

## God's Hands—February 2023

### Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

I believe that a key component of my spiritual journey has been getting to know and love myself, not in spite of all my foibles, but rather in the acceptance of myself, warts and all. One of the most helpful tools that I've found for developing new insight and compassion for myself, as well as for all the imperfect people that I relate to in this world, is the Enneagram. It helps me to better see and understand myself as I seek to integrate my head, heart and body in the process of becoming fully human.



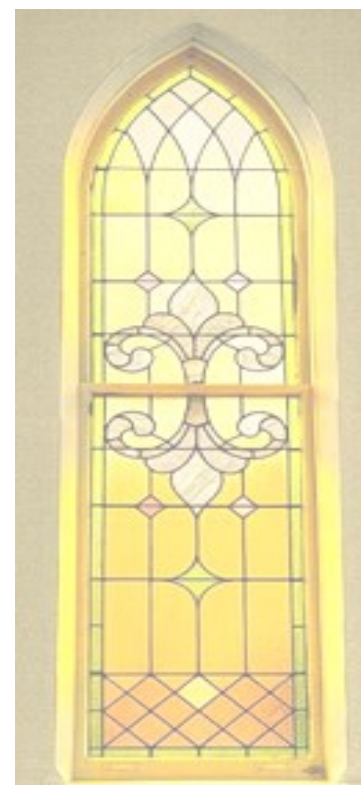
During the season of Lent our Tuesday evening Spiritual Growth Zoom event will do a deep dive into the Enneagram. If you're not familiar with this spiritual tool, then you may want to do some exploring of it on your own and then consider joining the group that gathers on Tuesday evenings. There are free tests available online that can help you discern which of the nine types best describes your way of being in the world. We will be viewing and discussing a video recording of a 2009 conference presented by the Center for Action and Contemplation featuring Russ Hudson and Richard Rohr titled, *The Enneagram As A Tool For Your Spiritual Journey*. Here is a description: The depth of teaching in this conference goes beyond identifying the nine Enneagram types. The Enneagram is presented as a serious spiritual tool, a tool of remembrance, a pathway to open ourselves to the gift of Presence. Deep study of the Enneagram shows the importance of Grace and awakening of the soul. Gaining clear self-knowledge is a crucial step in this process of becoming fully human. The Enneagram helps us in this journey.

I also want to invite folks to the Feeding Our Faith Sunday morning discussion class. We're going to spend the Sundays in February discussing a book by Valarie Kaur, *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. We'll be utilizing material to introduce the theme of each chapter, so you don't have to read the book to participate, but doing so will enhance your learning and ability to contribute to the discussion.

I look forward to our Lenten journey together that begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. 20 years ago, I went home after an Ash Wednesday worship in a reflective mode and jotted down this poem:

#### Smudged

I look into the mirror and see the two black smudges  
One horizontal, the other vertical,  
the frayed jagged edges not unlike certain parts of my life.  
As I ready to wipe the smudge from my forehead,  
I wonder what changes will occur on this year's journey?  
What smudges in my life will be cleaned away this year?  
Washcloth in hand, I do one last thing.  
I pause to give thanks for this dust in the mirror,  
and this smudge of a cross,  
a blessed reminder of my true home.



#### Inside this issue

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- Why We Should Care About Luther

May our Lenten pilgrimage bring needed changes once again this year.

Deep blessings,

*Pastor Mark*

## Immanuel Calendar

Feb 2, 16	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Feb 4, 18	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers' Market
Feb 7, 14	7:00 pm	Midweek Adult Bible Study (on Zoom)
21, 28		
Feb 15	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Feb 16	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
Feb 19	1:00 pm	Council Meeting
Feb 22	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday service



Be sure to check the [Church Calendar online](#) for the latest info on church events and building usage.

