

THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship—for all the Saints”

“For all the saints, who from their labors rest. All who by faith before the world confessed; your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia. Alleluia!”

November 1 is “All Saints Day”. Let’s begin with a question: Who are the saints? Spiritually speaking when we say saints we are not referring to the St. Paul Saints, a Minnesota baseball team. When we say saints we are not referring to a bar and grill located on 2nd. Street in Rochester, MN (Saints on 2nd.).

The word “saint” comes from the Greek word *hagios*, which means “consecrated to God, holy, sacred, pious.” It is almost always used in the plural, “saints.” Only once, out of the 68 uses of *hagios* in the Bible is the word found in the singular; Philippians 4:21 ... “Greet every saint in Christ Jesus...” Even in that one instance, a plurality of saints is in view: “...every saint...”

Saints confess the name of Jesus. In the Apostles’ Creed, we confess that “we believe in the Communion of Saints”. Saints are by definition



never solitary. They are a group of believers set apart for the Lord & His Kingdom. Scripturally speaking, the “saints” are the baptized body of Christ, Christians, the church. All Christians are considered saints. All Christians are saints—and at the same time are called to be saints. Saints: verbs & nouns.

“Saints: Who we are & who we shall be, in Christ Jesus! Holy, not holier than Thou.”

What makes us saints? Grace! Who makes us saints? Jesus makes us saints; His blood and righteousness. He shares His holiness with us. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We are portable worship spaces; consecrated sanctuaries. God doesn't live in us because we are holy. Rather, we are holy because God lives in us. Saints are the beloved children of God. When

Christ appears, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. Therefore, in the meantime we purify ourselves as He is pure. We live into our guaranteed future. Saints are disciples, caked in the dust of Rabbi Jesus.

Heaven is the home of the saints. Heaven is not a geographic location. It is the eternal presence of the LORD. Saints have their names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Our inheritance is secure. Saints worship God in the present and forever in eternity. We don’t venerate the saints, canonize the saints, or even pray to the saints. It is enough for us to remember the saints & to be saints. Saints give thanks to God for the gift of forgiveness. Saints are forgiven sinners.

“Oh when the saints, go marching in, oh when the saints go marching in. O Lord I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in.”

— Pastor Dave

November 2015
Newsletter
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Issue 11

Food For Thought:

“I have so much to do today that I should spend the first three hours in prayer.”

— Martin Luther

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ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION

A priest told the children of his parish they could come trick – or – treating at the rectory, but only if they dressed up as a saint.

So a group arrived on the eve of All Saints Day: one dressed as St. Anthony, one as St. Joseph, another in a St. Clair costume, and then a child dressed as a dog. “My boy,” exclaimed the priest, “you were supposed to come as a saint.” “I did”, replied the child. “I’m St. Bernard.”

RING ANY BELLS?

We’re looking forward to our ministry partnership with the Salvation Army’s annual Red Kettle Bell-Ringing campaign November 14 – December 24 with Emmanuel Lutheran’s goal of forty volunteer hours.

Here are a few FACTS to consider when trying to decide whether to ‘ring-or-not-to-ring’:

For every TWO hours you ring the bells at the Red Kettle, you:

- raise \$100 (on average) versus virtually \$0.00 from an unstaffed kettle
- serve up to 80 people a nutritious meal
- assist two clients in need of emergency dental work
- provide a family with two nights of lodging
- keep the doors open & lights on at the Rochester SA Good Samaritan Health Clinic, Caring Partners Adult Day Program, Castleview Apartments, Food Shelf and many more assistance programs
- bring awareness to more than 30 local programs that help provide basic needs for people
- daily and Sunday ministry to all who will come

That’s a pretty impressive return for our investment! Please sign-up today for a shift at a Red Kettle. Let Lee Pearce know when, where, and how long you’d like to ring. Sites are literally all-over town (and surrounding communities, too). Bring the kids and grandkids and make it a family affair, as Emmanuel Lutheran ministers to all. Thanks for your help and caring! We’ve got 12 hours already committed!

