

The Emmanuel Epistle

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: One Heart Beat Away”

Recently, while preaching in Northwood, Iowa, at Peace Lutheran Church, a member of the congregation gave me a gift. He placed two books in my hands and said that he would love to travel up to Rochester and visit with me about what it means to be the church. I checked my schedule and we put a meeting date on our calendars.

What does it mean to be the Church? The church is the bride of Jesus. The church is the redeemed and sanctified body of Christ. The church is saved and sent. We can’t be the church & not witness to the TRUTH. The church does what it must do: It assembles for worship and departs in peace to love & serve the Lord. We are created, and redeemed for worship & evangelism.

Charles Spurgeon reminds us that “every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor.” I was given two books and recently read them both. Both books are authored by Mark Cahill. Mark has a business degree from Auburn University, where he was an honorable mention Academic All-American in basketball. He played on the same team in college as Charles Barclay.



After a few years in the business world, Mark surrendered his heart to Jesus Christ and asked God to place him where he could touch as many lives as possible. After teaching in a Christian High School, Mark is now a full-time evangelist.

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor.”

—Charles Spurgeon

Mark Cahill wrote a book entitled, “One Thing You Can’t Do In Heaven”. What is that one thing, you ask? In heaven we can’t share our faith with an unbeliever; that’s why we do it here! Three-hundred-million years from now, only one thing will matter, namely, who is in heaven and who is in hell. We are reconciled and reconciling. In Christ Jesus, we are ministers of reconciliation, God making his appeal through us! We are God’s distribution system whereby the lost are

found and the unsaved are saved. St. Paul in a letter to his beloved son in the faith, exhorts Timothy to preach the Word in season and out of season. God expects us to be ready to preach His Word at all times. “As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

How important is sharing the Gospel? Cahill writes, “A friend of mine supports twenty-five missionaries each month. When his finances got tight, he took out a loan to pay the missionaries that month.”

Why don’t we share our faith? Fear of losing a friend or being rejected; not knowing how to do it; or feeling incompetent. Spurgeon wrote, “Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that.” The great missionary Hudson Taylor said, “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.”

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July 2018
Newsletter
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Food For Thought:

“He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.”

—John Tillotson

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Women's Bible Study: "The Psalter"

Women of Emmanuel will launch a new study on the **Book of Psalms** (The Psalter) on Thursdays in the fall. Time and Location are pending, but the kickoff will be Thursday, September 6. The Psalter was Israel's Prayer Book and Hymn Book. Martin Luther saw the imprint of Jesus on every page of the Psalter. Let Pastor Dave know what your favorite psalms are so that we can be sure to study them in this class. Invite a friend!

Byron Parade

Interested in being a part of the Emmanuel Parade Team? The Byron Parade will be held on Sunday, July 22 at 3pm. Last year was FUN! This year will be even better! Contact Jenna Serr if you're interested in participating. Arne Nelson has a flatbed trailer for us to use. Karen Peterson has received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant. Beach balls and airplanes will be distributed along with candy. Donations of candy are welcomed!

National Night Out—Tuesday, August 7

Emmanuel Lutheran received a \$250 Thrivent Action Team grant to assist us with our National Night Out (NNO) event on Tuesday, August 7 from 5:30-7:30pm. Due to the construction on 18th. Ave. (Oasis Church), Emmanuel will be hosting this year's NNO at the home of Pastor Dave & Julie (6330 Fairway Drive NW, Rochester). Root Beer Floats will be served. Bring a lawn chair & rub elbows with people in the Steffenson neighborhood. Serve up some ice cream & root beer, and share the faith of Jesus!

Purchase the Lutheran Study Bible Top 12 Reasons

#12. The Lutheran Study Bible's hardback edition is burgundy, a beautiful color, with a Luther Rose stamped on the front cover. Big "wow" factor. Need we say more?

#11. The Lutheran Study Bible is available in a larger print edition, as well as a regular print edition. Not that our eyes are getting older, type is just getting smaller.

Next Month: Reasons #10 and #9. If you can't wait, contact Pastor Dave & he'll email you all 12 reasons.

