

God's Hands - July/August 2022

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor



What is God up to in your life this summer? If you're doing any kind of travelling, then God might be expanding your horizons, or refreshing and restoring your spirit. Maybe you've been gardening, a grounding experience connecting you to the one who brings an abundance of growth. Hopefully, the warm weather has brought plentiful opportunities for play and recreation. Whatever you've been doing, I invite you to ponder my question. How has God been active in your life? This in a nutshell is what spiritual direction is all about, paying closer attention to what God has been up to in your life.

Group spiritual direction is a process in which companions help each other pay closer attention to the movement of the spirit in their lives. Group participants don't attempt to fix or repair one another, but ask questions like, "Where do you sense God in this experience?" or "What is God's desire for you now?" The goal is to deepen God moments, which include both times of consolation and anguish. In our life with God, everything belongs. In the process of spiritual direction, the Holy Spirit is the true guide, participants seek to assist one another in discernment of the Spirit's guidance.

During a group session, when someone is asked a question, they are instructed in 3 possible ways of responding: (1) They can answer the question. (2) They can say something like, "Thank you for that question. I'll take it with me to reflect and think about it more at a later time." Or, (3) they can say, "Thanks, but that's not the direction that I was going." These 3 potential responses give each participant the control necessary to keep the group's space safe. We also spend some time in silence together, which allows the group the space necessary to discern how the spirit is moving.

Kit McCarthy and I are both trained Spiritual Directors, and will be forming new Spiritual Direction Groups this fall. We hope to have 4 or 5 participants in each group, meeting monthly for one and a half hours. Please let either one of us know if you would like to deepen your spiritual journey as a participant. I find this is always a very sacred time and space. As Jesus says, "For where 2 or 3 (or 4 or 5) are gathered together in my name, there am I, in the midst of them." —Matthew 18:20

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Inside this issue

- Synod Assembly Recap
- Baptism of George Otto
- In Memoriam: Joanne Shearer
- A Site of Struggle Tour

Immanuel Calendar



July 4		Happy Fourth of July! (Church Office is closed.)
July 7	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
July 17	12:30 pm	Council Meeting
July 17-24		Pr. Mark on vacation
Aug 4	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Aug 21	12:30 pm	Council Meeting

July/August Scripture Readings

July 3, Pentecost 4

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10, Pentecost 5

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 17, Pentecost 6

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 8:26-39

July 24, Pentecost 7

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

July 31, Pentecost 8

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107: 1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

August 7, Pentecost 9

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 14, Pentecost 10

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

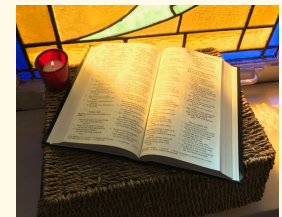
August 21, Pentecost 11

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 28, Pentecost 12

Jeremiah 2:1-14
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

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



Interfaith Reparations Commitment Underway

On June 13th Dana Baron and Pastor Mark participated with 15 other faith communities in the kickoff of the Evanston Interfaith Community Support of Reparations. We're committed to not only raise money for the Evanston Community Reparations Fund, but also awareness and education about the need for reparations.

Next January, near MLK day, the faith communities will be sharing the joint amount of money raised and events held. We want to track any contributions that our members make to the Reparations Fund, so if you have already contributed directly to the fund, or if you do make a direct contribution, please let Pastor Mark know, so that we can track an Immanuel total.



We already received a thank you from the Community Foundation for the \$150 that our Sunday School children decided to give. So we're off and running, and a little child shall lead them. (See p. 9)

35th Synod Assembly Delegates' Summary

The 35th Synod Assembly was held on June 4th.

The morning half of the day was to do the business part of the assembly.

We approved the 2023 budget, elected two lay nominees to be on the ballot for church council that will be voted on at the ELCA Assembly, and approved five resolutions.

Various reports of Synod officers were received.

The afternoon we had five different workshops that we could attend. After the workshop we were led in the Blanket Exercise. The Blanket Exercise is an experiential learning tool that leads a group of participants through 500+ years of Indigenous history, highlighting the relationship between the tribal nations and the European explorers, colonial settlers, and U.S. federal and state governments.

The assembly was closed with worship.



—Hal Larson

My first impression was of hundreds of people in an auditorium. A group of folk musicians were playing and singing in English and Spanish. Words to songs and chants were displayed on a large screen so all could join in. After introductions and prayers, the business meeting began with presentations and comments on proposed changes to synod policies. You showed agreement or disagreement by raising a blue flag. For a person raised Roman Catholic, this was a completely different way of policy-making.

After choosing a sandwich and drink, you had a choice of five workshops on quite different topics. An Associate to the Bishop in Chicago's Synod spoke on "Congregations and Change," challenges and opportunities resulting from the pandemic's impact on congregations. Much discussion resulted, including some on different ways to use a church parking lot.

