

## God's Hands—September 2023

### Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

Back in the decade of my 30's, Henry Nouwen's writings inspired a hunger to grow deeper in my spiritual journey. An apt example from the introduction of Henri's book, *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life* published in 1975 illustrates what drew me in and also how this would become a lifelong venture encompassing every aspect of my life:

"When after many years of adult life I ask myself, "Where am I as a Christian?" there are just as many reasons for pessimism as for optimism. Many of the real struggles of twenty years ago are still very much alive. I am still searching for inner peace, for creative relationships with others and for the experience of God, and neither I nor anyone else has any way of knowing if the small psychological changes during the past years have made me a more or a less spiritual man.

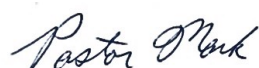
We may say, however, one thing: In the middle of all our worries and concerns, often disturbingly similar over the years, we can become more aware of the different poles between which our lives vacillate and are held in tension. These poles offer the context in which we can speak about the spiritual life, because they can be recognized by anyone who is striving to live a life in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

The first polarity deals with our relationship to ourselves. It is the polarity between loneliness and solitude. The second polarity forms the basis of our relationship to others. This is the polarity between hostility and hospitality. The third, final and most important polarity structures our relationship with God. This is the polarity between illusion and prayer."

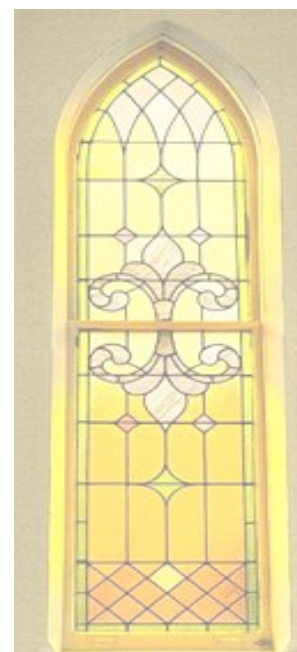
Nouwen hints how prayer can lift the veil, giving us a glimpse of ourselves and our world as we truly are. I recall Jesus once saying, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." I've come to believe that the main purpose of any spiritual practice is to unmask illusions and facilitate such freedom. My hunger for this freedom in all three forms of relationships led me to attend a weeklong spiritual directed silent retreat in which I met with a spiritual director each day for 30-45 minutes. This was my first introduction into the practice of spiritual direction, which I've continued to this present day. 19 years ago, I enrolled in a 2-year Spiritual Direction Internship to become a Spiritual Director. The simplest way I know to describe spiritual direction is that it is taking the time to pay closer attention to the underlying movements of the spirit in your life. The spiritual director doesn't tell one what to do, but rather assists them in this process of paying attention.

Kit McCarthy, who is also a trained spiritual director, has joined me in facilitating Spiritual Direction Groups in which 3 to 5 participants assist one another in this process of paying closer attention. We are currently forming new groups that meet once a month for 90 minutes, and we're asking for a 9-month commitment. Please contact either one of us if you would like to participate in this sacred venture. And you don't have to be a member of Immanuel to participate.

Deep Blessings,



Pastor Mark



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- Other Fall Events

## Immanuel Calendar



Sept. 4		Labor Day
Sept. 7, 21	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28	7:30 pm	Wilmette Band Rehearsals
Sept. 9, 23	10:00 am	Trombone Choir Rehearsals
Sept. 10		Gods Work Our Hands Sunday
Sept. 12, 19 26	7:00 pm	Midweek Spiritual Discussion on Zoom
Sept. 17, 24	12:30 pm	"Generations" Confirmation Class
Sept. 17		"Little Library" Dedication
Sept. 17	1:00 pm	Council Meeting
Sept. 20	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Sept. 21	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction

Be sure to check the Church Calendar online at [www.immanuelevanston.org/Calendar](http://www.immanuelevanston.org/Calendar) for the latest info on church events and building usage.

## September Scripture Readings

### September 3, Pentecost 14

Jeremiah 15:15-21  
Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 23:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

### September 10, Pentecost 15/ Gods Work Our Hands

Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

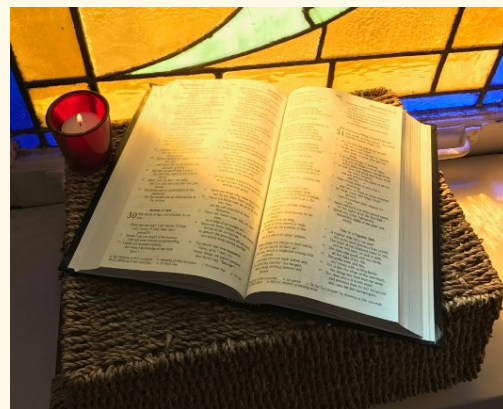
### September 17, Pentecost 16

Genesis 50:15-21  
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### September 24, Pentecost 17

Joan 3:10—4:11  
Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

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



## Music at Immanuel

### September Music

The choir returns in worship on God's Work Our Hands Sunday right after Labor Day after a well deserved summer respite. We kick off the fall with a setting of Psalm 150 by Mona Lyn Reese "Praise Eternal God."

