

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Welcome!

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.

We're glad God has called you here today! If you're a guest, please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastor or assisting minister. If you would, sign the guest book in the Gathering Area or fill in a guest card, and we'll be happy to send information on how you can get involved at Immanuel.

Masks are now optional during worship service.

Facilities

- Our parking lot is located on the south side of the church off Sherman Avenue. You may park in the lot at any time, whether for church events or for shopping or other errands in downtown Evanston; weekdays, see the church office at the Lake St. entrance to get a parking pass. Parking meters are free until 1:00 P.M. on Sunday.
- The parking lot entrance is an accessible entrance. An elevator is located just inside that door.
- Restrooms are downstairs near the meeting of the two hallways. Accessible restrooms are located near the elevator on both upper and lower levels. A gender-neutral restroom is located on the lower level by the elevator.
- We love having children in worship! Activity bags are available from the ushers. There is a nursery and changing/crying room for parents to use, if needed, located downstairs. There are also changing tables in both restrooms on this level, by the elevator. An usher will be happy to direct you.
- Hearing assistance is available. Ask an usher for equipment.
- Wi-Fi is available throughout most of the building. The network is "Immanuel," password "allarewelcome." Please use the Internet responsibly!

About Our Worship

Our Sunday worship is organized around the proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It has a familiar form each week, but the content changes for each service according to a calendar shared with many other Christians. The liturgy is printed in this bulletin. If you're worshipping via Zoom, please remain muted until you get to the part where you will be invited to unmute and participate in some parts of the liturgy, as marked by this symbol. $\frac{1}{2}$ = UNMUTE

Receiving Holy Communion

We invite you to share with us in the sacramental meal because Christ invites you! There is no specific age requirement for Communion. There are two options: You may come forward to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements. The other option is we have individually packaged communion with either wine or grape juice that you can pick up at the entrance of the sanctuary. The pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you" following the singing of the Communion Song. Please deposit the cups and wrappers in the trash receptacles as you leave the sanctuary.

Gathering: The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

P: Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **A:** Assembly + All may make the sign of the cross.

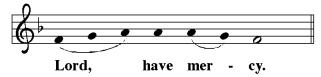
We gather in meditative silence. Please stand when directed.

Kyrie

S138

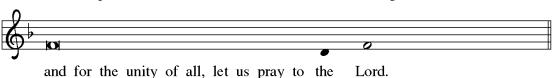


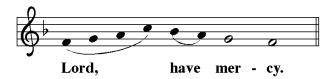
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,





continued on the next page...

Kyrie, continued...



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,





Greeting

- P The Lord be with you.
- A And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

Word: God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

- R A reading from Joel.
 - 1Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
 Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
 2a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
 Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
 their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

12Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
14Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

15Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
16gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

17Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through. The organ will only accompany the first two verses and the refrain.

The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. The organ accompanies the first two verses and the remaining verses are sung unaccompanied.

All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."





Refrain:





¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹ steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know ^I my offenses, and my sin is ev- ^I er before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R

⁵Indeed, I was born [|] steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my [|] mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R

⁹Hide your face [|] from my sins, and blot out [|] all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away [|] from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- [|] it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of [|] your salvation and sustain me with your boun- [|] tiful Spirit. R

¹³Let me teach your ways ¹ to offenders, and sinners shall be re- ¹ stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of ¹ my salvation, and my tongue shall sing ¹ of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o- [|] pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro- I claim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or [|] I would give it. You are not pleased [|] with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a [|] troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will [|] not despise. **R**

Reading from the New Testament

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

R A reading from Second Corinthians.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

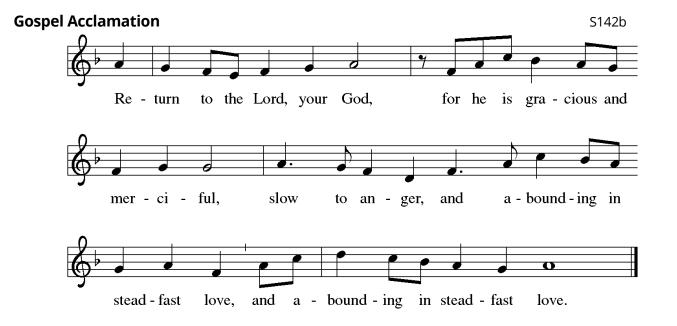
"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.



Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on one word from the scriptures or from the sermon that stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

Hymn of the Day "The Glory of These Forty Days" (ERHALT UNS, HERR) **ELW 320**



Invitation to Lent

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The ministers kneel. The Assembly is seated, bowed in a posture of penitence.

