

God's Hands—May 2025

Some Food for Thought from the Pastor

I want to share with you this graphic that I received at a Contemplative Outreach workshop I attended some years ago, and keep in a pocket of my journal as a ready reminder. It demonstrates the effect that spiritual practices can make whenever there is a traumatic disruption within our lives. I think this is a helpful graphic especially in light of the upheaval we've been experiencing so far this year.

I trust that my spiritual practices do make a difference, but since I'm the one changing I really don't know how I would have been different without such practices in my life. This simple graph demonstrates how staying in the normal balanced zone keeps one from the extreme highs and lows of the roller coaster of emotions when traumatic events strike.

Staying spiritually centered aids my paying better attention to what's happening without becoming overly anxious and irritable or tired and numb. It helps me resist the temptation to turn off my attentiveness to both my outer and inner worlds. Spiritual practices assist me in holding every situation within a bigger story, the Easter story. They help me trust that God will bring life out of death and reconcile this world through the power of love and grace.

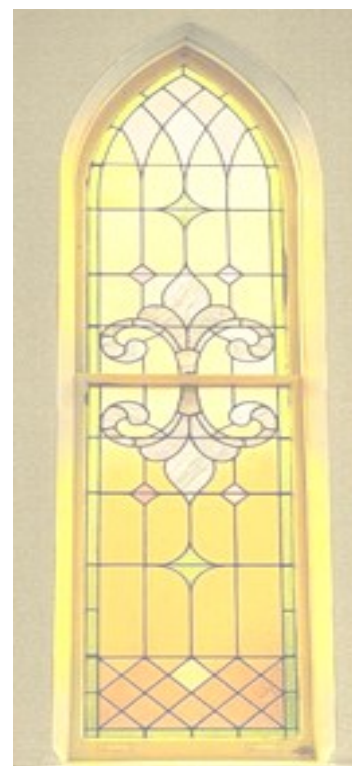
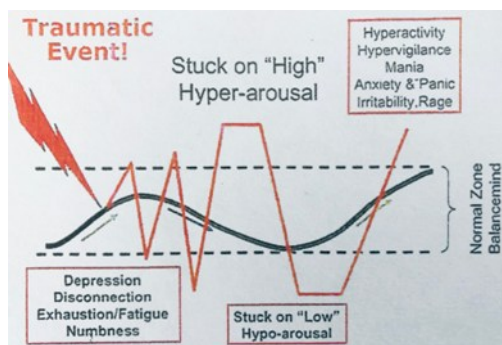
Becoming centered in God's story guides us in discerning how best to advocate for the flourishing of all creation and all the creatures in it. We'll advocate for our transgender siblings to be treated with dignity and for immigrants seeking asylum to be given fair hearings. We'll be the voice of our planet crying out through natural disasters that increases in greenhouse gas has it under duress. We'll extol the virtues of free exchange of ideas and cutting-edge research that happens at our universities. We'll expose and oppose all forms of oppression seeking freedom for both the oppressed and the oppressors.

Practices that keep us spiritually centered will keep us from becoming stuck on 'high' or 'low' arousal. They will instill within a sense that God's got this, and that God's with us in the ebb and flow of abundant life that Christ brings.

So, as your pastor I encourage you to discern what spiritual practices will keep you inside the normal zone on this graph. Perhaps a daily meditative walk or some other creative prayer outlet, or *Lectio Divina*, a form of meditating on Scripture passages, may help you to center. Whatever helps draw you into a prayerful presence and taps into what Paul calls the peace that passes beyond all understanding can assist us to remain in the Normal Zone. Yet, most of all, may you be filled with God's extraordinary resurrection power that brings us daily from death to life. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Deep Easter Blessings,

Pastor Mark



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- May Music
- Lenten, Holy Week Scenes
- Piano Recital

