



"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 2025

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

"I want to share some thoughts on our **4th pillar, We Welcome All**. Our longer explanation states:

We welcome people of all faiths to join us in asking questions and in learning about God's word...We believe in getting to know new visitors, friendships, and maintaining strong connections over good food and drink! Immanuel is very sincere in its open welcome. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming 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.

Our broad sense of welcome extends to those who may feel unwelcomed by certain factions in our nation. This unfortunately includes some of our brothers and sisters in Christ. One response is to become bolder and more courageous in our welcoming. I encourage you to make your welcoming more than a passive endeavor. How might we become more active in welcoming all. Who might you tell about how Immanuel welcomes all? Who might you invite to come and experience our warm welcome of our community? How might you share your own story about why you participate in this faith community?

It's natural to be hesitant about inviting. We don't want to appear intrusive. We don't want to be rejected. But an invitation is the doorway to being welcomed and it can transform lives. A pastor friend of mine often shares the story of an experience during his college years. He spent many Saturdays palming around with a couple of friends and late in the afternoon his friends would say "It's time to get ready to go to worship (they were Roman Catholic), do you want to come?" and being from an unchurched background he would respond, "No thanks." However, they were unperturbed by his declining their invitation and asked again the next week. That's the way it went for months, until one day he decided to go. He says that their persistent invitation changed his life.

We Welcome All because we've been welcomed by the very source of love behind all creation. Our welcoming and invitations are one way that we participate in God's work of reconciling the world. Our welcoming helps us to remain open-hearted, even if it seems that doors of welcome are closing in the world around us. So, who might God be nudging you to share words of welcome and invitation with? As you do, know that through our welcoming of all God's transforming love and mercy are set loose in the world.

Deep and Abiding Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Inside this issue

- February Music
- Walk for Warmth
- Justice & Equity Event
- Upcoming March Events

Immanuel Calendar

Feb. 1		First Day of Black History Month
Feb. 1, 15	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers Market
Feb. 6, 20	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Feb. 4, 11, 16 25	2:00 pm	Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth In-person or Zoom
Feb. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27	6:30 am	Tai-Chi Class
Feb. 12, 20	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Feb. 6, 13, 20 27	7:30 pm	Wilmette Band Rehearsal
Feb. 16	2:00 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.

February Scripture Readings

February 2, Presentation of Our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

February 9, Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

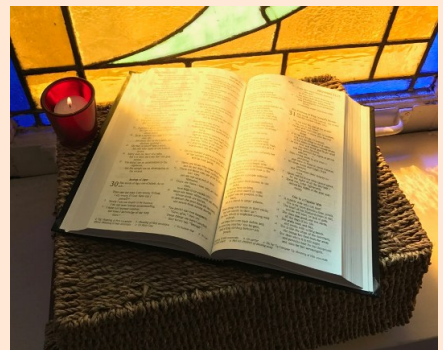
February 16, Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 23, Epiphany 7

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

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



Music at Immanuel

Music in February

The choir has some wonderful musical offerings for the month of February for worship this year. We kick off Black History Month with "Hope for Resolution" by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory. This interesting setting celebrates our diversity in music by juxtaposing the European chant melody "Of the Father's Love begotten" with an anti-apartheid South African song Thula Sizwe (Nation, Do Not Cry). Throughout the changes in key centers the piece continues to grow more and more. Dana Barron joins on flute as well.

This is followed by a lovely setting of the traditional text "How can I keep from singing?" by former Northwestern Choral Director, Robert A. Harris. A chant-inspired anthem by Arlen Clarke asks "Lord, Grant Thou Me a Quiet Mind" before we end the month with a setting of Matthew 5:44-45. In "Love Your Enemies" by George Alexander Macfarren we are reminded of Jesus' charges on how to treat those around us.



Photo of Robert A. Harris
Northwestern University

Feeding Our Faith

Sundays 9 AM—10 AM

Gatherings include viewing short videos and lively discussions.

