

The Emmanuel Epistle!

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: Atonement & the Cross”

Repent and believe in the Gospel! It’s the Season of Lent. Disciples journey with Jesus, walking wet, and practicing their baptism in daily living. Justified by faith alone, in Christ alone, we are *made right* with God through the *atonement sacrifice* of our Lord. Question: “Why did Jesus HAVE TO DIE?” Answer: “To make ATONEMENT for our sins.” Amazing Grace!

St. John writes, “In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent *his only Son* into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (*the atoning sacrifice*) for our sins.”—I John 4:9-10.

During the Season of Lent, I am participating in a Six Session Virtual Class from SOLA Publishing. The Zoom class is being led by Pastor Steven King. The class is all about “why Jesus had to die” What is the meaning of the cross? The word ATONEMENT means “AT-ONE-MENT.” In other words, what is separated and divided by sin is united and restored by forgiveness. The cross is necessary. The



death and resurrection of Jesus is necessary for our salvation. In fact, the death of Jesus on the cross is the ONLY WAY we must be saved! God sees to it!

“Christ took our sins and the sins of the whole world as well as the Father’s wrath on His shoulders, and He has drowned them both in Himself so that we are thereby reconciled to God and become completely righteous.”

— Martin Luther

It would be necessary for Jesus to die even if it were for your sin alone or my sin alone. That’s why we are fully responsible for this tragic death. As John Stott wisely observed, “Until you see the cross as that which is done *by you*, you will never appreciate that it is done *for you*.”

Pastor Steven King, in his SOLA Bible Study on the

ATONEMENT, reminds us that a sacrifice is required for our sin. All sin is against God, and therefore satisfaction & payment must be made to God to obtain restoration of a damaged relationship. There are unintentional sins, like parking in a “no parking” spot. One gets a ticket because one is guilty of breaking the law. Satisfaction is made when one pays the fine.

To use another example: If I borrow my neighbor’s tool, then I am expected to return it. If I damage/lose the tool, then satisfaction requires that I replace the tool. In other words, I need to make amends and set things right again. The relationship requires it.

How did ancient Israel understand atonement? Israel lived in a bartering society. Animals and grain were currency. The LORD commanded His people to worship Him and to offer sacrifices. God was not

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Food For Thought:

“We all carry about in our pockets His very nails.”

— Martin Luther

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— John Stott

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LENT: “Real Presence in Unexpected Places”

Wednesday, March 3: “When Lord? Buckets of Shrimp!” (Matthew 15:29-39; & 25:31-46)

Wed, Mar. 10: “Go & Do Likewise” (Luke 10:25-37)

Wednesday, March 17: “It’s a Miracle” (Jn. 2:1-11)

Wednesday, March 24: “God’s Got Plans for YOU!” (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

Eve of Palm Sunday, March 27: “Barefoot on Holy Ground” (Exodus 3:1-15)

Maundy Thursday, Apr. 1: “Servants of the Towel” (John 13:1-20; 34-35) – Preacher: Dallas Groten

Good Friday, April 2: “Dead Man Walking” (Luke 23:32-43)

Eve of Easter, April 3: “The Third Day! Practicing Resurrection & Real Presence” (John 20 & Mark 16)

Men’s Bible Study (In-Person)

The men of Emmanuel Lutheran are currently meeting on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am via email & studying the Scripture Lessons for the upcoming weekend. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like the study notes emailed to you.

WORSHIP FOR March & April 2021 — 6pm

As our Community & Country continues to monitor COVID-19, Emmanuel is adjusting our worship services accordingly. We will continue to exercise caution & care, compassion & faithfulness as we gather for in-person worship. We will offer the **Lord’s Supper on March 13, and April 3 & 24, 2021.**

Emmanuel will continue to offer online worship opportunities via the Emmanuel Facebook Page and the Emmanuel Church Website. Thanks for worshipping with us in person (6pm) and virtually online.

Saturday, March 6 – Lent III: Pianist—Mary Ann Groven

Saturday, March 13 – Lent IV: Pianist—Karen Salz; **Holy Communion** following worship.

Saturday, March 20 – Lent V: Pianist—Mary Ann Groven.

