



God's Hands

Make me an instrument of your peace

The Newsletter of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
616 Lake Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201

“God’s Hands” is about God’s gifts to us – not only the gift of life itself, as depicted in the hand of God touching Adam’s hand, from Michelangelo’s artwork in the Sistine Chapel, but also our gifts of time and talent. How we respond to these gifts with our own hands – hands that build, fix, give, greet, share, comfort, do – is what our newsletter is all about.

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Elizabeth Bennett, Cantor
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Highlights of the Month

Every Sunday Liturgy is a highlight, especially the Sunday liturgies in Lent!

Wednesday Lenten Vespers at 7:15 p.m. – February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28

Sunday Lenten Compline at 8:30 p.m. – March 4, 11, 18, 25

March 18 – 5:30 p.m. Sunday School/Youth play, “Joseph and His Brothers,” followed by a family supper

The Sunday Joys

March 4 – Hospitality: Café Immanuel™

March 11 – Music: The People’s Music School

March 18 – No Joy session because of play rehearsal in the fellowship hall

March 25 – Worship: Prep for Holy Week



From the Pastor

By the time this March newsletter is posted on our web site and/or reaches your mail box, Lent will have begun. Lent is a season of forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self examination, penitence, returning to the Lord our God.

If you have found yourself away from church by habit or circumstance, Lent is a time to make worship a priority. In fact, Lent developed as a way to receive people into the church through Holy Baptism or to receive them back into church through reconciliation. If you are questioning your own faith and wondering what you believe, this could be the perfect time to come back to church. On Wednesday nights at the end of Vespers, I will be answering questions given to me in advance by worshipers.

Throughout Lent, the worship services of the church take on a more somber character, appropriate to this season. Crosses and statues are veiled, showing Christ's humiliation. The word "Alleluia" is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. This year we will not begin the service with a Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness but will observe the rubric in *Lutheran Book of Worship* that "Prayers of confession may be included [in the intercessions] if the Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness has not been used earlier" – as is the case in the Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Formal absolution is withheld until Maundy Thursday. These practices help the worshipping community to mark this season of penitence and renewal as a special time in the church year.

Other Customs of Lent

A central custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others because Lent is a time of fasting and almsgiving. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or some meals, and alcohol. In most cases, giving up something for Lent can be made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example, if you give up meat during Lent, the extra money that would go to meat dishes can be placed in the alms basin on Sunday morning. You can also volunteer your time at a food pantry or soup kitchen. Our Lenten alms this year will go to the food pantry at Hillside Free Methodist Church. Some things added during Lent are daily Bible reading, fasting at least on Fridays if not on all weekdays, times of prayer, attending Wednesday Vespers and/or Sunday Compline, taking a course of study that enriches your spiritual life.

Note that the season of Lent is forty days plus the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus' resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent. So that if you have, for example, given up chocolate for Lent, you could indulge in a weekly candy bar on Sunday. It's as good to be aware of feast days as of fast days.

Lent may also be an especially appropriate time for individual confession and forgiveness. While confession to a pastor is not required to receive God's forgiveness, it can be a meaningful rite of reconciliation to God and personal healing. You may contact me for an appointment. Confession time will only focus on your sins and God's forgiveness, not counseling or church business. Because God puts away sins confessed and absolved, we will not discuss it again. The Order for Individual Confession and Forgiveness is in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*, pages 196–197.

- Pastor Frank Senn



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Council

The role of the Council is to hear the reports of committees, groups, and individuals within the church and make decisions for the church. Council meets on the third Thursday of each month, at the church.

The Council President is Hal Larson. To contact the Council, place a note in the Council mailbox, which is outside the church office, by the Lake Street door, or see Hal at church.

February 2012 Council Highlights

The council received a copy of the minutes of the annual congregation meeting as well as its regular January meeting and special meeting following the congregation meeting to elect officers.

Council officers for 2012 are:

- President – Hal Larson
- Secretary – Anne Heider
- Financial Secretary – Mary Ann Kearns
- Treasurer – Joan Geuss

The council discussed that in the light of Myrtle Wangerin's comment at the congregation meeting, a way will have to be found to get copies of the annual report to members who are not in church on the Sunday the reports are made available.

The pastor reported that Jared Magill designed Immanuel's new web site and that it is "live." He also provided new computers and a new server for the church offices. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Jared.

The treasurer reported that income for January was where it should be. However, we pay all our insurance in January. So there will be a large deficit in the general fund until the end of the year when, hopefully, income matches year-to-date expenses.