You can participate either in-person (meet in Fellowship Hall) or via Zoom. All participants will have an enhanced experience by being able to see and hear each other, via an Owl Lab 36-degree view video camera/speaker/microphone! Zoom link is on the church website, www.immanuelevanston.org

2025 Schedule of Topics

February: Hearing from some very insightful Black Voices

February 2, 2025: "God-Talk for Hot-Mess Times" by Jacqui Lewis Through movement and laughter, Rev. Dr. Lewis, Senior Minister and Public Theologian at Middle Church in New York City, takes listeners on a journey through the history of liberation through dance and invites them into a dance partnership with God.

February 9, 2025: "The Fourth Temptation" by Rev. Reginald Wayne Sharpe, Jr. Rev. Sharpe, Senior Pastor of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois, explores the challenge of overcoming the pressure to please others and the inner conflict that arises when the desire to gain approval occasionally wins. He acknowledges that the need for external validation is a natural part of the human experience, but it emphasizes the importance of not allowing that desire to dictate one's life decisions or self-worth.

February 16, 2025: "Embracing Uncertainty" by Rev. Olu Brown How do we respond to uncertainty? Rather than deny it or simply try to survive it, Rev. Olu Brown, lead Pastor at Impact Church in Atlanta, offers three fundamental truths that can help us embrace uncertainty.

February 23, 2025: "Becoming and Being a Black Theologian" by Kelly Brown Douglas The Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas is the Canon Theologian at the Cathedral. In 2017, she was named Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and in 2019, she was appointed to the Bill and Judith Moyers Chair in Theology at Union. Kelly is considered a leader in the field of womanist theology, racial reconciliation, social justice, and sexuality and the Black church.

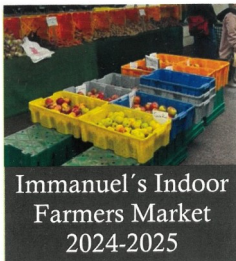


Walk for Warmth 2025

Three cheers for the nine hearty souls who participated in this year's Walk for Warmth 2025, sponsored by Interfaith Action of Evanston. The temperature on January 20, also Martin Luther King Day, was 7 degrees with winds of 16 mph and gusts of 24 mph! We thank them for their support and calling attention to the need for more housing in Evanston.

Immanuel participants:

Elise Kloster, Glynis Kloster, Elora Kloster, Parker Kloster, Christian Kloster, Bert Mount, Jim McCarthy, Kit McCarthy, Barbara Huffman, Nicolai Schousboe.



Immanuel's Indoor Farmers Market 2024-2025

Immanuel Lutheran Church presents Farmers Markets from November – April.

- November 23
- December 7 & 21
- January 4 & 18
- February 1 & 15
- March 1 & 15
- April 5

Time:
8:00 – 12:30 p.m.



www.immanuelevanston.org
616 Lake Street, Evanston

Indoor Farmers' Market

The indoor farmer's market team is still looking for volunteers to help out with various tasks. Also, please stop by the advocacy table and learn about and sign postcards to send to our elected officials on important issues affecting our community at-large.

Photo: Pr. Mark, Audrey and Peter Moy man the Advocacy Table on the topic of Justice & Equity.



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

From the Justice & Equity Ministry....

A Japanese-American Family's Experience during WWII

On Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 after Coffee Hour, Justice & Equity Ministry Chair Audrey Moy introduced guest speaker Parish Administrator Jane Kaihatsu, who gave a presentation about what her parents' families experienced as they were subject to the evacuation and internment of Japanese-Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

About 55 persons listened as Jane described how her grandparents immigrated to the US from different areas of Japan in the early 1900s and settled in cities in California. Jane's mother side lived in the Northern California city of Alameda. Her grandfather had been a sailor in the Japanese Imperial Navy during the Russo-Japanese War. After the war he joined the British merchant marines and when they sailed to San Francisco, her grandfather lowered himself overboard and with a flotation device he crafted, got through San Francisco Bay and onto shore. Eventually he married, worked as a cook on the commuter ferry between Oakland and San Francisco, and owned a grocery store. He became a leader of the Alameda Buddhist Temple. On the evening of Dec. 7, 1941, her grandfather was picked up at their home and taken away for interrogation by the FBI. The family decided to quickly sell their grocery store and move to the Sacramento area, hoping to evade the rumored evacuation and internment camps. But their strategy was unsuccessful and were sent to the camp at Gila River, AZ, which was built on tribal land. Jane described how people in the camps went to school and had jobs. Her grandfather became a camp chef. Jane's mom attended high school in Gila River and spent time with friends, including meals. Meals were in mess halls and often older children opted not to eat with their families, a cause of some family breakdowns.