SATURDAY SCHOOL

We are off and running. Julie is teaching the youth stories about Jesus. Before you know it we will be in the Season of Advent, preparing for Christmas.

We have a special Christmas Eve Celebration planned for December 24. We will worship at 4 pm. Youth will reenact the Nativity Scene. In the months ahead, our youth will be singing in worship, under the direction of MarJean. In 2016, a special unit on the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed will be taught. We meet each week at 5:10 p.m. in the Oasis Fellowship Hall. Thanks for making Christian Education a priority in your family life!

VETERANS RECOGNITION

Monday, November 9

Emmanuel Lutheran is recognizing a select group of Veterans on November 9 at the VA Outpatient Clinic in Rochester. Veterans receive outpatient medical and mental health care at this facility. Thank you cards and personal words of appreciation will be offered to our Veterans. Beverages and cookies will also be provided for the patients to enjoy. Each hand written “thank you” note will contain a \$5.00 Culver’s gift card. This ministry is being funded in part by a Thrivent Action Team gift of \$250.00, and a \$50.00 donation from Culver’s.

SEMAC 2016

Larry Vomhof will be taking a crew of Christ-centered servants to Brookport-Unionville, IL in 2016. Participants will be offering compassion in the name of Jesus and restoration of hope to people devastated by natural disaster. SEMAC stands for “South East Minnesota Area Christians”. The two weeks of service will be **February 7-20, 2016**. Deb Vomhof & Judy Caudill will be serving as cooks. If you would like to participate (1 or 2 weeks) in this mission trip, contact Larry or Deb for more information. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Perhaps you want to make this mission trip a part of your Lenten discipline/discipleship?

Thank you for your many expressions of love during Pastor Appreciation Month!

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. 2016 Emmanuel Discipleship Covenants will be available for signing on December 5.

“THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP”

“O Give Thanks to the Lord for He is good!” On Wed, November 25, members of Emmanuel and their friends will gather for Thanksgiving Worship at 6 pm at Oasis Church. Holy Communion will also be celebrated. The offering received will support the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. Following worship, pie will be served in the Oasis Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dessert to share. Oasis members will be our guests for worship & dessert.

PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Each month, on the 15th day of the month, we pray for an area school. During the month of November we are praying for Jefferson Elementary School and delivering goodies as an expression of our love & gratitude (Monday, November 16). Thanks for keeping students and their families, teachers and administrators, in your prayers! This ministry is supported by an Action Team gift from Thrivent.

Celebrating Christmas & the Birth of our Savior Jesus!

The Feast of St. Nicholas - Saturday, December 5, 2015

9:00 am-12:00 Noon—RSVP #507-206-3048

- Learn about the real Santa
- Get a free book: The Legend of St. Nicholas
- Receive a keepsake photo with St. Nick
- Enjoy refreshments & holiday music



www.emmanuelofrochester.org



“Seen on Facebook”

"How many do you worship?" asked the pastor from India at his first U. S. Senior Pastor's Conference.

"1700", smiled the 35 year old.

"3200", smiled the 45 year old.

"5600", smiled the 55 year old.

"Wow. That's a lot of gods" said the pastor from India.

One reader added this comment: “How do we measure our ministry? Butts, Bucks, & Buildings.”

Are we DOING Church or BEING Church?

Council Resignation

President Kari Richards has resigned from Church Council. We thank Kari for her servant leadership & her many sacrifices. We pray God’s blessings on her during this time of transition. Lee Pearce will assume the role of Council President.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Samaritan’s Purse invites you to fill a shoebox with expressions of Christ’s love, and to return it to Oasis Church by Sunday, November 15. Needy children worldwide will receive the message of hope, the gift of Christmas and the prayers of God’s people. Watch the weekly bulletin for more info.

CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

Completed & distributed! Yay God! Thanks to Debbie Vomhof, Leitha Bothum, Julie Steffenson & David Carl for working on this ministry project. Participating households will each receive a complimentary copy of the Emmanuel Picture Directory.

