

Serving Today

Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Reader
Musicians

Rev. Monte Johnson
Rev. Monte Johnson
Donna Bartz
Marcia Smith
Ricardo Ramirez, cantor
The Immanuel Choir
Cecilia DeLeon, violin
Jessica Engle
Brian Koch
Donna Olsen

Crucifer/Communion Assistant
Altar Guild
Communion Baker



Immanuel Staff & Leadership

Rev. Montgomery Johnson, Pastor
Jordan Collins-Brown, Minister of Youth and Households
Julia Reineck Steiner, Parish Administrator

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Ricardo Ramirez, Cantor
Patrick Ormond, Congregation President



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A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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March 9, 2025

Welcome to Immanuel

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

- We are a community rooted in worship of the resurrected Christ.
- God in Christ is at the center of who we are and what we do.
- We welcome all people, receiving their stories without judgement.
- We value transparency, accuracy, and timeliness in all communications.
- We steer into the hard questions knowing we are safe in God's grace.
- We are eager to follow the Spirit's lead into the future.
- We nurture all people to embody God's work in the world.
- Our walk matches our talk.
- The arena for living our faith is the world.
- We encourage each other in the way of the cross.

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 at pastormonte@immanuelchicago.org.

Immanuel is located on the original and ancestral homeland of the Council of Three Fires (Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations) as well as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Sac, Fox, Kickapoo, and Illinois Nations. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

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 requested otherwise.** Names are not published without permission.

Paul Shahata- Former member, for healing.

Michael Johnson- Playgroup dad, undergoing cancer treatment.

Lucienne Lowery- For healing.

Ruth Swanigan and family- For comfort, mother of Camille Gifford.

Linnea Ross- For healing.

Diana Breting- Sister of Michelle Knapp, for healing.

Mary Henry- Sister of Michelle Knapp, for healing.

Dorothy Webster -For healing.



For all victims of violence and their loved ones

For all harmed by war

For safety and support for refugees and asylum seekers everywhere

For teachers and health care workers

For all affected by natural disasters and climate change

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

For those recovering from surgery

For the understanding of and care for our environment

MARCH 9, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Guide My Feet



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:

- Who do you turn to when you are afraid? Why that person?
- How does trust in God help you in times of fear?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16.

Lent helps us honestly face our vulnerability—our fear of being hurt—and our need for God's help. Psalm 91 addresses our fears and God's desire and ability to protect us. The writer understands that we need to face our fears, or they will overwhelm us. This psalm helps us name our fears with hope in God. There is a three-way dialog in this psalm: 1) the poet, who speaks directly to us and for us; 2) ourselves, as the ones praying and "who live in the shelter of the Most High" (v. 1); and, 3) God, who responds to our need for protection. This psalm is a conversation that honestly deals with the fears and challenges of life while affirming the assurance of the protection of God. Reasons for fear will always be present in life. God is our fortress, the one we can trust, and the one who offers shelter during fearful times.

Discuss: What fears and concerns keep you up at night?

Pray: **Almighty God, as we face our fears and the dangers around us, we thank you for your love and protection through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, who do you know that is feeling fearful? How can you help them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Prayer is an important spiritual practice for Christians. Lent is a season of the church year when we focus on prayer. This Lenten season, take time to focus on the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This first week in Lent we reflect on "Father, hallowed be your name" (v. 2a). Draw an outline of a cross on a sheet of paper. Write verse 2a at the top of the paper around the outside of the cross. Take a moment to think or talk about what this verse means to you. Place the cross in a visible place in your home to use as a devotional focus during Lent. Each week, another verse will be added around the cross.

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.



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

MARCH 9, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY
IN LENT



Trust in God to protect us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus
Monday	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	A confession of faith
Tuesday	Romans 10:8b-13	Salvation is for all
Wednesday	Psalm 62	Song of trust in God alone
Thursday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Friday	Proverbs 3:5-6	Trust God
Saturday	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	The Lord is my fortress
Sunday	Luke 13:31-35	Jesus' sorrow over Jerusalem

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God in whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to face the dangers of life with trust in your protection that will be with us always, through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Almighty God, may the gift of this food remind us of your loving protection that provides for our needs through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in the Lord with all your heart.

This Week at Immanuel

SUNDAY, March 9th

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Godly Play
11:45 AM Coffee Hour
12:00 PM Adult Forum

MONDAY, March 10th

6:30 PM Edgewater Tutoring

TUESDAY, March 11th

10:30 AM Immanuel Together Playgroup
11:30 AM Immanuel Seniors
6:30 PM Edgewater Tutoring

WEDNESDAY, March 12th

6:00 PM Food & Fellowship
6:30 PM Lenten Book Discussion

THURSDAY, March 13th

10:30 AM Immanuel Together Playgroup
11:00 AM Staff Meeting

FRIDAY, March 14th

SATURDAY, March 15th

10:30 AM AA Meeting

SUNDAY, March 16th

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Godly Play
11:45 AM Chili Cookoff
12:30 PM On the Way

SEE OUR INTERACTIVE CALENDAR @ IMMANUELLUTHERANCHICAGO.ORG



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). Please consider helping any online gift go further by covering transaction fees!*

Next at Adult Forum: St. Paul Fights the Empire and Spreads the Gospel

Pastor Fred Kinsey will be our guest speaker after worship today. He will tell us about his study trip to Greece and Turkey and what he learned about Paul's activities and experiences there. Don't miss it!

Lenten Book Discussion: Chosen? Reading the Bible Amid the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

In *Chosen?*, Walter Brueggemann explores the situation in modern-day Israel that raises questions for many Christians when reading biblical accounts of God's saving actions with the Israelites. Was the promise of land to Moses permanent and irrevocable? What about others living in the promised land? How should we read the Bible in light of the modern situation?

Join us Wednesday evenings in the back of the sanctuary from **March 12** through **April 9** to discuss this topical book by Walter Brueggemann. We will have a light supper at **6:00PM** and begin our discussions at **6:30**, finishing by **8PM**. Come when you can! Books are available for a suggested donation of \$10. For more information, contact Pastor Monte or Marcia Smith.

"This book is written for Christians and Jews who take seriously God's promises to Israel in the Hebrew Scripture but who are troubled by how contemporary Palestinians are being treated by modern Israelis. It is simply the best book on its subject that I have read."

—Dr. Duncan Hanson, area supervisor for the Middle East, Europe and India for the Reformed Church in America

"Brueggemann's book will be an important warning: don't abandon Judaism by allowing militarist readings of its texts to turn you away from the love-oriented tradition deep in Judaism that was embraced by the prophets, by Jesus and by the early Christians."

—Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun magazine*

Chili Cookoff Invitational: March 16 After Worship

(All are invited to enter! Please come with 4 quarts of chili to share. Winner receives bragging rights and a \$50 gift card to a neighborhood restaurant TBD)

Transport Needed: Can You Help?

The New Neighbors Group is looking for someone with free afternoons and a car to help out a recently arrived refugee family for the next 3 weeks or so. CPS is currently unable to transport the family's 5-year-old boy to school each day at 12:45PM. He would need to be picked up along with his mother and brought to New Field School (1707 W Morse Ave). Later at 3:30PM, his mother would need to be picked up and brought to school to get the boy and bring them back home. That is 10 trips per week, but even if we can find a way to get him back in school a few days a week, that would be great. **For more details and questions, please call Norm at 773-218-8729.** Thank you for considering!

Call for Godly Play Storytellers!

Godly Play, Immanuel's Sunday School, is in need of Storytellers (teachers) for our program. Godly Play takes place after Communion on Sundays in Grace Place (the classroom in the Olin Center) and lasts until 12:15. Godly Play uses a careful telling of scripture stories, engaging story figures, and a variety of creative activities to encourage children to seek and find their own answers to their faith questions. If you are interested, and would like to observe to see Godly Play in action, please contact Connie Brink at conbrink@comcast.net. Thank you!

Continuing to Welcome the Stranger

Following recent executive orders regarding refugee admissions and resettlement, crucial mission partners are in the midst of crisis and uncertainty.

Above all else, Lutheran partners like Global Refuge (serving 5,780 clients nationwide) and local refugee resettlement organizations like RefugeeOne (serving 500 clients citywide) are currently asking for donations to help honor their commitments to their current clients. Your gift will help cover day-to-day living expenses for refugee families who have already arrived in the US and are working directly with these organizations as they acclimate to their new home.



Give to Refugee One



Give to Global Refuge