



"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—April 2024

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

Last month the congregation voted to fix the fellowship hall roof and install solar panels. In conjunction with this project, we're forming a Green Team to guide our ongoing ministry of caring for God's creation. Caring for creation is essential for as humans we're made of the same stuff as the humus of the soil and the water that makes this planet appear blue. Rivers and streams of blood run through us. The health of the planet, especially as our climate shifts, will influence the health of people and creatures everywhere. In this Easter season and the month that we observe Earth Day let us focus on caring for this planet we call home. Let's all take time to pray for our planet and discern what we're called to do to take care of it.

One of my ELCA clergy friends, who teaches homiletics at a seminary, wrote a Lenten devotional booklet on creation care five years ago. I want to share with you the Easter piece. It gives me hope that even as we face a climate crisis, our planet too will ultimately experience resurrection:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (Luke 24:5)

Earth, you took Jesus' body into yourself, into the very heart of your bosom. What did you witness there if not a birth from the womb of your body? Great Stone hewn from the cave, how light you were in the hands of the angels who rolled you away. Quiet Garden in which the women stood, uncomprehending of the miracle before them, how the Crickets must have laughed, how the Flowers must have glowed with joy, seeing the women's faces behold the Resurrected One.

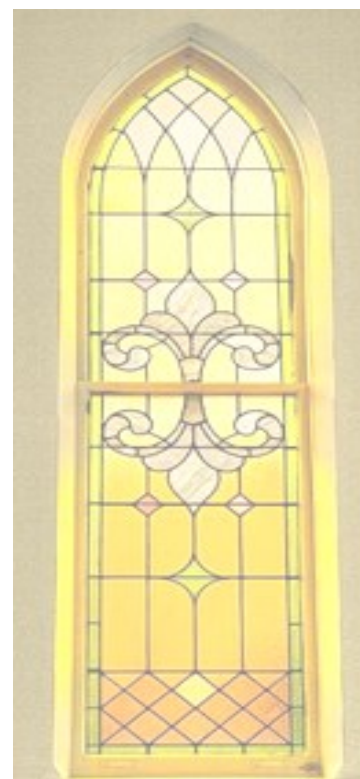
What did you see, Sister Flies, no longer drawn to a decomposing body? How did Jesus appear to you, Brother Birds who whistled the first "Alleluia, Christ is Risen!?" He was the same, yet different. He was filled with new life, yet with scars remaining. So, too, will be your appearance, O Earth, when your resurrection is complete. -Rev. Leah Schade

As an appendix to her ©2001 book, *Life Abundant*, theologian Sallie McFague (1933-2019) laid out a case for an Ecological Reformation as a Manifesto to North American Middle-Class Christians. She urges us to adopt new house rules based on an ecological model of humanity in place of our individualistic one. In her call for action she writes, "We must see ourselves as radically dependent on nature and as supremely responsible for it. And most of all, we North American privileged people who are consuming many times our share at the table must find ways to restructure our society, our nation, and the world toward great equitability... We Christians must participate in the agenda the planet has set before us—in public and prophetic ways—as our God "who so loved the world" would have us do.

May this Easter season be one in which we pray and work for the reformation and resurrection of our beloved blue boat home so that abundant life might be had for all for countless generations to come.

Deep Blessings Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor Monk



Inside this issue

- Palm Sunday Procession
- Purple Pantry Success
- Community Events

Immanuel Calendar



Apr. 1		First Day National Pickleball Month April Fool's Day
Apr. 2, 9, 16 23, 30		Midweek Spiritual Gatherings on Zoom
Apr. 3	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Apr. 4, 18	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25	7:30 pm	Wilmette Band Rehearsals
Apr. 9	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
Apr. 14- May 5	9:00 pm	Evanston Overnight Shelter
Apr. 18	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
Apr. 21	12:30 pm	Council Meeting

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

April Scripture Readings

April 7, Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1—2:2
John 20:19-31

April 21, Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

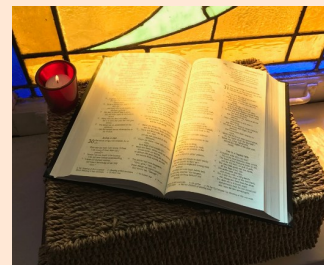
April 14, Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 28, Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

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



Music at Immanuel

April Music

April greets the Easter season for the choir at Immanuel. After a brief hiatus, the choir returns with a lovely chorale setting of "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness" set by Johann Crueger.

