

February 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?

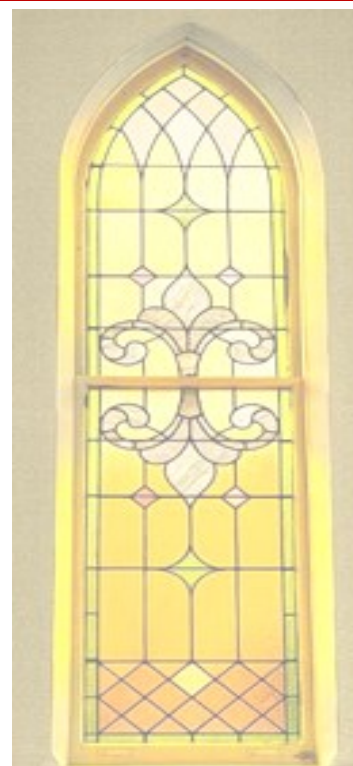
Perhaps this pandemic can lead us to live more fully the cruciform way of life that we've been baptized into. Perhaps it is teaching us how to let go of whatever we're holding on too tightly to, so that we can better sense God's loving presence flowing within and through us. Perhaps it's helping us to 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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Immanuel Events

Feb. 1		Black History Month Happy Lunar New Year, Year of the Tiger!
Feb. 3	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Feb. 5, 19	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers' Market
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27	9:00 am	Feeding One's Faith Adult Study
Feb. 1, 8, 15 22	7:00 pm	Tuesday Adult Bible Study on Zoom
Feb. 14		Valentine's Day
Feb. 20	12:30 pm	Council Meeting
Feb. 21		Presidents' Day



February Scripture Readings

February 6, Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 13, Epiphany 6

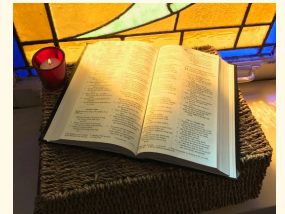
Jeremiah 17: 5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6: 17-26

February 20, Epiphany 7

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

February 27, Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36



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

Music at Immanuel

February Music

Epiphany season continues in February with some delightful choral anthems. We begin the month with Rachel Aarons' choral piece of Isaiah 6:1-8 *In the Year that King Uzziah Died*. The choir will offer a lovely Elizabeth Poston composition entitled *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* the following week.

Then we will sing *Prayer of Hildegard* with text by the German mystic and music by Barbara Wallace. We conclude the month with Transfiguration and a gorgeous anthem *O Nata Lux* by Morten Lauridsen.

—Jimmy Morehead

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

February 2022 Schedule

Join us 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.

February 6 – Jim Wallis on “Voting Rights is Now a Faith Issue” part 1

February 13 – Jim Wallis on “Voting Rights is Now a Faith Issue” part 2

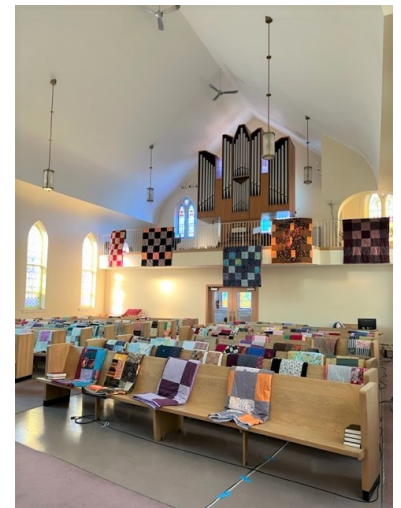
February 20 – Rev. Dr. Lauren Winner on “Magnolia Trees and Cardigan Sweaters: Unexpected Metaphors for God”

February 27 – Father Greg Boyles, founder of Homeboy Industries, a gang intervention ministry in LA. Part 1

Blessing of the Quilts Sunday

On Sunday, January 23rd, 110 gorgeous quilts were blessed before they were packed up for sending to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Elgin.

Grace Yarnoff related a heart-warming story at Coffee Hour on Jan. 23rd about the quilts. On Saturday, Jan. 22nd, Grace was at church as a site coordinator because Fellowship Hall was being rented by some Northwestern University students for a student film project. She was sitting in the sanctuary and on a couple of occasions, the students and their advisors came to ask her a question when they were stopped in their tracks. Grace said they expressed their amazement and wonder at the number of quilts and their beauty. These visitors were equally impressed when Grace told them why the quilts were made which was for the support for refugees around the world.



As Grace noted, the Quilting Ministry is a wonderful way to show visitors and the greater community of Immanuel's mission work and how blessed we are to have the talent and dedication of our quilters. Thank you as well to all of the people who helped pack the quilts into boxes for later shipment.

If you'd like to know where our quilts have gone recently:

2014	UNHRD Dubai Ware house, Philippines, Armenia, Tanzania, Peru
2015	India, Worldwide, Georgia
2016	India
2019	Iraq
2020	Georgia, Chile

Other items from Immanuel such as New School Kits in 2014 and 2015 went to Nicaragua, and a Fabric Kit in 2016 went to Angola.

—Chris Djuric and Bert Mount

Social Ministry Updates. . .

