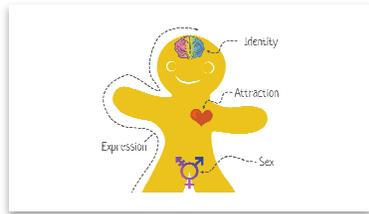


Community Hour Schedule

Community Hour is usually from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays in the Education Center. Childcare is available!

April 8 and 15: Join the Justice Team for Community Hour!

April 22: Gender and Identity. Join Pastor Michael for a respectful conversation using the "Gender Bread Person" exploring gender, expression, identity, and biology.



April 29: John Elmquist Presents... a conversation about music and prayer in worship.

Looking ahead to May 6 and 13 with the Mental Health

Team: Dr. Sherrie All will be our guest. Sherrie All, PhD is a Licensed

Clinical Psychologist specializing in neuropsychology, cognitive rehabilitation and brain health. She owns the Chicago Center for Cognitive Wellness, a group



neuropsychology practice offering assessment and treatment services for people affected by cognitive issues with locations in downtown Evanston and downtown Chicago. In addition to running her practice, Dr. All has developed programs for training providers cognitive rehabilitation skills and

educating the public on brain healthy behaviors. She is also working to open a holistic wellness center for people with mild cognitive declines and their families. She is a leader in the field of brain health and coaches individuals on ways to lower their personal risk for dementia.

Senior Programs

Senior Lunch: Thursday, April 19 at 12:00 pm. This month we will meet in the Education Cafe down stairs below the sanctuary. This month, after lunch we will discuss "The Present" and "Appreciation". We ask that you consider giving a freewill donation for the lunch. Also, our Parish Nurse will check blood pressures and Ralph will anoint and offer prayers.



Senior Poetry Group: Monday, April 23, at 12:00 pm. We will meet in the Cafe (below the sanctuary). This month we will be looking at: "You Are Christ's Hands" by Saint Teresa of Avila and The Pentecost Castle, 15 (excerpt) by Geoffery Hill. Bring a sandwich and join us in the Cafe (below the sanctuary). Dessert will be provided.

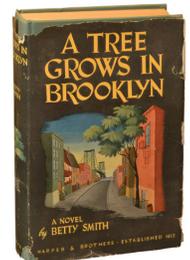
Women's Book Group

The women's book group meets at Ebenezer on the following dates for conversation at 7:15 p.m. Join in!

April 16: *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* by Betty Smith.

May 21: *Britt Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Bakman

June 18: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See



Ebenezer Refugee Support



Ebenezer's Refugee Support group works with newly settled refugee in the Rogers Park and Edgewater area in cooperation with their sponsoring agencies and St. Thomas of Canterbury School staff . The site will follow families to process and list specific needs of families. When you find you can

fill a need, contact one of the administrators and donated items can be picked up. Cash donations can be made out to Ebenezer Lutheran Church with the notation of Refugee Fund on the memo line. Visit Facebook and search for "Ebenezer Refugee Support" or contact Norm Dynneson for more information.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W. Foster Ave., Chicago IL 60640

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*.

Staff:

Pastor Michael D. Fick pastormichael@ebenezerchurch.org

Dr. John Elmquist, Director of Music

johnelmquist@yahoo.com

Marcia Smith RN, BSN, Parish Nurse

parishnursemarcia@gmail.com

Derek Stienmetz, Building and Volunteer Coordinator

ebenezerbuilding@gmail.com

Nathan Tolzmann, Bookkeeper

ebenezerbookkeeper@gmail.com

Pastor Emily Heitzman, Edgewater Congregations Together

Youth and Household Minister pastoremilys@gmail.com

Jesse Lopez, Sexton ebenezersexton@gmail.com

Rosalinda Valencia, Diego Avila, and Robel Yemane

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Closed

Fridays.

Visit us: ebenezerchurch.org and

[facebook.com/ebezerchicago](https://www.facebook.com/ebezerchicago)

Edgewater Congregations Together Youth Group!

Youth Group (grades 6th-12th) from Unity, Immanuel, and Ebenezer Lutheran Churches meets during the school year; they gather on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Immanuel Lutheran Church for a meal, games, faith discussions, and worship. For more information, contact Pastor Emily at pastoremilys@gmail.com.

Parent's Night Out! ...FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Saturday, April 21
from 4:00-8:00pm @
Immanuel Lutheran
Church (1500 W.
Elmdale Ave.)

Ages: 2 1/2 years-5th grade. Suggested Donation: \$15 for one child, \$20 for two children, \$25 for more than two children.

All proceeds will help send several of our youth group high schoolers to travel to Houston, Texas this June for the triennial ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Youth Gathering. See the flyers available on the Welcome Center for more information.



Easter Message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



It all started with such promise – the angel announcing to Mary that the child she would bear would be called Son of the Most High; the

conviction of Mary that this child would be the embodiment of God's promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised.

And then, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It was over. The world hadn't changed. Might still made right. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil must have said, "You fool."

This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the wisdom of the world. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that we are in control and the world is ours. In the face of this and all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

I believe that the beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of the psalmist and the anguish of our Lord, but there is more going on here. Citing the first words of a text was, in the tradition of the time, a way of identifying an entire passage. The psalm ends this way: "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it." This is the wisdom of God. Jesus' crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this.

This year, Easter fell on April 1. We came through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We said, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title.