## February Scripture Readings

### February 5, Epiphany 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Psalm 112:1-9  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

### February 12, Epiphany 6

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

### February 19, Transfiguration of Our Lord

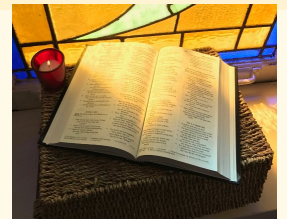
Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

### February 22, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or  
Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 26, Lent 1

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11



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](http://www.immanuelevanston.org).

## **All Sundays in February – Book Study of Valarie Kaur's See No Stranger**

How do we love in a time of rage? How do we fix a broken world while not breaking ourselves? Valarie Kaur—renowned Sikh activist, filmmaker, and civil rights lawyer—describes revolutionary love as the call of our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. It enjoins us to see no stranger but instead look at others and say: You are part of me I do not yet know. Starting from that place of wonder, the world begins to change: It is a practice that can transform a relationship, a community, a culture, even a nation.

Kaur takes readers through her own riveting journey—as a brown girl growing up in California farmland finding her place in the world; as a young adult galvanized by the murders of Sikhs after 9/11; as a law student fighting injustices in American prisons and on Guantánamo Bay; as an activist working with communities recovering from xenophobic attacks; and as a woman trying to heal from her own experiences with police violence and sexual assault. Drawing from the wisdom of sages, scientists, and activists, Kaur reclaims love as an active, public, and revolutionary force that creates new possibilities for ourselves, our communities, and our world. *See No Stranger* helps us imagine new ways of being with each other—and with ourselves—so that together we can begin to build the world we want to see.



We will watch some videos to introduce the main concepts so you don't have to read the book to participate, but it will deepen your learning.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hal Larson 2/2  
Linnea Balder 2/8  
Jimmy Morehead 2/11  
Jim Skelton 2/11  
Steve Andes 2/14  
Keziah Yarnoff 2/18  
Henrick Lewis 2/19  
Liam Brown 2/20  
Rebecca Bernstein 2/24  
John Otto 2/24  
Gregory Hummel 2/25  
Sarah Stegner 2/25

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT

SAT., FEBRUARY 4, 7PM

### BAHA'I HOUSE OF WORSHIP

100 LINDEN AVENUE  
WILMETTE, IL

WITH VAN GILMER, MUSIC AND ART FROM OVER A CENTURY OF AMERICANS OF AFRICAN DESCENT FEATURING THE BAHAI TEMPLE CHOIR AND FRIENDS, LINCOLNWOOD CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, VISUAL ARTISTS, AND RACIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NORTH SHORE

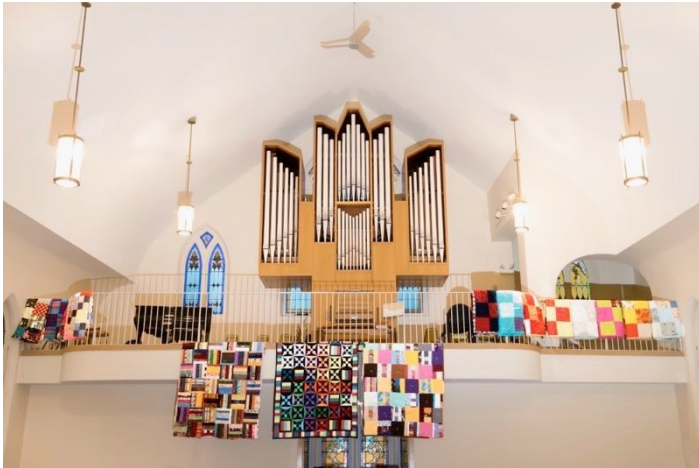


FREE ADMISSION

[For more information](#)

# Quilt Blessing—January 22, 2023

People boxed up all of the quilts after the church "blessing" service on January 22 42 boxes in all! The following Thursday Chris Djuric rented a Uhaul cargo van and with the help of Laurie Stivers, Barb Miller and Pastor Mark, packed that van full. She and her daughter Keziah then drove out to Elgin, IL to a Church of the Brethren warehouse. Church of the Brethren is a co-conspirator with Lutheran World Relief in the quilt and kit ministry. A man helped unload the boxes onto pallets--we filled 3 pallets--and then he showed them the semi trailer he would move the pallets to. He said they pack the trailer floor to ceiling with boxes of quilts and kits. Once full, it's driven to the LWR warehouse in Maryland and another empty trailer takes its place.



