

## Ebenezer Supports Refugees



Ebenezer's support group works with newly arrived refugees in the Rogers Park and Edgewater area. Sponsoring agencies offer a minimum of initial help when families first arrive.

Ebenezer's group works to fill the gap until families are self-supporting. To see a list of items needed, go to the list on SignUpGenius ([www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)); or, visit [ebenezerchurch.org](http://ebenezerchurch.org) and select the link for "serve." Look for Ebenezer Refugee Support. Check back periodically. The list is updated as families' needs change. Cash donations can be made out to Ebenezer Lutheran Church with the notation of Refugee Fund on the memo line. Questions? Jackie Wood at [jacquelinewood@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquelinewood@hotmail.com), text at 773-484-3923, or call Norm Dynneson at 773-218-8729, [normdynneson64@gmail.com](mailto:normdynneson64@gmail.com)

## Annual Wellness Screening

The annual Wellness Screening is approaching. This year the testing will be done at your convenience at any of several Quest Labs beginning in May and continuing until June 9<sup>th</sup>. The follow-up event for discussing your results will be Saturday, June 23 at 10 a.m. at Ebenezer.



The basic screening test includes a lipid and chemistry profile and a complete blood count for \$54. Additional tests are available: thyroid profile, vitamin D, PSA (prostate specific antigen,) CRP (C-reactive protein,) hemoglobin A1C and ColoCare (take-home colon cancer test.) This is a great opportunity to have low cost screening tests done thanks to Health Maintenance Institute (HMI) and a chance to discuss your results in detail with doctors from Advocate Health Care.

Here is what you need to do:

- Contact Allison at HMI at 847-635-6580 or [allison@hmihealth.com](mailto:allison@hmihealth.com).

She will get the needed paperwork to you and enter you in the Quest Lab system. Allison will discuss ways to submit your payment.

- Have screening tests done at Quest no later than June 9.
- Receive results in the mail within 2 weeks after testing.
- Bring results with you when you come for the follow-up on Saturday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster, Chicago. Breakfast will be provided!

Questions? Contact Marcia Smith at 773-743-1831 or [parishnursemarcia@gmail.com](mailto:parishnursemarcia@gmail.com).

## Pride Parade

March with Ebenezer and the Chicago coalition of welcoming churches on Sunday, June 24. We'll gather following morning worship and take the Clark bus south, together, to the parade lineup on Montrose and Broadway. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and bring water. Everyone is welcome!



## Community Hour

Have you ever thought as you sat in the pews that you wished we could have a discussion about something that was important to your life, maybe about parenting or living the single life, or Zoroastrianism or time management or the safety of football or whatever.

If you have ever had this thought please join us as we lift up possible topics for next year's community house hour on Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> following coffee hour. No topic is too silly or serious to be put on the list.

### Hymn Request Sundays: July 22 and 29

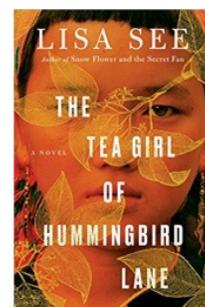
Request your favorite hymns to be sung on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be request sheets in the bulletin at the end of June and beginning of July. On July 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a chance for discussion after coffee hour.

## 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!

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

**July 16:** *History of Wolves* by Emily Fridlund



## Vacation Bible School

A joint VBS (Ebenezer, Immanuel, and Unity Lutheran Churches) will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church (1500 W. Elmdale Ave.)

Mon., June 25-Thurs., June 28; 1:00-4:00 p.m. 12:30 p.m. – free lunch (provided by Catholic Charities)

AGES: 5 yrs-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 3-4yrs may come with an adult  
 Bible Stories! Songs! Dance! Crafts! Games! Service Projects!

To Register, contact: [churchoffice@immanuelchicago.org](mailto:churchoffice@immanuelchicago.org)  
 Contact Pastor Emily Heitzman at [pastoremilyh@gmail.com](mailto:pastoremilyh@gmail.com) if you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.

