



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

**A Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Alva Elaine Nelson**

(September 14, 1930 - February 21, 2026)

March 21, 2026, 11:00 A.M.



The Rev. Mark Sloss, Presiding Minister

Ms. Kit McCarthy, Assisting Minister

Ms. Laurie Stivers, Organist

Ms. Marlene Chatain, Mr. Nicolai Schousboe, Ushers

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.

Masks are optional during the service and when moving to and from your place in the Fellowship Hall for the Reception.

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! Activity bags are available from the greeters. 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!

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

We welcome all who have gathered today to mourn the death of Elaine Nelson, and to give thanks to God for her life. Today we give voice to our sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection.

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

Prelude

Variations on Hymns and Chorales of comfort and rest

Welcome

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the Presiding Minister begins.

P Welcome in the name of ✠ Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister, Elaine Nelson, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

A Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her baptism, Elaine was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she shall be clothed with glory.

A Amen.

Acclamation

P Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

A We glorify you.

P Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

A We praise you.

P Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

A We worship you.

P To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

A Amen.

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

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!

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty God, we remember before you today our sister, Elaine. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

Family Remembrances

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

First Lesson

Isaiah 43: 1-3a, 18-19

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

¹⁸Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Assembly stands to greet the Good News of Jesus.

The Gospel

John 14:1-7, 27

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Assembly is seated.

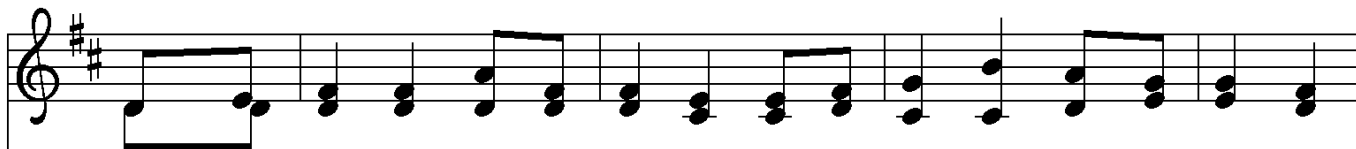
Homily

Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father” (TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA) ELW 781

Solo by Marc Franson in Swedish and Verse 3

The Assembly sings Verses 1, 2, & 4



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



The Apostles' 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 Let us pray. *[A brief silence is kept.]*

L Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Give courage and faith to all who mourn, especially her family, sister and brother-in-law, Donna and Ammon Miller; and daughters Kim and Mari. Envelop them in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

A hear our prayer.

L Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,

A hear our prayer.

P God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

Sending: *God blesses us, and sends us out in peace and hope...*

Commendation

P Let us commend Alva Elaine Nelson to the mercy of God, our Maker and Redeemer.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend your servant, Elaine. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

A Amen.

The Assembly stands.

Blessing

Ephesians 3:16-21

P God is wonderful and glorious. I pray that his Spirit will make you become strong followers and that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. Stand firm and be deeply rooted in his love. I pray that you and all God's people will understand what is called wide or long or high or deep. I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is. I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine.

A Amen.

Dismissal

L Let us go forth in peace.

A Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Now Thank We all our God" by Various Composers

*You are invited to join us for a luncheon immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.
Fellowship Hall may be accessed through the door at the front of the Sanctuary.*

We Remember the Life of Alva Elaine Nelson

September 14, 1930 – February 21, 2026



Alva Elaine Nelson nee Anderson, age 95, of Morton Grove, IL. Born September 14, 1930 in Evanston, IL and went home to our Lord on February 21, 2026. Beloved wife of the late Edward F. Nelson for 48 years. Loving mother of Kim Lattin (Greg) Gann of Glenview, IL and Mari Kehl of Mt. Prospect, IL. Proud grandmother of Erin Lattin (Mike Brizendine) and Eric Lattin; Christine (Matt) Murray and Dana (Jonathan) Medina.

Fond great grandmother of Alexander and Éowyn Murray; Ava and Camden Medina. Dear sister of Donna (Ammon) Miller and the late Alice (the late John) Carmichael. Caring aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Beginning in 1948, she was a model along with her late twin, Alice Carmichael for the Toni Home Permanent Company. They, with other twins, traveled across the United States, Great Britain, Cuba and Italy promoting the campaign, "Which Twin has the Toni."

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the church.



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
Greg Hummel	Organist Emeritus
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!**