

Devoted Hearts Women's Conference: 8th annual area wide women's event at Autumn Ridge Church, April 25-26. Friday 7-9 PM and Saturday 8:30 – 3 PM. Cost: \$48 before March 31st. Register online at www.devotedheartsrochester.com.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Emmanuel Men are meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at Charlie's (1408 2nd. St. SW) for breakfast & a first look at the lectionary readings for the week. Bring a friend, sit at the feet of Jesus & practice being evangelical. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 11. Our Bible Readings for Lent II are: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; and John 3:1-17.

The Season of Lent

Saturdays in Lent—6 pm: Lectionary texts with a liturgy of Word & Sacrament; using portions of LBW & WOV.

Wednesdays of Lent at 6 pm—Drama Series: *"How to be a Disciple"*. Evening Prayer with Disciple Sketches by guest pastors.

Eve of Palm/Passion—Saturday, April 12 at 6 pm: Palm fronds will be distributed. Please save them for future ashes.

Maundy Thursday—April 17 at 6 pm: Foot Washing (John 13) and the Lord's Supper. Final Disciple Drama.

Good Friday—April 18 at 12:00 Noon: Bidding Prayer & Passion Reading (John 18-19). 7 pm Oasis Tenebrae Worship.

Holy Saturday—April 19, Easter Eve at 6 pm: Celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord with an Easter Vigil—Light, Scripture, Baptism, & the Lord's Supper. **THE FIFTY DAYS BEGINS!**
GOAL: To read the entire New Testament as a congregation!

Emmanuel Lutheran
1815—38th Street NW
Rochester, MN. 55901

Pastor Dave Steffenson — 253-302-9845 (Mobile)
507-206-3048 (Home)
pastor@emmanuelofrochester.org
www.emmanuelofrochester.org

Genesis 12:1-4a—God Calls Abram

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121—LBW Page 279, Responsively by half-verse.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17—Abraham Justified by Faith

1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness. ... 13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring--not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"--in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading—John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. John the 3rd. Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? 11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Thanks to our Worship Helpers: MarJean Damerval (Pianist); Lee Pearce (Prayers, Scripture, and Communion Assistant); Julie Steffenson (Coffee); Judy Pearce (Treats).

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, March 15, 2014
Eve of Lent II—6 pm

***"Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing
Emmanuel—God with us—in daily life!"***

Thanks for Worshiping with Us!

Your presence is a gift to us. We pray that our Service of Word and Sacrament is a blessing to you. Join us for fellowship following worship.

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and give generously. This year, on Wednesday nights during the 40 Days of Lent, our worship will be **Lenten Dramas**: "*How to be a Disciple*". On Wednesday, March 19 our Drama is entitled, "On Choosing Sides—Matthew and Simon. Pastor Dave will be offering a Character Sketch on Matthew. We will be using an edited version of Holden Evening Prayer each Wednesday Night, authored by Pastor David Steffenson with permission from GIA.

New Women's Bible Study "The Wise and the Foolish"

Pastor Dave and Julie will be leading a nine session Bible Study on the Discipleship Parables of Jesus, beginning on Monday, April 21. We will meet at Oasis Church, twice a month, on Mondays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Bring a friend. Study will conclude in August.



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Sat, March 15 at 6 pm
Lent II Worship
- Tues, March 18
8 am—Men's Bible Study Breakfast
- Wed, March 19 at 6 pm—Evening Prayer and Lenten Dramas (Rev. David Steffenson)
- Thursday, March 20
La Crosse Pastor's Mtg. for LCMC/NALC
- Mar. 29: Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton, IA.
Choir: Musical offering
- Sunday, March 30
Pastor Dave as pulpit supply for South Zumbro Lutheran Church, Kasson

Closing Prayers—end of Service following Table Blessing of Holy Communion

A: Gracious Father, by your almighty Word move us, with all people, to faith in your Son, Jesus Christ, compelling us by the Law to believe in the Gospel. Show us that the eternal promise you gave to Abraham truly is fulfilled in us. Guide us so that daily we may know that we are saved not by works, but only by your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Gracious Father, as you called Abraham, call us by your Holy Spirit to follow where you lead the way. Protect us with your continual presence, and keep us safe wherever we go. Grant us the grace to be born again unto eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Gracious Father, you sent your Son, not to condemn the world, but to save it. Through your Son and by your Spirit, move us to share the Gospel with all people. Guide us always to show compassion so that the lost may be found and unbelievers may come to saving faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Gracious Father, we pray for all in need of your special care. Comfort, heal and restore all who have lost their health. Bring together families that have come apart. Bring your comfort to all who mourn the loss of those who have died. By your Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, bring to all the blessed assurance of eternal life for those who have faith in your Son. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We give you thanks gracious Father for the offering of your Son and the life-giving power of His body and blood. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love and unite the wills of those whom you have fed one heavenly food, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.