

God's Hands—April 2025

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

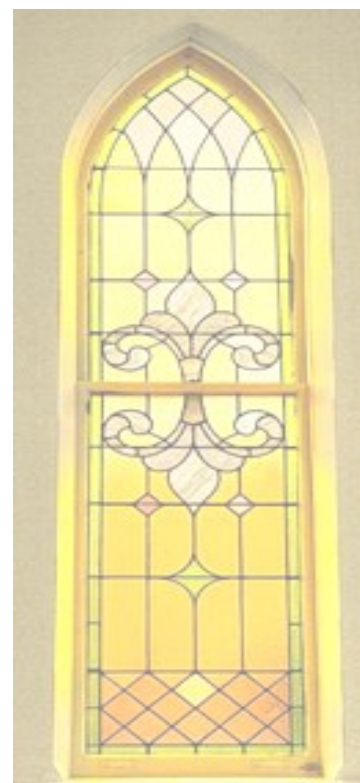
I want to highlight how we will be hosting the Interfaith Action (IA) overnight shelter during Holy Week and Easter. In other words, Christ will be spending the night as we retell the Passion story and celebrate his dying and rising. I recently spoke with IA Executive Director, Sue Murphy Berube, about her thoughts on our inviting our overnight guests upstairs on Saturday evening to join us at our Easter Vigil post worship party. I told her that we wouldn't have alcoholic beverages this year like we usually do, but lots of delicious goodies. She said that it would be great for us to invite them.

I think that this could be a wonderful ministry opportunity for us, but I also think that it will require us to take each evening of Holy Week not only to let our guests know that they are invited to join us, but also to build up some anticipation for the party. We can do this through those who volunteer at the shelter sharing their enthusiasm for the great spread of scrumptious food and drink. There is a sign-up sheet next to the coffee hour sign-up in the fellowship hall where you can declare what you intend to bring to the party. This will be valuable information for our shelter volunteers to build anticipation. Keep in mind that we'll need to bring extra of whatever we're preparing to bring.

Like many of you, I've been very concerned about the shifting political sands in our country and wondering what to do. I believe that throwing a party for some of the most vulnerable in our community is a great way for us to counter that lack of compassion being shown on the national stage towards immigrants and LGBTQI+ folks and in reversals of diversity and equity initiatives. We can be people who embody God's compassion for the last and the least, and what better occasion than Easter for us to do so. Someone once said that last will be first and the first last. So, I invite you to consider how else we might convey to our overnight guests that they are honored guests, for they too like us are God's beloved ones.

Deep Blessings Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor Mark



Inside this issue

- April Music
- Blessing of Quilts Sunday
- Holy Week Preview

Immanuel Calendar

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|--|
| Apr. 1 | | Arab-American Heritage, National Pickleball, Earth Month |
| Apr. 2, 9 | 6:00 pm | Lenten Soup Dinner |
| | 7:00 pm | Lenten Evening Prayer Service |
| Apr. 2, 9, 16, 30 | 7:30 pm | Choir Practice |
| Apr. 3, 4, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 29 | 6:30 am | Tai-Chi Class |
| Apr. 3, 24 | 9:00 am | Daytime Quilters |
| Apr. 3, 10, 24 | 7:30 pm | Wilmette Band Rehearsal |
| Apr. 5 | 8:00 am | Last Indoor Farmers Market of the Season |
| Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29 | 2:00 pm | Midweek Adult Spiritual Growth In-person or Zoom |
| Apr. 13-May 4 | 9:00 pm | Hosting Evanston Overnight Shelter |
| Apr. 13 | 8:30 am | Palm Sunday—Gather for Palm Processional |
| | 9:45 am | Light Breakfast |
| | 10:30 am | Special Worship: "Cry, the Whole Congregation" |
| Apr. 17 | 7:30 pm | Maundy Thursday Worship Service |
| Apr. 18 | 7:30 pm | Good Friday Worship Service |
| Apr. 19 | 7:30 pm | Easter Vigil Worship Service + Party |
| Apr. 20 | | HAPPY EASTER! |
| | 9:30 am | Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt |
| | 10:30 am | Easter Sunday/Feast of the Resurrection Worship Service |
| Apr. 27 | 2:30 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 6, Lent 5

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 13, Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

April 17, Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18, Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

John 18:1—19:42

April 19, Easter Vigil

Romans 6:3-11

John 20:1-18

April 20, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-56

Luke 24:1-12

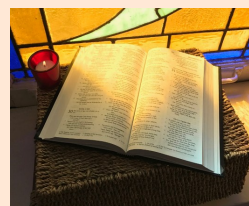
April 27, Easter 2

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelations 1:4-8

John 30:19-31



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

Music at Immanuel

Music in April

We begin the month with a hauntingly beautiful anthem by Jennifer Stammers setting the text by Isaac Watts, "The Loving Lamb." This "sneak-preview" into Holy Week isn't a preview for most of us but prepares us the upcoming week of "the Lamb was slain and lives again, To intercede for me."

