

The Emmanuel Epistle

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: Urgency & Opportunity”

The fierce urgency of NOW. There is no time like the present. He or she who hesitates is lost. Strike while the iron is hot. What’s the rush? We are Pentecost people, clothed with power from on high for bearing witness to the TRUTH. We are ignited with flames of fire and Spirit-ed with a mighty rushing wind for the proclamation of the mighty acts of God. There is salvation only in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).

“The fields are white for harvest, but the laborers are few. PRAY therefore that the Lord of the Harvest sends out more laborers into His harvest.” Jesus invites his disciples to earnestly pray lest human grapes die on the vine or crops wither and wilt in the fields. Perishing is serious business. Those who pray must be ready for a call & conscription into the cause of Christ! We’re talking about the harvesting of souls, not just the harvesting of crops in the field.

“For God so loved the world that God gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not perish, but have eternal life.” The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost. Lost people



matter to God. Sinners who repent bring overflowing joy to the angels in heaven.

This month I want to visit with you about 2 important words. Urgency and Opportunity. Urgency is a pressing necessity. Opportunity is a golden moment. A state of emergency means all hands on deck; necessity becomes everyone’s top priority. An opportunity invites the careful observer to act immediately lest a loved one bleed out. When opportunity knocks, open the door!

Of His own mission Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10).

During the month of June, members of Emmanuel are participating in “Dinners for Eight”. The purpose of these dinners is to provide an opportunity for Christ-centered fellowship and

conversation regarding our God-given future as a congregation (see p. 4).

Recognizing the urgency and opportunity of the Diet of Worms (April 18, 1521), Martin Luther gave this reply to Emperor Charles when asked to recant: “Since then your serene Majesty & your Lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed. Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred & contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.”

Jesus was criticized for healing on the Sabbath.

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Newsletter
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Food For Thought:

“When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the March on Washington, he described a “fierce urgency of now.”

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Work Weeks at Oasis Church

June 25-29, building visual fence around dumpster, repair some facial things on the building exterior including some flashing, trim, grounds work, etc. **August 13-17**, replacing windows in fellowship hall. The plan is to work from 8 a.m. until as late as 8 p.m. on these dates.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to serve, please call Dave Hammond at #507-271-4726 or DavHam60@gmail.com.

Bible Study: “The Great Commissions”

Women of Emmanuel are participating in a six session study on “God’s Call to Make Known the Gospel”. The location of this study is at the Bridgemoor Pavilion (Bldg. #5520) of the Homestead Complex (home of Nancy Stanley).

The remaining dates for this study are:

Thursdays at 10am on May 31; and June 7.

Everyone knows the Great Commission, but it isn’t the only Commission found in the Bible. All four Gospels, plus Acts and St. Paul, contain God’s Call to Make Known the Gospel. Resurrection People want to get the WORD out!

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 will be submitting a request for a Thrivent Action Team grant.

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.

Calling all Superheroes

New Life Family Services is hosting their annual “Walk & Run for Life” on Saturday, June 2. To participate, register online at www.nlfs.org.

Saturday School & G.I.F.T.

G.I.F.T. and Saturday School have come to a close for another School Year. Thanks is offered to Julie Steffenson & Lee Pearce for providing leadership for our youth, and adults. **Save the Date: Saturday School and G.I.F.T. resume on Rally Day—Saturday, September 8!**

Worship at Madonna Towers

Twice a month on Wednesdays, Emmanuel members are invited to participate in a ministry to area seniors. Our next Madonna Tower’s Worship Services will be on Wednesdays June 6 and 20 at 1:00 pm. Contact Lee Pearce if you would like to participate in this ministry.

6th Annual Mega Kid’s Camp

An amazing camp for kids, including Creative Arts, Horses, Legos, and Adventure Games & Sports will be held this summer (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. Call Evangel Methodist for registration & more information (507-289-4817).

Summer is on the Horizon!

Graduation is in the air and summer break is almost here. May God grant each of us some restful vacation time. But don’t forget to find some meaningful rest for your soul as well. Summer is not created by God so that wandering sheep may take a break from their Good Shepherd. Summer is an opportunity for God’s people to invest in the gifts of Christian marriage and holy family. Watch for open doors and opportunities to introduce friends and neighbors to Jesus. Invite a friend to join you for worship at Emmanuel. When you’re away from home, visit the Emmanuel Website and listen to a sermon or read the weekly bulletin. Stay connected to the Body of Christ. Blessed summer to you & yours!

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Religious leaders asked, “What’s the rush?” If a person has been crippled for years, what difference will waiting a few more hours make. Jesus’ responds to their hardness of heart and hypocrisy. “The Sabbath was made for man, not vice versa.” When it comes to healing and salvation, Jesus believes that there is “no time like the present” (Luke 13:10-17). In John 9, Jesus heals a man born blind. When asked about “who sinned?” Jesus replies, “Let’s look for the glory of God.” What’s the rush? Jesus says, “We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I AM in the world, I, I AM the Light of the World.” The blind man not only gets his sight, but he also gets saving faith—he sees that Jesus is Lord! He gets saved! Praise God!

