



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.

God's Hands—January 2023

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

As we move from December into January the church season moves from the joy of Christmas to the surprise of Epiphany. Many people make New Year resolutions that often don't last through the end of January.

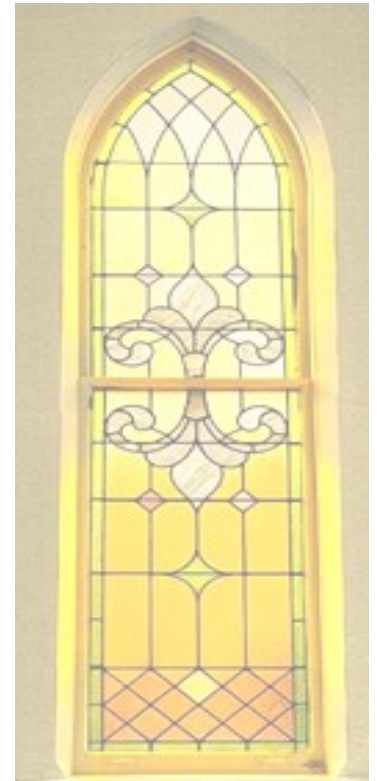


Epiphany teaches us how God's grace has a serendipitous quality to it? Have you ever been surprised that through no effort of your own, you've been changed. I've found that transformation doesn't easily happen by my trying harder to change. The harder I try to change myself, the more stuck that I usually become in whatever I'm trying to change. Yet, every now and again, often when I least expect it, an epiphany happens, an ah-ha moment, a gracious gift of awareness comes. When I glimpse myself in whatever foolishness I've been up to, I often laugh at myself. Such epiphanies become the very vehicle of change. Through a clarity of awareness transformation happens effortlessly. Change happens not through an exercise of willpower, but rather through a gentle surrender to the Spirit of God at work in me. The gentle Spirit is so much kinder than how I might try to bring change through a large dose of self-criticism. I've come to prefer God's way of providing epiphany moments, God's way of loving me into newness of life.

During this Epiphany season may the ears of our hearts and the eyes of our minds be opened to the ah-ha moments that God will use to transform us both as individuals and as the body of Christ gathered as Immanuel congregation! Surprise us, O God, as we see each other and ourselves in the radiant light of your love. Within each of our ah-ha moments the light of Christ shines bright and true.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



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Immanuel Calendar



Jan. 1		Happy New Year!
Jan. 5, 19	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Jan. 7, 21	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers' Market
Jan. 3, 10, 17, 23, 30	7:00 pm	Midweek Adult Bible Study (on Zoom)
Jan. 15	1:00 pm	Council Meeting
Jan. 16		Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	11:00 am	Walk for Warmth
Jan. 18	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Jan. 19	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
Jan. 22	TBD	Budget Meeting
		Lunar New Year—Year of the Rabbit
Jan. 29	TBD	Annual Meeting

Be sure to check the Church Calendar online at www.immanuelevanston.org/Calendar for the latest info on church events and building usage.

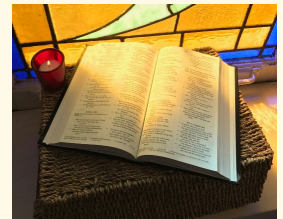
January Scripture Readings

January 1, Christmas 1

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

January 15, Epiphany 2

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42



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 22, Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-0
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

January 8, Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

January 29, Epiphany 4

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

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

Feeding Our Faith

Sundays 9 AM—10 AM

Gatherings include viewing short videos and lively discussions.

You can participate either in-person or via Zoom. All participants will have an enhanced experience by being able to see and hear each other, via an Owl Labs 360-degree view video camera/speaker/microphone! Zoom link is on the church website, www.immanuelevanston.org.

1/8 & 15/23 – Brian McLaren – from Wild Goose Festival July 2022

Brian is an author, speaker, and public theologian. He shares about the struggle to live out the Christian faith in these unsettled times. His latest book is *Do I Stay Christian?*

1/22/23 – Valerie Kaur, TED talk: 3 lessons of revolutionary love in a time of rage

What's the antidote to rising nationalism, polarization and hate? In this inspiring, poetic talk, Valerie Kaur asks us to reclaim love as a revolutionary act. As she journeys from the birthing room to tragic sites of bloodshed, Kaur shows us how the choice to love can be a force for justice.

1/29/23 – Shane Claiborne – An Ordinary Radical

Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and best-selling author. From working alongside Mother Teresa in Calcutta to standing against war in Iraq and Afghanistan, Shane lives his life as if Jesus really meant the things he said.

