

January 2022 Newsletter

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

I was disappointed that because of the most recent Covid-19 Omicron variant our worship for the Christmas season reverted back to worship via Zoom. I think that all



of us have had more than enough of the trials and setbacks of this ongoing pandemic. My go-to verse has been from Matthew 11:28-30 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' We've been learning how best to cope, and I wonder how as a community of faith we're learning new lessons about how to support and encourage one another as we deal with all

the ways our lives have been affected. Hopefully, this recent wave of contagion will be short-lived and we'll be back to both options of in-person or Zoom worship.

One of the first books that my Spiritual Director gave me many years ago was one by Father Richard Rohr called, *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*. It was about how everything in our lives can contribute to our spiritual growth and nourishment, even a pandemic. Here's a taste of what Rohr says, "God is to be found in all things, even and most especially in the painful, tragic, and sinful things, exactly where we do not want to look for God. The crucifixion of the God-Man is at the same moment the worst thing in human history and the best thing in human history." So where might we find God in this pandemic? God is always already present. How might we become more aware of God's presence in this here and now?

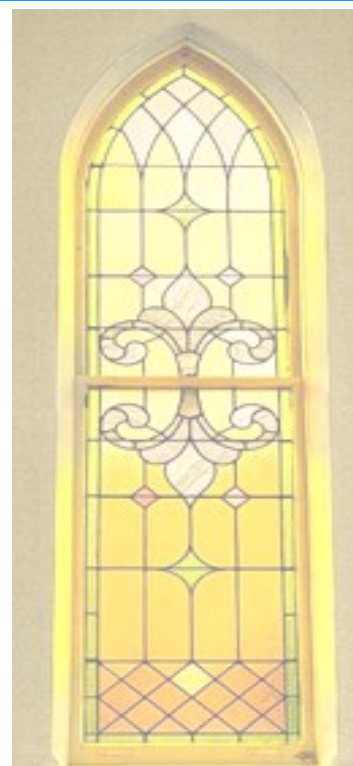
Perhaps this pandemic can lead us to live more fully the cruciform way of life that we've been baptized into. Perhaps it is teaching us how to let go of whatever we're holding on too tightly to, so that we can better sense God's loving presence flowing within and through us. Perhaps it's helping us to see more clearly how we're a global community and that our wellbeing is linked to the wellbeing of all. Perhaps it's just the interruption we needed to pay closer attention to the sacred moments and movements in our lives.

One of my hopes this year is to begin some Spiritual Direction Groups in which people can assist one another in paying closer attention to the spiritual dimensions of their lives. If you sense that you might benefit from participating in such a group, let me know and I'll get back in touch with you when we've finished developing the expectations for participants.

Know that I give thanks for all of you and for being a part of this dynamic community of faith, as we learn together how best to live out our lives as God's beloved, no matter what.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



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- Blessing of the Quilts
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Immanuel Events

Jan. 1		Happy New Year!
Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30	9:00 am	Feeding One's Faith Hybrid Adult Study
Jan. 4, 11 18, 25	7:00 pm	Tuesday Adult Spiritual Gathering on Zoom
Jan. 6		Epiphany
	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Jan. 8, 22	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers' Market
Jan. 16	12:30 pm	Council Meeting
Jan. 23	10:30 am	Blessing of the Quilts Sunday
	Noon	Annual Budget Meeting
Jan. 30	Noon	Annual Meeting



January Scripture Readings

January 2, Christmas 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3; 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

January 9, Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

January 16, Epiphany 2

Isaiah 62: 1-5
Psalm 36: 5-10

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
John 2: 1-11

January 23, Epiphany 3

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Luke 4: 21-30

January 30, Epiphany 4

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Psalm 71: 1-6
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 4: 21-30



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

Music at Immanuel

January Music

We greet the New Year with another gathering of lovely choral pieces to support our worship both in person and virtually. The choir will celebrate Christ's baptism with Gerhard Krapf's setting of *To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord*.

We follow this lovely chorale with an original composition by Carol Muehlig called *God Fashioned Love*. In theme with the Epiphany season, we then contribute another chorale setting by Hugo Distler to the familiar tune *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*. We conclude the month with an anthem of a setting of the 1 Corinthians 13 text, *If I Have Not Love* by Mark Schweizer.

