

# The Emmanuel Epistle

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

## Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: “What Do You Know?””

What do you know? Is it an inquiry, or an exclamation of surprise? Is it an honest question, or an ah-ha moment? Some people say that it’s not what you know, but who you know. True enough. Knowledge has its limits. The right connection (the WHO you know) can make all the difference. It can open many a door, or window, of opportunity.

On the Eve of Easter this year (Saturday, April 20), Emmanuel Lutheran will be asking and addressing this question: What do you know?! The Faith answer is of course the Resurrection of Jesus! The Truth of our Lord’s resurrection is beyond dispute.

St. Peter, in his Pentecost sermon, confidently proclaims the Truth: “David prophesied, foresaw, spoke about the resurrection of Christ.” “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses” (Acts 2:29-36; 3:15).

Nabeel Qureshi reminds us that “No fewer than eleven passages in the Book of Acts record the early church proclaiming Jesus’ resurrection.” In 1 Corinthians 15, the Resurrection Chapter, St. Paul proclaims the



certainty and necessity of our Lord’s resurrection. “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and so is your faith. ... “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

### Consider the facts:

1) “More than any other matter concerning Jesus, historians remain convinced that Jesus’ death is a fact of history.”

“I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence give! He lives, He lives who once was dead; He lives my ever-living head!”

2) Historians are also convinced that Jesus’ followers came to believe that they had seen the risen Jesus (1 Cor. 15).” The eye witnesses are numerous. Disciples of Jesus were willing to die for the belief that the risen Jesus had appeared to them.

3) Even non-followers of

Christ (Paul, a persecutor of the Way) believed that the risen Jesus had appeared to them. Another key figure who denied Jesus during his lifetime, but followed him after our Lord’s crucifixion & rising was James, the brother of Jesus. “The self-described ‘liberal, modern, secularized’ scholar E.P. Sanders says, ‘That Jesus’ followers, and later Paul, had resurrection experiences is, in my judgment, a fact.’”

What do you know?! The short answer is offered in song: “I Know that My Redeemer Lives!” Samuel Medley wrote the text of this beloved hymn in 1775. Medley was born in Chestnut, England in 1738. He practiced sinful and profane ways until his leg was wounded in a naval battle in 1759. Facing the possibility of amputation, Samuel prayed, asking that he might keep his leg. His prayer was answered, and Samuel Medley repented and lived for the Lord.

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Newsletter  
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### *Food For Thought:*

“If there is no passionate love for Christ at the center of everything, we will only jingle & jangle our way across the world, merely making a noise as we go.”

— William Wilberforce

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## LENT—HOLY WEEK—EASTER

Lenten Worship Services (6pm) & Soup Suppers (5pm) continue on Tuesdays, April 2, & 9. Thanks to all of our soup and bread providers. Fellowship and tasty soup is being enjoyed by all.

### Holy Week Worship Opportunities:

- Saturday—April 13 (6pm)—Holy Week begins with the distribution of Palm Fronds
- Maundy Thursday Worship (April 18 at 6pm) Foot Washing and Holy Communion
- Good Friday Worship (April 19 at 12:00 Noon) St. John's Passion Story; veneration of the cross
- Easter Saturday (April 20) — Easter Egg Hunt at 5:10pm and Easter Worship at 6pm

- Easter Monday (April 22) — Public Reading of the entire New Testament (5am—Midnight)

May God bless all who keep the 40 Days, fasting, praying, & giving alms with repentant hearts. Don't forget to fill your M & M's Minis with coins or cash in support of the Emmanuel Hospitality House.

## MAY 2—Rochester Day of Prayer

THURSDAY EVENING, May 2: from 7:00-8:15pm. Theme: "Love One Another!" Christians in the Rochester area will celebrate God's faithfulness. All Evening activities will be held at Autumn Ridge Church, (3611 Salem Road SW, Rochester).

