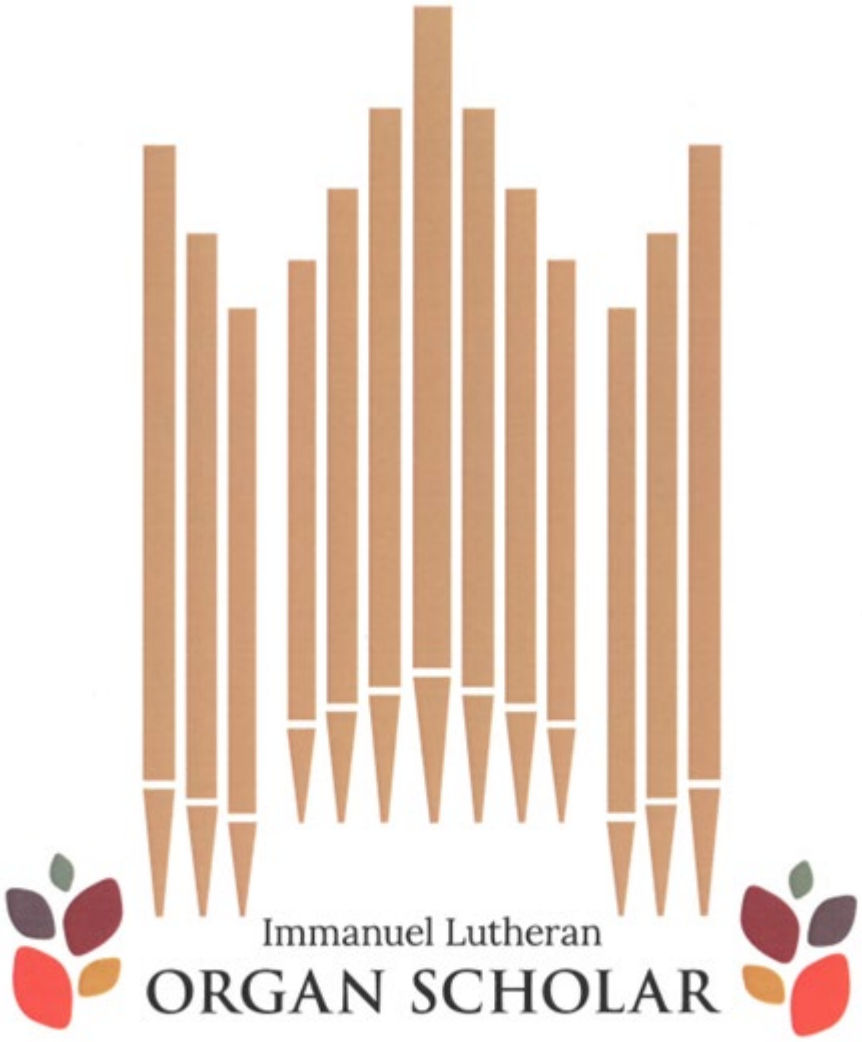


Gege Bi

Eastman School of Music

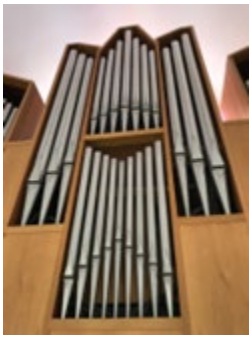
Saturday, November 21, 2026, 3:00 pm

THE IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MUSIC OUTREACH ENDOWMENT ORGAN AWARD

The annual Immanuel Lutheran Organ Scholar Award is funded through the Immanuel Lutheran Church Music Outreach Endowment Fund. The award, consisting of a cash gift of $5,000, a medallion, and an opportunity to perform a full concert, is given to a student in an organ or church music degree program in an accredited school who has been nominated by the organ or church music faculty. The purpose of the award is to encourage careers in organ and church music.

On the 20th anniversary of the program in 2022, we were pleased to announce the expansion of awards for two recipients per year – one Undergraduate and one Graduate.

Brochures about the Music Outreach Endowment Fund will be available at the reception following the performance.



Previous Immanuel Organ Scholar Award recipients:

2002 Ross Updegraff
2003 Brian Wentzel
2004 Joy-Leilani Garbutt
2005 Nathan LeMahieu
2006 Laura Zimmer
2007 Emily Woock
2008 Paula Maust
2009 Jonathan D. Rudy
2010 Justin Knabach
2011 Kipp Cortez
2012 Matthew Gerhardt
2013 Priscilla Weaver
2014 David Lim
2015 Kevin Vaughn
2016 Nicole Simental
2017 Hannah Koby
2018 Andrew Barbour
2019 Josh Ring
2020 Dale Nickell
2021 Matthew Wachtman
2022 Katherine Joliff—Undergraduate
2022 Sol Rizzato—Graduate
2023 JoEllen West—Undergraduate
2023 Kelsey Berg—Graduate
2024 Trevor Good—Undergraduate
2024 Hansol Kim—Graduate
2025 David Devine—Undergraduate
2025 Katie Gunn—Graduate
2026 Áron Sipos – Undergraduate
2026 Gege Bi – Graduate

For more information on the Organ Scholar Program and bios of the winners, scan the QR code.

