



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.

December 2021 Newsletter

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

The Advent season invites us to soak our souls in the sound of silence. Remember Elijah's discovery of God's presence not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in the sheer silence (1 Kings 19). Just as there are different hues of any given color, so there are different shades and tones of silence. One's encounter with silence can stretch from being bored and distracted to being attentive and alert. Advent draws us toward an attentive silence, a silence in which we can experience the fullness of time and unity with God.



Some may think of silence as something we do alone, but the power of silence practiced in community must not be underestimated. It might be that very thing that brings the power of God into our community. I've heard many people comment that they have a much easier time experiencing a more alert state of silence in a communal setting than they do when meditating in silence all by themselves.

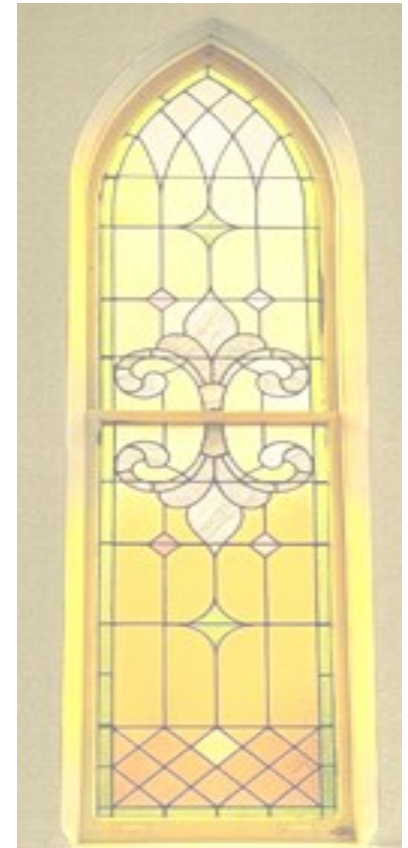
We will have multiple opportunities to practice communal silence during this Advent season. From noon to 12:45 on Wednesdays during Advent I will facilitate a Lectio Divina group, using an Advent text assigned for the day. Lectio Divina is a prayerful listening encounter with Scriptures. Don't worry if you've never done it before, I will lead the group through it. The other opportunity will be during our Holden Evening Prayer worship at 7 PM on Wednesdays, which will include a time of silence together following a Scripture reading. For both of these Wednesday events you may attend either in-person with masks and social distancing, or via Zoom. I invite you to enter into the practice of attentive silence this Advent, to wait, to watch and to pray. It has been my experience that the more I attend to the silent waiting and watching during Advent, the more full my celebration of Christmas becomes. as the communion of saints.

Waiting for God is an active, alert - yes, joyful - waiting. As we wait we remember him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes.

-Henri Nouwen

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Inside this issue

- December Music
- Special Worship Events
- ARTF Year's Summary



Immanuel Events



Dec. 1		World AIDS Day
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22	Noon 7:00 pm	Lectio Divina Prayers Holden Evening Prayers
Dec. 2	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Dec. 4, 18	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers' Market
Dec. 5, 12, 19	9:00 am	Feeding One's Faith Hybrid Adult Study
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28	7:00 pm	Tuesday Adult Spiritual Gathering on Zoom
Dec. 12		Poinsettia Orders Due
Dec. 19	12:30 pm	Council Meeting
Dec. 24	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Dec. 25		MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Dec. 26	10:30 am	Lessons & Carols
Dec. 31		New Year's Eve

December Scripture Readings

December 5, Advent 2

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1: 68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

December 12, Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

December 19, Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46b-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 24, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 25, Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12 and Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm 97 & Psalm 98
 Titus 3:4-7 & Hebrews 1:1-4[5-12]
 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20 & John 1:1-14

December 26, Lessons & Carols

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2: 41-52

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

Music at Immanuel

December Music

We continue our reverent Advent season with some wonderful choral music for the year. Advent 2 greets us with a 17th century cantate-like setting by Michael Wise called "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord."

We celebrate Advent 3 and Rose Sunday with John W. Finney's triumphant "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers." We close the advent season with turning to Mary and her song, the Magnificat. The choir will offer Hans Leo Hassler's beautiful motet of this account in Latin, "Dixit Maria ad angelum."

