

THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

Pastor's Keyboard: “Discipleship: Emmanuel's Servants”

St. Paul, writing to the Church at Corinth, says, “For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.” We are Emmanuel’s

Servants. We are newborn soldiers of the Crucified, bearing on our brows the seal of Him who died. Billy Graham once said, “The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service.” God did not create, and save us, so that we can “toot our own horns”. We preach Christ!

In the Holy Bible, Moses is described as “A Servant of the LORD”. God describes King David as follows: “This is a man after My own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14 & Acts 13:22). We call our weekly worship, a Church Service. The Rite of Holy Baptism is called the “Service of Holy Baptism”.

We are not ashamed of being called SERVANTS. What does it mean for Christ-Followers to be a servant of the LORD and to have a HEART FOR GOD? Some people reduce the gospel to “justice, service, or random acts of kindness.” There is nothing random about Christian Service. Our service is intentional and deliberate. Justice & public service are necessary fruits of the gospel, but not a replacement for the Gospel.



During a recent trip to Portland, OR, my wife and I visited some friends in Tacoma. Our hosts awoke on a Saturday morning and drove over to a local food bank where they have been serving for many years. The husband is 85 years old and he still cuts meat and serves people in need at the food bank. He and his wife have a heart for God. They preach Jesus Christ as Lord in both word and deed.

*Preach the Gospel
at ALL TIMES ...
and because it is
necessary use
actions and the
WORD!*

Our good Lord has opened many doors for witness and service in recent weeks. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Several servants of Emmanuel participated in the Byron Parade. Some of our members walked or rode the route. A few even lined the streets and cheered us on. No contribution was too small or too great.

On Wednesday, July 26, Emmanuel’s Servants hosted a Laundry Day at Mega Coin Laundry. What fun. For 12 hours (5am-5pm), we provided quarters for washing machines, served goodies, & engaged in holy conversation. We provided quarters for about 117 loads of laundry. God washed away our sins. The least we can do is share the washing with others. After being invited to worship, one customer said, “I think God would like to see me in church.” I added, “I think God always likes to see you. He’s always got His eye on you.”

I hope and pray that some of the people who attended the Byron Parade or washed their clothes on Laundry Day will find their way into worship at a local church, be it Emmanuel or elsewhere. God guarantees the harvest and all we need to do is plant and water the seeds of God’s love. We preach Jesus as Lord, with ourselves as His servants.

Someone commented, “I’m sorry that I can’t help with Laundry Day.” I replied, “Oh but you are helping.”

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Food For Thought:

*“Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in
all the places you can, at
all the times you can, to all
the people you can, as long
as ever you can.”*

— Charles Wesley

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EMMANUEL CHURCH PICNIC

Larry and Deb Vomhof are once again hosting our annual church picnic on Sunday, August 6 at 12:00 Noon. Plan on arriving any time after 11:30am. Larry

& Deb are graciously providing the meats and beverages. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share with your church family. Bring a swimsuit if you plan on swimming. Participants are guaranteed an afternoon of fun & fellowship.

Outdoor Church Lighting

Exterior Lighting will be installed on the main entrance to the Oasis Church. The cost will be less than \$2,500. Members of Emmanuel wishing to make a contribution to this project are invited to do so. Please designate your offering envelope or check accordingly. Thanks for helping the light to shine in the darkness!

SATURDAY SCHOOL & G.I.F.T.

Saturday School for kids, and G.I.F.T. for adults, resumes on Saturday, September 9. G.I.F.T. in the fall will feature a four week study on the Letter of Jude, led by Pastor Waldemar Gies. The Letter of Jude is only 25 verses long, but cites nine different examples of God's judgment from the Old Testament. Jude exhorts his readers to beware of false teachers. Julie Steffenson has some exciting plans for the fall for our young people.

WORSHIP MUSICIAN - update

We are still searching for a Worship Musician. Let Pastor Dave know if you hear of someone who is a gifted pianist, and/or organist, looking for an opportunity to serve in Worship. God has faithfully provided Emmanuel with substitute worship musicians for the summer. Thanks to Karen Salz (Pianist) & Rev. Scott Schilbe (Pipe Organ) who are accompanying our worship services during the month of August. Posting this opening on Craig's List.