Immanuel Calendar

May 1		Asian-American Heritage Month
	9:00 am	Daytime Quilters
May 2, 9 16, 23, 30	6:30 am	Tai-Chi Class
May 3	3:00 pm	Musique française: chansons et chorales Concert
May 5		Cinco de Mayo
May 6	7:00 pm	Group Spiritual Direction
May 6, 13, 20, 27	6:30 am	Tai-Chi Class
	2:30 pm	Midweek Gatherings on Zoom
May 7, 14, 21, 28	6:30 pm	FA Meeting
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
May 8	9:00 am	Special Kitchen Cleaning
May 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30 am	Tai-Chi Class
	7:30 pm	Wilmette Band Rehearsal
May 11		Happy Mother's Day
May 18	2:30 pm	Council Meeting
May 23-25	Various	"As If! The Gay 90s" Concert, Gay Men's Chorus
May 25	3:00 pm	Private Event—Fellowship Hall
May 26		Memorial Day—Church office is closed
May 31	2:30 pm	Ami Hatori Master Student Recital (at Northwestern U.)



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

May Scripture Readings

May 4, Easter 3

Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

May 18, Easter 5

Acts 11:1-19
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 29, Ascension of Our Lord

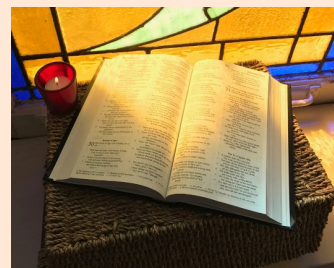
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 11, Easter 4

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 25, Easter 6

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29



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

Music at Immanuel

Music in May

As we continue the Easter Season, the sanctuary reverberates with so much music through the entire month once more. We kick off the month with the final concert of our concert series: *Musique française: chansons et chorales*. This concert will feature choral works by Saint-Saens, Faure and a few others as well as art songs by beloved French composers such as Reynaldo Hahn, Faure, Augusta Holmès, Tailleferre, and Poulenc. We will even begin the concert with some organ music by the Notre Dame school of composers from the 13th century.

The choir begins the month with "True Light" by local composer and conductor Keith Hampton, which incorporates the spiritual "This Little Light of Mine" with some new melodic material. This is followed by a setting of Psalm 23 by Mark Sedio in Spanish, "Nada me falta." We then offer a lovely setting by Mary Marcus of a beloved American folk tune with some flute obligato called "I Come with Joy, a Child of God." We finish the month with an anthem by Curt Oliver called "Peace Song; A Song of Peace in Many Tongues." This anthem incorporates twenty-three different languages of the word peace. Some will be familiar such as "shalom" and "pax," while others will add to the texture such as "amani" (Swahili) and "hoa binh" (Vietnamese.)

—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

May 4, 2025 -Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III on Thriving in Turbulent Times. A conversation with activist Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III. — a third-generation advocate for civil and human rights who built his ministry on community advancement and social justice activism. Rev. Dr. Moss. explains, "There's always something inside every human being waiting to be activated by the Light. But, once it's activated, how are we going to nourish what has been activated?"

May 11, 2025 – Cole Arthur Riley on Radical Resilience. Cole Arthur Riley, a bestselling author and poet. shares about her book *Black Liturgies*, and explores the concept of radical resilience, which she says "stirs some amount of tension and some amount of encouragement."

May 18, 2025 – Lerita Coleman Brown on Howard Thurman's Legacy. Have you considered how Howard Thurman's advocacy and theological work impacts today's modern Christian contemplative movement? In this conversation, Dr. Lerita Coleman Brown illuminates Howard Thurman's lasting spiritual and societal impact, pulling themes from her book, *What Makes You Come Alive*. "[As a child], Howard Thurman started meditating. He realized that it was so important to find some time in every day to quiet your mind and to connect with God. And, he felt that it was just so important for our spiritual development."

May 25, 2025 – Suzanne Stabile: "The Power of Story". In this talk Suzanne, an internationally recognized Enneagram Master conducting over 500 Enneagram workshops over the past 30 years. explores powerful principles for leading a more mindful, intentional life. The mantras she discusses—Show Up, Pay Attention, Tell the Truth, and Disengage from Results—offer a roadmap for personal growth and effective relationships.