This is followed by Good Shepherd Sunday. The choir will offer a rousing spiritual by Marshall Bartholomew called "Little Innocent Lamb." We will finish the month with a modern-ish setting of the Latin text of "I am the Vine" by John Reager. The interesting harmonies and canonic imitation combine ancient and modern techniques into one worshipful piece summarizing the Gospel.

—Jimmy Morehead

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.

Beginning Apr. 4th: Contemplative Vision: Awakening to Beauty, Truth, and Goodness

We'll continue to 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.

Palm Sunday Processional 2024



Sunday School

In March the Sunday Schoolers enjoyed making pretzels.



Photos by
Christine
Kraemer



Successful Donation Drive for Purple Pantry

At the Indoor Farmer's Market on March 2nd, Immanuel sponsored a drive to collect food and personal care items for Northwestern University's Purple Pantry. We were joined by students from Northwestern's Lutheran Campus Ministry.

According to a 2023 article in the journal Public Health, one-third of all college students in the U.S. experience food insecurity--"inconsistent access to enough food to meet basic needs"--because of lack of money or other resources. This rate is greater than the national average for all households. Northwestern University's Purple Pantry addresses this problem by providing food and other essential items to students.



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.

Every week, Volunteers Chris, Kit, Keziah, Roxanne and others work hard in Fellowship Hall assembling the kits and getting them ready for pick up by Chi Welcome. If you have a couple of hours to spare on Thursday mornings, come join the group! *Thank you for your support of this ministry*

KITCHEN STARTER PACK

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 Place Settings | 1 Set Cooking Utensils |
| 4 Mugs | 1 Cutting Board and Knife |
| 2 Dish Towels | 1 Can Opener |
| 1 Pot with Lid | 1 Mixing Size Bowl |
| 1 Pan | 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.



APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

- Aleksander Shearer 4/3
- Thomas Shearer 4/3
- Jaya Nambiar 4/12
- Joe Simchak 4/16
- Jerry Larson 4/17
- Luke Moy 4/17
- Amari Brown 4/23
- Susan Ross 4/28

Jews and Palestinians Choosing Solidarity

Standing Together



Rula Daood



Itamar Avneri

Standing Together is a grassroots movement mobilizing Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel against the occupation and for equality, peace, and social justice. Since October 7th and the ensuing war on Gaza, they've been leading the fight within Israel for a ceasefire agreement and a hostage deal.

Join Evanston Interfaith Clergy for a conversation with Rula Daood and Itamar Avneri from Standing Together about how they're fighting for a shared future of safety, freedom, and equality for all.

7:30 PM

Tuesday

4.2

Lake Street Church, 607 Lake Street, Evanston IL

Join LSTC's Learning Communities!

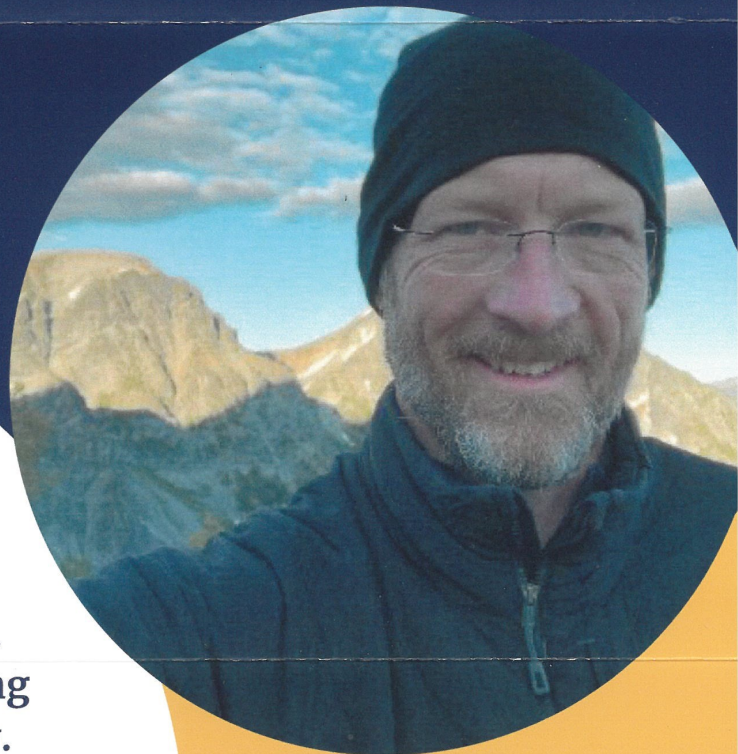
The LSTC Learning Communities offer no-cost spring and fall theological education programs via Zoom designed to enhance lay theological education, enrich parish learning programs, and foster a stronger relationship between the seminary and its constituent congregations. In the 2024, we have a new exciting program to offer. We would love to have you and interested members of your congregation join us!

