



Immanuel  
Lutheran  
of Evanston

## **The First Sunday in Lent**

**10:30 A.M.**

**Worship with Eucharist**

**February 22, 2026**

# 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 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 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. 🗣️ = 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: Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct. 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. The acolyte will collect the empty glass.

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 ...*

*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

✝ *All may make the sign of the cross.*

### Prelude

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" BWV 1107 by J.S. Bach,  
"Meditation No. 1" by Ulysses Kay, and "Air from Suite No. 1" by Florence Price

*The Assembly stands when directed and turns toward the font.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**A**  **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Gracious God,

**A**  **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God.

**A** **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,  
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,  
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,  
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.

 **Amen.**

Gathering Song "Oh Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" (CONSOLATION)

ELW 319

*You may reverence the cross as it passes you.*

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A  **And also with you!**

## Kyrie



## Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

**A And also with you.**

P Let us pray...

*Pause for a moment of silence...*

P Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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*

*Please turn to the pew Bible - Page numbers are at the top of the page & in the center.*

**Reading from the First Lesson**

*Turn to p.2 in the pew Bible*

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

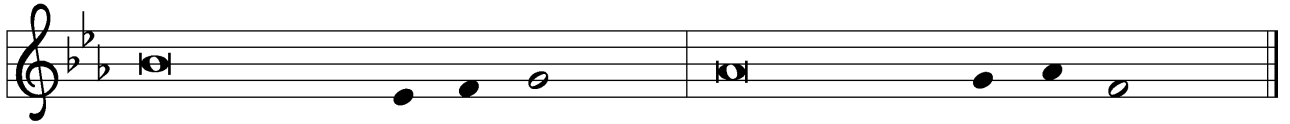
R A reading from Genesis.

R Word of God, word of life, or The Word of the Lord.

**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 right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."*

**Tone:**



**Refrain:**



Mer-cy em - brac - es those who trust in the Lord.

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of  
my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye. R**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. R

R A reading from Romans.

R Word of God, word of life, or The Word of the Lord.

A  **Thanks be to God!**

*The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.*

### Lenten Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

### Gospel

*Turn to p.785 in the pew Bible.*

Matthew 4:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A **Glory to you, O Lord!**

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A **Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The Lenten Acclamation is sung once again.*

*The Assembly is then seated.*

### 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 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.*



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

### The Apostle's Creed

L With the whole Church, let us profess our faith.

**A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the ✝ resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

L Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*(brief pause)*

L God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**A**  **Your mercy is great.**

L God of all people, we see your example of endless, caring love for others. We pray for our bishops Yehiel and Wayne, our pastor Mark, our president Kit, our council, our justice ministries and all who guide and instruct our communities. Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

L God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

L God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

L God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Especially we pray for Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Tom Couch, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Dennis Milbrandt, Elaine Nelson, Shirley Patrick, Jan Rock, the family of Joseph Sloss, Ionie Smith, Steve Warner, Marina Yarnoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts... Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

L God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

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.*

L Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

L God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you especially Polycarp and Elizabeth Fedde. Hear us, O God.

**A** **Your mercy is great.**

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**A** **Amen.**

## Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A  **And also with you.**

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

*The Assembly is seated.*

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

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

### Offering Music

### "A Mighty Fortress"

By Cal F. Mueller

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, And armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

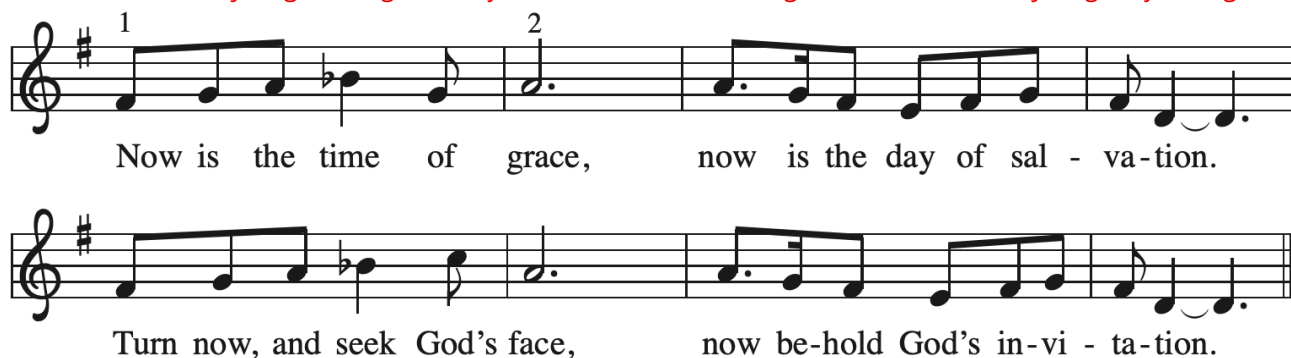
Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right One on our side, The One of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabbath, His name, From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