Saturday, March 27 – Eve of Palm Sunday (Passion Week): Pianist—Mary Ann Groven

April 1 – 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship (Guest Preacher: Dallas Groten)—Pianist: Karen Salz

April 2 – 12:00 Noon Good Friday Worship – No Pianist

Saturday, April 3 – Eve of Easter: Pianist—Mary Ann Groven; **Holy Communion** following worship.

Saturday, April 10 – 6pm: Easter II: Pianist: Mary Ann Groven

Saturday, April 17 – 6pm: Easter III: Pianist: Mary Ann Groven

Saturday, April 24 – 6pm: Easter IV: Pianist—Karen Salz; **Holy Communion** following worship.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship: Messages with music are posted on our Emmanuel Face Book Page and Website each week during Lent. Our Lenten Theme this year is “Real Presence in Unexpected Places!”

Thanks to Don Holtan for recording our Services and to Julie Steffenson, Peg Holtan, Lee and Judy Pearce, and Larry & Deb Vomhof for assisting with worship; setup, takedown and sanitization..

We will have 4 in-person studies during the months of March and April: **Wednesdays, March 10 & 24 and April 7 & 21 at 11am.** Location: Oasis Church Worship Space. We will physically distance and wear masks. Bring a Bible & a heart eager to hear God’s Word.

Children’s Ministry

Worship Bags are available for kids each week. We hope children enjoy these resources during worship. Youth are asked to take the bags home with them. We look forward to the time when we can resume in-person Saturday School with our little ones. Until then, we will provide resources for our children and Pastor Dave will continue to post **Children’s Messages** on our Emmanuel Website and Facebook Page.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have Thrivent Products don’t forget to designate your Choice Dollars. Go online at www.thrivent.org or call #1-800-847-4836. Thank You for supporting Emmanuel!

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simply interested in burnt offerings or blood. Sacrifices were not offered to appease an angry, hostile God. Sacrifices were offered in worship because God values the relationship He has with His people. How does one make amends when one has violated God's Law and damaged the relationship one has with God? Offenders (sinners) owe a debt to God, but how does one get payment up to God? Israel's currency, animals and grain, were converted to smoke. Pastor Steve King reminds us that in the Bible, the literal translation of "they offered a sacrifice to God," is actually "they converted it to smoke." In the sacrificial system of worship, God was teaching His people that relationships are valuable.

Atonement is necessary. What happens when one's debt is beyond one's ability to pay? Psalm 49 reminds us that "truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice." Sin is not only our acts of violation against God's LAW, it is also our broken and severed condition. We are in bondage to sin and we cannot free ourselves. The wages of sin is death. When the crime is a capital one, & one is unable to make necessary amends, then what? In such dire straights one must turn to a friend who can pay what they cannot pay. **"What a friend we have in Jesus, ALL our sins and griefs to bear."** The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life. Only death can take care of the debt we owe; only death (the shedding of blood) can satisfy the capital punishment of our sin. God sees to it with the atoning sacrifice of His Son. Death is required to bring a will (Testament) into effect. "Would you be free from the burden of sin? There is power in the Blood!" Jesus MUST die!

God makes the necessary sacrifice on our behalf. Why? Because God loves & values us, and is determined to make ATONEMENT for our sins; to reconcile us with Himself & to restore our relationship. Satisfaction is necessary and required; and God satisfies! God sees to it on the cross. God pays our debt for us. God doesn't owe us, but God values us! "At the Lamb's high feast we sing; praise to our victorious King, who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side; praise we him whose love divine, gives his sacred blood for wine, gives his body for the feast, *Christ the victim, Christ the priest.*" Jesus, as High Priest, offers the ONCE and FOR ALL atoning sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9). Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Sacrifice teaches us value. A sacrifice is "something we give up in the present for the sake of a better future." The cross is necessary because God values us and is determined to make AT-ONE-MENT. Jesus had to die because my sin is a capital crime.

In the Cross of Christ we glory, Pastor Dave

Thank You Julie!

Soup to Go! Soup to Share! We are grateful for the homemade soup that Julie Steffenson provided for our Ash Wednesday Service.

The Potato with Bacon, and the Chicken Noodle were tasty indeed; enjoyed by many!