Christmas Eve will be graced with special guest singer Ashlee Hardgrave and two very different choral offerings. Michael Praetorius published a gorgeous holiday motet in 1609 called "Psallite." This will be contrasted with a spiritual called Glory to the Newborn King by Robert L. Morris. We will close the year with a wide arrange of carols for Lessons and Carols on the final Sunday of 2021. Happy New Year!

—Jimmy Morehead



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

December Schedule

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* or go to the website calendar for Zoom info.

December 5: Diana Butler, *Jesus the Ingrate: The Subversive Power of Gratitude*

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

The Christmas Season at Immanuel

Special Advent Services on Wednesdays

December 8, 15, 22, 2021

Lectio Divina Prayer Services

From Noon to 12:45 pm on Wednesdays during Advent, I will facilitate a Lectio Divina group, using an Advent text assigned for the day. Lectio Divina is a prayerful listening encounter with Scriptures.

Holden Evening Prayer Services

Worship begins at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, which will include a time of silence together following a Scripture reading.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2021; 9:00 pm

Come rejoice in the birth of the Baby Jesus. God's promise of peace to all.

Lessons & Carols

December 26, 2021, 10:30 am

Ring in the New Year with stories and songs of the season. O Morning Star!

Poinsettias - For Christmas

As is tradition at Immanuel, we are planning to have poinsettias adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Christmas. If you are interested in ordering Poinsettias, please complete the information below.

A six-inch pot will cost \$20

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias: _____ X \$20 = \$_____ enclosed

Please indicate for bulletin:

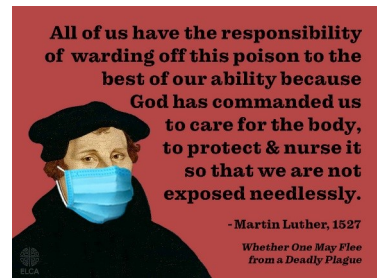
_____ In honor of _____

_____ In memory of _____

_____ Other _____

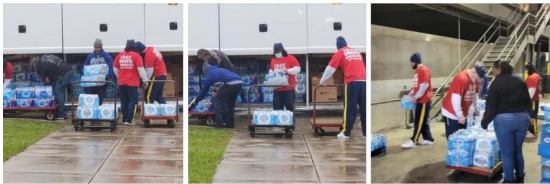
Please place the completed slip along with a check made payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church in the offering plate or drop off in Church office. To mail: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 616 Lake St., Evanston, IL 60201-2403

Orders due by Sunday, December 12, 2021



WE CAN NEVER FORGET OUR FAMILY BEHIND THE WALLS. THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS AND DESERVE TO HAVE THE BASIC NECESSITIES IN LIVING, NO MATTER WHAT. BIG SHOUT OUT TO [Cassandra Greer](#), [Melly Rios](#), AND ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS/PEOPLE WHO HELPED COLLABORATE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

Anti-Racist Task Force (ARTF) Wraps up Enlightening Inaugural Year



Through our thoughtful programs intended to bring about or to heighten historical awareness, we share with you the following action outcomes:

Montgomery Travelers – A contribution of \$125 was gifted to the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama on behalf of the Montgomery Travelers of the North Shore.

“13th” discussion – We collected a \$450 donation to provide clean drinking water to inmates living in the Stateville Correctional Center.

Additionally, the Anti-Racism Task Force would like to thank the Stark Committee and the Church Council for approval of the following funds granted as thank-yous to recent ARTF presenters and to show support to these groups historically affected by systemic racism.

At the request of Immanuel’s Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF), \$300 to the **American Indian College Fund**.

At the request of Immanuel’s ARTF, \$300 to the **HCBU Foundation**

(Historically Black Colleges and Universities).

Please join us in 2022 for more inspirational and meaningful events. Happy Holidays!

—Christine Imhoff



Hello, Baby!

Charly and I are thrilled to announce the birth of a grandson!