Much of the council meeting was spent appointing liaisons to standing committees and reviewing the situation of the committees. The following liaisons were appointed.

Memorial – Steve Warner. Carol Krizman is the new chair of the Memorial Committee, replacing Elizabeth Stegner. Other members of the committee remain.

Stark Fund – Charly Yarnoff. A new chair will be chosen at its next meeting. New members were appointed to the Stark Fund Committee.

Education – Ben Mauk-O'Connor. Sara Mauk is Sunday School principal teacher. We have a Sunday School, confirmation program, and adult education but no committee overseeing all Christian education in the congregation.

Evangelism – Kit McCarthy. We have Café Immanuel directed by Chris Djuric. Bill Pullin provides whatever materials we need for visitors. The committee lacks a chair and has not met.

Fellowship – Nancy Darian. Need to verify who chairs this committee.

Finance – Mark Kearns. Joe Simchak is chair.

Property – Kathy Skelton. Jim Skelton is chair. Issues in the upstairs Women’s rest room have been addressed.

Social Ministry. Charly Yarnoff is both liaison and chair.

Stewardship – Nancy Darian is to ask last year’s stewardship team if they intend to continue.

Worship and Music – Kim Miller. Kim has been chair. Another chair might be elected at the committee’s March meeting. Kim reported on the organ scholar audition process.

Youth Advisory – Faith Yarnoff. Susan Ross has been chair. Need to determine who will be chair this year.

Personnel – Hal Larson, ex-officio, Bob Fried, and Kit McCarthy continue as the committee.

Mutual Ministry – Melisa Larson and Susan Ross continue. Hal and the pastor need to appoint a third member.

New Business

1. Synod delegates. Synod assembly is June 1-2 at Tinley Park Convention Center. Several people indicated a willingness to serve on the Time and Talent Survey.
2. Lenten Alms. Per the pastor’s suggestion, our Lenten alms will go to the Hillside Food Pantry in Evanston.
3. Hal reminded the council of the need to begin planning Immanuel’s 125th anniversary in 2013.



Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee guides the congregation in extending Christian compassion and assistance to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the underprivileged, the imprisoned, the homeless, the hungry, and others who have material or spiritual needs.

The Chairs of the Social Ministry Committee is Charly Yarnoff. To contact the Social Ministry Committee, leave a note in the Social Ministry mailbox or speak with Charly at church. Charly is also the council liaison.

This Year’s Social Ministry Committee Projects

Charly Yarnoff will chair the Committee this year. There are several other activities scheduled for the year, including other food collections for those in need, providing school backpacks filled with supplies, making hats and mittens for children, and helping out at the Evanston School Children's Clothing Association, both sorting donated items and assisting the children to select outfits. Anyone interested in joining the Committee would be most welcome and should let Charly know.

During Lent the Social Ministry Committee will collect snacks for the Hospitality Center. A tear-off list of the items needed and the date of collection will be provided.

Social Ministry, continued

Lenten Alms

Alms placed in the alms basin during Sunday Communion will this year go to Hillside Free Methodist Church's Food Pantry. This food pantry in northwest Evanston serves families from throughout Evanston and the surrounding areas.

The food pantry provides families with enough food for good, solid meals, which includes meat, fresh produce/vegetables, fresh fruit, deli/dairy products, bread, a dessert item, and non-perishable extras such as oatmeal, rice, pasta/sauce, etc.

Hillside buys food at greatly reduced cost from the Greater Chicago Food Depository and supplements that with donations from churches and synagogues. The pantry serves about 600 families per week.



Worship and Music

The Worship and Music Committee assists the pastor and the Church Council in planning and conducting public worship.

The Chair of the Worship and Music Committee is Kim Miller. To contact the Worship and Music Committee, leave a note in the Worship and Music mailbox, or see Kim at church. Kim is also the council liaison.

Matthew Gerhardt 2012 Immanuel Organ Scholar

We had the best organ scholar process in the history of this program. Three students were recommended by their professors: a first year graduate student from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, a senior from Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, and a sophomore from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. They were all worthy nominees. Twelve members and friends of Immanuel listened to the auditions and engaged in oral interviews with the nominees. The choice of the audition committee was Matthew Gerhardt, the senior from Concordia Mequon, a student of Professor John Behnke. Matthew will be attending the Hochschule fuer Kirchenmusik in Herford, Germany next year. We look forward to having a concert from Matthew during the Easter season (late April or early May).