Next there was a "Blanket Exercise," which I found the most moving part of the synod. A Native American man had spread small hand-made blankets next to one another on the auditorium floor. He tapped on the shoulders of about 25 people in the audience, including me, to go and stand on a blanket. Then he took us through 500+ years of indigenous history revealing the impact of European explorers, colonial settlers, and the US federal and state governments. The blankets represented the indigenous lands and those standing on blankets represented those who died along with the loss of their lands. People were gradually sent back to their seats as the speaker presented the historical steps of lands and lives lost, including the famous Trail of Tears. The floor blankets were gradually removed as the story progressed, with all those standing on the blankets gradually returning to their seats.

In the late afternoon, elders and church leaders were honored for their dedication and accomplishments. The synod closed with a Communion service enhanced by the musicians. As we walked toward Pastor's car, his son came toward us with a huge smile as he and his dad hugged. What a great way to end the synod and start the one-hour trip from Naperville to Evanston.

—Diane Keely

Baptism of George Otto

On June 12, 2022, also Feast of the Holy Trinity, we celebrated the Holy Rite of Baptism for George Sinclair Otto, second son of John Otto and Trixie Lipke. Sponsors were Nicole and Stephen Taghan and Ashley and Daniel Libit. Delighted witnesses included Big Brother Theodore. We congratulate John and Trixie and welcome Little George as he joins Teddy and his parents into our Immanuel Community!



Passing the Baton

Although too young to operate a motor vehicle (legally), Parker K. does just fine operating the audio-video controls of Immanuel's Sunday livestreaming worship service as Studio (Sanctuary) Director. And 5...4...3...2... "We're Live!" Camera 1....

Thanks for doing a great job, Parker! Enjoy your vacation!



Photos this page & p. 5 by Joe Simchak

In Memoriam

We Remember the Life of Joanne Shearer

Joanne Marie Shearer

February 25, 1955 – May 26, 2022



Joanne Marie Shearer (nee Larson) was born on February 25, 1955 to Harold Sr. and Maxine Larson. She grew up in Evanston, IL along with her younger brother, Harold Jr. and attended Evanston Township High School. Joanne went on to attend North Park College and graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing in 1977. During her time at North Park, she met her husband Merle while playing in the concert band together. They were married on August 21, 1976. During their 45 years together, they raised two children - Erik and Kerstin. She was a proud grandmother to three boys all born in 2021.

Joanne was very passionate about nursing and worked her entire career of 35 years at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago and had many roles. She started as a bedside nurse on a medical-surgical unit and in the Emergency Department. She then attended Loyola University in Chicago to become a critical care Clinical Nurse Specialist. She graduated with a Master's of Science in Nursing in 1986 and worked as a Nurse Educator. She was awarded the Division of Nursing Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Profession of Nursing in 1989 for her research work which was published in several nursing journals. Joanne went on to become the Director of the Education Department.

Joanne was a faithful, lifelong member of Immanuel Lutheran Church having been baptized and confirmed here. She served in many ways over the years including teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, ushering, and Altar Guild. She was also a part of several committees including Personnel, Christian Education, and the Pictorial Directory Planning committee. Joanne helped organize the installation of an AED in the church and the training on its use.

Joanne loved family vacations - train rides out to Montana as a child with her parents and brother, "Shearer family vacation" around the Midwest with her husband and kids (and their spouses in later years), and weekend getaways to Milwaukee with her husband to watch Marquette basketball games. She was a country music fan having seen Alan Jackson in concert too many times to count. She loved and supported her family unconditionally and will be greatly missed.

Joanne was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Merle; by her two children, Erik (Amy) Shearer and Kerstin (Andrew) Litwin; by her grandchildren, Aleksander and Thomas Shearer and Arthur Litwin; and by her brother, Hal (Melisa) Larson. May the Lord comfort those who mourn.



**Tuesday Midweek Adult Bible Study on Zoom
Is taking a break for the Summer.**

See you in the Fall!

**Feeding Our Faith
Sundays 9 AM—10 AM**

Is taking a break for the summer. See you in September!



Supper Worship at LCMNU to Resume This Fall

Looking for Supporters

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern U. (LCMNU) is planning to resume "Supper Worship" this fall on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 6:45pm! Supper Worship is a worship service that begins with gathering around the table at 6:00 pm for our table prayer; sharing in the meal (served buffet style) and fellowship 6:00 pm -6:30 pm. At 6:30 pm -6:45 pm, we have a brief evening prayer service right at the table.

We expect 12-20 students attending, but you can always check ahead of time on the number. At this time, we anticipate that those of you cooking could join the student community for the meal. We will implement safety protocols as needed.



**LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY**
AT NORTHWESTERN

Please ALSO READ the "special instructions" for more info. Thank you in advance for providing a community meal!

Special Instructions:

We ask that the meal be ready to serve promptly at 6:00 pm so that we can conclude at 6:45 pm respecting students' schedules. The table is set prior to your arrival, and drinks are provided. Meals usually include a main course, vegetable, salad or fruit, bread is optional, and a dessert.