### Presentation of the Gifts

### "Now Is the Time of Grace" (TIME OF GRACE)

**ACS 918**

*The Assembly sings through the Refrain once, then Choir sings the Verse, Assembly sings Refrain again.*



Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

### Verse - Choir

- 2 Sharing your bread with the hungry  
and welcoming homeless in,  
offering hope and offering help,  
this is what God requires. **Refrain**

## Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.  
L O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**A Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

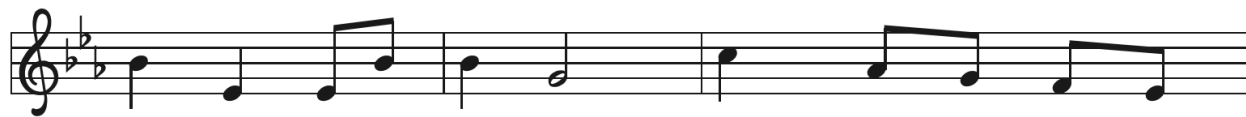
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface** *The Presiding Minister begins 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, Holy** *The Assembly joins in singing:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

P Blessed are you, O God,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
You rescued your covenant people,  
led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.  
You so loved the world  
that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;

this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper,  
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.

As often as we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.

**A Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit  
in this meal,  
and make us one  
in this community of faith  
and with your people  
throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,  
Author of life,  
Word made flesh,  
Power of the Most High,  
now and forever.

**A Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

A

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

P Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

A  **We come to the feast of joy.**

*The Assembly is seated.*

## Communion Song      Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## 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."*

*Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. Those who are able may kneel. You will 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 will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion.*

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.*

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

*The Assembly sings the hymn.*

1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!

died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
 deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
 peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
 all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
 When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;

As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
 Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
 faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
 He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
 grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

*The Assembly stands as directed.*

### Blessing after Communion

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**A** Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray...  
God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A Amen.**

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

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## Blessing

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**A**  **Amen.**

## This week's commemorations....

**Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156**

**Monday, February 23, 2026**

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

**Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

**Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Believe the good news.

A **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“Fantasy from Suite No. 1” by Florence Price

*Please stay for a time of fellowship and announcements immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.*

*Today's refreshments are hosted by Mark Kraemer.*

*Come enjoy one another's company and learn what's happening in and throughout the Immanuel congregation!!*

**To join coffee hour via Zoom on a smartphone,  
scan with your camera to get the link.**



**Serving in worship today...**

- Presiding Minister.....The Rev. Mark Sloss
- Assisting Minister ..... Chris Djuric
- Lector .....Susan Ross
- Acolyte..... Kit McCarthy
- Organist ..... Christine Kraemer
- Music Director.....James Morehead
- Table Preparation..... Marlene Chatain
- Zoom Host..... Jerry Larson
- Audio-Visual Technician..... Kevin McDaniel
- Ushers ..... Marlene Chatain

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**Upcoming Events** – for details see the weekly e-blast, *Immanuel Newsfeeds*, or the website Calendar at [www.immanuelevanston.org](http://www.immanuelevanston.org). Worship services can be attended either in person or online.

Tuesday, Feb. 24	Tai-Chi Class	10:30 am
	Midweek Group Bible Study	2:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 25	Lenten Soup Dinner	6:00 pm
	FA Meeting	6:30 pm
	Lenten Evening Prayers Service	7:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 26	Wilmette Band Practice	7:30 pm
Saturday, Feb. 28	Indoor Farmers' Market	8:00 am
	Organ Scholars Auditions	10:00 am
Sunday, Mar. 1	Feeding Our Faith	9:00 am
	Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	New Community Church	1:00 pm

## **Immanuel's Staff and Leadership**

The Rev. Mark Sloss .....	Pastor
Kit McCarthy.....	Congregation President
Michael Kloster .....	Congregation Vice President
Jim Miller .....	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross .....	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Laura McDaniel, Jared Peck, Terri Simchak.....	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 worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**