January Music

The choir offers a lovely Orlando Gibbons to kick off our Epiphany season referencing Jesus' baptism "Come Holy Ghost." We then turn to a rousing chorale setting of "The Only Son from Heaven" complete with responsorial voicing and Zimbelstern by Robert Buckley Farlee.

As we continue to focus on God's light in the star over Bethlehem and upon the mountain peak, George J. Elvey's "Arise Shine" will brighten our Sunday worship with a majestic celebration of God's light. The choir then looks to the Psalm with a setting of Psalm 15 by Ronald Nelson as we focus on "those who speak the truth from the heart."

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nicolai Schousboe 1/3

Rachel Tollett 1/4

George Otto 1/6

Sara Krentz 1/11

Jim McCarthy 1/12

Elizabeth McDaniel 1/13

Jessica Nakic 1/27

Ryan Knohl 1/29

Organ Scholar Concert Saturday, December 17, 2022

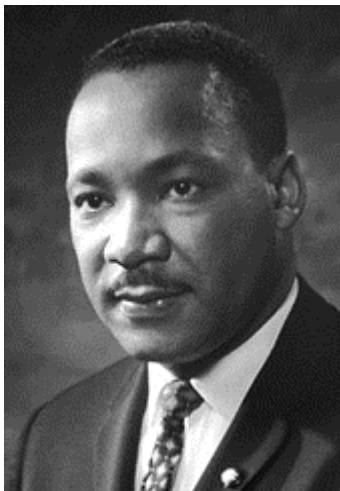
We celebrated another Organ Scholar Award recipient, Katherine Jolliff, who performed in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 17th at 7:00 pm. Katherine is the Undergraduate Scholar Awardee for 2022. After her concert, the award was presented and a champagne reception followed in Fellowship Hall.



Much gratitude to the members of the Organ Scholar Committee, headed by Music Director James Morehead. Others included Greg Hummel, Organist Emeritus; Christine Kraemer, Principal Organist; and Laurie Stivers, Associate Organist. For all of the concerts held this year, Terri Hummel, Andrea Knohl, and Hal and Lisa Larson coordinated refreshments for the concerts' receptions.



“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” -- Martin Luther King Jr.



You can respond to Dr. King's question by supporting the **Walk for Warmth** in the following ways:

Walk with us on Monday January 16, 2023! Register to Walk. Join us for Interfaith Action of Evanston's 4th annual family-friendly Walk for Warmth in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day of Service. There is no charge to register for the walk, but advance registration is required.

The 2-mile walk through central Evanston starts at 11 AM at First United Methodist Church at 516 Church St. in downtown Evanston. Free parking is available at the public garage on Church St. just east of Chicago Ave. We will gather at the Hinman Ave. entrance of the church at Church St. and Hinman Ave. and then follow the route past eight of the faith communities that host Interfaith Action's winter shelter in rotation. Along the way, tour the Interfaith Action Hospitality Center, the weekday morning shelter. Join us to raise awareness of homelessness in Evanston. Bring the family. Invite your friends and neighbors to join you. For everyone's safety, please leave your

dog at home.

Sponsor a team! Honor a walker! Donate Online. Make a monetary donation and join Interfaith Action in fighting homelessness. All donations support Interfaith Action of Evanston and help provide safe and warm spaces for anyone in need to sleep this winter. Your donation of any amount is greatly appreciated. You may Donate Online, or send a check to Interfaith Action of Evanston, PO Box 1414, Evanston, IL 60204. Write "Walk for Warmth-(your group or team's name)" in the memo line on the check. Thanks.

Let's carry on Dr. King's legacy and continue his fight for economic, social and racial justice. And let's make sure no one has to sleep outside in the cold!

Inspired by diverse faiths and shared values, Interfaith Action of Evanston brings people together to serve hungry and homeless people, pursue interfaith dialogue, and engage in advocacy that promotes social justice for those we serve.

INDOOR FARMERS' MARKET DATES FOR 2023

January 7, January 21

February 4, February 18

March 4, March 18

April 1

8:00 AM–12:30 PM



Tuesday Midweek Adult Bible Study on Zoom

7:00 pm

Our simple mid-week gathering on 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 info and the week's themes.

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.

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**.

Special Note: In January, I'll be out on medical leave for 2-3 weeks beginning on January 6th. Please assist Pastor Mark as you are able, and we ask for your patience as some office functions might encounter a few bumps as others step in to fulfill tasks. Thank you for your offers of help and prayers for a smooth recovery. See you in a bit, newly mended!

—Jane Kaihatsu

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
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HERE

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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.