Interfaith Action of Evanston Walk for Warmth fundraiser

We received a very encouraging note from the Interfaith Action in Evanston planners who organized the 2022 Walk for Warmth. The number of walkers exceeded our expectations with almost 600 registered for the walk (actually 584 but close enough) including 438 adults and 146 kids. We ultimately had 44 teams of all sizes.

We also met and surpassed our \$30,000 fundraising goal with \$34,594 so far and donations are continuing to come in. Donations to the Walk were accepted until the end of January. Thank you for getting both donors and walkers involved, and much thanks to all who contributed and/or walked..



—Nicolai Schousboe

Tuesday Midweek Adult Bible Study on Zoom 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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hal Larson 2/2

Linnea Balder 2/8

Jimmy Morehead 2/11

Jim Skelton 2/11

Laura Skelton Yakovenko 2/11

Nicole Darian 2/12

Steve Andes 2/14

Gretchen Gurujal 2/14

Kim Miller 2/15

Keziah Yarnoff 2/18

Rebecca Bernstein 2/24

John Otto 2/24

Greg Hummel 2/25

Joanne Shearer 2/25

Sara Stegner 2/25

So Many Ways to Serve

There are so many ways that we help Immanuel keep going. You probably noticed the many committees that filed reports for the Annual Meeting and any of these committees would welcome new members.

I am especially wondering if you are interested in becoming an integral part of Sunday worship? There are many ways you can do this.

- The Altar Guild makes sure that the appropriate colors for each season in the church calendar are displayed, and also that the table is set for communion each Sunday.
- Assisting ministers participate in the service with Pastor Mark.
- Lectors (or readers) read the Scripture passages from the pulpit.
- Acolytes (though not currently, but in future surely) process with the cross and with torches, light altar and pulpit candles and extinguish them when the service concludes.
- Ushers assist in many ways during the Sunday service.

If any of these sound interesting to you, please contact me, Kit McCarthy, at kit.mccarthy@comcast.net, or, call the church at (847) 864-4464 and let Jane or Pastor Mark know.

Meet Your New Council Members

Diane Keely

My husband, Charles, and I were both raised in large Roman Catholic families and met in graduate school at Fordham University. We moved to Evanston in October 2010 to be near my daughter's young family. After 47 years of marriage and a brief two-month illness, Charlie died peacefully in December 2014.

I soon began reading the New Testament in the morning and praying for family and other intentions. Eventually I felt a need to pray in community and began searching for a religious congregation that might be a faith-home. I attended services at a broad range of religious congregations – Catholic and Protestant and, when invited by friends, Baha'i and Buddhist. In 2019, Anne Heider (a fellow Rainbow Threshold Singer) invited me to attend Immanuel Lutheran's Easter Vigil service, which began around a bright outdoor fire. Then Anne invited me to an annual organ concert at ILC, where I saw the man who built Immanuel's magnificent organ. Not long after, I impulsively decided to walk to the Sunday service. I listened to Pastor Keith's engaging sermon, spoke with him after the service, and went to the friendly coffee gathering in Fellowship Hall.

Since then, I've attended Sunday services regularly and was formally accepted as a church member on December 8, 2019. I've gradually joined with the community in various ways -- the Stark Committee, the winter afternoon Warming Shelter (until Covid), Sunday morning's Feeding Our Faith (previously the Sunday Story Hour), the Anti-Racism task force, Tuesday evening's Scripture meetings, the quilting group and, most recently, the interfaith MLK Day walk. I will do my best to serve as a Council member.



Michael Kloster

How time flies! It feels like just a few months ago that I came to my first service at Immanuel. An evening Ash Wednesday service with my daughter Elora. I figured, what better time to start coming to church than when everyone will be repenting! After a few more false starts, I eventually took the plunge and started attending Immanuel services regularly, often with as many as three of my children, and sometimes even all four. Since then the Immanuel community embraced our family with warmth and welcome.

We have really appreciated how quickly we could be included in Immanuel ministries, even if it is just moving tables to get ready for the farmers market. I tell my friends, if you want to start helping people, and don't know where to start, join a church, they'll have plenty for you to do! In that spirit, when asked to contribute on the Call Committee and the Stewardship Committee, I have gladly done so. Both have been great experiences, working with talented and experienced fellows at Immanuel. I hope to do the same on the Church council.

2022–23 ILC Leadership

Dana Barron, Congregation President

Bert Mount, Congregation Vice President

Steve Warner, Congregation Secretary

Melisa Larson, Diane Keely, Michael Kloster, Jim Skelton, Grace Yarnoff Congregation Council Members

Susan Ross, Treasurer

Mary Ann Kearns, Financial Secretary

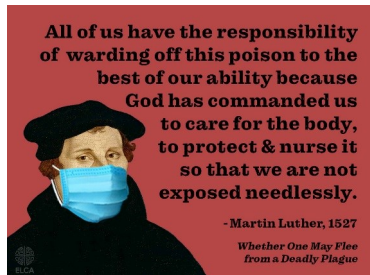
Elizabeth Stegner, Assistant Financial Secretary

Notes from the Parish Administrator....



Church officers, Committee and Ministry Chairs: 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.



DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose, mouth, and chin.



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps

DO NOT choose masks that



Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl



Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape



Not recommended: Evaluation of face shields is ongoing, but effectiveness is unknown at this time.



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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.



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