Electronic Giving

Members wishing to contribute to Emmanuel Lutheran with automatic giving may do so by contacting Judy Caudill or Deb Vomhof. Offerings are transferred once a month on the 15th of the month. Thanks for supporting the holy work of God at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, MN.



Emmanuel Lutheran received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant to assist us with our National Night Out (NNO) event on Tuesday, August 1.

We will be hosting our event in the Oasis Church parking lot, and moving indoors if the weather gets nasty. Each year, on the first Tuesday of the month, families of our community are encouraged to head outdoors and to rub elbows with their neighbors. When neighbors know neighbors, neighborhoods are stronger and safer.

This year, Emmanuel is one of 430+ groups hosting a NNO event. Approximately 82,000+ people have been invited to attend one or more of these NNO gatherings. Stop by Oasis Church on **Tuesday, August 1 from 5-9pm** for a root beer float, and some great conversation and fun (kid's activities). There will also be a drawing for an amazing door prize (a reading chair provided by Tom Vomhof & HOM Furniture; and a collection of Christian children's books).

We're doing it all in the name of Jesus!

Confirmation Class

The Chronicles of Narnia

Pastor Dave will be leading a class on C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe" this fall during Saturday School. This class will explore the message of Redemption in the name of Jesus. Youth in grades 3-8 are invited to participate. Deb Vomhof will be assisting Pastor Dave with this class.

—Cont. from page 1

This woman donated a \$20.00 in quarters. I told her that everyone needs to serve Emmanuel. That is a non-negotiable. Service is in our Christ-centered DNA; it's in the blood (Baptism & Holy Communion). Jesus said, "As you do it to the least of these, you do it to me." One doesn't need to volunteer their time, talents and treasures at Emmanuel Lutheran Church to be a Servant of Emmanuel (God with Us!) — Jesus. But one does need to serve in the name of Jesus and employ and invest their God-given talents, time, and treasures in His holy work. "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven." When God calls you to serve, say "YES" and do it gladly for His glory and for the good of your neighbor.

The wonderful thing about the servant events that Emmanuel has offered to its members (Byron Parade, Laundry Day, and National Night Out) is that all of the offerings are multi-faceted. One may participate in any of the offerings without being physically present, by purchasing candy, offering prayers, waving from a float, distributing fliers, or donating goodies, quarters, ice cream or root beer. The common denominator is that all participants love Jesus and seek to spread His redeeming love in word and deed. So thank you for serving others in the name of Jesus.

St. Francis is sometimes misquoted. Perhaps you've heard the following quote falsely attributed to St. Francis: "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words." This misquote, along with a misunderstanding of a familiar Christian song — "They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love," has led to false assumptions about the meaning of being a Christian. Granted, actions do sometimes speak louder than words. People are looking for authenticity. The only Bible some people may ever read is your life. What are they reading. I don't want anyone saying, "I can't hear what you are saying, because your actions are speaking too loudly."

But this misquote and song are dangerous when they lead to evangelical inactivity and only good citizenship. What will others know when they see our love? They may never know that we are a Christian. They may never know Jesus as Lord and Savior. They may simply conclude that we have low self esteem and a need to feed our hungry egos, or that we pride ourselves in philanthropy and good citizenship and self-recognition. No! Words are important. Especially THE WORD, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the forgiveness of our sins! People need the Lord.

And so we speak in His holy name. We speak in word and in deed. We testify and bear witness to the Truth. We are not ashamed of Jesus (Luke 9:26). "So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"—Luke 17:10. Emmanuel's Servants! I am and you are!

— A Servant of Emmanuel, Pastor Dave

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR AUGUST — *looking for Acolytes!*

Saturday, August 5 - Pentecost IX (6pm)

Scripture Reader: Vicky Mulvihill

Ushers: Bob Mulvihill & LeRoy Quam

Acolyte: **PENDING**

PIANIST: Karen Salz (WOV — Bread of Life)

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Margaret Quam

Saturday, August 12 - Pentecost X (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Bob Harms & Rich Sunde

Acolyte: **PENDING**

ORGANIST: Rev. Scott Schilbe (LBW Setting II)

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Julie Edwards

Saturday, August 19 - Pentecost XI (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Vicky Mulvihill

Ushers: Bob Mulvihill & LeRoy Quam

Acolyte: **PENDING**

ORGANIST: Rev. Scott Schilbe (LBW Setting II)

Communion Assistant: Jenna Serr

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Judy Caudill & Deb Vomhof

Saturday, August 26 - Pentecost XII (6pm)

Baptism of Jackson Bridger Olson, son of Kevin & Christy Olson; grandson of Arne & Samia Nelson

Scripture Reader: Lee Pearce

Ushers: Matt Serr & Darald Bothun

Acolyte: **PENDING**

PIANIST: Karen Salz (Music Celebration Service)

Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Samia Nelson

NOTE: Julie Steffenson will take care of set up, & Janet Sunde & friends will take care of the take down. Pastor Dave will be our preacher each week. We are indebted to Dr. Peter Dyck, who graciously paid to have the Oasis Organ tuned so that Pastor Scott Schilbe can lead us in worship with the music of a Pipe Organ. The Oasis Organ was last tuned in 2002, and hasn't been played for about a decade.

Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

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Save the Date!

***Saturday School and G.I.F.T.
Rally Day**

**Saturday, September 9
5:10pm**

Byron Parade - July 23

The parade was amazing; especially the Emmanuel Float and the large group of participants. We offer thanks to Jenna Serr for coordinating this event, and to everyone who waved, greeted, handed out candy, shouted out the Emmanuel Cheer, & donated candy! We love Jesus. YES we do! About \$150 worth of candy was distributed. SWEET! Thanks also to LeRoy & Margaret Quam for driving their vehicle and pulling their trailer. We had FUN! Here's hoping that we can have more parade fun in the future!

Emmanuel First Aid Kit

Thanks to Matt Wagner, who has assembled an Emmanuel First Aid Kit for our congregation. One never knows when medical assistance may be needed while attending worship. We are blessed having several members of our church who are in the healthcare profession, ready & able to serve members & guests who may need assistance on any given Saturday night. The First Aid Kit will be placed on the Emmanuel Information Table, located by the hymnal cart. We dedicated this gift to the glory of God on July 29.

Salvation Army: Rock the Red Kettle

Emmanuel Lutheran plans on ringing bells for 62+ hours this fall. A special *bell lanyard* will be given to each Emmanuel bell ringer. It's a cool keepsake. Bell Ringing begins Nov. 18, but we can reserve our days and places of choice, now.

Back Page Stories

Women's Bible Studies: The Afternoon and Evening Women's Bible Study groups have ended their studies and will begin new studies in the fall. Women of the Word, thanks for making God's Word a priority in your lives!

Supermarket Saturday: The next Channel One ministry opportunity is August 19, 2017 (9 am—Noon).

Madonna Towers Ministry: Pastor Dave is leading worship & preaching at the Madonna Towers Skilled Care Chapel twice a month on Wednesdays in 2017. Members of Emmanuel are invited to participate in this ministry to seniors of our community. Our next Worship Services

will be on Wednesdays, August 2 & 16 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this wonderful ministry.

Church Council Highlights -

July 6: Eight Emmanuel households are participating in electronic giving (\$2,415 monthly). Copier costs have increased at Oasis Church - increased to \$.03 for B&W copies and \$.14 per colored copy. *The Waters* is visiting with Emmanuel about hosting monthly services in their Memory Care Unit. Pastor's office space has been eliminated by Oasis. All of our church items are now being stored in the back closet. Outside Lighting has been approved by Oasis and will be installed by Emmanuel. Members of Emmanuel will be given a chance to

help pay for this expense. Nominating Committee will meet on August 14 at 1pm. Oasis Organ has been tuned (payment by Dr. Peter Dyck) and will be used when Pastor Schilbe plays in worship (beginning July 29). Julie Steffenson is putting Emmanuel on FACEBOOK. Servant opportunities are coming our way: Byron Parade, Laundry Day, & National Night Out. Members are encouraged to attend our Church Picnic (Aug. 6) and our Music Celebration Worship (Aug. 26). Next Council Meeting is Aug. 17 at 10am.

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, & give generously.