**Next Session:
Sunday, April 7**

Liturgy and the Natural World

Join LSTC faculty member Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart for an inspiring 4-part series on nature and liturgy. Reimagine communal liturgies and daily rituals as you explore the sacredness of the cosmos, sacraments, and our bodies.

Sunday sessions begin April 7, and Wednesday sessions begin April 10. Can't attend? Recording of Sunday's session will be available.



Register at
LSTC.EDU/EVENTS



Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago

CALLED INTO THE WORLD

EVANSTON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONVERSATION SERIES

SAVE THE DATE!



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

CHERYL JOHNSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PEOPLE FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Centering the voices of leading Chicagoland Environmental justice (EJ) advocates, the Evanston EJ Justice Conversation Series provides a biannual, accessible community forum fostering rich conversation between community members, EJ advocates, and civic, religious, and academic leaders from the Evanston community and beyond.

APRIL 13, 2024
1:00 - 3:00 PM CST
FLEETWOOD-JOURDAIN COMMUNITY CENTER

PARTNERSHIP OF



NAACP



JOIN US!

SPONSORS



EVANSTON CRADLE TO CAREER



City of Evanston



Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

"Party Like It's 1983"

Lutheran Church of the Ascension
460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield

Admission: FREE

Open to the public.

Refreshments following the performance

13
April
4:30 pm

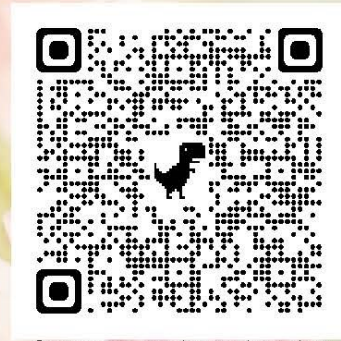
LCMNU Showcase 2024

**Student Talks, Musical Entertainment,
Appetizers and Desserts**

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

2:00pm–6:30pm

**Register
by
April 29!**



Scan for registration link

Parkes Hall, Northwestern University

1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL

GENERAL \$50; STUDENTS (WITH ID): \$20

LIVESTREAM AND RECORDING ON DEMAND: \$50 per household

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF LCMNU

Contact the LCMNU office with questions at

lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu or 847-864-7849



**LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT NORTHWESTERN**

Deepening Faith - Expanding Community



Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and inspiration!

Schedule for Saturday, May 4, 2024:

- Parkes Hall, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston
- 2:00pm–3:00pm: Registration and Gathering Reception
- 3:00pm–3:15pm: Welcome
- 3:30pm–3:50pm: Student Panel 1 Session
- 4:00pm–4:20pm: Student Panel 2 Session
- 4:30pm–4:50pm: Student Panel 3 Session
- 5:00pm–5:30pm: Social Time
- 5:30pm–6:30pm: Program



General or accessibility questions?

- Call LCMNU 847-864-7849 or email lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu by Wednesday, May 1, 2024.
- Parking is free at Parkes Hall all day Saturday and Sunday. For more information on parking and directions, go to: www.northwestern.edu/religious-life/visit-us/
- For more info on LCMNU: www.lcmnorthwestern.org and facebook.com/NUlutheran

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**.

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.