## ELCA Presiding Bishop Calls on Church to Work for Racial Justice



CHICAGO (April 6, 2018) – Following the “Act Now: Unite to End Racism” rally in Washington, D.C., the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has issued a statement on racism,

recommitting this church “to work for racial justice and inclusion, to work against white privilege, and to be a church that truly welcomes all.” The April 4 rally was held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Bishop Eaton's statement:

In 2017, we observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In 500 years, Lutheranism has grown into a global movement. We worship in every language all over the world. There are now more Lutherans of color than there are European descent Lutherans. But here in the United States, Lutherans are predominantly white.

Lutherans came to this country in ethnic waves in the 18th and 19th centuries. English was not our first language; we kept to ourselves and were mostly outside of the predominant American culture. But Lutherans did share in the dominant culture in that we were mostly white and, therefore, had the privilege of not having to think or talk about the reality of racism in America.

We came to a tipping point in June 2015. There, in Charleston, S.C., a stranger walked into a Bible study at Mother Emmanuel and, after being welcomed by pastors and people, shot and killed nine. The martyrs of Mother Emmanuel. Two of those killed, the Rev. Clementa Pickney, pastor of Mother Emmanuel, and the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor, were graduates of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The shooter, Dylann Roof, is a member of one of our (ELCA) congregations. One of our own shot and killed two who had adopted us as their own. All of a sudden, and for all of us in the ELCA, this was an intensely personal tragedy. Racism wasn't something outside of us; it was in us and had been all along.

It is a funny thing about being confronted by the truth – it can lead to transformation. Our bishop in South Carolina talked with his African Methodist Episcopal colleagues. The shock and grief of the massacre was still raw. But inaction was no longer an option. So congregations, ELCA and AME, started meeting together to share a meal, watch the film “Selma” and then talk about the reality of racism. The youth of our churches met together to share a meal, watch the film “Remember the Titans” and talk about the reality of racism. It is a small step, but it is a start.

We still have work to do. Within the ELCA, we have named the reality of institutional and structural racism. We have begun to pry Lutheran identity away from European descent identity. It is not culture and cuisine that define us but our common witness to the gospel. We recommit ourselves to work for racial justice and inclusion, to work against white privilege, and to be a church that truly welcomes all. We cannot do this work alone. We will work with ecumenical and interreligious partners. We will show up. We will speak up. We will act up.

The martyrs of Mother Emmanuel were not the first victims of violence. Martin Luther King Jr. was not the first victim of violence. Our only hope is in the innocent One who was violently killed on Good Friday, Emmanuel, God with us. He was wounded for our transgressions including the deadly sin of racism. But as he rose from the dead, we are able to rise up.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Congratulations!

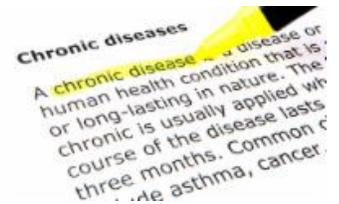
Congratulations to Ebenezer Lutheran's Kjell Johnson, high school junior, who received a gold medal in the 100m race walk at the Chicago Special Olympics Spring Games! He will be going to Illinois State University in June to compete in the Summer Games.



Kjell will be graduating from Amundsen H.S. in June. Congratulations Kjell!

### Coping with Chronic Illness

Join us and learn about ways to cope with the challenges of chronic health issues. We will have two knowledgeable presenters and also time for questions, sharing and conversation.



**When:** Saturday, June 9, 2018; 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Immanuel Lutheran Church 1500 W. Elmdale Ave.

Presenters include: Dr. Harvey Wolf, health psychologist and Jenni Grover, author of *Chronic Babe*. For more information contact Marcia Smith at 773-743-1831 or parishnursemarcia@gmail.com

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

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

Closed Fridays.

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