

## Serving Today

**Preaching & Presiding Minister**  
**Assisting Minister**  
**Reader**  
**Musician**

Pastor Monte Johnson  
Don Smith  
Rick Gustafson  
Brad Whaley



May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021



### Immanuel Staff

**Rev. Montgomery Johnson**, Pastor  
**Rev. Emily Heitzman**, Pastor Youth/Household Ministry  
**Mary O'Brien**, Parish Administrator  
**Marcia Smith**, Parish Nurse  
**Brad Whaley**, Cantor  
**Charles Carper**, Congregation President

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A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Follow us on Facebook at: [Immanuel Lutheran Chicago](https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranChicago)



## Welcome to Immanuel

The community of Immanuel strives to be *a living sanctuary of hope and grace.*

We are united in God's love for us in Jesus, poured out for the world through our service to Christ. Our faith made active in love opens doors for all people to encounter God's love hidden in Christ, the source of our hope.

We rejoice that diversity in God's creation enriches, nurtures and challenges our life and ministry as followers of Jesus Christ and as servants in the world.

Because we believe that God's grace is truly amazing, we are committed to welcoming all people to this place. No matter where you come from, no matter what age, race, socio-economic, family, or immigration status, no matter your gender identity or sexual orientation, you are welcome here.

*Grace is for everyone or it isn't grace.  
It's that simple, it's that amazing*

Please help us get acquainted by filling out a welcome card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the liturgy. Nursery care is available for children 0-5 upstairs through the gym beginning at 10:30. This worship folder and the red hymnal in the pews will guide you through our liturgy. All who desire communion are welcome to receive. Instructions are in the worship folder. If you are not baptized and are interested in knowing more about life in Christian community, please contact the pastor

New here? We're glad you're with us!

## In Our Prayers

To add a prayer request, please contact the church office. **Names will be kept on the list for four weeks unless noted otherwise.** Names are not published without permission.

**Gloria Evenson**—Member. Thanks for resources and prayer for future employment.

**George Kuhnen**—Member. For wellness.

**Jim Engle**—Brother of Ed Engle. For wellness.

**Family and Friends of Earl Heppner**—Member. Grieving his loss.

**Carol Young**—Friend of Dorothy Webster. For healing.

**Linda Pearce**—Friend of Bonne Podgee. For healing.

**Friends and Family of Cole Kane**—Friend of Richard Anderson and Family. Grieving his loss.

**Cassie**—Loved one of Pat-Heineman Vernon. For healing.

**Kate**—Family friend of Ron & Donna Bartz. For wellness.

**Liz Schmidt**—Friend of Ron & Donna Bartz. Recovering from surgery.

**Elena Rendon**—Paula Hincapie's Grandma. For healing.



For those serving in the military  
For leaders in our government  
For the care and protection of the "Dreamers"  
For children and families of tutoring and play group ministries  
For farmers and others losing livelihood through change

## THANKSGIVINGS

For those recovering from surgery  
For the understanding of and care for our environment



**MAY 2, 2021**

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Where True Charity and Love Abide*



taking  
faith  
home

## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

## DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced?

Pray: **Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

**MAY 2, 2021  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**



*Perfect love casts out fear.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 15:1-8</b>	<b>Jesus the true vine</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 8:26-40</b>	<b>Phillip and the eunuch</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 John 4:7-21</b>	<b>God is love</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 41:8-10</b>	<b>The Lord's chosen servant</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1 Peter 5:6-11</b>	<b>Tending the flock of God</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 31:6-8</b>	<b>Joshua becomes Moses' successor</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 22:25-31</b>	<b>A vow of thanksgiving</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 15:9-17</b>	<b>Love one another</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.*  
**1 John 4:18 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.

## **This Week at Immanuel**

**SUNDAY, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

10:10 AM Silent Prayer-In Your Home  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:30 AM Coffee Hour Via Zoom

**MONDAY, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8:30 AM FTCNS  
5:30 PM Communications Committee Via Phone

**TUESDAY, May 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM FTCNS  
10:30 AM Playgroup in the Park  
12:30 PM Immanuel Seniors (Via Zoom)

**WEDNESDAY, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM FTCNS

**THURSDAY, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM FTCNS  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting

**FRIDAY, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 AM FTCNS

**SATURDAY, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM AA

**SUNDAY, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

10:10 AM Silent Prayer-In Your Home  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:30 AM Coffee hour Via Zoom



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For members of the Immanuel community, offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us, your presence here is already a great gift. *If God is moving you to give, use the pew envelope or visit our website. (QR code on back cover).*

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To find out more about all the wonderful Children, Youth & Family Activities, use your smart phone to scan this QR symbol.



Catch-up on the wide variety of activities and service opportunities available at Immanuel. Use your smart phone to scan this QR symbol. We are glad you're here!



### **Immanuel Seniors Weekly Zoom Gatherings**

The senior group at Immanuel welcomes all adults interested in participating. We continue to meet on Zoom every Tuesday.

At 12:00 pm: Seated exercise led by exercise physiologist, Bonne Podgee.

At 12:30 pm: Fellowship and conversation.

Upcoming programs on Immanuel Seniors zoom gatherings:

- May 4 - Fellowship and ?
- May 11 - Libby Trost will talk about her work with the Seraj Library Project in Palestine. (<https://www.serajlibraries.org/>)
- May 18 - Fellowship and ?
- May 25 - Discussion of the book "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

Join the Zoom Meeting online at  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99197564712>

Or by phone dialing  
1 312 626 6799  
Meeting ID: 991 9756 4712

For more information contact Marcia Smith at [parishnursemarcia@gmail.com](mailto:parishnursemarcia@gmail.com) or 773-743-1831.

### **NOTE: In-Person Worship Service Suspended (For Now)**

Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in our area, Immanuel leadership has decided to suspend our in-person worship services for the time being. We will still be live streaming worship on our YouTube channel.

Keep checking back on our E-News for updates to when we will return!

### **COVID-19 Vaccines**

Chicago is making progress on vaccinating Chicagoans against covid-19. Soon all adults and teens 16 and older will have the chance to be vaccinated. Research continues on the safety and efficacy of covid-19 vaccines for children. While new variants of the virus emerge, vaccinating the majority of the population is our best hope of controlling this deadly pandemic.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out:**

Phase 1c Persons aged 16-64 with high-risk medical conditions and all essential workers. Chicago has been in Phase 1c since March 29.

Phase 2 All persons aged 16 and over not previously vaccinated.

If vaccine supplies permit, Phase 2 will begin in Chicago on April 19. Then everyone 16 and older can schedule appointments for the vaccine. However, it will take weeks before everyone is vaccinated.

Check out our E-News for more information and helpful links!

### **Important Note: Worship Live Stream**

Worship is no longer being held on Facebook Live. It is now being live streamed on our YouTube channel!

Check out our E-News for a link get connected directly to Sunday services!

Additionally, in the E-News you will find a Zoom link to virtual Fellowship hour.

### **New Immanuel Directory is here!**

Check our E-News for the most up-to-date Immanuel directory! If you need a copy emailed to you, contact Mary at [churchonlmdale@gmail.com](mailto:churchonlmdale@gmail.com).