

Serving Today

Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Reader
Musicians

Jordan Collins-Brown
Rev. Monte Johnson
Libby Trost
Nate Weaver
Ricardo Ramirez, cantor
The Immanuel Choir
Gloria Evenson, organ
Gabriel Warden
Nate Weaver & Kelsey Salmon
Schreck
Dorothy Webster

Crucifer/Communion Assistant
Torchbearers

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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May 4, 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.

Donald Lowery, Sr.- For healing.

The Powell School and the South Shore Neighborhood

Family of Dominique and Sin'cere Johnson- Members.

Family and friends of Jamie Ore- Recently passed away, cousin of Vickie Vander.

Ruth Swanigan- Mother of Camille Gifford, for comfort.

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

MAY 4, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Talents and
Tongues Employ*



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:

- When have you done something that disappointed you or someone else? Explain.
- What is it like to be accepted and loved by God when you have disappointed yourself or someone else?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 21:1-19.

At Jesus' trial, Peter denied his Lord and his life as a disciple three times. Jesus announces that he is the good shepherd (John 10) and, in this reading, Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, leads Peter in the direction of reclaiming his discipleship. Jesus did not give up on Peter; nor had God given up on the world that God loves. Even though Jesus was betrayed, tortured, and killed for speaking and living faithfully, he shows up at the seaside. He blesses his disciples with a catch of fish, feeds them, and gives Peter—and all of us—the marching orders of a disciple of Jesus: to feed and care for God's sheep. Now, after his death and resurrection, that identity, that calling, is given to Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee, and to all. It is a calling filled with God's abundant joy seen in Jesus' first sign of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. Now it is seen in the large number of fish caught and turned into a simple, yet joyous feast.

Discuss: In what ways can you feed and care for God's sheep?

Pray: **Shepherding God, you care for us even when we fail; we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who now calls us to care for others with your love that knows no end. 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 would appreciate having a meal delivered to them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Early Christians were persecuted, even put to death, for practicing their faith. They worshipped secretly in homes. A fish painted on the outside door of a house let other Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside. The fish has been used as a Christian symbol from the earliest times of the church. The Greek word for fish is *ichthus*. The Greek letters form an acrostic for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior. Draw this symbol on a sheet of paper and display it near the entrance of your home as a sign of your faith in Jesus.



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

**MAY 4, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Caring for others with God's abundant joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 9:1-20	Conversion of Saul
Tuesday	Revelation 5:11-14	Heavenly vision
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	Abraham and Sarah promised a son
Thursday	2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Encouragement to be generous
Friday	James 1:2-8	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

John 21:15 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, like the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, give us courage, faith, and joy to be sent out to follow you and care for others as you care for us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you gave disciples fish and bread, we thank you for this food that we are fed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's care for you bring you joy.

This Week at Immanuel

SUNDAY, May 4th

9:00 AM Blood Drive
9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM Godly Play
11:45 AM Newcomer Coffee Hour

MONDAY, May 5th

6:30 PM Edgewater Tutoring

TUESDAY, May 6th

10:30 AM Immanuel Together Playgroup
11:30 AM Immanuel Seniors

WEDNESDAY, May 7th

6:00 PM Food and Fellowship
6:30 PM *Finding Phoebe* Bible Study

THURSDAY, May 8th

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

FRIDAY, May 9th

SATURDAY, May 10th

10:00 AM Men's Group @ Hearts and Flour Café
10:30 AM AA Meeting

SUNDAY, May 11th

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship
11:45 AM Coffee Hour

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!*

Newcomer Coffee

New (er) to Immanuel? Want to meet other newcomers and learn more about the church in a relaxed setting? Join Pastor Monte **today** after worship for coffee and baked goods.

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!

Easter Bible Study

The next session of Bible Study will start up on **Wednesday, May 7**. Stop by starting at 6:00 PM for some food and social time. Discussion will begin at 6:30.

We'll be reading Susan E. Hylan's *Finding Phoebe: What New Testament Women Were Really Like* and corresponding scripture passages. Copies are still available from Pastor Monte.

Coming Up at Adult Forum

Ken Olsen will present a series on the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia.

Sunday, May 18: Age of Firsts

Sunday, May 25: Age of Empires

Sunday, June 1: Age of Innovation

Sunday, June 8: Here Come the Persians!

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School 2025

This year's Vacation Bible School for children ages 4-11 will take run from **June 16-June 19** from **12:30-4:00 PM**. Attendance is free and lunch will be provided. Theme and registration info will be announced soon!

