



"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—February 2024

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

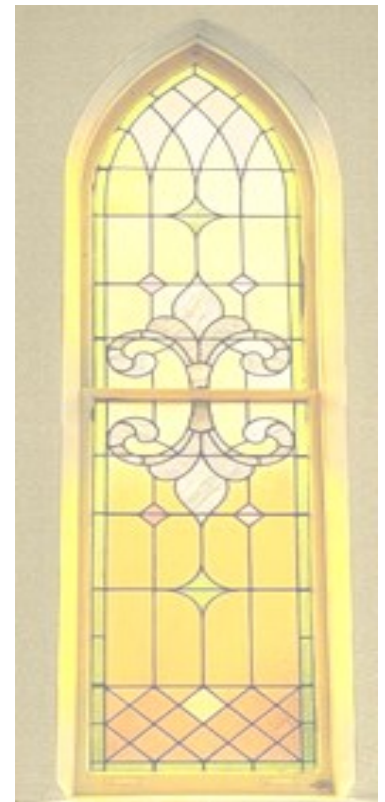
Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday, 2/14, which also happens to be Valentines Day. During Lent we're encouraged to carve out space and time in our lives for prayer, and an offshoot of prayer is falling more in love with the one in whom we live and move and have our being. So, a Valentine theme fits nicely as we grow in our relationship with God practicing the disciplines of Lent, fasting, prayer, and acts of charity. The mood of worship this season will be more subdued as we take a fast from Alleluias. There will be opportunities to gather together for a simple meal and worship midweek. During Lent, we're invited once again to follow Christ in a cruciform way of life. It's time to consider what must die within us to make room for something new to arise.

During our Sunday morning, 'Feeding Our Faith' class, we'll be watching videos from a 2007 conference titled, *Contemplative Vision: Awakening to Beauty, Truth, and Goodness*. I invite you to consider making it a part of your Lent and Easter discipline. On the afternoon of Saturday, February 10th, there will be an introductory workshop on Centering Prayer at St. Luke Episcopal, 12 pm -3 pm, the cost is \$10, and includes lunch. [You can register here.](#) Or contact me for assistance. Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence, a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us. The presenter is from Contemplative Outreach, which also sponsored the forementioned conference.

I invite you to consider taking on some sort of contemplative practice during this Lenten season. The options are limitless, from a contemplative stance in going for a walk, to listening to a devotional podcast, using mindfulness beads, setting a timer to be in silence, or perhaps giving centering prayer a try. You will know what works best for you. As the following words from Richard Rohr attest, the contemplative tradition can assist us in reversing our world's current trend towards increased polarization on a wide range of issues.

Contemplative Christianity Is the Great Tradition —Father Richard Rohr

I believe the teaching of contemplation is absolutely key to rebuilding Christianity, otherwise our very style of "knowing" is off base and everything that follows is skewed. Our untransformed brains are hardwired to focus on the negative and to dualistically label and divide, it seems. While rational critique and logical judgment are important for practical matters, they can only get us so far. We need nondual consciousness—the mind of Christ—to process the great questions of love, suffering, death, infinity, and divinity and to be unafraid of diversity and welcoming of union at ever higher and more expansive levels.



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Immanuel Calendar



Feb. 1		First Day Black History Month
Feb. 1, 15	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22	7:30 pm	Wilmette Band Rehearsals
Feb. 3, 17	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers' Market
Feb. 4	10:30 am	Blessing of Quilts
Feb. 6, 13 20, 27	Noon	Midweek Spiritual Discussion on Zoom
Feb. 7	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Feb. 10		Lunar New Year—Year of the Dragon
Feb. 10, 24	10:00 am	Trombone Choir Rehearsal
Feb. 13	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
Feb. 14	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service Valentine's Day
Feb. 18	12:30 pm	Council Meeting
Feb. 15	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
Feb. 21, 28	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Suppers
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service

Be sure to check the Church Calendar online at www.immanuelevanston.org/Calendar

February Scripture Readings

February 4, Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
2 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-30

February 14, Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1017
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

February 11, Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18, Lent 1

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

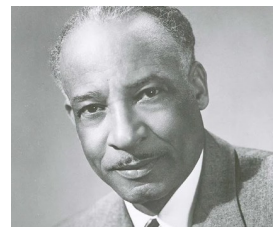
February 25, Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Music at Immanuel

February Music

We begin February with another wonderful William Dawson arrangement of "There Is a Balm" in Gilead. We then end Epiphany season on the feast of the Transfiguration with a wonderful modern lydian-inspired piece by Gwyneth Walker called "Dazzling as the Sun."



Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day bring us to the beginning of Lent with the choral offering "Share with the Hungry Your Bread" by Carol Muehlig. The choir welcomes Lent 1 with an anthem based on Josquin des Prez's Ave Maria called "The Glory of These Forty Days." And we close out the month with a beloved Hugo Distler "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth."

—Jimmy Morehead

Feeding Our Faith

Sundays 9 AM—10 AM

February Topics

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.

February 4 – March 3: Contemplative Vision: Awakening to Beauty, Truth, and Goodness

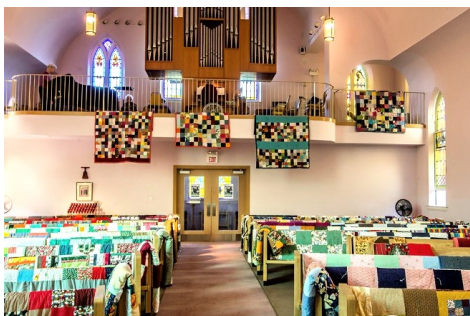
As we enter the Lenten and Easter Seasons, we'll watch and discuss videos from a conference put on by Contemplative Outreach in 2007 featuring Father Richard Rohr and Father Thomas Keating, two renowned teachers of contemplative spirituality. Richard Rohr is a prolific author and speaker who founded the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thomas Keating, who died in 2018, was a Trappist monk known as one of the principal developers of Centering Prayer, a contemporary method of contemplative prayer. Contemplation is the well from which all our action in doing justice flows. It keeps the fire of God's love burning and inhibits our burning out.

Continued from page 1....

By practicing contemplation we experience and get to live out the good news of God's redeeming love. May our Lenten journeys make us like seeds planted in the earth, getting ready to burst forth into new life. May Lent be for you a time to let go of whatever you need to let go of. May it be a time of healing and rebirth, as we come to know on yet an even deeper level that we are God's beloveds.

Deep Blessings,

Pastor Mark



See † Touch † Bless

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, 10:30 am

Join us in worship for this special blessing of 200+ quilts made by the Immanuel Quilters, which will be on display before shipment to Lutheran World Relief.

Lenten Activities

It's almost Lent - which starts on February 14th, Ash Wednesday as well as Valentine's Day this year - so it's time to talk about Lenten midweek worship which will be held on Wednesdays—Feb. 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

We will have soup suppers this year. Chris Djuric will be coordinating, and they'll start at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

At 7:00 pm we will move to the sanctuary for worship. We do plan to have the Zoom option available for these services, so you are also welcome to participate from home.

Hope to see you there!



—Sara Krentz, Chair, Worship & Music Committee



Giving Options at Immanuel

There are several ways that our community supports Immanuel. With regards to Financial Support, there are lots of options. Some of them are as old as our congregation, while others, due to technological advancements, are more recent.

Cash—Most gifts to Immanuel since opening in 1888 have been cash contributions. Now in the year 2024, Immanuel receives very very few cash donations. But we are happy to receive your cash contribution!

Write a check—Put it into your offering or other envelope and put in in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Schedule your bank to send a check directly to Immanuel—This option is used by a significant number of our members. You work with your bank to establish the amount and frequency of distribution. You can modify or terminate this agreement at any time. The bank covers the stamp price.

Some banks allow you to electronically request a check to be sent in the mail to a “vendor” that you have created in your account. Your bank may not even charge you the price of the stamp when they mail the check to Immanuel.

Request PayPal transfer funds from your bank to Immanuel—There is a fee that Immanuel pays for this service. In 2023, PayPal held back \$499.21 (aka almost \$500 of contributions). As a percentage, PayPal is keeping 3.333% of the gifts given.

The USA government requires that if you are 73 or older, an “RMD” or **Required Minimum Distribution** must be withdrawn from your investment accounts—Immanuel is happy to receive a check as a part of your annual RMD. Please let me know if you need information to make this happen. There are some tax advantages to this gift that your Financial Planner can explain.