Thank you, my friends, for your presence and generous response to Interfaith Action's Walk for Warmth. The weather held off and let us start our day with purpose, fellowship, and a good walk.

## Time for SNAPGap!

As you may recall, Interfaith Action operates the monthly Producersmobile at the Robert Crown Community Center, which distributes fresh produce to Evanston's families experiencing food insecurity. For almost two years, Interfaith has added SNAPGap, collecting and distributing items that most of us consider necessary—toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, laundry detergent, etc.—but are not eligible for purchase with federal benefits.

Today is the first of four times in 2023, when we will seek personal hygiene items from our faith communities and from all interested individuals. Items collected in the next few weeks will be distributed on Valentine's Day, February 14. We won't collect again for another three months, so we want to gather as much as possible for this distribution. For the months in between, we will distribute toilet paper, purchased in bulk, and laundry sheets, donated by Earth Breeze.

(continued on next page)

For February, we are collecting shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Shampoo has become quite expensive. This time, I looked for a moderately-priced shampoo that received good reviews from various sources, and I've included a bar shampoo for the first time to help reduce plastic. I will be curious about our recipients' response. They very much like the laundry sheets that are plastic-free. Items for collection and distribution on February 14: shampoo, soap, and toothbrushes/toothpaste. Items can be purchased online at: [https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/EU78AK7T6LVH/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/EU78AK7T6LVH/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1)

If you buy these items locally, you can drop them at: First United Methodist Church, 516 Church Street, Evanston, IL 60201 **Drop-off Hours at FUMC Tuesday through Friday 10am-4pm**

As with all Interfaith Action programs, we thank you for your generosity and participation. Please know that all who benefit are deeply grateful.



## UPCOMING INDOOR FARMERS' MARKET DATES FOR 2023

February 4, February 18

March 4, March 18

April 1

8:00 AM—12:30 PM

Contact Chris Djuric if you can support this ministry of Immanuel congregation with setup, cleanup, or serving as a door greeter [cadjuric@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cadjuric@sbcglobal.net)

### Tuesday Midweek Spiritual Growth on Zoom 7:00—8:00 pm

Our mid-week gathering on Tuesdays. This gathering offers time for spiritual growth in Word and Fellowship. Check our website Calendar at [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://www.immanuelevanston.org) or the weekly email for Zoom info and the week's themes.

**During the Lenten Season We'll be exploring the Enneagram** as a tool for spiritual growth. Consider making this a Lenten discipline for spiritual growth.

If you would like to learn more about the enneagram before we begin check out type description here: <https://www.enneagraminstitute.com/type-descriptions>

For a free enneagram test: <https://enneagramuniverse.com>

# Sunday School News

The Sunday School and Confirmation students enjoyed decorating the Immanuel Christmas tree. With decorations in place, they selected gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Funded by an anonymous doner, the students collaborated and selected items which complemented each other's choices. The final decisions were to purchase chicks, a rooster, and honeybees from the barnyard selections. They also selected fruit tree seedlings and seed and gardening tools. The final items were school supplies, school fees, and a water filter. It was delightful to watch the Sunday School students as they made their selections.




Immanuel's Sunday School has completed a multi-age, multi-year curriculum from Spark House, which is part of Augsburg Fortress's offering. Over the last few years we have completed the full series and rather than repeat, we have selected a new program. Starting in Lent, we will be using a lectionary-based program which will have different age-appropriate material for our students. This too is an offering out of Augsburg Fortress.