We then turn to a lush setting by Bach /Busoni arranged by Evelyn Larter called "Bless the Lord, O My Soul." The choir ends the month with a lovely piece by Alfred Fedak called "Music Never Die." Many more choral treats await us in the fall. Welcome back!

## 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).

### September 10, 2023 – Rev. Jim Wallis: “Crossing the Color Line”

Reflecting on his own experiences growing up in segregated Detroit, Rev. Wallis provides a brief history of racism in the United States and makes an impassioned religious argument against structural racism and White Christian nationalism.

### September 17, 2023 – Dr. Jennifer Carlier: “Finding God in the Basement”

In this moving testimony of her own experience with addiction, Dr. Carlier implores faith leaders to practice vulnerability and brokenness in the church sanctuary so that all may feel welcome in that space.

**September 24 thru October 29 – Book Study – “Second Thoughts on the Second Coming”, by Ronald J. Allen & Robert D. Cornwall.** Inquiring minds want to better understand what the future holds, or at least how we might approach the future. Will Jesus come in the clouds? Will there be a great nuclear holocaust? Or will things continue on without an end? In other words, what are God's ultimate purposes?

### 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

### Returns in September!

#### 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](http://www.immanuelevanston.org) or the weekly email for Zoom info and the week's themes.

## Upcoming Women's Book Club Gathering

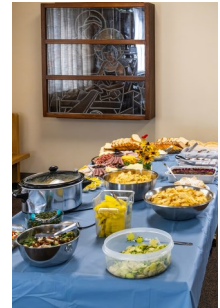
Several women from Immanuel get together monthly for a book discussion and fellowship. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, rotating among the homes of our members.

On September 28th, the book is *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver.

If you are interested in joining us or want to know more, please contact Bert Mount ([ken\\_bertm@yahoo.com](mailto:ken_bertm@yahoo.com)).

## Courtyard Picnic

After a searing inferno of the previous week where temperatures reached 100 degrees and were not “cooler by the Lake” in Evanston, the day of the Courtyard Picnic dawned refreshingly cool almost to the point of crisp. About 50 people joined in fellowship, food and fun in the courtyard after worship service. Children enjoyed games and other activities. Many thanks to all who contributed to the shared meal. Thank you most of all to organizers Terri Simchak and Michael Kloster!



Photos by Joe Simchak



## God's Work Our Hands 2023: Service Projects and Potluck Lunch

Our congregation, along with Grace, St. Paul's, and St. Timothy's Lutheran Churches, will join together to serve the community for God's Work Our Hands on Sunday, September 10th. In addition to collecting donations of items for local service efforts, we will be doing projects for the community. To kick off the day of service, we will have a potluck luncheon in

Fellowship Hall. Here are the details:

### Service projects for the community:

- ◆ Outdoor maintenance at the spiritual labyrinth retreat at St. Scholastica in Chicago
- ◆ Games and art projects with children at Lydia House (formerly the Rice Center) in Evanston
- ◆ Clean-up and maintenance at Lutheran Campus Ministry of Northwestern University
- ◆ Painting community outreach room at Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston
- ◆ Quilt-tying for Lutheran World Relief
- ◆ Making greeting cards for shut-ins and others
- ◆ Sorting donated items for Interfaith Action of Evanston, Connections for the Homeless, Refugee Community Connection, and Grace Little Free Pantry

### Donations for community organizations:

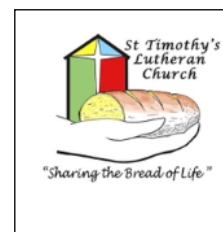
- ◆ Interfaith Action of Evanston Snap Gap Collection: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo
- ◆ Connections for the Homeless: Clothing, toiletries, cleaning supplies, backpacks/rolling suitcases
- ◆ Refugee Community Connection: Shoes, coats, blankets, sleeping bags
- ◆ Grace Lutheran Little Free Pantry: Non-perishable food items

**Potluck lunch at Immanuel.** All four congregations will gather for a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. You can bring to share:

- ◆ Sandwiches
- ◆ Salads
- ◆ Chips
- ◆ Beverages

For more information, contact Charly Yarnoff at [csy771@northwestern.edu](mailto:csy771@northwestern.edu).

**See you on September 10th!**



## God's Work Our Hands 2023: Items Needed for Local Service Organizations

Our congregation, along with Grace, St. Paul's, and St. Timothy's Lutheran Churches, will join together to serve the community for God's Work Our Hands on Sunday, September 10th. In addition to doing service projects, we will collect donations of items for four important local service efforts listed below.

Interfaith Action of Evanston Snap Gap Collection. Through its SnapGap program, Interfaith Action Evanston (IAE) collects and distributes necessary items that are not eligible for purchase with federal benefits. Especially needed are:

*Toothpaste - Toothbrushes—Shampoo*

2. Grace Lutheran Little Free Pantry is stocked with nonperishable food items donated by members of the congregation and neighbors. Needed are:

*Canned Goods - Other non-perishable food Items*

3. Connections for the Homeless is the leading agency in the northern suburbs delivering essential services to people facing homelessness and housing insecurity during the pandemic. They need:

*Clothing - Toiletries - Cleaning Supplies - Backpacks/rolling suitcases*

4. Refugee Community Connection provides needed items to migrants living in police stations and other temporary shelters. They need:

*Shoes - Coats - Blankets and sleeping bags*

Bring your donations to Immanuel on **Sunday, September 10th**. If you'd prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to "Connections for the Homeless" or, for the Little Free Pantry, to Grace Lutheran Church with "LFP" in the memo line.

### Food Drive for Northwestern

## Donations Wanted - Produce mobile Distribution on Sept. 12, 2023 Drop-off: Sept. 7-11, times are below

Now that COVID funding has ended and prices have gone up, the number of people seeking assistance has increased as well, from the monthly average of 250 households to 300. Our recipients will eagerly welcome the following items for the **September 12 distribution: shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes**. Items can be purchased online at

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/EU78AK7T6LVH/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_1](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/EU78AK7T6LVH/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1)

If you buy these items locally, you can drop them at:

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1509 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60201**

#### Drop-off Hours:

*Thursday, Sept. 7: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

*Friday, Sept. 8: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, Sept. 10: Noon - 2:00 p.m.*

*Monday, Sept. 11: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

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

Warm regards,  
*Interfaith Action Team*

### SEPTEMBER

#### BIRTHDAYS

Gloria Meldman 9/4

Allison Brown 9/7

Melisa Larson 9/7

Elaine Nelson 9/14

Pr Mark Sloss 9/14

Glynis Kloster 9/16

Marlene Chatain 9/19

Brian Lamberg 9/28

***At Home in Evanston: Diverse Experiences of Our City*** is a film of interviews that showcase a range of perspectives on living in Evanston today. How did we come here? Why do we stay? What unites us? What divides us? This documentary film was created by Performance in Place Theatre Company partners Lesley Delmenico and Caroline Latta, with De Paul film-maker Alex Sherman and NU graduate student co-collaborator Shelby Mack. Interviewees (portrayed by local professional actors) include: a Fifth Ward resident eligible for reparations, a retirement home dweller, a second-generation Latina, an Asian graduate student, an unhoused resident, a gay pastor, and a young Syrian refugee. The project is supported by the Evanston Arts Council and Northwestern University's Department of Performance Studies and Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations.

# At Home in Evanston

*Diverse Perspectives from our City*

Showcasing a range of viewpoints on living here today. *How did we come to Evanston? Why do we stay? What unites us? What divides us?*

Audience discussion to follow.

## **Evanston Art Center**

Sunday, 9/10 at 3:00pm

## **Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center**

Saturday, 9/16 at 3:00pm

## **Evanston Public Library (Falcon Room)**

Sunday, 9/17 at 3:00pm

## **St. Nicholas Church (Oldershaw Hall)**

Sunday, 9/24 at 3:00pm

## **Northwestern University (101 Wirtz Center)**

Saturday, 10/7 at 3:00pm

Performance in Place Theatre Co.



Northwestern





## ORGAN SCHOLAR RECITAL

**JoEllen West**



*2023 ORGAN SCHOLAR*

*UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023**

3:00 pm



616 Lake Street  
Evanston, IL 60201

Free Admission, Reception to Follow



## ORGAN SCHOLAR RECITAL

**Kelsey Berg**



*2023 ORGAN SCHOLAR*

*GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

3:00 pm



616 Lake Street  
Evanston, IL 60201

Free Admission, Reception to Follow



## Vision Keepers Dinner 2023

**Sunday October 8, 5:30 P.M.**

**DoubleTree Hilton Hotel Skokie**

### **Immanuel Lutheran Church Vision Keeper: Michael Kloster**

Please mark your calendars to attend Interfaith Action of Evanston's annual fundraiser, the Vision Keepers Dinner 2023 to be held on Sunday, October 8, 2023, starting at 5:30 pm at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel in Skokie. This dinner is the following day after the JoEllen West Undergraduate Organ Recital at Immanuel.

Tickets for the dinner are \$80.00 per person and offer a vegetarian entrée, if preferred. Make checks to Immanuel Lutheran Church. **Sign-up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall.** Or, you can send your reservation to parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org. Provide your name, phone/email and whether you want a vegetarian entrée. Reservations and payment are requested by Wednesday, Sept. 20th.



## 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**.



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

616 Lake St.  
Evanston, IL 60202

Phone: 847-864-4464

E-mail: [parish-admin@ilcevanston.org](mailto:parish-admin@ilcevanston.org)

Website: [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://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.