The Kaihatsu family were residents of Los Angeles, although Jane's paternal grandfather came to San Francisco on a visa and wanted to study English, which he had studied in Japan. He ended up in Hollywood and her grandfather worked in the motion picture industry as a silent film actor and later as a costume/prop shop proprietor. Jane's Kaihatsu grandfather died in 1939. Because her grandmother could not speak English well, the preparation for leaving their home for the evacuation and internment and care of four younger brothers fell on Jane's Aunt Martha, who was only 21 years old. Jane's uncle was a freshman at UCLA on Dec. 7th but he had to drop out and never did return. Jane's father was at Hollywood High but graduated high school at the camp in Heart Mountain, WY. Jane's uncle and father served in the US Army during WWII.

Both families were in camp until 1945 and ended up in Chicago for employment.



On her mother's side, an aunt found work as a domestic for a family in Wilmette, and sent for Jane's mom and the rest of the family to live in the Uptown area of Chicago. Aunt Martha found a job at *The Chicago Sun* newspaper and sent for the family to live in an apartment in Hyde Park.

There were many insightful questions and there was general agreement that some aspects of the Trump Administration's treatment of undocumented person by using US military personnel echoes some of the experiences of Japanese-Americans. Jane wanted the audience to know that government actions affect not just groups of people but individuals. And while we often hear the word "mass" to describe deportations, arrests, transport or detainment, we cannot let that word "mass" make us lose sight of how individuals and families are being affected.





Immanuel Music Events in 2025



Trombone Choir—Selected French Works

Saturday, March 15, 2025

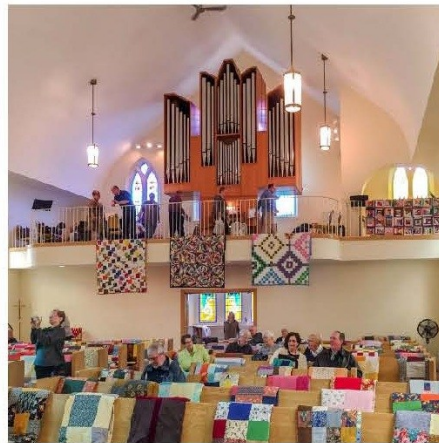
3:00 pm

Save the Dates!

Save the Dates!



See + Touch + Bless



March 16, 2025

10:30 am

Immanuel Lutheran Church
616 Lake Street, Evanston, IL 60201
847-864-4464
www.immanuelevanston.org



December 31, 2024

Immanuel Ev Lutheran Church
616 Lake St
Evanston, IL 60201-4413

Dear Immanuel Ev Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift to Interfaith Action of Evanston! Your generosity makes it possible to provide services to people in our community who are unhoused and hungry. The Hospitality Center continues to provide a safe, peaceful place for people experiencing homelessness to spend their mornings. They call it their Starbucks!

We were able to keep the overnight shelter open for 31 weeks last season. We are working on 52! 30 people had a place to sleep each night. The winter weekend shelter was also open for 31 weeks!

The Produce Mobile provides fresh produce every month for 300 families and SNAPGap provides other necessities like toilet paper and detergent. The Soup Kitchens serve everyone who comes to their doors.

And - I would do a drumroll here, if I could! - Jamie got his keys! Amanda got a job! Allen moved in with his family! Carl got engaged! And our staff and volunteers celebrated with them

Sincerely,

Susan Murphy Berube, Executive Director

Interfaith Action of Evanston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. No goods or services were received. Your gift of \$1,200.00 on December 31, 2024 is tax deductible to the extent the law will allow.

Interfaith Action
of Evanston

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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**.

2025-26 ILC Leadership

Michael Kloster, Congregation President

Terri Simchak, Congregation Vice President

Dana Barron, Congregation Secretary

Susan Ross, Treasurer

Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Laura McDaniel, Steve Warner, Congregation Council Members

Laurie Stivers, Financial Secretary



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.