

## God's Hands—July/August 2024

### Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

I've been a daily Wordle player for a year or two, and as I was looking for inspiration for a summertime newsletter article today's solution was like a homerun at Wrigley. I began reflecting on the many spiritual dimensions to this common 5-letter word that might not be readily apparent. I believe this particular word is an important spiritual practice that blossoms into joy and gratitude. It is most commonly associated with food, in which it has its origin, but can aptly be applied to all of life. The word is savor. And summertime offers ample opportunity to savor the gift of being alive with all the blessings this entails. Vacations are great times get away from normal routines and savor many aspects of our lives, the gifts of family and friends, work, education, hobbies or activities that fill us with joy. Longer days give us more opportunities to get out in nature and savor the beauty of the world around us.

One of my favorite aspects of spiritual direction is taking some dedicated time on a monthly basis to reflect on the happening in my life, to pay closer attention to what's been taking place and to savor both the joys and the sorrows. Savoring one's life can be a key component of growing old gracefully. As a pastor, I've visited with many folks who through illness and aging have had to give up former activities that brought them joy. Yet, those who remain joyful rather than bitter, continue to savor those things that initially brought them joy. I've seen many a face aglow as they share about the places they've been, the things they have done, and the relationships they've been blessed with. Savoring brings the past into the present. It can bring healing as well as joy. By taking time for savoring, we can fully taste the variety of flavors in our one-of-a-kind life.

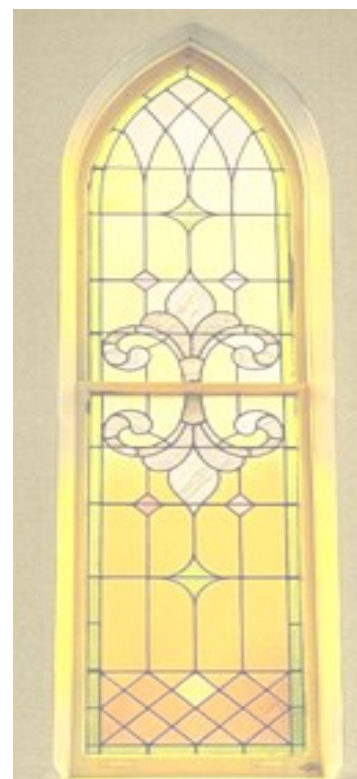
Each Sunday, as we gather for worship be sure to take time for savoring. We savor our baptismal identity of being God's beloved children. We savor gifts like forgiveness, faith, and being the mystical body of Christ. The reflection time after a sermon can be chockfull of savoring, likewise during the offering, or the postlude.

As I write this, I'm at home with a pretty severe case of Covid, and yet, that actually gives me an opportunity for savoring the care and concern that many of you have shown for me and continue to savor the vacation from which I just returned. A couple of days ago, I watched the movie, *Origin*, which is based on the book by Isabelle Wilkerson, *Caste: The Origin of our Discontent*, and I find that I've been savoring the stories and concepts so artistically presented. I savor Isabelle's vision of a world in which the humanity of all people is equally valued, for as she says, "None of us are free, until all of us are free."

So, take some time to savor different aspects of this one wild and glorious life that you've been given to live, for your savoring honors the giver.

Deep and Abiding Blessings,

*Pastor Mark*



#### Inside this issue

- Pride Sunday Photos
- Shorefront Legacy Center Presentation

## Immanuel Calendar

July 4		Independence Day—Happy Fourth of July
July 18	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
July 13, 27	10:00 am	Trombone Choir Rehearsal
July 21	12:30 pm	Council Meeting



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.

## July Scripture Readings

### July 7, Pentecost 7

Ezekiel 2:1-5  
Psalm 123  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
Mark 6:1-13

### July 14, Pentecost 8

Amos 7:7-15  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:14-29

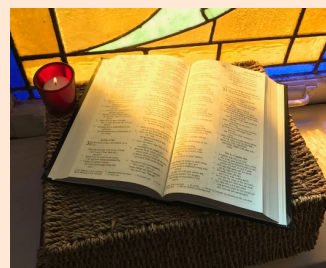
### July 21, Pentecost 9

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
Mark 6:30-23, 53-56

### July 28, Pentecost 10

2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-18  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
John 6:1-21

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



God of the journey,  
watch over all who travel.

Grant rest and joy for their spirits.

Be with drivers, flight attendants,  
pilots, road crews and all who  
strive to make our travels safe  
and our homecomings joyful.

Amen.

ELCA

God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

# Feeding Our Faith

Is taking the summer off.

Have a great summer and see you in September!

## Pride Sunday

On Sunday, June 2 2024, we celebrated Pride Sunday in Evanston! Corbin Treadwell gave a heartfelt sermon about her faith journey and time at Immanuel. To our regret, she's returning to Oklahoma following her graduation from Northwestern this past Spring.

Elora offered face-painting as part of the celebration! Immanuel congregants then went over to Raymond Park to join the Evanston Pride Fest. The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, led by Immanuel's Music Director James Morehead, led the chorus. He is also their Artistic Director.



Photos by Joe Simchak



## JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Faith Yarnoff 7/1

Parker Kloster 7/7

Joan Guess 7/8

Patrick McCarthy 7/10

Audrey Moy 7/13

Meaghan Ross 7/15

Christian Kloster 7/18

Jim Rakowsky 7/20

Trixie Lipke 7/22

Kit McCarthy 7/29

Elizabeth Stegner 8/1

Grace Yarnoff 8/10

Olivia Knohl 8/20 Judy Kratochvil 8/21

Maren Baylaender 8/28

Tom Couch 8/29

## Donations for Immigrants

Chi Welcome, our partner in the distribution network, is requesting that donors compile Kitchen Starter Packs. Please see the list and assemble a pack with only the items specified. 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
- 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.





The Justice & Equity Ministry presents



## Laurice Bell

Executive Director, The Shorefront Legacy Center, Evanston

**New Date - Sunday, August 4, 2024**

During Coffee Hour (after Sunday Worship Service)

## MY HOME, OUR STORY

Evanstonian Laurice Bell will be a special guest speaker during Immanuel's Sunday Coffee Hour. In February 2023, Laurice became the Executive Director of Shorefront Legacy Center, a history organization that collects, preserves and shares the stories of Black individuals who have lived — sometimes invisibly — throughout Chicago's North Shore. Laurice and Ron Whitmore co-founded and co-produce *Evanston Rules*, a podcast which explores the history and stories of people who have made a difference in Evanston.

She will speak a bit about her story and about the Shorefront Legacy Center, and why their work informs what they do to advance racial and social justice.

## 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**.

### 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

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY SEPT. 14

**GOODFEST** GOOD MUSIC  
GOOD BBQ  
GOOD CAUSE  
GREAT TIME

TRIBUTOSAURUS & ANTLER CHANDELIER

★ SUPPORTS FAMILY PROMISE NORTH SHORE ★



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.

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE