

Serving Today

Preaching Minister
Presiding Minister
Musicians

Altar Guild
Communion Baker

Rev. Monte Johnson
Rev. Monte Johnson
Ricardo Ramirez, cantor
The Immanuel Choir
Connie Brink
Donna Olsen



May 11, 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.



Immanuel Staff & Leadership

Rev. Montgomery Johnson, Pastor
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Julia Reineck Steiner, Parish Administrator

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A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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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 11, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Shepherd Me, O God



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:

- If you were a shepherd, what do you think your work would include?
- How is Jesus a shepherd for us and how are we shepherds to one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 9:36-43.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is the Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme for this week's scripture readings is shepherding. In John 10:11 Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd." And in John 10:22-30 Jesus speaks of his protection of the sheep in his care. Psalm 23 begins by announcing God as "my shepherd." In Acts 9 we see a woman named Tabitha who has cared for other women, specifically widows. These women are moved to tears by the care and service of Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She shepherded women through her service without the acknowledgment of being an official servant. The story of Peter bringing Tabitha back to life lifts up the role of Tabitha as a servant to others. This is an honor given by a disciple to a woman in a male dominated culture. This act expands the ministry of the church to other leaders. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, it is a reminder of how we all are called to shepherd one another in faith and love.

Discuss: Who can you shepherd in faith and love?

Pray: **Living God, we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and for all those you place in our lives to nurture faith in you and love for all that you have created. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what unexpected act of kindness can you do to surprise someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As Tabitha shepherded other women long ago, we have women in our lives who have shepherded us. Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have guided and shepherded us. Write a list of words that describe a woman in your life who has devoted time to showing care for you. Take a moment to sit quietly and be thankful.

Pray: **Lord God, thank you for [name] and for how she has been a gift to my life. Amen.**



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

**MAY 11, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER**



Jesus shepherds us so we can shepherd others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Thursday	Luke 12:22-34	Do not worry
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.

Acts 9:36 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of goodness and mercy, thank you for your shepherding love that leads us to care for one another through Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Shepherding God, we thank you that our cup overflows with your never-failing love that pursues us with goodness, mercy, and this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 23:5-6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Good Shepherd lead you to shepherd others.



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This Week at Immanuel

SUNDAY, May 11th

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

MONDAY, May 12th

TUESDAY, May 13th

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

WEDNESDAY, May 14th

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

THURSDAY, May 15th

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

FRIDAY, May 16th

SATURDAY, May 17th

10:30 AM AA Meeting

SUNDAY, May 18th

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

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!*

Easter Bible Study

The next session of Bible Study will meet on **Wednesday, May 14**. Stop by starting at 6:00 PM for some food and social time. Discussion will begin at 6:30.

We'll be reading chapters 4-6 of Susan E. Hylen'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 begin a four part series on the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia.

Sunday, May 18: Age of Firsts

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. This years theme is: God's Good Creation!



Scan this code to register!

