

## Serving Today

**Preaching Minister**  
**Presiding Minister**  
**Music Leaders**

**Assisting Minister**  
**Reader**  
**Crucifer/Communion Assistant**  
**Greeters**  
**Bread Baker**

Rev. Monte Johnson  
Rev. Monte Johnson  
Ricardo Ramirez, cantor  
The Immanuel Choir  
Jordan Collins-Brown  
Nadine Willis  
Libby Trost  
Barb & Gary Ross  
Barb Ross



## **Immanuel Staff & Leadership**

**Rev. Monte Johnson, Pastor**

**Jordan Collins-Brown, Minister of Youth and Households**  
**Julia Reineck Steiner, Office Manager**

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

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March 1, 2026

## **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!

## 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.

**Skip Kuhnen-** For comfort in grief.

**Heidi Mayer-** Undergoing pancreatic cancer treatment, friend of Pat Heineman-Vernon.

**Carole Stinaff**

**George Schelster-** For healing.

**Brian Koch-** For healing, having back surgery next month.

**Tim Taylor-** Cousin of Claudia Hampsher, for comfort.

**Donna Olsen-** For healing.

**Linnea Ross-** For healing.

**Diana Breting-** Sister of Michelle Knapp, for healing.

**Mary Henry-** Sister of Michelle Knapp, 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 1, 2026**

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*



**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:

- What does it mean to be blessed?
- Abram and Sarai were called to God to bless all the families of the earth. How do you think this affected the way they lived?

**DEVOTIONS**

*Read:* Genesis 12:1-6.

Abram and his wife Sarai are sent on a faith quest. They look rather foolish to the world. They leave the security of a kinship community to go out and trust an unknown God while becoming foreigners in a strange land. The faith of Abram and Sarai in this passage is not defined by doctrines or clear convictions. Faith is a walk of life where people learn who their God is through a trusted relationship. This is true in the Gospel of John as well where faith is never a noun. It is always a verb, an action that trusts in a relationship that recognizes that one's entire existence is dependent upon God. That is what faith looks like. And it has consequences for others because faith is never a private affair: *"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3b).

*Discuss:* How would you describe the journey of faith that you have been on?

*Pray:* **Living God, you call us to ventures we cannot fully imagine. Help us to trust you and know you will lead us all the days of our lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you bless someone?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

During the second week in Lent, light two of the six purple candles on your Lenten Candle Cross. The acronym **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) is being introduced as a way to pray. This week represents **"C"**, for Confession, meaning to confess one's sins and receive God's forgiveness.

*Pray:* **Dear God, I confess that I do not fully place my trust in you. Forgive me for . . . , in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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)

**MARCH 1, 2026  
SECOND SUNDAY  
IN LENT**



*We are blessed to bless others.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

|                  |                             |  |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>John 3:1-17</b>          | <b>For God so loved the world</b>      |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>Genesis 12:1-4a</b>      | <b>The call of Abram</b>               |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</b>  | <b>God keeps his promise</b>           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Jeremiah 17:7-8</b>      | <b>Trust the Lord</b>                  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>2 Corinthians 9:6-15</b> | <b>Generous giving</b>                 |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>Numbers 6:22-27</b>      | <b>Blessing for the people</b>         |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>Psalms 121</b>           | <b>Assurance of God's protection</b>   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>John 4:5-42</b>          | <b>Jesus and the woman at the well</b> |

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*"I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

**Genesis 12:3 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Almighty God, as you bless us each day in faith, help us to bless others through your never-failing love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Loving God, you who watch over our going out and our coming in, we thank you for this food that nurtures us day by day, through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 121:8)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord bless you every day.



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## **This Week at Immanuel**

**SUNDAY, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

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

**MONDAY, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

6:30 PM Edgewater Tutoring

**TUESDAY, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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

**WEDNESDAY, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

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

**THURSDAY, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM Immanuel Together Playgroup  
11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM Young Adults' Group (OFFSITE)

**FRIDAY, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**SATURDAY, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 AM AA Meeting

**SUNDAY, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

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

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### **Upcoming Church Events**

#### **Sunday, March 22: Bonus Book Club (12:00 PM)**

Can't make it to a weekly discussion? Join us for a Bonus (one-time) Book Club in Lent!

On **Sunday, March 22** from **12-1:30**, we'll discuss ***The Serviceberry*** by **Robin Wall Kimmerer**. This very short book (only 109 pages) uses the serviceberry plant as a metaphor to explore themes of gratitude, reciprocity, and community, contrasting the "gift economy" of nature with our scarcity-based human economies -- expanding on some of the ideas from her bestseller *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Join us for lunch and conversation!

#### **Monday, June 15-Thursday June 28: Vacation Bible School (12:30PM-4:00PM)**

**Registration is Open for children ages 4-11!**

This year's theme is "At the Table," a curriculum driven by the belief that all of our stories are sacred and deserve to be shared because they are part of God's story. So much of the post-resurrection story as described in the Gospel of Luke-- from the vulnerability shown to others, to the willingness to listen and tell one's own story, to the revelation of God around a meal -- resonates with ELCA World Hunger's dedication to advocacy. While high-level political advocacy is often too abstract for children, we can invite kids to grow as storytellers and storyhearers in preparation for a life lived on behalf of others.

Attendance is free and lunch is provided. Scan the following QR code to register your child:



Intended for adults in their 20s and 30s, the first meeting will be at Nate and Kelsey's house (see the enews for exact location!). Scan the code below for a form to express interest, sign up to host future meetings, or suggest activities.