- P Most holy and merciful God,
- A we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.We have not been true to the mind of Christ.We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

A Have mercy on us, O God.

- P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- A Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- A Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Blessing of the Ashes

- P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- A Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

All those who wish may come forward to receive the sign of ashes. Masks are optional and please maintain a single file line on each side. You may kneel or stand to receive the ashes, then return to your seat.

ACS 920



When all who desire them have received ashes, the Assembly stands.

- P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- that we may show forth your glory in the world.
- By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

A bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

A Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

[A brief silence.]

L God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

A 👲 receive our prayer.

L God of love, you give endless love so that we may give this same love to others. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Yehiel, our pastor, Mark, our president, Michael, for our Council, our justice ministries and all who guide and instruct our communities, and for all those you have gathered here in your name. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture organic cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain, especially Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Terri Hummel, Dori Jacobson-Wenzel, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Elaine Nelson, Bill Pullin, Kathy Roderer, Patty Schubert, Larry Turpin, Steve Warner, the family of Julie Woestehoff. Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety, and those we name in our hearts [...]. Grant that all who dwell in the dust of grief may know your presence there. God, in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The petitions and thanksgivings of the Assembly, silent or spoken aloud, are invited.

God in your mercy,

A receive our prayer.

- L God of the cross, we give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth and have returned to you, especially Perpetua and Felicity and companions. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,
- A receive our prayer.
- P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
- A Amen.

Peace

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- A 👲 And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...

Offering An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.

Offering Music

"Miserere mei Deus" by Antonio Lotti

Miserere mei Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam, et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum dele iniquitatem meam.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after Thy great goodness According to the multitude of Thy mercies do away mine offences.

Presentation of the Gifts

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (DER AM KREUZ) ELW 811



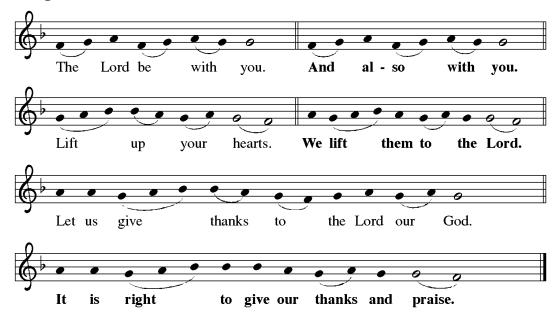
Offering Prayer

- L Let us pray.
- L Gracious Provider,
 you set your immense treasures among us,
 opening your heart to the world.
 As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
 deepen our commitment to sharing those
 treasures with others,
 through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue S144a



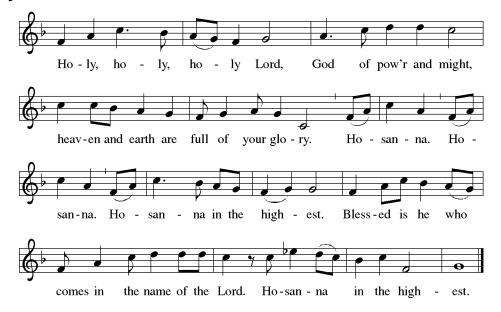
Preface (The Presiding Minister continues with the prayer:)

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy S144b



Thanksgiving at the Table

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
 Your kingdom come, your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

- L All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread
- A May we be filled with your presence.

Distribution of Holy Communion

For those who are communing with the packets or online, the pastor will say "The body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

- P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

 All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.*

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses can be deposited in trays on the front pews. This will be a continuous communion, standing to receive the elements.

When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."



The Assembly stands as directed.

Blessing after Communion

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

Sending: God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world ...

Blessing

P God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly departs in silence.

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister	Laurie Stivers
Lector	
Organist	
Music Director	
Table Preparation	
Zoom Host	
Audio-Visual Technicians	
Ushers	Nicolai Schousboe

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Upcoming Commemorations

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202 Friday, March 7, 2025

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society Monday, March 10, 2025

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604 Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.. From sundaysandseasons.com.

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Dactor
THE REV. IVIATE SIOSS	FaStUI
Michael Kloster	Congregation President
Terri Simchak	Congregation Vice President
Dana Barron	5 5
Susan Ross	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Kit McCarthy, Laura McDaniel, Steve Warner	Congregation Council Members
Laurie Stivers	Financial Secretary
James Morehead	Music Director
Christine Kraemer	Organist
Laurie Stivers	Associate Organist
Jane Kaihatsu	Parish Administrator

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod. We've been worshiping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!