We begin Holy Week with an Opening Antiphon by Tomás Luis de Victoria, likely Spain's most famous Renaissance composer. After the English translation of the chant, this piece catapults us into a brief four-part polyphonic of the Palm Sunday entry text. During Offertory, the choir will offer the beloved and famous "God So Loved the World" by Sir John Stainer. Maundy Thursday's anthem will take us through the story of "Gethsemane" by sister team, Linda and Carol Muehlig. On Good Friday, the choir will offer a beautiful setting of the familiar Spiritual "Were You There?" by Bob Chilcott. Easter Vigil will offer some beautiful choral moments for Palestrina's "Sicut Cervus" and Anne Heider's setting of "Go Down, Moses."

The choir and brass for Easter Sunday will also offer "A Quiet Alleluia" by Kenton Coe, "The Lord Is My Strength" by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Handel's triumphant "Christ Has Risen!" extrapolated from Judas Maccabeus. The choir will take a well-deserved day of rest the last Sunday of the month before jumping into full swing for the Easter season of May and the celebrations of June!

—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

April 6, 2025 – Exploring the Path of Descent with Dr. Barbara Holmes

In this conversation that took place in August 2024, two months before Barbara died, Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) core faculty member Dr. Barbara Holmes talks about her recent health challenges with staff member Mike Petrow. Discover how life's challenges can remind us that we are never quite beyond the need to trust, unlearn, and let go — especially when those choices are not easy.

April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday Activities (no class)

April 20, 2025 – Easter (no class)

April 27, 2025 – Doctrine of Discovery's Roots in Climate Injustice – *Are We There Yet* Film Discussion-Oct '22 Lutherans Restoring Creation

The ELCA has been working to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. As individuals and institutions continue to reconcile and repair relationships, let's consider what specific role Creation Care Ministries can offer this mission. One step in the process is to listen to people's stories and recognize the roots which reverberate racism and inequity throughout our nation and churches. The 30-minute film, *Are We There Yet*, amplifies voices rarely heard.

This recording captures an intro to the film and discussion afterwards. Calvin Lee and Marisa Prince are Believers of Color – and frustrated Evangelical outsiders – seeking more for the American Christian Church. *Are We There Yet* follows their cross country Road Trip to better understand the Doctrine of Discovery, its connection to contemporary Christian Nationalism, and if it's possible to chart a new course for the American Christian Church.

Notes from the Financial Secretary...

Folks,

Thank you for your financial contributions to Immanuel. We are off to a great start in 2025.

There are several increases in 2025 pledges from people who have set up an automatic payment from their bank. But they have not modified their withdrawal to match their 2025 pledge amount. I will have 1st quarter statements available on Sunday, April 13th for you to review. Please let me know if you have any questions.

—Thanks, Laurie Stivers



Blessing of Quilts

On Sunday, March 16, 2025, a Blessing of Quilts was conferred by Pastor Mark for a record-breaking 244 quilts! The participants of the Quilting Ministry worked very hard this year to surpass last year's goal with beautiful results. On the previous day, March 15th, visitors to the Indoor Farmers' Market were treated to a breath-taking display of the quilts in the open sanctuary.

Quilters are now back to zero quilts and we invite all to join and share their time and talents to provide comfort in a hurting world. The quilters will be back for the final Indoor Farmers' Market of the season on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 8 am—Noon. The next April session of Daytime Quilters is Thursday, April 3rd and April 24th, 9 am—Noon (skipping Holy Week).

—Chris Djuric



Pastor Mark offers the blessing to the quilts placed among the Assembly.



Photos by Joe Simchak & Chris Djuric



Bert Mount & Barb Miller help Chris load the truck.

Our quilt boxes made it safely by Chris Djuric to the warehouse in Elgin.





Food Drive for Northwestern U. Purple Pantry

Saturday, April 5, 2025

During the Indoor Farmers' Market (8:00 am – 12:30 pm)

According to a 2023 article in the journal *Public Health*, **1/3 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 low-income students living off campus and international students who do not qualify for SNAP.

MOST-NEEDED ITEMS

Non-perishable foods

- Canned beans, soups, vegetables
- Tuna, meats
- Ramen
- Rice
- Pasta
- Mac & Cheese

Personal Care

- Shampoo
- Body Wash
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste

Thank you for your support!