Tyler will be moving out of state after his graduation this June. We are looking for at least one additional Sunday School teacher to join Laurie. We meet every other week at 9:00 AM Sunday mornings.



## LCMNU Trivia Night 2023 Fundraiser



**Friday, February 10  
7:00pm–8:30pm**

**Trivia Night 2023 will benefit *Bridges to Home and Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation.***

**Deadline to register is midnight on Thursday, February 9!**



**LUTHERAN  
CAMPUS MINISTRY  
AT NORTHWESTERN**  
Dispersing Faith • Expanding Community  
Celebrating 75 Years

Suggested donation is \$10 (feel free to give more!).

Teams of up to 4 people can register online:

<https://bit.ly/3GOaXjU>.

## “Why we should care about Luther: Martin Luther on the Holy Spirit and the Christian Life”

**Learning Communities**  
Sponsored by

 **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago**

We invite you to join us for an extraordinary 4-part series, sponsored by LSTC Learning Community series, that explores the topic, “Why We Should Care about Luther: Martin Luther on the Holy Spirit and Christian Life.”

Dr. Candace Kohli, assistant professor of Lutheran Systematic Theology and Global Lutheranism at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, will lead this dynamic course Sunday for 4 Sundays, beginning February 26 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Or you can join a facilitated session using Sunday’s session recording, beginning March 1 on Wednesdays from 7:00pm – 8:30pm.

As a Luther scholar and esteemed member of the LSTC faculty, Dr. Kohli (pronounced Ko-lee) is an enthusiastic fan of Martin Luther. As she tells her students, “Luther’s cool for multiple reasons. Unlike other theologians, he’s animated, and you get a sense of his personality. He’s rude, he’s bawdy, he talks about excrement and there’s something amusing about him. You get a sense of him as a person. His ideas are totally revolutionary, and they literally changed the world.”



Dr. Candace Kohli, Assistant Professor of Lutheran Systematic Theology and Global Lutheranism

Whether pastor, follower, or parishioner, join Dr. Kohli as she takes us on a journey to explore Luther’s ideals and ideas as they translate into today’s modern society, and you’ll discover ... or rediscover, why we should all care about Luther.



Session 1 of 4: *Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> OR Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>*

What was Luther doing? – What was Luther’s reform all about? – How does it translate into today’s modern society?



Session 2 of 4: *Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> OR Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>*

What does Luther say about the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit’s role in the Christian life?



Session 3 of 4: *Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> OR Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup>*

What were Luther’s spiritual practices? How did he fan those “spiritual” flames? What were Luther’s prayer practices? What are some other prayer practices in the Christian world?



Session 4 of 4: *Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup> OR Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>*

What do you do with what we’ve learned? – Why should we care about the Spirit? Are we aware of the Spirit in our everyday lives?

**Register Here:** <https://lstc.edu/event/learning-communities-individuals/>

Another great opportunity for spiritual growth during Lent this year.

## 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](mailto:parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org).

If you'd like to use a space, first please check the church calendar at [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://www.immanuelevanston.org) or contact the church office at 847-864-4464 or [parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org](mailto: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**.

—Jane Kaihatsu

### 2023–24 ILC Leadership

Dana Barron, Congregation President

Michael Kloster, Congregation Vice President

Steve Warner, Congregation Secretary

Susan Ross, Treasurer

Diane Keely, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Terri Simchak,  
Grace Yarnoff Congregation Council Members

Mary Ann Kearns, Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Stegner, Assistant Financial Secretary

### Mutual Ministry Committee

Kit McCarthy, Tyler Heyl, and Pastor Mark welcome Mark Kearns to the committee and thank Elizabeth Stegner for having served.

Our Mutual Ministry committee seeks to be mission oriented. It build on a broad vision of ministry and healthy practice of mutuality. It makes use of a small group approach to develop mutuality and carries out the ministry tasks of scanning and response in support of mission.



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
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.