St. Paul tells his beloved Timothy, “Never lose your sense of urgency” (2 Tim. 4:2). When Paul tells Timothy to be ready “in season and out of season”, he is talking about KAIROS Time; i.e. opportune time. Scripture tells us to redeem the time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16). What are we doing with our God-given time/lives? Are we living boldly with a sense of urgency and opportunity, or are we potatoing on the couch and moving at a snail’s pace. By urgency I don’t mean frantic desperation or mindless haste, but rather “urgent care” in the name of Jesus.

Repeatedly, in the Bible, we witness KAIROS Time. In John 6, a boy strikes while the iron is hot and offers his sack lunch to Jesus. Two sardines and five barely loaves, blessed by Jesus, becomes a feast for 5000 plus. Jesus conscripted Peter and Andrew, James and John, “to follow and fish for people” and immediately they did so. It wasn’t a career choice, it was a calling. In the Book of Acts, Peter & Paul, Stephen & Philip, see an open door for preaching and they preach. Paul sees an idol on Mars Hill in Athens with the following inscription: “To an Unknown god”. Paul names what is unknown. While Martha serves, Mary recognizes an opportune time for learning, and sits at Jesus’ feet. In Luke 19, Zacchaeus gets a chance to see Jesus. He climbs up a tree and Jesus invites Himself into Zacchaeus’ home. “Today salvation has come into this house!” In Mark 10, a rich man asks Jesus about inheriting eternal life. Jesus loves him and tells him to sell all that he has, and give it to the poor. Then he will have treasure in heaven. The rich man walks away.

Ten Bridesmaids were invited to a wedding (Matthew 24). Five were wise & five were foolish. Missed opportunities makes God weep. Summer is on the horizon. May God grant us grace to be alert to times of urgency & opportunity!

Making the most of the time, and striking while the iron is hot, Pastor Dave

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR JUNE—Pastor Dave preaching each week

Saturday, June 2 - Pentecost II (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Julie Steffenson & Jenna Serr

Saturday, June 9 - Pentecost III (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Lee Pearce

Ushers: Joe Vomhof & Larry Vomhof

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe

Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Judy Pearce

Saturday, June 16 - Pentecost IV (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Larry Vomhof

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Rich Sunde

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe

Communion Assistant: Judy Caudill

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Judy Caudill & Deb Vomhof

Saturday, June 23 - Pentecost V (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Darald Bothun

Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun

Acolyte: Addison Siebenaler

PIANIST: Karen Salz

Communion Assistant: Leitha Bothun

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Jean Wanek

Saturday, June 30 - Pentecost VI (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Vicky Mulvihill

Ushers: Bob Mulvihill & Brock Edwards

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe

Communion Assistant: Vicky Mulvihill

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.

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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)*

Building for the Future—The Journey Continues

Dinners for 6-8: Members of Emmanuel are enjoying mealtime fellowship and conversation regarding the Missional Growth of our congregation. “Why are we here? Where is God taking us?” Our best years are always ahead of us! Thanks to our Dinner Hosts and those attending.

Brunch, Lunch and Dinner Opportunities

Larry & Deb Vomhof—Sunday, June 3 at Noon

Matt & Jenna Serr—Sunday, June 10 at 11:00am

Lee & Judy Pearce—Sunday, June 10 at 11:00am

Pastor Dave & Julie Steffenson—Thurs, June 14 at Noon

Darald & Leitha Bothun—Thursday, June 21 at 6:00pm

Dinners for 8 will allow members of Emmanuel to discuss the following questions: 1) What do you like best about Emmanuel Lutheran? 2) What would you like to know about the Emmanuel Building Fund? 3) What should be Emmanuel’s top 3 priorities for the next 2 years? 4) Why does Emmanuel want to grow?

“The Church is justified, not because her children do not sin, but because they do.”

— G.K. Chesterton

Back Page Stories

Supermarket Saturday: The next Channel One ministry opportunity is June 16, 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, June 6 & 20 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this wonderful ministry.

Church Council Highlights—May 6: The monthly council

meeting followed a mini-retreat of the council and their spouses, hosted at the Vomhof home. Income for the month of May was \$6,740; expenses were \$11,887. Building Fund monies are coming in strong. Thanks! We’ve got almost \$70,000 in cash and pledges. YTD Thrivent Choice Dollars are now \$859. Thirty-two adults have signed up for Dinners for 8. Worship pianists have been secured for the summer months. Thanks to Scott and Karen! Women of Emmanuel are enjoying a “Great Commissions” Bible Study. The Church Council is reading Allen Quist’s book, “The Reason I Believe.” Julie Engle continues to oversee our Care Ministry. Let Julie know if you are aware of someone

who is sick or having surgery. Emmanuel plans on having a float in the Byron Parade (July 24). Church Picnic and Huddle will be at the home of Larry & Deb Vomhof on Sunday, July 29 (11:30am). Next Council Mtg. is Thursday, June 7 at 12:00 Noon.

Women’s Evening Bible Study Group: “Lady Light” is currently not meeting. Women interested in attending an evening Bible Study can visit with Pastor Dave.

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 Book of Acts and discussing the gift of Witnessing in Daily Life. Join us for conversation, coffee and treats. Invite a friend and double your joy!