Lenten Vespers

Vespers (*Lutheran Book of Worship*) will be prayed on Wednesdays during Lent at 7:15 p.m. In lieu of a homily, Pastor Senn will briefly address questions or topics submitted by worshipers at the end of the prayer office. The office of Vespers (also called Evening Prayer in the LBW) with pastoral comment will last about a half hour. Choir rehearsal will follow immediately.



Youth Activities

Souper Bowl Success!!

On February 12th, members of the Youth Group served chicken noodle and cream of tomato soup after worship as part of this year's Souper Bowl effort. A total of \$326.81 was received in donations to fight hunger. Thank you!!

The money gathered will be given to former Youth Choir member, Gillian Rieder, to purchase five sand water filters. Gillian will personally deliver the water filters to remote areas of the Dominican Republic this summer. These water filters are amazing! Each one can provide clean water to 10 people a day for up to 10 years! The Immanuel Youth are proud to support Gillian's work in the Dominican Republic for a second year in a row.

Here is some information about The Souper Bowl organization from the website: www.souperbowl.org Last year more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$9.5 million in dollars and food for hunger-relief charities. That's a total of more than \$81 million collected since the movement began in 1990! This year's goal is to empower 275,000 young people to collect \$11 million for charities in their communities. As of this printing, 7,661 groups across the country have reported gathering [\\$7,979,133.69](#) in cash and food items for [5,934 Charities](#).

All-Youth Play

Immanuel's kids, ages 6-18, are gathering forces to present the play "Joseph and His Brothers," on Sunday, March 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Naturally, a tasty, supper will follow. Consider yourself invited and bring a friend!

Everyone one has a job! The Sunday School kids, Confirmation students, and Youth Group members will serve as players, musicians, effects technicians, assistant directors, and stage crew. To do that, a bit of practice is in order. Recognizing busy schedules, rehearsals have been slated to capitalize on times when the kids are already gathered at church. Parents, please mark your calendars and make every effort to bring your young person to rehearsal on time!

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Confirmands</u>	<u>Youth Group</u>
Sunday	02/26/12	During Class	4-5 p.m.	4-6 p.m.
Sunday	03/04/12	During Class and 4-5 pm	4-5 p.m.	4-6 p.m.
Sunday	03/11/12	During Class	4-6 p.m.	4-6 p.m.
Saturday	03/17/12	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday	03/18/12	9:15 - 10:30 a.m.	9:15 - 10:30 a.m.	9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Youth Activities, continued

Lots of folks are lending their time and talent to the enterprise: Sara Mauk (Sunday School Teacher), Elizabeth Bennett (Song Leader), Kathy Skelton (Costume Mistress), Kim Miller (Set Design and Production), Pastor Senn (Author/Adapter), Chris Djuric (Head Chef), and Laura McDaniel (Director). Please give them a cheer when you see them! Thank you, everyone!



Other News of the Church

Full House Vision Keeper Dinner

385 people from 28 faith communities attended the 2012 Interfaith Action of Evanston's 17th annual Vision Keeper Dinner. This was the highest number of people who have attended in event and the ballroom of the Hotel Orrington was filled to capacity. 37 vision keepers were honored, including Greg and Terri Hummel from Immanuel. 22 Immanuel members and a friend attended; 2 other Immanuel members who made a late reservation could not be accommodated. It was the highest number of people from Immanuel who have ever attended. It was an inspiring evening.

Interfaith Action supports the Hospitality Center for the Homeless, six warming centers between November and March, four weekly soup kitchens, and promotes interfaith dialogue. The Vision Keeper dinner is the major fundraising activity of IAE of the year.



2012 Immanuel Vision Keepers Greg and Terri Hummel



News of the Wider Church

A SUSTAINABILITY MESSAGE FOR EVANSTON CHURCHES

March 20, Election Day, will have several Evanston-focused referenda on the ballot. One--the *Community Choice Electricity Aggregation (CCA) referendum*--addresses our source of energy in the community. It would allow our local government the option to bundle together residential and small commercial retail electric accounts and seek proposals for a cheaper, and possibly cleaner, source of power. It is expected that, based upon the experience of early adopting communities, the cost of electrical service (not its distribution costs which will still belong to Com Ed) would decline significantly because of this bundling of accounts, perhaps offering savings of up to 20%. This is a complicated issue that will be addressed in information sessions to be held on Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., at Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St. and on Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m., at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster St., as well as at ward meetings and on Evanston's website:

