



# 40 DAYS

## OF PRAYER & FASTING

*"You are the light of the world.  
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."*

Matthew 5:14



**JOIN US: SEPT. 22 - OCT. 31, 2022**

Immanuel is on the move! This fall we will say goodbye to 640 W Irving Park Road and transition to a new worship space. As we discern our next steps, we are drawing near to God through a 40-day season of prayer, and you are invited to participate. We are asking God not only to provide a place for our gathered worship, but also to renew and deepen our calling as a "spiritual beacon" church.

What is a spiritual beacon church? Our mission is to build and become a spiritual beacon church that makes the Gospel visible, tangible and personal for the people of Chicago. A beacon is "an intentionally conspicuous device designed to attract attention to a specific location." All of us - individually in our personal lives and collectively as a church - are called to be humble beacons that point others to the harbor of God's love in the face of Jesus Christ.

# WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

## 1) WITH THE WHOLE CHURCH

- Mark your calendar to join the rest of the church for 3 days of church-wide prayer and fasting on September 22, October 11 and October 31. Each Day of Prayer will include a Midday Prayer gathering on Zoom (12PM-12:30PM) and an evening gathering in person in Ravenswood (7:30PM-8:30PM).
- New to fasting? Start small. Learn more about why and how at [immanuelanglican.org/prayer](https://immanuelanglican.org/prayer).

## 2) WITH YOUR FRIENDS, CITY GROUP, FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD

- Schedule a time to gather each week with your closest community for prayer throughout these 40 days. This may be formal (*praying with your City Group*) or informal (*praying with friends after playing sports together*), large (*Immanuelites who live in your neighborhood*) or small (*your own family or roommates*).
- Some Scriptures that can guide your prayer gatherings are: Matthew 5:14; Philippians 4:19; John 9:2-4; John 12:32; Isaiah 58, 60; Psalm 126, 127.

## 3) ON YOUR OWN

- Place your “40 Days” bookmark somewhere you will see it regularly and remember to pray the Collect for these 40 days – post it on your fridge or bathroom mirror, or tuck it in your Bible or devotional.
- And if you haven’t yet listened to our fall vision sermons, check them out: “Aligning with Jesus” (August 21, 2022) and “Our Spiritual Beacon Call” (September 18, 2022). Available on Spotify, Podcasts and the Immanuel App.



## P.S. SHARE WHAT YOU HEAR!

As you listen to the Lord – on your own and with others – we encourage you to pay attention to any Bible passages, images or impressions that He may be giving you! Share these by emailing “[care@immanuelanglican.org](mailto:care@immanuelanglican.org).”

# PRAYER POINTS

## PRAY FOR **OUR SPIRITUAL BEACON HOME.**

- That God would provide a beautiful, practical building where we can begin to worship before the end of 2022. Pray that we can make this space our spiritual beacon home, which could make the Gospel personal, tangible and visible for the foreseeable future.
- Ask that what we need in a space would be granted to us: an auditorium, storage, parking and proximity to public transportation, children's classrooms, accessible gathering spaces and freedom to artistically express our worship.
- Pray for an affordable price and a great partnership with our landlord.
- Pray that God would provide a permanent, long-term Spiritual Beacon home for us.

## PRAY FOR **OUR SPIRITUAL BEACON CALLING.**

- Pray for occasions to shine the light of Christ in Chicago: people we can bless, conversations where we can bear humble witness to Jesus, open doors for Spirit-inspired art, justice and mercy, and hospitality.
- Ask God for the grace and discernment to know when he's asking us to be "conspicuously visible" so as to glorify the Father.
- Repent of any self-protective choices to keep our light hidden. Boldly ask the Lord for more unchurched people to be drawn to Jesus in our community and for Immanuel to bear the fruit of conversions, baptisms and new disciples of Jesus.

## PRAY FOR **A RENEWED LOVE FOR GOD.**

- Ask the Lord to renew your love for Him. Ask him to draw near to you as you draw near to him. Ask him to identify one way you can cooperate more fully with his love and grace for you.
- Ask Jesus, the Good Shepherd, for the grace to hear his voice of guidance during this time of uncertainty – and for the grace to respond when he speaks.

## PRAY FOR **A RENEWED LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR**

- Ask the Lord to renew and deepen your love for Chicago, and the people who live here, starting in your own household or community.
- Pray for the Lord to identify one person you can invest in intentionally in this 40 day season.
- Confess to the Lord anyone against whom you are holding a grievance. Ask for the grace to forgive them and pray for the Lord to bless them.

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# A COLLECT

Father of heavenly lights, your light shines into the darkness and brings our salvation. We ask you to be a lamp for our feet and a light to our path as we seek a new worship space. Lead us to a new building where we can gather as your people and make the Gospel tangible, personal and visible to one another and to our beloved city. As we follow you, let us shine as a spiritual beacon pointing the way to Jesus. All of this we ask for the glory of the Father and the glory of the Son and the glory of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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# PRAYER GATHERINGS

Our church-wide prayer days will be September 22, October 11 and October 31. Each Day of Prayer will include these gatherings:

- A Midday Prayer gathering on Zoom from 12PM-12:30PM. (You can find meeting links at [immanuelanglican.org/prayer](https://immanuelanglican.org/prayer).)
- An evening gathering for prayer and worship from 7:30PM-8:30PM at Immanuel's Ministry Center. (4619 N Ravenswood Ave. Ste. 303B)

Find other details and updates at [immanuelanglican.org/prayer](https://immanuelanglican.org/prayer).