



Holy Week is Holy Work

Pastor Michael Fick

The holiest week in the Church's calendar is upon us soon, and many preparations are already complete or under way. If the full celebration of holy week leading to Easter Sunday is new to you, it can seem like a *lot* of church and a *lot* of work. Both are, indeed, true.

So why do we do it? Simply put, the death and resurrection of Jesus are at the center of our life together. All the meetings, all the ministries, all the work on the facility, all the everything else hinges on this central reality: Christ is risen, and we shall arise. This is true all the time; but, taking the time, and doing the holy *work* of worship for an intense and beautiful week reminds us to keep the main thing the main thing. Holy Week is an intensive course in the Christian life. And once every year, together, we make it a not-to-be-missed opportunity.

See you this month... likely a lot!

Peace,
Michael Fick
Pastor Michael Fick



Holy Week & Easter

Save the dates for this Sacred Season.

Palm Sunday: April 9 at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Intergenerational Stations of the Cross:

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church (1500 W. Elmdale Ave.) Potluck Community Dinner is at 6:15pm. Contact Pastor Emily at pastoremilys@gmail.com to sign up for dinner.

Maundy Thursday: April 13 at 12:15 p.m. (brief service in the Sanctuary) and 7:00 p.m. (which includes a simple dinner in the Dining Room).

Good Friday: April 14 at 12:15 and 7:00 p.m.

Children's Triduum: Saturday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. An experience of the three days especially for children.

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday: 6:00 and 10:00 a.m., with an Easter Breakfast Potluck at 9:00 a.m.

No 5:00 p.m. service on Easter.

New Offering Envelopes Available

Ebenezer has discontinued, after March, the mailed offering envelope program. But if you prefer to make your gifts using envelopes, you still can! Send a message to Nathan at ebenezerbookkeeper@gmail.com, or give him a call at the office, and Ebenezer will provide you with a packet of envelopes for use every week of the year.



Celebrate the Ebenezer Quasiquintennial!

What's a *Quasiquintennial*? It's Ebenezer's 125th Anniversary! A task force is forming now to plan a celebration that has been 125 years in the making. You've felt the joy at

Sunday service and many other programs housed at 1650 Foster. Help share that joy in a celebration weekend, September 30-October 1. We need your time, talent and special touch. If interested in helping plan the party weekend, contact Pastor Michael, check the box on the Connection Card, send an email to ebenezerarchives@gmail.com.



Easter Breakfast Potluck

April 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Bring a dish to share and gather in the Dining Room before the festival liturgy at 10 a.m. Everyone's welcome!

Community Hour at Ebenezer

Gather following worship for coffee, followed by Community Hour from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Childcare is provided!*

Reminder: There is NO community hour program on April 9 or 16. Coffee fellowship will be offered on April 9, and on Easter (April 16) everyone's encouraged to attend the Easter Breakfast Potluck at 9:15 a.m.

April 23 and 30: The Justice Team will host the presentations these Sundays. Look for more information in the Weekly E-news!

Looking ahead to May:

Join the Mental Health Subcommittee in



welcoming NAMI (the National Alliance for Mental Illness).

On Sunday, May 7th, please join us for an amazing presentation being given by three speakers from NAMI CCNS! *In Our Own Voice* (IOOV) is a unique public education program developed by NAMI, in which three trained individuals, living with mental illness, share compelling personal stories about living with mental illness and achieving recovery. They share insights into what a mental illness is, the effect the illness has had on their lives, and the prejudices and stereotypes they sometimes face in the community.

Contact Us:

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Phone (773) 561-8496 office@ebenezerchurch.org

Communication Deadlines: Wednesday at noon for bulletin and e-news; 15th of each month for the next month's *Messenger*.

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Jesse Lopez, Sexton

Diego Avila and Gerardo Guerrero, Attendants

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Closed Fridays.

Visit us on the web: ebenezerchurch.org
facebook.com/ebenezerchicago



From the Parish Nurse

by Marcia Smith, BSN, FCN

The first responsibility of the parish nurse is to help people integrate their faith and health. The next duties as listed in the Advocate Health Care Faith Community Nurse job

description are to counsel and to educate people about health issues both when problems arise and for the promotion of good health.

