12 people to spruce up the grounds and clean up our building. It

has been collecting dust for the past year! Cleaning supplies will be furnished. If you wish to help with weeding, please bring your own garden gloves and clippers, however. And a couple of folks who are experienced painters would be VERY welcome. We need to paint our back steps and deck. We will furnish tools for sanding and cleaning, paint, and brushes.



**LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT NORTHWESTERN**

There are two time slots - 10 am-12:30 pm and 1 pm-2:30 pm. Light snacks and water will be provided but NOT lunch. Masks are required for indoor activity. LCMNU is located at 2204 Orrington, Evanston.

If you have any questions, please contact me. If possible, let me know how large a group from your church to expect.

God bless your efforts in our community, wherever they may be!

Lois Rock Peterson
Board of Directors, LCMNU
847-321-5394
loisrockpeterson@gmail.com

Reparations” is a word sparking public curiosity

— and controversy. The reparations conversation has moved into action as politicians, academic institutions and religious denominations across the country have recognized their role and responsibility to help right the massive wrongs of slavery and its aftermath.

SAVE THE DATE for a three-part workshop on [Faith, Justice and Reparations in Evanston](#). Sessions will take place on **Sunday afternoons 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm on September 19th, September 26th, and October 3rd, on Zoom.**

We will explore what “reparation” means, how Evanston’s history of exclusion and discrimination calls for repair, what is happening with our current Reparations programs — and consider how we, as people of faith, are called to act at this significant moment in history.

The workshop has been developed and is presented by a collaboration of Evanston churches that are fellow members of Interfaith Action.



Friends,

It's **SNAPGap** time again. I'm pleased to report that our SNAPGap distribution at the August 10th Produce mobile worked very well. We served 177 households with laundry sheets (much easier/lighter than detergent) and items in surplus from July. Since April 2021, SNAPGap has given out approximately 3,135 items to people in need.

Moving from vehicle distribution to August's walk-up delivery system at Robert Crown Community Center, we witnessed first hand how much these items were appreciated. As people finished collecting their produce, they were visibly surprised and delighted to receive necessities seldom offered elsewhere. Have to say that it was very gratifying. And it couldn't happen without you spreading the word to our faith communities. Thank you! Thank you!

For **September 14th, Trinity Lutheran Church will be coordinating**, and we will collect:

- All purpose cleaner
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- Dove bar soap (an obvious preference)
- Fingernail clippers

You can purchase these items online at the following: https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/EU78AK7T6LVH/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

Online purchases should be sent to: Cathi White, 5001 Golf Road, Skokie, IL 60077.

Or you can purchase items at local stores and drop them off at:

Trinity Lutheran Church

3637 Golf Rd. (east of Crawford), Evanston

Dates: Sept. 4th and Sept. 11th (Saturdays)

Time: 11:00 am—2:00 pm each day

Thanks so much, everyone. Let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Nicolai

FAITH, JUSTICE & REPARATIONS in EVANSTON

A three-session workshop for Evanston faith-community members

Session 1: Reparations: What's it all about? (9/19)

Session 2: How Did We Get Here? (9/26)

Session 3: Where are We Today, and What's Next (10/3)

Sessions are Sundays from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.
Visit tinyurl.com/evanston-reparations for more information & registration

Hosted by: Unitarian Church of Evanston
in Partnership with: Interfaith Action, Lake Street Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Northminster Presbyterian Church
Sherman United Methodist Church

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Notes from the Parish Administrator....

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

Is̄hi no ue n̄imo, san nen - 石の上にも3年

This is an ancient Japanese expression whose literal translation is “three years on top of a rock.” The phrase implies that even if one is sitting on a hard rock, if you do it for three years, you get good at it/used to it. Any time I reach the 3-year mark on something I’m reminded of this expression.



Photo by [Ben Karpinski](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This past August 7, 2021 was my third anniversary with Immanuel. When I first started the job in 2018, I didn’t feel like I was climbing on top of a rock so much as a mountain because I had much to learn. I’d never worked for a church and nonprofit organization before. I’m not Lutheran. It was a daunting learning curve which eventually leveled into a lively work life. Then Pr. Keith announced he was moving onto a new position at Churchwide and about a month later, the great pandemic hit.

All right, now it was starting to feel like I’d climbed upon a hard rock, with the uncertainty and changes to my job. But I wasn’t alone—the entire planet had started to sit on a large, extremely hard rock called Covid-19. Going on 18 months later, we are still uncomfortable, shifting our weight and trying not to fall off the rock. We try a new position and it doesn’t work out, so we ponder something else. Some of us hate this rock but the rock has become all that we know. Some decide we need a soft cushion and a lot of self-care if we’re going to survive sitting on this rock. Others refuse to understand that the rock is hard and teeter in misery, wanting the rock to change into something it never will be.

For my experience, sitting and staying on the rock not only has meant being flexible and adaptable but also knowing where to find the sources of support. Thanks to God’s grace, I’ve never felt without any support at Immanuel and I’m grateful for being able to serve the congregation as the pandemic rages. Thank you, Congregation! Actually, what started as a mountain, turned into rock and now feels like a familiar chair.

—Jane Kaihatsu



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PLACE
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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.