A Lively April...

We celebrated the Lenten Season and Holy Week culminating in Easter with joyous hearts and loving energy! There was a special dance performance for our Palm Sunday service of "Cry of the Whole Congregation" and dramatic readers. On Easter Sunday we hosted an Egg Hunt! Thank you to all who shopped, cooked, prepped, served and performed during this special time in our church calendar. Much gratitude to Joe Simchak and Pr. Mark for documenting our efforts.





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Chris Djuric 5/8

Terri Simchak 5/8

Spencer Moy 5/12

Kathryn Skelton 5/17

John Lang 5/21

Mary Ann Kearns 5/31



2025 Walk for Warmth- January 20th



More than 350 people raise \$39,000+

The sixth annual Walk for Warmth not only drew a large crowd on a bitterly cold day but also exceeded its fundraising goal. The yearly event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day drew more than 350 people and raised more than \$39,000.

Gathering first in the United Methodist Church of Evanston sanctuary to hear a trio of speakers champion dignity, justice and concern for all, the walkers of all ages then marched around the block on which the church sits.

Walkers joined by many dignitaries

Interfaith Action Board President Donna Richardson welcomed the large crowd and greeted dignitaries including U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss, Evanston Council Members Juan Geracaris, Krissie Harris, Clare Kelly, Jonathan Nieuwsma, Eleanor Revelle, and Melissa Wynne, NAACP, Evanston/North Shore Branch President Rev. Michael Nabors and Evanston Community Foundation President Sol Anderson.

Jeron Dorsey, team manager for Crisis Alternative Response Evanston (CARE), kicked off the program by telling us how hard his team works as it has handled thousands of calls since its start in July of 2024, including some calls from those who are homeless. Rev. Britt Cox, executive pastor at First United Methodist Church of Evanston, and Rabbi Andrea London of Beth Emet the Free Synagogue, also spoke before the crowd exited to walk around the block.



*Photos clockwise from upper left:
Participants gather at FUM.
Rev. Britt Cox addresses the crowd.
Daniel Biss and Jan Schakowsky
with Leadership Walkers
Participants brave the cold.*

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

Spring Show 2025

Get ready to party like it's 1999 with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus! Featuring over 200 voices and all the iconic pop classics you can handle, this high-energy show celebrates the music, fashion, and unforgettable moments of the 1990s.

From boy bands to divas, grunge to dance hits, As If...the Gay '90s is a totally rad tribute to the decade that defined a generation. Don't miss this nostalgic, fun-filled musical experience—because the '90s never go out of style!



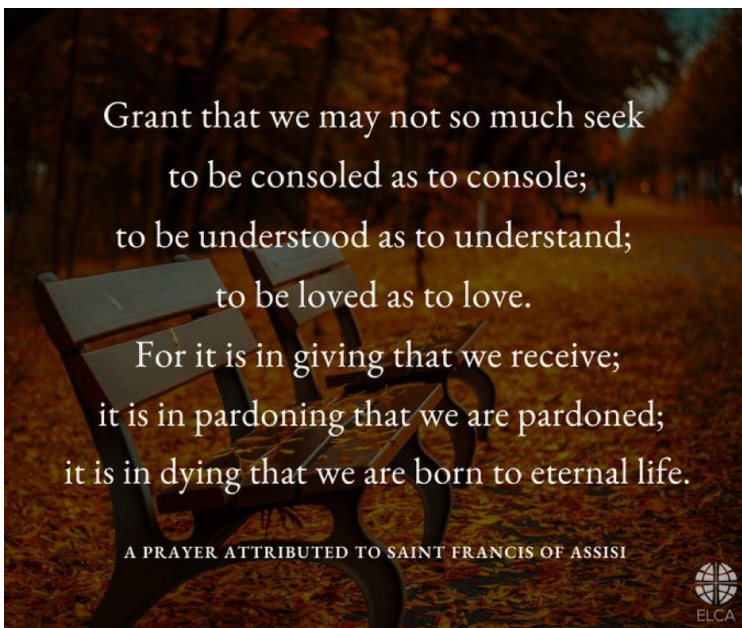
May 23 – 25, 2025

Friday, May 23, 2025 at 8:00pm
Studebaker Theater, Fine Arts Building

Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 8:00pm
Auditorium at Northeastern Illinois University