Building for the Future

During the month of June, adult members of Emmanuel Lutheran enjoyed fellowship and conversation at 1 of 5 "Dinners for Eight". Thanks is offered to our dinner hosts & all who attended, sharing their vision for Emmanuel's future. The feedback and input will be put into an action plan proposal and presented at our July 29 Emmanuel Picnic and Huddle. A summary of comments from the Dinners for 8 will be available soon!

Emmanuel Potluck Picnic & Huddle Sunday, July 29 (12:00 Noon)

Larry and Deb Vomhof are once again hosting this year's Emmanuel Potluck Picnic at their home. This is our fifth year of gathering as a church family. Each year we enjoy excellent food and fellowship. Bring a dish to share! We'll eat at 12:00 Noon, but participants are welcome to arrive at the Vomhof home any time after 11:30am (11530 Hwy 52 SE, Chatfield, MN). The day will also include an Emmanuel Huddle where a report will be given regarding our recent Dinners for 8 and the "Building for the Future" fund appeal.

6th Annual Mega Kid's Camp

An amazing camp for kids, including Creative Arts, Horses, Legos, and Adventure Games & Sports will be held in July (Monday, July 16th - Thursday, July 19th, from 8:45am-Noon each day) at Century High School. This year's theme is "Team Spirit". Youth (Preschool age 4-Grade 6) will learn how to be great teammates through both sports stories and Bible stories about Jesus and his team of disciples. Cost: \$35.00 per child. More information? Call: 507-289-4817.

GOT Change?

Thanks for offering your change as an investment in the future of Emmanuel. The coins are adding up for the glory of God. We've already exceeded \$350 & we're well on our way to reaching \$500.

Work Week at Oasis Church

August 13-17, replacing windows in the Oasis fellowship hall. If you would like to volunteer to serve, please contact Dave Hammond at #507-271-4726 or DavHam60@gmail.com.

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Cahill isn't timid when it comes to sharing saving faith with unbelievers. One night while witnessing in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Cahill offered a gospel tract to three eighteen-year-old girls from Kentucky. Two accepted, but one declined. Cahill said that he would give the girl \$10 if she would read the tract. She accepted. Mark also engages people with the Gospel by paying for a needy person's groceries, and by placing tracts in the slits of beer cases and twelve packs of soda. He figures that the slit is more than just a carrying handle. How much is a lost soul worth to you? God sent His only Son to the cross to purchase our salvation. What price are we willing to pay? Each of us is just one heart-beat away from eternity. The clock is ticking. Do we really want to spend eternity without a friend or a family member?

St. Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gives the growth." Cahill tells the story of engaging Darryl, the younger brother of Charles Barclay, with the Gospel. Darryl began the conversation: "You know, I had a heart attack a couple of months ago. I had one of those near-death experiences." "What did you see?" Cahill asked. Darryl replied, "I saw Hell. If I had died, I would have gone to Hell." "Do you want to go to Hell?" Cahill asked. "Absolutely not," Darryl said. "Do you want to go to Heaven?" Cahill asked. "Yes I do," Darryl answered. Darryl knew what it takes to go to heaven. There is salvation in no other name than the name of Jesus. We must be covered with His blood. When asked if Darryl wanted to surrender his heart to Jesus, he replied, "No." Why would Darryl say NO to Jesus? Darryl answered, "I like things of the world more than I like the things of God." Cahill said, "Do you realize that you will have no excuse when you stand in front of God on Judgment Day?" "Yes," Darryl replied, "I know." How sad indeed!

We have the only right answer for eternity. We cannot keep it to ourselves. We must tell the world about Jesus. Not all will welcome us and our message, but that's no excuse for remaining silent! Spurgeon writes, "*If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned or un-prayed for.*" Did you know that the New Testament talks twice as much about Hell as it does about Heaven? Jesus spoke of Hell 33 times. Are we talking about Heaven and Hell? If not, why not?

God is continually opening doors for us to be evangelical—sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm grateful for the gifts that Craig Lease, a brother in the Lord, gave me. Two books, by Mark Cahill, that have rekindled within me a deeper desire to share the faith of Jesus with others. If you were to die tonight are you 100% sure of where you will spend eternity? What about your friends and family members? Going to church doesn't make one a Christian anymore than going to McDonald's makes one a hamburger. Share Jesus! (See: Ezekiel 33:7-11; I Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:2-6).

Just one heart beat away...from eternity, Pastor Dave

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR JULY—Pastor Dave preaching each week

Saturday, July 7 - Pentecost VII (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Vicky Mulvihill
Ushers: Bob Mulvihill & Creig Andereson
Acolyte: Mason Edwards

PIANIST: Karen Salz
Communion Assistant: Jenna Serr
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan
Treats: Julie & Barb Steffenson

Saturday, July 14 - Pentecost VIII (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Darald Bothun
Ushers: Darald Bothun & Arne Nelson
Acolyte: Elijah Matzke

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe
Communion Assistant: Leitha Bothun
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan
Treats: Leitha Bothun

Saturday, July 21 - Pentecost IX (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson
Ushers: Larry Vomhof & Joe Vomhof
Acolyte: **PENDING**

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe
Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan
Treats: Judy Caudill & Deb Vomhof

Saturday, July 28 - Pentecost X (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Deb Vomhof
Ushers: Matt Serr, Nora & Scarlett
Acolyte: Emma Matzke

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe
Communion Assistant: Judy Caudill
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan
Treats: Jenna Serr

NOTE: Julie Steffenson will take care of set up, & Janet Sunde & friends will take care of the take down.

Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

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SAVE THE DATES!

*** Emmanuel Church Picnic
Sunday, July 29 at 11:30am**

*** Willow Creek Leadership
Summit at Calvary Evangelical
Free, Rochester (August 9-10)**

Blessed Fourth of July to You and Yours!

On July 4, 1946, John F. Kennedy — then 29 years old, spoke these words: “The informing spirit of the American character has always been a deep religious sense. Throughout the years, down to the present, a devotion to fundamental religious principles has characterized American thought and action.”

For anyone wondering what this had to do with Independence Day, Kennedy made the connection explicit. “Our government was founded on the essential religious idea of integrity of the individual. It was this religious sense which inspired the authors of the Declaration of Independence: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.’” And again in his inaugural address, on Jan. 20, 1961, in Washington, D.C., when he said, “The same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe — the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.”

Amid all the fireworks & barbecue smoke this July 4, consider pausing for a moment to reflect on the One our founding fathers called the Creator. As JFK realized, the American Revolution — & thus the country we live in today — started with God, and with the Founders’ belief in rights that are His gift to us.

From: TIME, “The Theology of the Fourth of July” by Ira Stoll, July 3, 2014.

Back Page Stories

Supermarket Saturday: The next Channel One ministry opportunity is July 18, 2018 (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 2018. Members of Emmanuel are invited to participate in this ministry to seniors of our community. Our next Worship Services will be on Wednesdays, July 11 & 18 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this wonderful ministry.

Church Council Highlights—

June 7: May income was \$257 less than May expenses. 12 households

have made an offering to the “Building for the Future” fund. About \$70,000 has been contributed so far. In the month of July, \$2,250 will be distributed toward Emmanuel Benevolences. Five “Dinners for 8” are happening in June. We have received two new Thrivent Action Team gifts (\$250 each) in support of the Byron Parade and National Night Out. Emmanuel will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, November 17 (9am-5pm) at the HyVee Circle Drive site. Thanks to Waldemar Gies for guest preaching on June 16. Thanks to Julie Peterson for playing the flute in worship. Pastor is led a hymn sing at the Homestead on June 20. Next council meeting will be at Oasis Church on Thursday, July 12 at 10am.

“As Was His Custom”: It was the practice of Jesus to worship and pray. “As was His custom, Jesus taught the crowds”—Mark 10:1. “As was His custom, Jesus went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath”—Lk 4:16. “As was His custom, Jesus, on the night of His betrayal, went to the Mount of Olives to pray”—Lk 22:39. Faith practices! What are our faith practices? What are the habits of our hearts? Pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read/study Scripture, serve others, share the good news, & live/give generously!

Men’s Morning Bible Study: The men of Emmanuel Lutheran meet on Tuesday mornings (8am) at Oasis Church for Bible Study and fellowship. The men are currently studying the Book of Acts & discussing the gift of Witnessing in Daily Life. Join us for conversation and coffee!