Organ Graduate Student Award Program
Gege Bi, Organ

Greeting — Pr. Mark Sloss

Congregational Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" EIN FESTE BURG — Hymnal 504

Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542 — Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

All'Elevazione from Sonate d'Intavolatura, Book I — Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

Trio Sonata No. 2 in C Minor, BWV 526 — J. S. Bach

II. Largo

III. Allegro

Women Composers in French Organ Music

Quasi Andante — Mel Bonis (1858–1937)

Improvisation from Trois Improvisations (1911) — Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)

Rorate Cæli — Jeanne Demessieux (1921 – 1968)

Toccata in D Minor, BuxWV155 — Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Sonata No. 4 in B-flat Major, Op. 65, No. 4 — Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

II. Andante religioso

III. Allegretto

IV. Allegro maestoso

Presentation of the Award — Immanuel Lutheran Church

Please join us for a champagne & dessert reception in Fellowship Hall immediately following the program.

About the Award Recipient



Gege Bi, under the supervision of Professor David Higgs, is currently a master student majoring in organ performance at the Eastman School of Music. Born in a musical family, she learned to play the piano at the age of four and started to perform on the stage regularly at the age of five. Thanks to her hard work and her parents' cultivation, she was enrolled as a bachelor student at the Central Conservatory of Music, where she studied organ playing with Professor Yuan Shen.

During her undergraduate study, she fell in love with the organ and realized that it is her lifetime mission to introduce this fantastic instrument to more people in China. So, she took every opportunity to demonstrate the organ: not only in concerts, but also in new media such as a nationwide renowned TV program "Walk of Fame" and self-media.

After her graduation in 2014, she took an unusual career path by venturing into entrepreneurship to fulfill her mission. She established an organ-themed concept store, which flourished into seven branch stores. She also organized several organ-themed road trips across China, where she played organ music in resorts with beautiful landscapes as backgrounds and explored the thrill of extreme sports, such as skiing, diving, surfing, and skydiving. The combination of music and sports attracted tens of thousands of people in her self-media. To reach a higher level in promoting the organ, she made again an atypical decision to return to conservatory and started her master study in the fall of 2024. She never stops surprising people and she is excited in doing so also at Eastman.

During her studies at the Eastman School of Music, she studied theater organ and clavichord with William Porter, as well as jazz piano and improvisation with Tony Caramia. In 2026, she was named a finalist in the Open Division of the Sydney International Organ Competition and received the OMSS Excellence Award presented by the Organ Music Society of Sydney. She currently serves as the Wayne Lawson Memorial Organ Scholar at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, where she is actively involved in liturgical music, organ performance, and choral activities.

Upcoming Events at Immanuel....



Indoor Farmers' Market

Immanuel Lutheran is excited to host the winter version of the Evanston Farmer's Market in 2026-27:

2026	**2027**
December 5,	January 2, January 16, January 30
December 19	February 13, February 27, March 13

We welcome you to this community event! Immanuel's marketplace focuses on farmers, emphasizing the sale of locally grown greens, vegetables, fish, eggs, meats, cheeses, and dry goods. This helps producers create a revenue stream in an otherwise bleak season.

Most importantly, this market has Christ and community at the center. All the money gathered by the church from the kitchen, pantry, and vendor space donations is given to hunger-based organizations. More than $30,000 has been given over the last three years to organizations such as:

- Evanston Community Fridges
- Hillside Food Pantry
- Soup-at-Six
- Curt's Cafe
- YWCA Women's Shelter
- Evanston's Interfaith Action
- Lutheran World Hunger

Your purchases at the market bring the vendors back each week, which allows for the distribution of gifts. Shopping here actively benefits Evanston!

Free postcards and stamps are available to shoppers who want to exercise their civic voice. The cards highlight the Priorities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's (ELCA) Advocacy Office, but they are of importance to many:

- educating our children
- protecting the earth
- providing hospitality to neighbors and migrants
- eliminating gender-based violence
- access to affordable healthcare
- sentencing reform
- opportunities for family farms and small businesses
- addressing poverty, hunger and homelessness

Conversation around the table has been positive and hopeful with many planning to host postcard parties of their own. To date, over 1,200 cards have been mailed to key leaders in Washington and Springfield.

The farmers' market, feeding the hungry, and postcard advocacy all fit into Immanuel's "Faith that Feeds" focus. Come for veggies! Come for postcards!

Celebrate the Holidays at Immanuel



Advent Holden Evening Prayers
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 pm
December 2, 9, 16, 2026
Sanctuary



Carols & Cocoa!
Friday, December 11, 2026
7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Thursday, December 24, 2026, 9:00 pm
Sanctuary



2027 Concerts at Immanuel



KAIA String Quartet
Saturday, April 3, 2027; 3:00 pm

From the tango of the Rio de la Plata to the string quartets of Silvestre Revueltas, the Chicago-based KAIA String Quartet is an ensemble devoted to promoting the rich and colorful music of Latin America.

ORIANA SINGERS – SHE SAID
Saturday, May 8, 2027; 3:00 pm

The Oriana Singers perform music that speaks to the emotional, intellectual, and physical experiences of life — shared with musical integrity, historical context, and passion.



Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.
We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.
We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.
We are also a member congregation of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches.
We believe that God works in and through all of us, and so we invite you to join us in worshiping God and in doing the work God is calling us to do together in our communities and in our world.

Visit our website at www.immanuelevanston.org by scanning the QR code and "like" us on Facebook.

The Rev. Mark Sloss, Pastor
Ms. Patricia Radosavljevic, Principal Organist; Mr. Greg Hummel, Organist Emeritus;
Ms. Laurie Stivers, Associate Organist
Mr. James Morehead, Music Director