<http://www.cityofevanston.org/sustainability/community-choice-aggregation/>

But we might rightfully ask, why is this a religious issue? If we start by acknowledging that our lives are totally dependent upon the gifts provided by God's Creation, such recognition might give us an idea why this decision is of concern to us Christians. Initially, we have to affirm that our use of electricity often comes at a cost to God's planet and people. Whether it be air pollution, carbon emissions or resource extraction, all negatively impact Creation. Some feel that we as God's people must seek to reduce our use of electricity, but we also have a responsibility to use our citizenship to reduce our impact. Should this referendum pass, Evanston will have the opportunity, and officials have expressed an inclination, to specify "green power" in their Request for Proposals to electrical power generating businesses. Including a significant proportion of green energy in these specifications has the potential of lowering the environmental impact of electrical usage in our community, supporting the creation of additional green energy resources and making it less financially viable for the owners of "dirty" plants to continue to maintain them.

Please be an informed voter and, should the referendum pass, advocate for "green power" to supply the electricity to your home.

The Interreligious Sustainability Circle of Evanston



Calendar of Readings

Readings for March

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2012

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2012

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

Third Sunday in Lent

March 11, 2012

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 18, 2012

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 25, 2012

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

Annunciation of the Lord

March 25, 2012

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 45 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38



Calendar of Birthdays

March Birthdays

Sara Mauk (March 3), Kristen Sunderland (March 7), Monica McCarthy (March 9), Mia Cudecki (March 10), Anne Heider (March 10), Jason Kearns (March 10), Doris Strom (March 11), Adam Sutherland (March 11), Brandon Hummel (March 12), Teresa Hummel (March 13), Charly Yarnoff (March 13), Matthew Pullin (March 16), Kevin McDaniel (March 17), Daniel McCarthy (March 21), Bert Mount (March 26), Ryan Hathaway (March 31).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2012</h1>						
This Month's Joys:				1 10 am Daytime Sewing Group 1:00 – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7 pm NCC musicians or Bible Study	2 9 am – 3pm HSGS Home School Co-op	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4 – <i>Joy of Hospitality</i> – Café Immanuel™ ● 11 – <i>Joy of Music</i> – The People's Music School ● 18 – <i>Joy of Learning</i> – No Joy session because of play rehearsal in the fellowship hall ● 25 – <i>Joy of Worship</i> – Preparing for Holy Week 						
4 9–10 am Café Immanuel™ 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion Refreshments 1 pm NCC Worship 4–6 pm Play Rehearsal 5 pm Confirmation Class 8:30 pm Compline	5	6 1 :30 pm – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7:30 pm Bible Study	7 7:15 pm Vespers 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	8 Noon Interfaith clergy lunch 1 pm Women's Discussion Group 1:30 – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7 pm NCC musicians or Bible Study 7 pm Evening Quilters	9 9 am – 3pm HSGS Home School Co-op	10
11 9:15 am Joy of Music and Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion Refreshments 1 pm NCC Worship 4–6 pm Play Rehearsal 8:30 pm Compline	12	13 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7:30 pm Bible Study	14 7:15 pm - Vespers 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 1:30 – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7 pm NCC musicians or Bible Study 7:30 pm Congregation Council	16 No Home School Co-op (Conferences)	17 1:30 – 3:00 pm Dress Rehearsal for Play
18 9:15 am Play Rehearsal 10:30 Holy Communion Refreshments 1 pm NCC Worship 5:30 pm "Jacob and His Brothers" (play) 6:30 pm Family Supper 8:30 pm Compline	19	20 1 pm – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7:30 pm Bible Study	21 7:15 p.m. Vespers 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	22 1:30 – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7 pm NCC musicians or Bible Study	23 9 am – 3pm HSGS Home School Co-op 7 pm Evening Quilters	24
25 9:15 am Joy of Worship and Sunday School 10:30 Holy Communion Refreshments 1 pm NCC Worship 5 pm Confirmation Class 8:30 pm Compline	26 9:30 am Deadline for newsletter material	27 1 pm – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7:30 pm Bible Study	28 10:30 am Northeast Conference pastors 7:15 pm Vespers 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	29 9:30 am Newsletter assembly, mailing, and posting 1:30 – 3:30 pm Home School Drama Group 7 pm NCC musicians or Bible Study	30 9 am – 3pm HSGS Home School Co-op	31

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