Sunday, May 25, 2025 at 3:00pm
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie

Ticket prices range from \$30 – \$60.
These prices do NOT include additional venue/credit card fees.



Ami Hatori Recital

Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 2:30 pm CDT

Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall, Northwestern University

70 Arts Cir Dr, Evanston, IL 60208

Master of Music - Student of Christopher Guzman

Ami Hatori will present a piano recital on Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 2:30 pm at the Mary B. Galvin Recital Hall on the campus of Northwestern University.

The performance for her Master in Music degree, features the following program selections:

Tōru Takemitsu, Rain Tree Sketch II

J. S. Bach, Partita No. 3 in A Minor, BWV 827

Xavier Montsalvatge, Sonatine pour Yvette

Ludwig van Beethoven, Piano Sonata No. 24 in F-sharp Major ("À Thérèse"), Op. 78

Frédéric Chopin, Four Impromptus

Impromptu in A-flat Major, Op. 29

Impromptu in F-sharp Major, Op. 36

Impromptu in G-flat Major, Op. 51

Fantaisie-Impromptu in C-sharp Minor, Op. 66

The recital is free and open to the public. Ami is the daughter of Akiko Hatori, who is an active participant of Immanuel's Quilting Ministry, and she says all family and friends of the Immanuel community are welcome to the recital.

For more details, visit Ami Hatori's page: <https://www.music.northwestern.edu/events/ami-hatori-piano-0>





AMI HATORI

CONTACT

717-715-3058
amihatori@icloud.com

Ami Hatori, a native of Japan, is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance at Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, studying with Christopher Guzman. She completed her undergraduate studies at Lawrence University, where she earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. During her time at Lawrence University, she was awarded the Margaret Gary Daniels Keyboard Performance Award and the Lera Thackray Cary Memorial Scholarship for her exceptional solo performances and collaborative work.

Ami has been recognized in numerous competitions, having won prizes at events such as the Schubert Club Bruce P. Carlson Student Scholarship Competition, the Thursday Musical Young Artist Scholarship Competition, MTNA State Level, and the Carmel Klavier International Piano Competition, to name a few. She has also performed as a soloist with the Hershey Symphony Orchestra and the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra.

Her collaborative experience is extensive, having worked with a variety of instrumentalists and vocalists. At Lawrence University, she served as an accompanist for Cantala (Women's Choir) for four years. Currently, at Northwestern University, she continues to collaborate with various musicians while working as a choir accompanist and accompanist for vocalists as a graduate assistant.

In addition to her academic and competitive achievements, Ami is deeply committed to community engagement. She has performed in concerts such as Music for Food, and Music for All, and has brought music to venues such as prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes. Her dedication to using music as a means of enriching lives highlights her passion for making a positive impact through her art.

With her dedication to music and continuous pursuit of excellence, Ami seeks to share her artistry, collaborate with fellow musicians, and engage with the community through her performances.

Notes from the Parish Administrator....

MIA Blue Recycling Bin

The church recycling bin has “walked off” three times in the past few months. The latest disappearance occurred even though LRS Waste Disposal painted our church address on the bin, and the bin itself was full of recyclables. (Go figure.) 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, so it’s been decided to keep the recycling bin (when the replacement arrives) inside the Courtyard doorway by the elevator. The bin will be taken to the alley on Thursdays, the usual collection day, and returned empty back inside. If you notice the bin is full, please take it outside only on Thursdays and return it promptly inside—even if the collection was missed and the bin is still full.

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



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Evanston, IL 60202

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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.