If you are unable to attend in person, please offer your prayers at home or at work.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR APRIL

### Tuesday, April 2 - Mid-Week Worship (6pm)

Usher: Bob Harms

### Saturday, April 6 - Lent V (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Darald Bothun

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Rich Sunde

Acolyte: Nora Serr

Greeter: Tom Vomhof

### Tuesday, April 9 - Mid-Week Worship (6pm)

Usher: Darald Bothun

Sound: Don Holtan

### Saturday, April 13 - Palms & Passion (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Deb Vomhof

Ushers: Larry Vomhof & Cabe Siebenaler

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

Greeters: Dave & Rachel Carl

### Maundy Thursday, April 18 (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Brock Edwards & Creig Anderson

### Good Friday, April 19 (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Pastor Dave

Usher: Brock Edwards

### Saturday, April 20 - Easter (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Bob Mulvihill & Darald Bothun

Acolyte: Nora Serr

Greeters: Lee & Judy Pearce

### Saturday, April 27 - Easter II (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Lee Pearce

Ushers: Rich Sunde & Brock Edwards

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

Greeters: Dave & Rachel Carl

PIANIST: Karen Salz

Sound: Don Holtan

PIANIST: MarJean Damerval

Communion Assistant: Barb Steffenson

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Leitha Bothun

PIANIST: Karen Salz

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

PIANIST: Beth Daede

Communion Assistant: Judy Caudill

Sound & Coffee: Lee & Judy Pearce

Treats: Deb Vomhof & Judy Caudill

PIANIST: Karen Salz

Communion Assistant: Barb Steffenson

Sound: Don Holtan

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

NO PIANIST

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

Sound: Don Holtan

PIANIST: Annette Engelmann

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Barb Steffenson

PIANIST: Annette Engelmann

Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Julie Edwards

**NOTE:** Julie Steffenson will take care of set up & Janet Sunde & friends will take care of the take down. Pastor Dave will preach at all Worship Services.

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Reading a sermon by Isaac Watts, also led to the conversion of Samuel Medley. Medley penned these words after his conversion to Christianity: “O could I speak the matchless worth, O could I sound the glories forth which in my Savior shine! I'd sing His glorious righteousness, and magnify the wondrous grace, Which made salvation mine...” For a few years, Medley operated a school. Then Pastor Dr. Andrew Gifford urged him to enter the Baptist ministry. By 1772, Medley was preaching in Liverpool. He took a real interest in the souls of seamen and adapted his preaching to them. Evidently his methods were lively, for his meeting-house soon could not hold all the people who crowded in to hear him. It had to be enlarged. Even that solved the problem only temporarily, and a new building had to be constructed.

Medley wrote many other hymns besides the one mentioned above. These appeared in various magazines in his own day and in a collection of poems gathered by his daughter after his death. Among the best-known were “Awake, My Soul, to Joyful Lays,” and “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”. We'll be singing “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” as we celebrate Easter and the resurrection of our Lord on April 20.

When someone says, “What do you know?!” they may be revealing a surprise insight as well as asking an honest question. The response we give, albeit with humility and godly grace, will be a confession of faith. St. Peter writes, “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). [Read Job 19:25-27](#).

**In the KNOW, Pastor Dave**

### **Must See Movie: “Unplanned” — Coming to Theaters March 29**

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. She began as a volunteer and then became one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation. She counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in. But everything changed when she observed an in utero baby fighting for life during an ultrasound-guided abortion. After eight years and 22,000 abortions, she could no longer deny the reality that innocent babies were being put to death on her watch. She was done. This led Abby Johnson to join her former enemies at 40 Days For Life and become one of the most ardent pro-life speakers in America.

Film director [Cary Solomon](#) writes, “We didn't set out to make a ‘Christian’ movie. We set out to make a movie based on what happens in the abortion chamber. We didn't have to lie or propagandize. We just had to tell the truth.” When the MPAA gave this film an R rating it unwittingly acknowledged the degree of violence that comes with killing a human being in the womb. Abby Johnson was deeply involved in Planned Parenthood until God showed her the truth about this evil organization. She left Planned Parenthood and now speaks out on behalf of life. It's a great story that I'm glad to recommend to you.

Coming soon to: **ROCHESTER GALAXY 14 — 4340 MAINE AVE SE, ROCHESTER, MN**

**NOTE:** “They warned me,” said [Ashley Bratcher](#), who played Johnson in the film. “You're probably going to get blacklisted,” producers cautioned. “This could end your career.” But her position on abortion was sealed when she read Johnson's story and was certain it was worth the risk. Days after Bratcher started filming, her mother told her how close she had come to aborting Bratcher decades earlier. Yes, her mom decided against aborting Bratcher – while lying on the abortion clinic table. “It blows my mind that I never knew that about myself,” said Bratcher in tears, “until after I had stepped into this role to...tell one of the greatest pro-life stories of all time.”