Salvation Army Food Pantry

During the 7 Saturdays in Lent, friends and members of Emmanuel are donating

soup in support of the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Some households have a goal of 40 cans of soup, 1 for each day of Lent; others, a goal of 7, one for each Saturday in Lent.

Easter Monday (April 5): In-Home Bible Reading

Each year, on Easter Monday, Emmanuel Lutheran publicly reads the entire N.T. (all 27 Books, New Testament) in celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

Last year was a virtual tag-team reading of the N.T. due to COVID-19. This year will be our 6th year in a row of reading the N.T. on Easter Monday. We are inviting participants to select a Book of the New Testament and to commit to reading it out loud (in their home) anytime on Easter Monday. The Jewish Day begins in the evening at 6pm. That means participants can read their chosen Book of the N.T. anytime from 6pm on Easter night (April 4) through Midnight on April 5. Contact Pastor Dave indicating the N.T. Book you wish to read.



Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

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Attn. Pastor Dave Steffenson

Contact Information:

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SAVE THE DATES!

Easter Monday, April 5, 2021
Virtual Reading of the New Testament

Emmanuel Annual Meeting Date:
Saturday, January 29, 2022

Happy Birthday!
Emmanuel turns 10 on Feb. 25, 2022!

Emmanuel Implementation Team!

Steady and faithful servant work is being done by our “Building for the Future” Committee. They are meeting on **February 28** and discussing ideas for signage on the Church Property: They will soon be making recommendations to the Church Council.

Watch for the posting of an Emmanuel Huddle date where an update will be given, and where you can share your dreams and ideas for the church land. Questions will also be addressed. The next Implementation Meeting will be on **Sunday, March 21**.

Mission and Charge: Responsibilities of this Committee...

- Seeking God’s will for His Church, His Land & His People;
 - Developing a church site master plan;
 - Soliciting input and feedback from church members;
- Identifying, prioritizing, and implementing necessary tasks in a timely manner; and
- Presenting all proposals to the Council and Congregation for approval.

ZOOM Presentation: "For Life Live"

Human Trafficking Prevention: Righteousness Works!

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 7pm Central Time

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Mark Steiner, who served as a chaplain for 30 years in the U.S. Navy. Looking at Mt. 25, Dr. Steiner will describe the situation faced by victims of human trafficking. The righteous described in Matthew 25 are those who believe in Christ & perform righteous works. Righteousness Works!



Back Page Stories

Church Council Highlights February 3, 2021-Zoom Mtg.

Budget Income for the month of January was \$11,062.86; Expenses were \$8,094.30. Audit Committee reviewed finances on Sat, Jan 9th, 2021. Everything was found to be in order. \$400.00 has been sent into the NALC Seminary in support of its work. Pastor Dave shared worship plans for the Season of Lent. The date for the next Annual Meeting is Jan. 29, 2022. Emmanuel member contact information has been updated. Three Thrivent action team grants have been received: (SOHL—Pastor Steffenson; Lenten Soup to Go—Julie Steffenson; & SEMAC—Joe Vomhof). The Care Team is distributing goodies on Valentine’s Day Weekend. Council

Installation will take place on Feb 27 in worship. Pastor submitted our Congregational Report to the NALC. Bible Saturday (September 25) with a Gideon Presentation. The next Zoom Council Meeting is Friday, March 5, 2021 @ 2pm.

Madonna Towers Ministry

Our bi-monthly worship services in the Skilled Care Chapel of Madonna Towers is currently suspended until further notice due to COVID-19.

THANKS!

Pastor Dave & Julie offer thanks to the members & many friends of Emmanuel for all of their kind thoughts, cards, fervent prayers & acts of love during these days of living with pancreatic cancer. God loves you and so do we!

BAPTISM: Walking Wet

During the 40 days of Lent, we remember our baptism into the death & resurrection of Jesus. Daily we practice repentance and the forgiveness of our sins. This year on Wednesdays during Lent, we are participating in virtual worship via our Emmanuel Facebook page. Each week we will hear stories of how God reveals Himself as saving grace and real presence in unexpected places. Thanks for joining us!

Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, & they were all filled with the Holy Spirit & continued to speak the Word of God with boldness.”

Thanks for the Store-bought Soup for the Salvation Army!