Since we're just restarting Supper Worship, we anticipate 12-20 students attending (plus your group members), so please check ahead of time. Many bring food already prepared. We have two ovens and one fridge available. We usually have many condiments in the fridge, so, please ask if you need anything in particular. We do ask your help in wiping down the kitchen, stoves, etc. after supper prep. If you choose to leave leftovers, they will be eaten.

Allergies or dietary restrictions:

Currently, we are aware of two students who have nut allergies, and two students who eat a vegan diet. Please don't hesitate to check with us if you have any concerns, and we will try to make you aware as we become aware of specific needs.

Click on the Meal Train link below to sign up:

Meal Train site just for your convenience:

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/82In41>



JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Faith Yarnoff 7/1

Parker Kloster 7/7

Joan Guess 7/8

Patrick McCarthy 7/10

Audrey Moy 7/13

Meaghan Ross 7/15

Christian Kloster 7/18

Jim Rakowsky 7/20

Trixie Lipke 7/22

Kit McCarthy 7/29

Elizabeth Stegner 8/1

Grace Yarnoff 8/10

Olivia Knohl 8/20

Judy Kratochvil 8/21

Alice Hancko 8/22

Maren Baylaender 8/28

Tom Couch 8/29



Visit to *A Site of Struggle* Exhibit

In the early evening of June 29th, some Immanuel members and friends gathered at the Block Museum on the Northwestern University campus to view *A Site of Struggle: American Art against Anti-Black Violence*, an exhibit of mixed media featuring the history of struggle, violence, and pain experienced by African-Americans. Some of the artwork was abstract and others more direct; all evoking a variety of feelings and reactions. The works grapple with anti-Black violence over a 125-year period—From Elizabeth Catlett’s direct depiction of lynching to Paul Rucker’s abstract memorials for historical incidents of racial violence. The exhibit is organized into three thematic sections: “Written on the Body”, “A Red Record” (whose title is from an 1895 anti-lynching pamphlet written by Ida B. Wells), and “Abstraction and Affect”.



Afterwards, attendees gathered in the cool outdoors to discuss and reflect upon what they had seen and felt.

The curator of the exhibit, Janet Dees, writes, “Art can provide a moment of pause, an opportunity for us to sit with the complex and deep-rooted nature of anti-Black violence, and contemplate how it impacts us individually and as a society. In these works, we may find recognition fo our own suffering — which is important in and of itself—as well as a provocation to continue, or begin for the first time, striving to eliminate this suffering through concrete actions appropriate to our positionality. By highlighting the ways in which American artists have wrestled with the challenges posed by representation in order to protest, process, mourn, and memorialize anti-Black violence, A Site of a Struggle is a modest offering in the ongoing struggle for the preservation and flourishing of Black life.”





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 1, 2022

Immanuel Lutheran Church
616 Lake St
Evanston, IL 60201-4413

Thank You

Dear Immanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$50.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

*Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy
(ELW 328)*

This is a season of reflection and sacrifice, but it is also a season of hope. As we walk the 40-day journey of Lent, we know that we are walking toward Easter and the promise of renewal. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA are bringing that promise and hope to your neighbors around the world.

Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

evanston!communityfoundation

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June 13, 2022

Attn: Pastor Mark Sloss
Immanuel Lutheran Church
616 Lake St
Evanston, IL 60202

Dear Pastor Mark:

The Evanston Community Foundation has received your generous gift of \$150.00 to support the Evanston Reparations Community Fund.

Evanston Reparations Community Fund - The Fund will benefit Evanston's Black community, to heal racism and address harm caused by discriminatory practices. It will be administered by the Reparations Stakeholders Authority, as it raises funds, develops grant processes, and administers grants to advance Evanston Reparations. A key objective is to ensure funding is available for reparations when the City of Evanston's tax revenues, held in a separate fund administered by the City, are no longer available.

Thank you for investing with us for a more vibrant, inclusive and equitable Evanston.

With gratitude,



Joi-Anissa Russell
VP, Philanthropy & Communications

The Evanston Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization and has exclusive legal control over your contribution. We acknowledge that no goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation. Retain this letter as your receipt.

Notes from the Parish Administrator....



The other day two young passers-by — including one cool customer — helped Nana Chris open the church door for me because I'd forgotten my keys at home. "It's amazing they have baby sunglasses," Logan informed... So amazing, indeed!



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.

Recently, requests to use the building from both members and non-members is increasing. If you'd like to use a space, first please check the church calendar at www.immanuelevanston.org or contact the church office at 847-864-4464 or parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org for availability.

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

2022-23 ILC Leadership

Dana Barron, Congregation President

Bert Mount, Congregation Vice President

Steve Warner, Congregation Secretary

Susan Ross, Treasurer

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

Mary Ann Kearns, Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Stegner, Assistant Financial Secretary



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.