—Jimmy Morehead

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

January 2022 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.

January 9 – Ted Smith on *Reckless Love Living for Things That Die*. In this provocative talk, Ted Smith, Professor of Preaching and Ethics at Candler School of Theology, considers how and why we are called to devote our lives to things that do not last.

January 16 - Austin Channing Brown on *The Double Sided Pursuit of Racial Justice*.

January 23 – Nadia Bolz-Weber on *Forgiveness and being Church*.

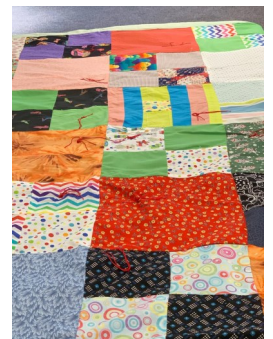
January 30 - Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, author of *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence* speaks on the Big Questions .

See—Touch—Bless

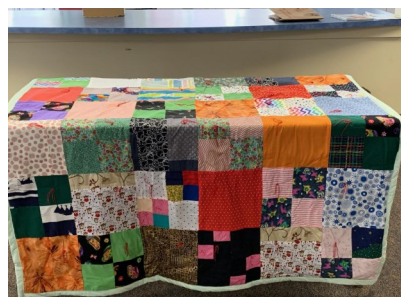
Blessing of the Quilts Sunday, January 23, 2022

On the weekend of January 21-23, 2022, you have the chance to see all the creations of Immanuel's quilt group in one space. The quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary on Friday night, the 21st.

Stop in the sanctuary when shopping at the farmers market on Saturday the 22nd, and enjoy all the colors and patterns. *Touching is allowed and encouraged!* On Sunday, the 23rd, all the quilts will be blessed in the church service before they are packed up and taken to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Elgin.



—Chris Djuric



Social Ministry Updates. . .

Bridges to Home Status Report

For four years in a row, The Bridges to Home team held a cabaret to raise money for the *Bridges to Home* program. Then along came Covid. What is the *Bridges to Home* program? In 2015, Immanuel Lutheran along with 4 other Lutheran churches in Evanston, made an investment in the future of homeless young adults in Evanston and the investment paid off. The five Evanston Lutheran churches created and committed to support a program called *Bridges to Home* in conjunction with *Our House*, a Connections for the Homeless program.

Our House is an 18-month residential program for homeless young adults who need help to get on a path for success. We help to subsidize an apartment for two young people when they “graduate” from *Our House*. Since inception, 10 young people have transitioned from *Our House* to *Bridges* and finally to independent living. This is a great achievement for the young people whose future looked very grim at one time as well as an achievement for the whole community. Connections for the Homeless now has another *Bridges* apartment as well as several other housing opportunities for homeless people age 18-26.

Even so, there are waiting lists for all of their programs.

Your trust and investment into the Bridges to Home program over 5 years ago, laid the foundation for transformational change and offered Connections the chance to make an impact on youth homelessness. As we move into 2022, Connections is serving more young people than ever before and we have become a regional leader in youth homeless services. We’ve launched new targeted youth outreach efforts, added youth-dedicated emergency shelter, and increased youth-dedicated housing from 8 units to 30! This work is possible because of the long term support and partnership with Bridges to Home, thank you!

You can easily donate to Bridges by going to the [Connections for the Homeless website](#). Write Bridges to Home in the Special note box.

Interfaith Action of Evanston - Walk for Warmth fundraiser

What is Walk for Warmth?

Annual event to raise awareness and provide support for people in our community who are homeless or hungry and facing a brutal winter.

When is it?

Starts at 11:00 am on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Monday January 17th.

Where is it?

Starts at First United Methodist Church, 516 Church St. in downtown Evanston.

Follows a 2-mile route past the houses of worship hosting the overnight shelter this winter **including Immanuel, which will host the emergency overnight shelter in April.**

Whether you walk with us in person or walk with us in spirit by making a donation, you will help Interfaith Action continue to raise awareness of homelessness and hunger in our community and provide food and shelter for our struggling Evanston neighbors.