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



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.

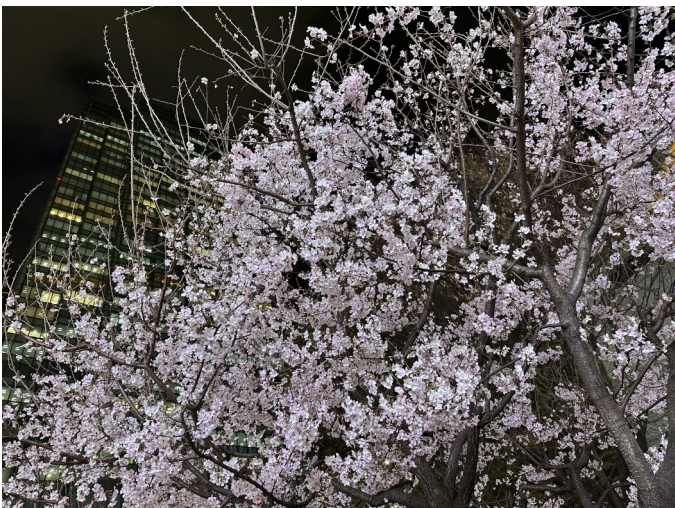


Evanston's Community Indoor Farmers Market

www.immanuelevanston.org
616 Lake Street, Evanston

Springtime in Japan....

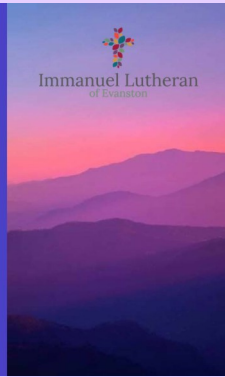
Akiko Hattori's daughters visited Kyoto recently and captured some beautiful shots of the early cherry blossom season. Not quite full bloom, but nonetheless stunning....



Left: Cherry blossom viewing at night, a popular pastime. Above: Weeping cherry blossoms

Holy Week at Immanuel

2025



Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 13th with Palm/Passion Sunday. Please invite your family, friends, and members of the community to join us in the many special events planned. Watch for details in each Friday's *Newsfeeds*.

Palm Sunday April 13th

Meet at Immanuel at 8:45 am to pick up a palm branch. Head over to Chicago Ave. in front of Lake Street Church to join with other local congregations for a Palm Procession with donkey around Raymond Park at 9:00 am.

Return to Immanuel for a light breakfast served by the Café Immanuel Team.

At the usual worship time at 10:30 am, you won't want to miss the deeply moving worship as together we dramatically tell the Palm/Passion story.



2

Holy Week The Great Three Days

Thursday through Saturday, are the Great Three Days of Holy Week as we gather to contemplate in worship what God has done for us through the passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

Maundy Thursday April 17th

6:30 pm meal - 7:30 pm Worship



3

Holy Week The Great Three Days

Good Friday April 18th 7:30 pm

Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all.



4

Holy Week The Great Three Days

Easter Vigil April 19th 7:30 pm

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death.



5

Easter Sunday April 20th 10:30 am

We'll gather again on Sunday morning for a festive celebration of The Resurrection of Our Lord.

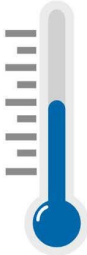
Kids are invited to a special Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am in the Courtyard!



6

Combined efforts from ELCA partners will make such an impact: **\$90,000 raised will support at least 60 refugee families with \$1,500 rent and food subsidies that will offer immediate relief.** Covering these costs will help RefugeeOne stay the course to continue serving newcomers long-term—through English classes, job coaching, mental health care, youth services, and more.

\$90k



Thank you for coming together as a synod in the call to love and care for our neighbor, to live out being one body, and exemplify how we are better together!

www.refugeeone.org/MCS-ELCA

Looking for other ways to support RefugeeOne?

- 🗣️ Advocate for refugees: Contact your members of Congress to urge them to reinstate the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
- 🙏 Faith leaders and communities can add their voice to the interfaith outcry over policy changes here.
- 📦 Host a specific-donation drive: Collect needed items, like baby wipes, formula, or toiletries.
- 👉 Volunteer with RefugeeOne: Support the community of newcomers already rebuilding their lives in Chicago.

For more information, contact Kelli Wendt Girgis, kwendt@refugeeone.org



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Ministry partner of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod ELCA, **RefugeeOne** is Chicago's largest refugee resettlement agency.