**Note:** The actor playing the abortionist for the ultrasound-guided abortion is [Dr. Anthony Levatino](#) who has performed over 1,200 abortions. He is now a powerful voice for life, educating individuals and courts about the actual abortion procedure. Also in the scene is [Julie Ann Wilkinson](#) who was an abortion clinic nurse for years. It wasn't until recently that she had the courage to come forward about her former life.

## Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

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Attn. Pastor Dave Steffenson

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**507-206-3048 (Home)**  
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### SAVE THE DATES!

#### **“Public Reading of the New Testament”**

Monday, April 22 (5am-Midnight)

#### **Musical Gifts in Worship!**

April 27—Children’s Choir, St. John’s

May 4—Emmanuel of Grafton, IA

## **7th Annual Mega Kid’s Camp**

An amazing camp for kids, including Creative Arts, Horses, Cheerleading, First Responders, Weather & Wildlife, Adventure Games, and Sports will be held this summer (Monday, July 29th - Thursday, August 1st, from 8:45am-Noon each day). Youth will learn how to be great teammates through sports stories and Bible stories about Jesus and his team of disciples. Kids will learn about *God’s MEGA love* for them. 300 kids (Preschool age 4-Grade 6) participated in last year’s “Kids Camp”. Location: Century High School. **The cost is only \$30.00 per kid, which includes snacks, T-Shirt, & prizes.** Scholarships are available. Early Bird Registration opens on April 1. Lots of opportunities exist for volunteers. Background checks are required. See Pastor Dave for more information. Register online at [www.evangelum.org](http://www.evangelum.org).

## **Movie: The Pilgrim’s Progress**

Coming to a local theater during Holy Week (April 18 & 20): An animated treasure, based on John Bunyan’s epic masterpiece. In this film viewers join Christian on his epic journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City as the ultimate enemy tries everything in his power to distract Christian from his journey. This is the one movie our kids can’t miss. This film also features an introduction from Kristyn Getty on the importance of imagination in building the faith of our children. Running time: 2 hours, 10 minutes.

## Back Page Stories

### **Madonna Towers Ministry:**

Pastor Dave is leading worship & preaching at the Madonna Towers Skilled Care Chapel twice a month on Wednesdays in 2019. Members of Emmanuel are invited to participate in this ministry to seniors of our community. Our next Worship Services will be on Wednesdays, April 3 & 24 at 1:00pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this ministry.

**Men’s Morning Bible Study:** The men of Emmanuel Lutheran meet on Tuesday mornings (8am) at Oasis Church for Bible Study & fellowship. The men are currently studying the Psalms appointed for weekly worship. Join us each week for conversation and coffee!

**Women’s Bible Study:** The Women have concluded their study on Solomon and his “Song of Songs”. The Women are taking a break during Lent and will return for a spring study on the Book of Esther (April 25-June 6): “Chosen for a Time Such as This!”

### **Church Council Highlights:**

**March 15, 2019:** Budget Expenses exceeded Budget Income by about \$3,400; but we’ve also submitted \$2,250 in benevolences, and our insurance payment for 2019. As of March 15, Emmanuel has received Thrivent Choice Dollars of \$992.00. \$100,000 of Building Funds has been placed into a CD yielding 2.25%. The Audit Comm. reviewed our Insurance and recommended switching to Church Mutual. A Bldg.

Team will be appointed next month. Emmanuel Nametags were discussed. Next Mtg. will be on April 5 @ 1pm.

### **Check it out: “American Gospel: Christ Alone”**

This documentary film explores the core question of Christianity, ‘What is the gospel?’ through the distorting lens of American culture. It critiques the self-exalting health and wealth movement (prosperity gospel) which promises cash & comfort to Christ’s followers, and in so doing bilks the poor, the needy, and the ill. “If your teaching is being promoted by Oprah, that might raise some warning flags.” In the words of theologian Michael Horton, “The gospel isn’t, ‘What would Jesus do?’ Now go & do that. It’s, ‘What has Jesus done?’ Now believe that.” Jesus plus nothing equals everything. There is no other Gospel!