Nominating Committee

Is God calling you to serve in leadership at Emmanuel Lutheran? Opportunities: Church Council, Audit Committee, Voting Delegates, or Nominating Committee.

Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

1815—38th Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Attn. Pastor Dave Steffenson

Contact Information:
253-302-9845 (Mobile)
507-206-3048 (Home)
pastordavesteffenson@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas With Emmanuel!

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord on Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. at Oasis Church. Invite your family and friends to join us for Christmas Eve Worship.

ALL SAINTS DAY: “Hymn Sing”

Rev. Jack & Virginia Miller are inviting members of Emmanuel to a hymn fest on Sunday, November 1 at 3:00 p.m. Participants will celebrate in song the “Feast of All Saints” and the gift of being set apart, consecrated & made holy for the glory of God. Location: “Old Stone Church, a.k.a. the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church on Bridge Street in Millville, Minnesota. The congregation was organized in 1869 by Swedish settlers, but the community could not afford to build a church until 1874. They quarried buff-colored Oneota stone from the land of one of the members, & the interior furnishings (pews and pulpit) were handmade. The total cost of materials was \$802.60. The Swedish families were replaced by Norwegian families, who used the church until 1914. It was then used by other groups until 1967. The Millville Historical Association purchased the building in the late 1970s. It was added to the National Register in 1989.

Evening Women’s Bible Study: A new Bible Study is beginning for women of Emmanuel and their friends, who work during the day and desire an opportunity for growing in God’s Word during the evening. Beginning on Thursday, November 19, Katie Siebenaler will be hosting a monthly study in her home (12827 Hwy 52 S.E. Chatfield, MN). Participants will meet once a month from 6:30-7:30 pm. Pastor Dave will be leading this study. The topic of discussion will be “*Famous Women in the Word of God*”. If you would like to share a ride out to Katie’s place, give Pastor Dave a call (507-206-3048).

Back Page Stories

Men’s Bible Study Breakfast:

Weekly fellowship around God’s Word at 8am Tuesdays at Charlie’s (1408 2nd. St. SW). Join us in being Evangelical. Invite a friend.

Supermarket Saturday: The next Channel One opportunity is Nov. 21, 2015 (9 am—Noon).

Afternoon Women’s Bible

Study: Sessions 5 & 6 of the afternoon women’s study will be held on Wednesdays, November 4 & 18. We are studying famous Women in the Old Testament.

Council Highlights (October 13):

Profit & Loss, Sept. 2015: \$6,885 income, \$7,286 Expenses, \$401 used from reserves. Offerings of \$10,000

for October, November & December needed to meet 2015 budget. 2015 Discipleship Covenants for Don and Jean Wanek, & Bob and Marcia Harms were approved. Three upcoming events were highlighted: Prayer Walk, Veterans Appreciation, and Bell Ringing. Special Council Mtg. scheduled to collate Mission Driven Roadmap will be on Nov. 11.

Thank You: Julie Steffenson has sewn two new pulpit paraments for our Worship Space. The red parament is for Reformation & Pentecost. The white parament with handprints is for All Saints and Thanksgiving. The handprints represent blessing and service.

Looking Ahead: Christ the King Celebration. The scepter & crown are symbols of a king’s authority. In

Christian tradition, they represent Christ’s triumphant rule over all. The final Sunday of the liturgical year – November 22 this year – is Christ the King Sunday, when we celebrate this very thing. Hebrews 1:8 echoing the book of Psalms reads, “Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.” Emmanuel begins a new church year on Advent I, Sunday, November 29. Happy New Year!

Feast of Saint Nicholas Celebration:

Saturday, December 5 (9am-12:00 noon). Learn the real story of Santa Claus, get a picture taken with St. Nick, and go home with a keepsake storybook (one per household). Supplies are limited. Reservations are required. Saturday School & Worship on December 5 will both celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas.