



"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—March 2025

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

Ash Wednesday on March 5th begins our Lenten journey, as we invite God to strip away the unnecessary baggage that we've been carrying, readying for the new life that the Easter season will bring. During our midweek Lenten worships each Wednesday we'll be using Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy with Scripture and meditation focused on the theme of **Holy Lament**. Each week we will consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. Lament is one of the most faithful things we can do.

When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. Here are the subthemes for the 5 weeks:

Week 1: What is Lament

Week 2: "Little" Laments

Week 3: Lament from the Depths

Week 4: Individual Lament

Week 5: Communal Lament

I sense that many people have been grieving the political climate in our nation becoming less open and welcoming to immigrants and to those in the LGBTQIA+ community. The threat of increased climate disasters grows as regulations on fossil fuel drilling and burning are loosened. The gap between rich and poor widens. Our constitutional system of checks and balances faces challenges. Another global health pandemic may be coming soon. We're living through some very trying times and have much to lament about.

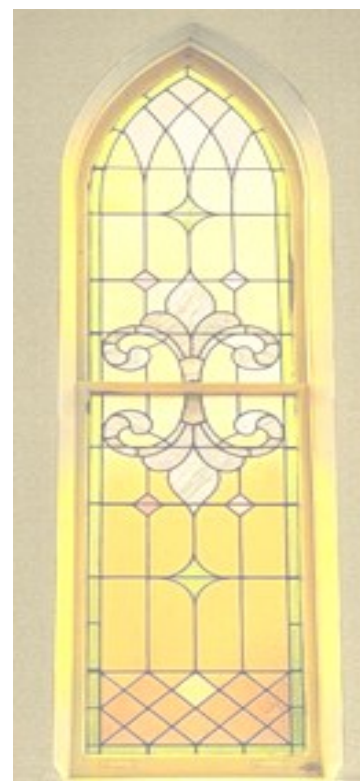
I trust that we will find a God who can take our grief, frustration, and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope. The beauty of Holden Evening Prayer will assist us in holding our grief with trust and hope.

Being together in this community of faith also provides us with resilience, support, and direction. I invite you to join our Sunday morning, **Feeding Our Faith**, Adult discussion sessions, 9 am -10 am in-person or online. The focus will be on our 2nd and 4th pillars as in our working for justice we learn about how to counter Christian Nationalism (3/2, 3/9, & 3/30). We'll also focus on strengthening our intentionality in welcoming all (3/16 & 3/23). Check out our website for details and links to the videos that we'll watch and discuss.

I pray for the Spirit to guide our growth as we journey together during this Penitential Season.

Deep and Abiding Blessings,

Pastor Mark



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- Quilting Updates
- Trombone Concert

Immanuel Calendar

Mar. 1		Women's History Month
Mar. 1, 15	8:00 am	Indoor Farmers Market
Mar. 4, 11, 16 25	2:00 pm	Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth In-person or Zoom
Mar. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27	6:30 am	Tai-Chi Class
Mar. 4, 12, 20	10:00 am	Group Spiritual Direction
Mar. 5	7:00 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Service
Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Mar. 6, 20	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
Mar. 6, 13, 20	7:30 pm	Wilmette Band Rehearsal
Mar. 9		DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS—SPRING AHEAD
Mar. 12, 19, 26	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Dinner
	7:00 pm	Lenten Evening Prayer Service
Mar. 15	3:00 pm	Ravenswood Trombone Quartet Concert— <i>Sounds of Spring</i>
Mar. 16	10:30 am	Blessing of the Quilts
	12:30 pm	Council Meeting
Mar. 17		Happy St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 22	5:00 pm	North Shore Squares Volunteer Dinner



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

March Scripture Readings

March 2, Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-42
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

March 5, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b- 6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9, Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16, Lent 2

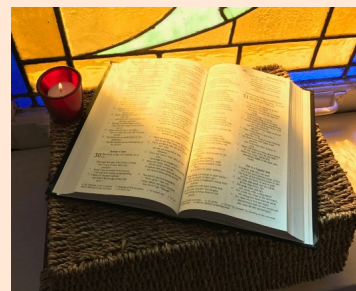
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17 —4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 23, Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 30, Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



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

Music at Immanuel

Music in March

We kick off March with a lovely chorale-like setting of the story of the Transfiguration by William D. Thompson and then quickly move into Lent. The choir will offer Antonio Lotti's "Miserere mei Deus" (Have mercy on me, Oh God) for the Ash Wednesday service to begin this penitential season.

This is followed by a moving arrangement of the Spiritual "We Shall Walk Through the Valley" by Undine Smith Moore. The choir will then sing a setting of Psalm 27:10, "Hide Not Thy Face From Us" by the 16th century composer Richard Farrant. This is followed by another Psalm setting by Claude Goudimel, "As the Deer, for Water Yearning" sung in French and English. The ILC choir finishes the month with a rousing setting of the chorale "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart" by John Ferguson before preparing for the feast days in April.

—Jimmy Morehead

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

March 2, 2025 – *Ending Christian Nationalism by Amanda Tyler, Exec. Director of BJC, Baptist Joint Commission for Religious Liberty*

March 9, 2025 – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, A Story of Courage and Faith*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian, is a Christian hero for many. Executed by the Nazis just days before the end of WWII for his participation in a plot to assassinate Hitler, Bonhoeffer is hailed as a 20th-century martyr. But Bonhoeffer struggled with a moral dilemma – his religious views were in stark contrast to the evil he saw all around him. He chose to face possible imprisonment and execution and to remain faithful to the principles of his belief in God. Across the political and theological spectrum, Bonhoeffer is celebrated as an icon of true Christianity and his theological writings are classics throughout the Christian world.

March 16, 2025 – *“Evangelism 101: What You Really Need to Know” by Rev. Dave Daubert, author of *The Invitational Christian**

Have you ever wondered about how to do effective Evangelism? Maybe the thought of Evangelism scares you? Have you ever had a scary Evangelism Encounter? Evangelism is an important part of our life of faith and it doesn't have to be scary.

March 23, 2025 – *“Making People Feel Seen: How to do it Right” by David Brooks, NY Times columnist*

March 30, 2025 – *White Christian Nationalism and the Church with Rev. Jim Wallis*

The founding Director of the Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice, discusses his book, *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy*. He argues that the civic promotion of fear, hate, and violence as the trajectory of our politics under a banner of Christian Nationalism should be faced to contend with a greater response of a civic faith of love, healing, and hope to defeat it.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Holden Evening Prayer Services

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26. April 2, 9 at 7:00 pm



Confirmation Class Service Project at Shore Line Place

On Monday, February 17, 2025, the Confirmation class met at Shore Line Place, a Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, a seniors residential facility in Wilmette for President's Day service project.

The youth and pastors met with some residents for games of Bingo which featured a plethora of prizes, and also for a card-making craft. Victoria Schless of LSSI wrote:



Thank you so much to everyone for all of your help, and the help of your Parishioners, for making today so wonderful for our Residents.

Everyone is so thankful and had such a great time. I'm sure they'll all be asking when you can come back.

I know BINGO can seem small, but it was such a big event for them. I noticed a few of them even dressed up for the occasion.

Again, I thank you all with so much gratitude for coming out on such a cold day and spending some time with us. It really means a lot.

I look forward to partnering again in the future.





