

## 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 Bartz



May 18, 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](mailto: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!



### Immanuel Staff & Leadership

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

773.758.2936  
JCBatECT@gmail.com  
773.743.1820 (office)  
churchonlmdale@gmail.com  
cantor@immanuelchicago.org  
patorm1561@gmail.com

**Ricardo Ramirez, Cantor**  
**Patrick Ormond, Congregation President**



### Immanuel Lutheran Church

1500 W. Elmdale Ave. Chicago, IL 60660  
Web: [immanuellutheranchicago.org](http://immanuellutheranchicago.org)  
Email: [churchonlmdale@gmail.com](mailto:churchonlmdale@gmail.com)  
Phone: 773.743.1820

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram: [@immanuellutheranchicago](https://www.instagram.com/immanuellutheranchicago)



## 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 18, 2025**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with  
Your Love*



**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 is a time that someone showed you kindness?
- What does it mean to you to love someone as much as Jesus loves you?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* John 13:31-35.

To understand these five verses, we need to know the context of its original setting, Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. Jesus already knew Judas would betray him (13:2) and that Peter would deny him three times (13:38). He had just washed the disciples' feet, a very humble act of service. Now he gives his disciples a new commandment, to love one another. Jesus' glorification involves his faithful love that will not be stopped, not even by his death on a cross. Jesus' crucifixion is his glorification. To love includes acts of humble service that put the community of Jesus' followers above one's own safety. Jesus knows our human weaknesses and that we will fail again and again at this essential commandment, but to love is the only way forward. At the heart of the church's faithful witness to Jesus—even more than moral purity or teaching correct doctrines—is displaying love and forgiveness.

*Discuss:* In what ways have you or someone you know shown love and forgiveness?

*Pray:* **Loving God, you know our weaknesses and failures, yet you love us still; give us faith to love one another as you have loved us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SERVICE**

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

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

God gave the apostle John a vision of a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1-6). Verse 5 tells us that the one on the throne will make all things new. What do you imagine the new heaven and earth will look like? Take a moment to answer this question. Then draw a picture of what you imagine or write about it on a piece of paper.

*Pray:* **Dear God, you who are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we ask that you dwell within us and make all things new. Amen.**



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 18, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**



*Jesus commands us to love one another.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 13:31-35</b>	<b>Love one another</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Acts 11:1-18</b>	<b>Peter reports to the church</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Revelation 21:1-6</b>	<b>New heaven and earth</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 12:1-8</b>	<b>New life in Christ</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:7-16</b>	<b>Unity in the body of Christ</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 8:1-3</b>	<b>Love builds up</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 148</b>	<b>Praise for God's universal glory</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 14:23-29</b>	<b>The sending of the Counselor</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*"I [Jesus] give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

**John 13:34-35 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty and merciful God, help us to love as you have loved us so that others may see your glory in the world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Mealttime Prayer:**

Dear God, we give you our thanks and praise for this gift of food, a sign of your constant love for us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May Jesus' love guide you to love others.



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

## **This Week at Immanuel**

**SUNDAY, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

**MONDAY, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**TUESDAY, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM Immanuel Together Playgroup  
11:30 AM Immanuel Seniors  
6:30 PM Congregation Council

**WEDNESDAY, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

**THURSDAY, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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

**FRIDAY, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**SATURDAY, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

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

**SUNDAY, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

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 21**. Stop by starting at 6:00 PM for some food and social time. Discussion will begin at 6:30.

We'll be reading chapters 7-9 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!

