

A GIFT FOR YOU! *Emmanuel Lutheran Church* is beginning an annual tradition of providing a Christmas keepsake ornament for each family. We hope these keepsakes will provide cherished memories of your life at *Emmanuel* as you decorate with them each year. Be sure to get yours.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting—Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015
Members of Emmanuel Lutheran will assemble following worship on Jan. 24 for our Annual Meeting. We will be approving Constitution & Bylaw changes, & electing people to the following positions:

Two—2 year council positions (Arne Nelson & Kari Richards have agreed to serve) and One—1 year council position (Don Holtan has agreed to serve).

Nominating Committee for 2015—four people needed (Judy Pearce & Leitha Bothun have agreed to serve)!

Audit Committee for 2015—three people needed (Larry Vomhof, Darald Bothun, & Rich Sunde have agreed to serve)!

Financial Secretary for 2015: Deb Vomhof

Voting Lay-member for NALC Convocations: Lee Pearce;
Alternate: Julie Steffenson.

Enrollment for membership at Emmanuel Lutheran in 2015 is now open. Complete a Discipleship Membership Covenant and give it to Pastor Dave before the Jan. 13 Council Meeting. MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read and study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and give generously.

39 signed covenants have already been received!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
Contact Information: 1815—38th Street NW, Rochester, MN
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The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, January 3, 2015
Christmas II—6 pm

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

**Merry Christmas to You and Yours!
Happy New Year 2015!**

Welcome to tonight's Bell Ringing Service in celebration of the Season of Christmas! Christmas is a Season and not just a day. The Keeping of the Twelve Days is a Tradition that began in 567 AD, the purpose of which was to allow God's people more time to reflect upon the gift of the Incarnation and to celebrate God's presence among us as Emmanuel. The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us full of grace and truth.

Sunday, January 4 from 1-4 p.m.

Christmas Party—Open House at Pastor Dave and Julie's place. Beverages, desserts, snacks & Christmas goodies will be served. In preparation for Epiphany, we'll read the story of the Magi (Matthew 2) and sing some favorite Epiphany Songs. King Cake will be served.

**The January Emmanuel Prayer
Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are
both available in print!**



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Sat. Jan. 3 at 6 pm
Bell Ringing Worship
NO Saturday School
- Sunday, Jan. 4 (1-4 p.m.)
Christmas Open House @ Pastor Dave & Julie's place
- Tues. Jan. 6 at 8 am
Men's Bible Study
Breakfast at Charlie's;
CBL at Canadian
Honkers (12:00 Noon)
- Fri, Jan. 9 (12:00-2pm) - Clergy
Faithfulness Mtg.
- Sat, Jan. 10—Saturday
School @ 5:10pm;
Worship & Baptism of
Marek Konop @ 6pm
- Sat. January 24 @
7:30pm—Annual Mtg.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Weekly fellowship around God's Word at 8 am Tuesdays at Charlie's (1408 2nd. St. SW). Join us in being Evangelical. Invite a friend. Share the Good News! We will meet on Tuesday, January 6 & discuss the readings for the Baptism of our Lord Sunday: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; and Mark 1:4-11.

Saturday School: 5:10 p.m.—Christian Education for all ages on Saturdays prior to Worship! Weekly, youth enjoy singing, a Bible Lesson/Craft and a snack (kid friendly). If anyone has any ideas for a more 'exciting' name for Saturday School—we'd love to hear it! Contact Julie Steffenson for more information or to share your ideas: (507)-206-3048. No Saturday School tonight, January 3). Saturday School will resume on January 10 with the showing of a DVD, "Mario's First Communion". Unleavened bread will also be made for use in worship.

SOUTH EAST MN AREA CHRISTIANS VOLUNTEERS OFFERING A HELPING HAND

Please keep Larry Vomhof and his faithful volunteers in your prayers as they depart to Brook-port-Unionville, Illinois for servant work during the weeks of January 25-February 7, 2015. They will help rebuild after last year's tornadoes. Since 1998, Larry and his group of 25 volunteers have been using their God-given talents & faith to bring hope & healing to communities hit by various forms of natural disaster. If you would like to participate in this servant work, offering your time, money, or prayers, give Larry a call.

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Word and Sacrament is a blessing to you. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever we are praising, proclaiming and practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! Merry Christmas!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org

Council Highlights (Dec. 16): The generosity of our members and supporters has positioned Emmanuel into excellent financial shape as we end our fiscal year. We have used only \$7,400.00 of our Reserves YTD. Oasis Church intends to renew our building lease for 2015 at the same rental fee. A Mother-Daughter event will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Preparations for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 24, following worship, are well underway. Pastor Steffenson's designated housing for 2015 was approved. Kari Richards is assembling a wish list for 2015. Christmas advertisement in the Post-Bulletin has been taken care of. Emmanuel has been invited to attend South Zumbro's council/leadership retreat on Feb. 6-7. Pastor Dave Steffenson will be participating in the Mission Trip to Illinois being organized by Larry Vomhof. January 13 will be our council secretary's final council meeting. We thank Kalo Lockerby for her faithful servant work during 2014. Our next Council Meeting is Tues, Jan. 13, 2015 at 10a.m. Discipleship Membership Covenants will be approved on Jan. 13, 2015.

THANK YOU: Pastor Dave & Julie offer their heartfelt thanks for the generous Christmas gift they received from the members of Emmanuel Lutheran. It continues to be a joy and a blessing to serve this congregation as we grow into the people of faith God intends us to be. May God grant each of you a joy-filled, Christ-centered 2015.

Christmas Eve Offering: \$867.00. Thanks to everyone who gave a gift in support of the North American Lutheran Church Seminary.

Looking Ahead: Emmanuel will host its first Mother-Daughter Event on Sat, May 2, 2015 (11am-2pm). Judy Pearce & friends are organizing this event. Save the Date and bring that special mother or daughter in your life to this special event! Contact Judy if you would like to help with this event.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 18, 2015 (6pm) - Emmanuel Lutheran Choir, Grafton, IA will perform an Easter Cantata at Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, MN, during our evening Worship Service.