Donate Stock—There can be an upside to stock donations. If your stock has appreciated, you can avoid capital gains by donating it. For example, if you paid \$7 for your stock which is now worth \$10, your donation on your taxes will be valued at \$10. You then avoid paying Capital Gains on your stock gift. Your Financial Planner can help you determine if this is a good option for you.

Land, Car, Home—Over the last 40 years, Immanuel has received some of these gifts. We sold them and the proceeds were deposited into Immanuel accounts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Laurie Stivers, Financial Secretary in Training.



INDOOR FARMERS MARKET

All are invited to serve on this ministry in many different ways—as Greeters, helping with set-up/clean-up, advocacy tables, and more, so tell your family and friends to join us. We'd love to hear your ideas of how IFM can serve our greater community even further.

—Michael Kloster, Grace Yarnoff, Kit McCarthy

The Indoor Farmers Market 2023-24 Season

Market is open 8 AM – 12:30 PM on the following Saturdays

February 3, February 17

March 2, March 16

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Hal Larson 2/2

Jimmy Morehead 2/11

Jim Skelton 2/11

Laura Yakovenko 2/11

Steve Andes 2/14

Kim Miller 2/15

Keziah Yarnoff 2/18

Liam Brown 2/20

Rebecca Bernstein 2/24

John Otto 2/24

Greg Hummel 2/25

Sarah Stegner 2/25

Donations for Immigrants

Chi Welcome, our partner in the distribution network, is requesting that donors compile Kitchen Starter Packs. Please see the list below and assemble a pack with only the items specified below. Donation Packs will be collected on Thursdays only, 9 am—Noon.

Thank you for your support of this ministry.

KITCHEN STARTER PACK

4 Place Settings

4 Mugs

2 Dish Towels

1 Pot with Lid

1 Pan

1 Set Cooking Utensils

1 Cutting Board and Knife

1 Can Opener

1 Mixing Size Bowl

1 Dish Soap and Sponge

Pack everything into a bag, box, or sturdy container like a laundry basket. Drop off at Immanuel Lutheran Church on Thursdays from 9-12.



Evanston Interfaith Clergy Presents

LEARNING TOGETHER:

AN INTERFAITH APPROACH TO THE WAR IN GAZA

*How Israelis and Palestinians See Themselves and Each Other:
A Multi-Lens Perspective on Israel-Palestine*

Join Jewish scholar **Dr. David N. Myers** and Arab scholar **Dr. Hussein Ibish** as they explore the intricate history of Israel/Palestine in this engaging two-part lecture series.



Dr. Hussein Ibish is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, a weekly columnist for The National (UAE) and a regular contributor to The Atlantic. He previously served as a senior fellow at the American Task Force on Palestine, executive director of the Foundation for Arab-American Leadership, and communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. He has a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Dr. David N. Myers is Distinguished Professor of History and holds the Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish History at UCLA, where he serves as the director of the UCLA Luskin Center for History and Policy. He also directs the UCLA Initiative to Study Hate. He is the author or editor of many books in the field of Jewish history, including, with Nomi Stolzenberg, *American Shtetl: The Making of Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic Village in Upstate New York* (Princeton, 2022), which was awarded the 2022 National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish studies. From 2018-2023, he served as president of the New Israel Fund.

FEB 17 - 18

Advance tickets \$20 /
\$25 at the door



bit.ly/LearningTogetherEvanston

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 | 2:00 - 4:30 PM

From the Origins of Zionism to the Fateful Year of 1948
Second Baptist Church, 1717 Benson Ave, Evanston

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 | 2:00-4:30 PM

From Independence/Nakba to October 7 and its Aftermath
Location TBD

Location for 2/18: Faith Temple Church of God in Christ
1932 Dewey Ave., Evanston

Notes from the Parish Administrator....

Happy Lunar New Year—Year of the Dragon February 10, 2024



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**.

2024-25 ILC Leadership

Michael Kloster, Congregation President

Terri Simchak, Congregation Vice President

Dana Barron, Congregation Secretary

Susan Ross, Treasurer

Greg Hummel, Diane Keely, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy,
Steve Warner, Congregation Council Members

Laurie Stivers, Financial Secretary

Hybrid Tuesday Midweek Adult Bible Study

Noon—1:00 pm

Our simple mid-week gathering on Tuesdays now at the Lunch Hour in Fellowship Hall. Brown bag lunchers are welcome. 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.



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.