RefugeeOne offers *holistic support* for newcomers for **up to five years**—making sure to see them through to becoming self-sufficient community members.

As of January 27, the current administration suspended new refugee arrivals indefinitely and **cut off the usual first 90-days** federal funding aid for refugees who were already here.

RefugeeOne welcomed over **500 refugees in the 6 months** prior to the federal suspension, and despite the cut off of government funding, they are committed to walking alongside these newcomers without disruption of services.

Our support is needed to help with out-of-pocket costs for the newest arrivals who are still getting on their feet.



Support our neighbors who have already been welcomed here.



Easter Flowers: DUE APRIL 6, 2025

We are planning to have Easter lilies and tulips to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you are interested in donating a lily or tulip plant, please complete the information below and submit it with your payment to the church office. Each plant is \$20. **Orders are due by Sunday, April 6, 2025.**

Name: _____

Number of lilies _____ Number of tulips _____ x \$20 = _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Other dedication: _____



JOIN HOUSES OF WORSHIP FROM
ACROSS EVANSTON IN AN INTERFAITH
SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

EARTH DAY

PRAYER FOR THE PLANET

SUNDAY
APRIL 27 • 4:00 PM

Raymond Park • 1501 Hinman Ave.

Rain location is St. Luke's Church at 939 Hinman Ave.



Thank You!

February 27, 2025

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$385.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!

Quilts and kits bring immense comfort to people as they endure difficult times. We hear it every day. For families navigating the hardships of war, disaster, displacement or extreme poverty, these are not just blankets or bundles of supplies. Embedded in each handmade gift is a message of hope reminding them that they are not alone. The difference is the love that quilters and kit makers put into each one.

As you know, the sewing, assembling, packing and blessing of these gifts require a ton of work and dedication, but they are only the beginning of the process. Getting quilts and kits into the hands that need them is the essential next step, and I am so grateful for your thoughtful support in making shipping and distribution possible! We simply cannot do it without you.

Thanks to you and our wider Quilt & Kit community, this beautiful ministry — which dates all the way back to the beginning of Lutheran World Relief in 1945 — will continue to bring Christ's comfort and love to the next generation! YOU are Lutheran World Relief, and I deeply appreciate you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Speckhard".

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

P.S. God bless you and your generous spirit.

As required by the IRS, this letter confirms that Lutheran World Relief has given you no goods or services in return for this gift. This letter is your receipt for your charitable gift of \$385.00 –Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

Please retain this letter for tax purposes

700 LIGHT ST BALTIMORE, MD 21230 T 800 597 5972 LWR.ORG

LCMNU 2025 SHOWCASE FUNDRAISER

Nurturing Faith

Student Talks, Musical Entertainment,
Appetizers and Desserts

Saturday, May 10

2:00-6:30pm

**Register by
May 4!**

Parkes Hall
Northwestern University
1870 Sheridan Rd, Evanston, IL

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT
THE MINISTRY OF LCMNU
Join us in person or via
Livestream/Recording on Demand

Register Here!



Contact LCMNU with questions:
lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu
847-864-7849



**LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY**
AT NORTHWESTERN



JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FELLOWSHIP AND INSPIRATION!

2:00 – 3:00: Registration and Gathering

3:00 – 3:15: Welcome

3:30 – 3:50: Student Panel 1 Session

4:00 – 4:20: Student Panel 2 Session

4:30 – 4:50: Student Panel 3 Session

5:00 – 5:30: Social Time

5:30 – 6:30: Program



General or accessibility questions?

Call LCMNU: 847-864-7849 Email: lutherancm@u.northwestern.edu

Parking is free at Northwestern all day Saturday and Sunday.

For more information on parking and directions: www.northwestern.edu/religious-life/visit-us/

For more info on LCMNU: www.lcmnorthwestern.org

Notes from the Parish Administrator....

MIA Blue Recycling Bin

The church recycling bin has “walked off” twice in the past few months. As of this publication, we don’t have a recycling bin but another one is on order. LRS Waste Disposal Co. tells us this is a common problem in Evanston/Skokie, and ideas are being generated about how to prevent another loss. Watch for details in future weekly *Newsfeeds*.

Check the Church Calendar

Now that the Covid-19 Pandemic seems firmly behind us, there are many users of the church building these days. To prevent both our community users and church members from experiencing a “cross-over” of use, please be sure to check the church calendar AND contact the church office to make sure that the building isn’t otherwise occupied when you come to the building during non-regularly scheduled activities. Email at parish-admin@immanuelevanston.org or call at 847-864-4464. Please do not just “drop in” at the church building anymore; let’s be respectful of all.

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



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.