Immanuel Hosts EICL February 2025 Monthly Luncheon

On Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, Immanuel was the host church for the February Luncheon Meeting of the Evanston Interfaith Clergy & Leaders. Cara Pratt, Sustainability and Resilience Manager, City of Evanston, spoke about the Healthy Buildings Ordinance.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Emmett Hanson 3/2
- Sara Mauk 3/3
- Christine Kraemer 3/5
- Mark Kraemer 3/7
- Amy Shearer 3/8
- Anne Heider 3/10
- Terri Hummel 3/13
- Charly Yarnoff 3/13
- Kevin McDaniel 3/17
- Barbara Huffman 3/20
- Daniel McCarthy 3/21
- Bert Mount 3/26

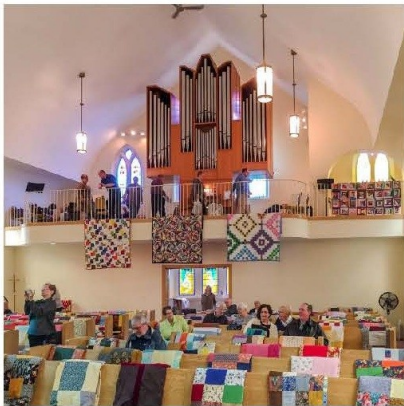


Quilt Update & Quilt Blessing— Sunday, March 16, 2025

We are quilting on Saturday, March 1st during the indoor farmers market, 8am - noon. Come when you can and stay as long as you can.



See + Touch + Bless



March 16, 2025
10:30 am

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

Last Thursday brought the number of finished quilts up to **225** with 5 quilts ready to be sewn and tied. We are getting closer to my grandson's goal of 240! Let's see if that happens.

No matter the total number, your work to share warmth with others is a blessing. I am thankful for all you do.

Looking ahead, here are future dates for quilting --

Saturday, March 1, 8am- noon

Thursday, March 6, 9am -noon

Thursday, March 13, 9am display quilts in the sanctuary

Saturday, March 15, welcome people from the farmers market into the sanctuary to see the quilts.

We have a small challenge with the quilt display -- on Saturday the 15th at 3 pm there is a trombone concert in the sanctuary. Because 200+ quilts in the sanctuary deadens all sound (even trombones!) we are going to have to remove most of the quilts after the market. Details TBD and we can discuss on Saturday, Mar. 1st.

—Chris Djuric



Ravenswood Trombone Quartet

Presents

Spring Songs or "Centuries of Sackbut"

Saturday, March 15, 2025

3:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church Sanctuary

616 Lake Street, Evanston, IL
www.immanuelevanston.org



1520—Spain: *The Engagement of St. Ursula and Prince Etherius*, sometimes also titled *St. Ursula and Prince Etherius Making a Solemn Vow*. A panel from the *Saint Aute Altarpiece* commissioned in 1522 by Eleanor, Queen of Portugal for the Convent of Madre de Deus, Lisbon.

Formed in 2024, the Ravenswood Trombone Quartet represents some of Chicago's busiest trombone performers and educators. Hailing from as close as Belmont and Ashland to as far as Atlanta, Georgia, they

explore the 500-year history of their instrument with curiosity and creativity. Musicians include Robyn Smith, Corey Sansolo, Catie Hickey, among others.

The performance on March 15th includes a variety of selected works, including *Achieved Is the Glorious Work* by Franz Joseph Haydn from *The Creation*; *O dulcis amor Jesu* by Caterina Assandra, *Two Pieces for Trombone Quartet* by Felix Mendelssohn, *Suite, Op. 82* by Flor Peeters, *Solitude Chorales* by Quinn Mason, *Blues Melba* by Melba Liston, *Lament* by J. J. Johnson, and *Mr. Sandman* by Pat Ballard. Admission is free.

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.



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.



Evanston's Community Indoor Farmers Market

www.immanuelevanston.org
616 Lake Street, Evanston



**You're Invited to the
National Faith + Climate Forum 2025!**

March 27, 2025

11:00 am - 4:30 pm CT

Grace Lutheran Church

1430 South Blvd.

Evanston, IL 60202

Join faith leaders and community members at Grace Lutheran Church for a live watch party of the **National Faith + Climate Forum 2025**. Experience a day of powerful discussions, engaging workshops, and community building as we explore the intersection of faith and environmental action.

Come and be part of a movement towards sustainable congregational practices and robust community resilience. Let's inspire and support each other in acts of faith that care for creation and advocate for climate justice.

Register and learn more today by scanning the QR code below:



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

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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.