For more information, to register to walk or to donate, go to the [2022 Walk for Warmth webpage](#).

When someone registers for the walk or makes a donation on the 2022 Walk for Warmth webpage, s/he simply selects from a list the team or church they are associated with. All of the Interfaith Action faith communities are listed.

If you have any difficulty registering on the web site we (Charly, Steve Andes, or myself) will be glad to help you.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Caroline Nakic 1/3

Nicolai Schousboe 1/3

George Otto 1/6

Rachel Tollett 1/4

Sara Krentz 1/11

Jim McCarthy 1/12

Elizabeth McDaniel 1/13

Jessica Nakic 1/27

Ryan Knohl 1/29



—Nicolai Schousboe

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.

The Immanuel Gallery



Elora Kloster (b. 20XX)

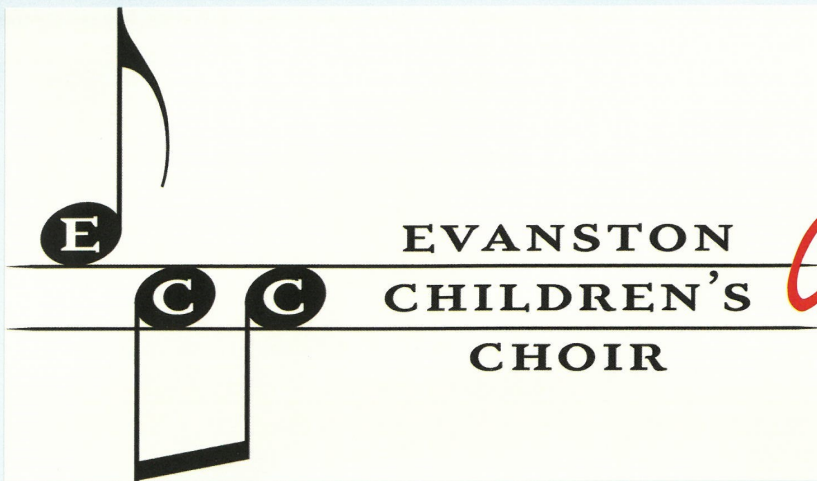
American

Art, Love, a Brother's Life, 2021

iPad

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, Epistola Fund 2021;
acquired from the M. Kloster Private Collection





*Celebrating
20
years!*

- All in-person beginning this January (full COVID-19 vaccination required).
- Beginning to advanced singers, grades 1 through high school.
- Scholarships available. **Nobody ever turned away for lack of ability to pay.**
- In residence at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston.



Winter/Spring Semester 2022 starts January 10th

gary@evanstonchildrenschoir.org

(847) 733-0814

www.evanstonchildrenschoir.org



Concert Choir seeking singers for Orchestra Hall debut:

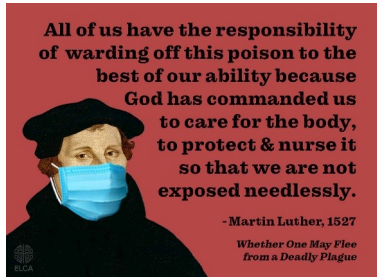
As we return to singing live onstage, we have something truly special to look forward to: our Orchestra Hall debut with the Apollo Chorus of Chicago on June 14th, 2022. Our Concert Choir is seeking qualified singers to help us rebuild a larger, stronger group this coming semester as we recover from the effects of the pandemic on our organization. If your child is a good singer in grade 3-12 and wants to get in on this potentially once-in-a-lifetime special opportunity, contact our office now. No experience necessary.

Notes from the Parish Administrator....



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.

When leaving the building, please practice good stewardship by turning off all lights, dumping trash properly, and making sure doors are locked and secure.



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.



Immanuel's Indoor Farmers Markets

Immanuel Lutheran Church
presents Farmers Markets
for winter & spring 2021-22.

November 20
December 4 & 18
January 8 & 22
February 5 & 19
March 5 & 19
April 2

Time: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Masks required inside
the building**



Evanston's Community
Indoor Farmers Market

www.immanuelevanston.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE