

# The Emmanuel Epistle

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

## Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: “Thy WORD!”

“God’s Word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever; to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor. Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant, while time shall last, your church may hold it fast; throughout all generations.”

Psalm 119 is the longest of the biblical psalms. It follows six Hallel psalms. Psalm 119 is a meditation on the gift of God’s Word. Martin Luther prized this psalm so highly that he would not take the whole world in exchange for one leaf of it. SCRIPTURE is mentioned in at least 171 of the 176 verses of this psalm.

In Psalm 119, eight words repeatedly describe God’s Word. As you meditate on this psalm watch for the following words: **law, testimonies precepts, statues, commandments, rules, word and promises.** All eight words are found in stanzas 41-48, 57-64, 73-80, 81-88, & 129-136.

Psalm 119 is an acrostic, structured by the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, where each line of each 8 line stanza begins with the same letter. By using an acrostic, the Psalmist shows



how God’s holy Word commands every part of language & life (from A-Z).

The Psalmist testifies to the power of God’s Word at work in his life. God’s Word comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable, bringing about confession. Throughout the day, from sunrise to sunset, throughout the watches of the night, the Psalmist is engaged in ceaseless meditation. “God’s Word is a lamp to his feet and a light to his path”—vs. 105.

*“Jesus is the WORD of God and the Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”*

—Martin Luther

From birth to death, the Psalmist regularly praises God (vs. 164). The number seven suggests completion. This verse, Luther notes, is foundational for the practice of seven worship services in a day: Matins, Prime, Terce, Sext, Nones, Vespers, & Compline.

The Psalmist stores up and hides God’s Word in his heart, because it is a priceless, heavenly treasure. God’s Word is the Pearl of Great Price. It is sweeter than honey and better than thousands of gold & silver pieces. Fortunate is the one whose fortune is the LORD. The steadfast love of the LORD is our eternal hope! Verse 94 was a key verse for Luther: “I Am Yours; Save Me!”—a motto from John Staupitz.

In August, I attended a conference on the Psalter. The presenter was a gifted scholar from Australia. He encouraged us to visualize the psalms and not just think about them. He offered a comment that initially caught me off guard. He said, “We bring our experiences to the psalms.” During lunch, I sat with the presenter and his wife. I asked him about his comment. My concern was that people are always bringing their experiences to the Bible and then using

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**November 2018  
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## Food For Thought:

*“The best teacher is the one who does not bring his meaning to the Scripture, but gets his meaning from the Scripture.”*

—Martin Luther

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## Thanksgiving Eve Worship—November 21

Emmanuel will be hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at the Madonna Towers Main Chapel. The residents of Madonna Towers will be our guests. Worship will begin with Gathering Music at 6pm and end with the Benediction at 6:50pm. A Dessert Social will be served after worship. Members of Emmanuel are invited to bring a dessert to share with our dear friends at Madonna Tower's. Desserts need to be store-bought. This Community Worship Event has received a Thrivent Action Team grant, compliments of Karen Peterson. **Save the Date** and join us for fellowship and Thanksgiving!

### “Building for the Future”

YTD we've collected \$800 in our **Change Jar**. We hope to reach \$1,000 by New Year's Day. Recently, Emmanuel received two large gifts from our sister congregation in Laurens, IA, totaling \$5,500. God's mercies are new every morning: Great Is Thy Faithfulness!

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR NOVEMBER—Pastor Dave preaching

### Saturday, November 3 - All Saints (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Larry Vomhof  
Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Creig Anderson  
Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

### Saturday, November 10 - Pentecost 25 (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Darald Bothun  
Ushers: Rich Sunde & Arne Nelson  
Acolyte: Addison Siebenaler

### Saturday, November 17 - Pentecost 26 (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Vicky Mulvihill  
Ushers: Brock Edwards & LeRoy Quam  
Acolyte: Mason Edwards

### Wednesday, Nov. 21 - Thanksgiving Eve (6pm)

Scripture Reader: Julie Steffenson  
Usher: Darald Bothun

Dessert Social: Emmanuel Church Family and Thrivent Action Team Grant

### Saturday, November 24 - Christ the King (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Lee Pearce  
Ushers: Matt Serr & Nora  
Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe (LBW Liturgy)  
Communion Assistant: Katie Siebnaler  
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan  
Treats: Katie Siebenaler

PIANIST: MarJean Damerval (WOV, Bread of Life)  
Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson  
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan  
Treats: Jenna Serr & Nora and Scarlett

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe (LBW Liturgy)  
Communion Assistant: Judy Caudill  
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan  
Treats: Julie Edwards & Family

PIANIST: Karen Salz (Thanksgiving Liturgy)  
Greeters: Lee & Judy Pearce  
Treats Coordinator: Deb Vomhof

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe (LBW Liturgy)  
Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce  
Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan  
Treats: Judy Pearce

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

## Emmanuel is Rock'n!

The **Salvation Army's "Rock the Red Kettle"** bell ringing campaign kicks-off on Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>! **Emmanuel** volunteers will handle the festivities at the Hy-Vee on West Circle Drive from 9am til 5pm, as we have the past two years. The **Red Kettle** bell ringing campaign provides the funding for more than 30 local programs that assist people in meeting their spiritual needs as well as physical requirements in areas such as medical, health training, child care, housing, food, adult day programs, addiction rehab, and job training, just to name a few. Sign-up now for your favorite time slot and door location, as we staff **Red Kettles** at two of the store entrances. Many of us have made this a family tradition with kids and grandchildren joining in this great event. We're done at 5 o'clock so we can get to church on time. This is a great prelude to worship Saturday evening and to Thanksgiving. See Lee Pearce to request your time slot now.

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their experiences to interpret the Scriptures. I said to the presenter, “Correct me if I’m wrong, but I hear you saying that we bring our experiences to the Bible so that the Bible can interpret our experiences, not so that our experiences can interpret the Bible.” “That is correct,” he replied. Martin Luther offers a similar comment: “The best teacher is the one who does not bring his meaning to the Scripture, but gets his meaning from the Scripture.” This is the difference between Exegesis and Eisegesis; two conflicting approaches in Bible study.

Exegesis is the exposition or explanation of a Biblical text based on a careful, objective analysis. The word exegesis literally means “to lead out of.” That means that the interpreter is led to his conclusions by following the text. Scripture gives the interpreter the interpretation, not vice versa. Eisegesis is the interpretation of a passage based on a subjective, non-analytical reading. The word eisegesis literally means “to lead into,” which means the interpreter injects their own ideas into the text, making it mean whatever they want. Exegesis allows us to agree with the Bible; eisegesis seeks to force the Bible to agree with us. How one approaches the Scriptures is essential. Do we reverently bow before Christ and His Word, or do we lord over the Word and bend it to suit our own biases and sinful desires?

Psalm 119 is the longest hymn in the Bible. This psalm answers an important question: “How can a follower of Jesus keep walking in the WAY of the LORD?” Answer: “By guarding one’s WAY in accordance with God’s holy and precious Word.” Lord, we are yours! Save us! Thanks be to God!

Meditating on God’s Word, Pastor Dave

### **Remembering All Saints!**

On Saturday, November 3, Emmanuel Lutheran will be celebrating the Feast of All Saints. Please submit names of loved ones you would like named & remembered in our prayers; saints who have died and been raised to new life during the past 12 months.

### **Daylight Savings Time Ends!**

**Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour at 2am on All Saints Sunday, November 4.**

### **Blessings & Best Wishes**

Rev. Scott Schilbe has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle, IL.

A coffee hour reception will be served on Saturday, December 15 to say goodbye to our dear friend and worship pianist. “God be with you Pastor Schilbe as the Lord leads you and your family into new opportunities of service. Thanks for sharing your time and talents with the people of Emmanuel Lutheran!”

### **Worship Musicians**

Emmanuel is looking for gifted musicians interested in accompanying worship services.

### **Prayer Walk & Potluck**

Each year, servants of Emmanuel walk around our Oasis neighborhood, offering prayers for our city. Please join us on Sunday, October 28 for our sixth annual prayer walk and potluck. We’ll meet at the South Entrance of the Oasis Church at 3pm. Please park on 38th Street. Following our prayer walk, a potluck meal will be enjoyed at 5pm at Pastor Dave and Julie’s home. Sloppy Joes and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish or a dessert to share.

### **Women’s Bible Study: “The Psalter”**

Women of Emmanuel are studying the **Book of Psalms** (The Psalter), meeting twice a month on Thursdays at Oasis Church at 1pm. The Book of Psalms was Israel’s Prayer Book & Hymn Book. Martin Luther saw the imprint of Jesus on every page & verse of the Psalter. November 15 (Psalms 90-92. Future Dates: December 6 & 13.

### **7th Annual Mega Kid’s Camp—2019**

An amazing camp for kids, including Creative Arts, Legos, Horses, and Adventure Games & Sports will be held during the week of July 29-August 1, 2019. **SAVE THE DATE!** Youth (Preschool age 4-Grade 6) will learn how to be great teammates through both sports stories and Bible stories about Jesus & his team of disciples.

## Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

3819 - 18th Ave. NW,  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Attn. Pastor Dave Steffenson

### Contact Information:

253-302-9845 (Mobile)

507-206-3048 (Home)

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### SAVE THE DATES!

**“Emmanuel Huddle”**—Saturday,  
November 10 following worship.

**“Children’s Nativity”**—Saturday,  
December 22 at 6pm.

## The Lutheran Study Bible : Top 12 Reasons to Purchase

This month: Reasons #4 & #3.

#4. The Lutheran Study Bible contains an extensive introduction on how to read & understand the Bible, with reading plans, Luther’s Catechism, and all kinds of other helps. But wait, there’s more!

#3. The Lutheran Study Bible contains many comments and insights from the entire history of the Christian Church: Early Church, Middle Ages, Reformation Era, contemporary theologians, drawing you into the rich conversation around God’s Word that has been going on for millennia. Pull up a chair, listen in & join the conversation.

Next Month: Reasons #2 and #1. If you can’t wait, contact Pastor Dave & he’ll email you all 12 reasons.

### Blessed Thanksgiving to You and Yours!

“The feeling of joy begins in the action of thanksgiving.” (Ann Voskamp, One Thousand Gifts).

As you and your family prepare for the Feast of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to meditate on the following Psalms: 100, 107, 118, 136 & 138. St. Paul writes, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” One of the words for the Lord’s Supper is Eucharist (*Eucharistia* is Greek for thanksgiving).

## Back Page Stories

### 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, Nov. 7 at 1:00pm & Nov. 21 at 6pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this ministry.

**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 Psalms appointed for weekly worship. Join us each week for conversation and coffee!

### Church Council Highlights—

**October 5:** Income for September was \$11,089. Expenses were \$9,337. Recruitment for the Emmanuel Care Team continues. A file cabinet of choral music needs a new home. Two memorial gifts in honor of Deb Brown were given to the Emmanuel Hospitality Fund (\$230.00). Dave Carl is coordinating a CPR/First Aid class to be held on October 25. The Reformation Prayer Walk & Potluck will be held on Sunday, October 28. Red Kettle kickoff is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 17 (9-5). Budgeting for 2019 is currently underway. Judy Pearce is coordinating the delivery of cookies to three area Hospitality sites. Nominating Committee needs to meet. Deb Vomhof is coordinating the Thanksgiving Eve Dessert Social

at Madonna Towers. Don Holtan is purchasing Emmanuel pens with a Thrivent Action Team grant. Our next Emmanuel Huddle will take place on Saturday, November 10 following worship. Christmas Eve Worship will be at 9pm. This year’s theme is: “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”. The Emmanuel Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, January 26 at 3:30pm—to be followed by a potluck dinner at 4:45pm and worship at 6pm. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, November 8 at 10am.

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