We think of health as encompassing the whole person, the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects. Health issues may range from catastrophic illness to dental hygiene, from aging difficulties to having a baby, from mental illness to grief or loss.

In counseling people about whatever health concerns arise, the parish nurse uses her or his own knowledge and experience to help the individual make good health choices, address difficult decisions or to provide support during a challenging time. The parish nurse draws on other resources when she or he is unable personally to address someone's concerns. Likewise for health education the parish nurse will consult other resources or bring in experts as needed. Health education can be in a group setting or with individuals, often in informal conversations. The more we know about health and all its dimensions the better equipped we are to achieve and maintain good health.

The pastor sometimes alerts the parish nurse to a health problem someone is experiencing. Or the nurse might notice that someone is distressed. The nurse might discern the need for education regarding certain health topics. Nonetheless, individuals are encouraged to share health concerns or questions openly with your nurse. She is here to serve you and the community.

Don't hesitate to contact your nurse, Marcia Smith. You can email marcia.smith@advocatehealth.com, call 773- 743-1831, or complete the questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MXBVDNZ>

CONFIDENTIAL WELLNESS SCREENING

- Lipid/Chemistry Profile & Complete Blood Count (CBC) - \$52
- Blood Pressure Screening

DATE	Saturday, May 20th
TIME	Beginning at 8:00am
LOCATION	Immanuel Lutheran Church 1500 W. Elmdale Chicago, IL 60660

Other tests available including: Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA), Thyroid Profile, Vitamin D, Hemoglobin A1C, Bone Density.

For more information contact Ebenezer's Parish Nurse, Marcia Smith at 773-743-1831 or at marcia.smith@advocatehealth.com

Vacation Bible School: Save the Dates!

Join children from Ebenezer, Immanuel, and Unity Lutheran Churches, and from the surrounding community for a journey through the Life and Times of Jesus!

Monday, June 26-Thursday, June 29 from 1:00-4:00pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church (1500 W. Elmdale Ave.)

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Contact Pastor Emily Heitzman at pastoremilys@advocatehealth.com if you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.



It's Time to Update the Directory!



Periodically, Ebenezer publishes a directory to help members and friends stay connected. Distributed only to members and friends of the congregation (and never posted online), it helps us stay connected to one another. Please submit the information you'd like included:

By email: Send a message with your preferred name(s) (including kids if applicable), address, phone number(s), and email to: ebenezerbookkeeper@gmail.com. Include "directory" in the subject, and **only include information you'd like published.**



Benefit Concert for Augusta Victoria Hospital

by Pam Sall

On my second visit to the Holy Land, not only did we see where Jesus lived and walked, we also saw where His work is still going on today. One of those places is Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. This hospital is owned by the Lutheran World Federation and gives life saving care for adults and children with cancer and kidney disease.

On Sunday, April 30, 3:00 pm, at Luther Memorial Church, 2500 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, we are honored to have Ali Paris perform for a Benefit Concert for Augusta Victoria Hospital and their life-saving work with children in the West Bank and Gaza. Quincy Jones describes Ali as an "unrivaled unique artist." There are only a handful of people who have mastered the Qanun, a 76-string zither dating back to the 14th century. **NO TICKETS - FREE WILL OFFERING AT THE DOOR.**

We are thankful to our sponsors, Luther Memorial Church, Ethnic Specific & Multicultural Ministries of the ELCA and Metro Chicago Synod's Working Group on the Middle East, for supporting Ali's appearance so that **ALL your Door Offerings will go directly to help children** at Augusta Victoria Hospital.

Checks may be made payable to: **ELCA.**

In the memo portion: **Gmg 0739 Augusta Victoria Hospital.**

You may also mail to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

AVH serves very poor, mostly Palestinian, people. It is supposed to be paid for by the Palestinian Authority after the Israeli government gives back the taxes it has collected. Unfortunately that is not a steady stream of income and insurance is not available to most. Your supporting this concert by coming, making a donation or sending in a check, will allow the hospital to remain open and keep saving lives.

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group invites participation in their upcoming discussions: April 17, and May 15 at 7:15 p.m. Happy reading!

April 17– *Defending Jacob* by William Landay

May 15– *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Apris Sweeney