Zach and Marina Yarnoff welcomed James Charles, 8lbs 8oz, on November 11, 2021. Mom, Dad and big sister, Charlotte, are all healthy and happy and adjusting to the chaos!

Tuesday Midweek Adult Spiritual Gathering 7 pm on Zoom

Our simple mid-week gathering has a new day—Tuesdays. 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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- David Johnson 12/1
- Laurie Stivers 12/4
- Stephen Warner 12/7
- Alfhild Wikstrom 12/4
- Laura McDaniel 12/9
- Nicholas Senn 12/11
- Alexander Ross 12/17
- Zachariah Yarnoff 12/24
- Kerstin Litwin 12/29

SANKTA LUCIA *SERVICE*

A Swedish festival of light
in both Swedish & English



Sunday December 12
7pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
3637 Golf Road + Evanston, IL 60203
847-673-8564

RSVP REQUIRED:
TRINITYEVANSTON.ORG/CALENDAR/LUCIA

MASKS required regardless of vaccination status

Music by **NORDIC VOICES** of **CHICAGO**

STORY AND CAROLS by **CANDLELIGHT**

LUCIA'S COURT and **TOMTE NISSE (ELVES)**

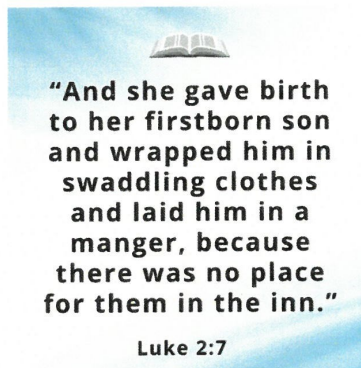
SCANDINAVIAN TREATS AVAILABLE AS YOU DEPART

Introducing: *Project Room at the Inn*



Project Room at the Inn is the Christmas engagement program through Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). The pandemic has challenged us all to re-examine how we engage with our communities, which inspired LSSI's *Project Room at the Inn*.

Project Room at the Inn is based on the Bible passage where Mary and Joseph were looking for a place to rest so that Mary could give birth to Jesus. The inn that they encountered had no room, but the owner allowed them to stay in the manger with the animals, which they gratefully did. What we learned from this act of kindness is that God made a way in what appeared to be an impossible situation. In the same way, we trust that God will make a way and bless the lives of the children in our programs.



Our goal is to provide the 2,530 children in our care with Christmas gifts and help ensure that they know they are loved.



Please join us in brightening a child's Christmas through *Project Room at the Inn*!

We invite your church to learn more about this program at www.lssi.org/Christmas

Notes from the Parish Administrator....



As I read Christine Imhoff's summary of the extraordinary events hosted by the Anti-Racism Task Force this year, I was reminded of the long way the U.S. needs to go to heal the damage done by systemic racism. December 7, 2021 marks the 80th anniversary since the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and for Japanese-Americans, this was a turning point in our history. Everything changed for Japanese-Americans particularly on the West Coast, and family lore was marked by what happened "Before the War" and "After the War." The subsequent removal and internment of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast was a harsh lesson for my grandparents' and parents' generations that the United States could redefine at any time, who had citizen rights and who did not.

My mother, Rose, was 13 years old on December 7, 1941 and her youngest grandchild Malia, is aged 13 years on December 7, 2021. The attitudes towards Japanese-Americans could not be more different and in those intervening 80 years, I marvel how once Japanese-Americans were viewed as a subhuman, evil enemy and a group full of spies willing to do harm against the U.S. to evolve to a small, largely quiet ethnic group among Asian-Americans whose most celebrated food, sushi, can be bought at Jewel-Osco. Being Japanese-American became "normalized".

While racism against Japanese-Americans isn't completely gone, the temperament of society changed and clearly moved towards healing. It gives me hope that if healing and changing attitudes can happen with Japanese-Americans, it can and actually, must happen with other peoples of color.

—Jane Kaihatsu



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

As users return to the building, please practice good stewardship by turning off all lights, dumping trash properly, and making sure doors are locked and secure after the close of activities.



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

616 Lake St.
Evanston, IL 60202

Phone: 847-864-4464

E-mail: parish-admin@ilcevanston.org

Website: 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.