

# THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

## Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship—God’s Instruments”

We are pencils in the hand of a writing God. We do small things with great love. Baptized into the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit, we are instruments of God’s pardon & peace.

A prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi (13th Century) contains these words: *“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”*

Memorable words. “Lord make me an instrument of your peace.” Discipleship words. “We have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.” What



instrument do you play? Are you playing it for self glory or for the glory of God? An instrument is a tool, an implement, a device, a gadget, or an utensil. Instruments are not ends unto themselves. They serve God and witness to His glory. “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Heavenly Father.”

***“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”***  
— Mother Teresa

A shepherd boy, by the name of David, held God-given instruments in his hands. With a sling & five smooth stones, he slayed the giant Goliath. With a lyre, he comforted the troubled spirit of Saul. What instruments has God placed in your servant hands? We, individually & collectively,

are instruments of God’s purpose & praise; fashioned for His glory!

The prophet Isaiah (10:15) writes, “Does an ax take over from the one who swings it? Does a saw act more important than the one sawing? As if a shovel did its shoveling by using the one who dug the ditch! As if a hammer used the carpenter to pound nails!”

In Isaiah, God uses the pictures of an ax, a saw, a shovel and a hammer to illustrate the obvious. The instrument should never take credit for what the worker accomplishes with it. When a surgeon uses a scalpel, the scalpel can’t take credit for what the surgeon does. So it is with us. We are God’s instruments of praise and good works. God holds us in His hands & places tools in our hands for the fulfillment of His will. Instruments give credit to whom credit is due.

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October 2015  
Newsletter  
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### ***Food For Thought:***

*“I’m a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”*

— Mother Teresa

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## RING 'EM LOUD (and Often!)

### BELL RINGING—Salvation Army

Silver Bells...Silver Bells. No, no, no! Those aren't the lilting sounds of a Christmas song. Those are the sounds of the Salvation Army bells! Ring 'em loud!

Before you know it, it'll be time to start our annual bell ringing ministry partnership with the Salvation Army. The Red Kettle campaign will kick-off soon with sign-up beginning this month (October). This is a critical part of the Salvation Army's funding for innumerable local programs, & our help is desperately needed to help staff the familiar Red Kettles during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

Emmanuel Lutheran's 2015 goal is to ring the bells for 40 hours, and with everyone's help, we can do that easily! Sign-up individually, as groups, or as families. Don't forget to include the children & grandchildren. Everyone can help. Be as creative as you like during your 'shift' by playing and singing Christmas carols or just 'ring the bells' and greet people, reminding them of God's gift to us (Jesus) & the real reason for the season.

To sign-up, please contact Lee Pearce at church, by phone (753-9983), or by e-mail at LeePeers@aol.com with the dates, times, and preferred locations for your rewarding experience.

### "October Baby" Movie Night & Discussion

A college freshman's world is rocked when she learns she is the adopted survivor of a failed abortion. Embarking on a journey to discover her hidden past, Hannah discovers the true power of forgiveness, and learns that every life is beautiful. "October Baby" will be shown on Tuesday, October 6 (6:00-9:30pm) at the St. James Coffee House (4156 18th Ave. NW; across from Pax Christi Church). Group Discussion will be led by Rev. Fred Morck.

### 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.

## SEMACE 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. SEMACE 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?

## SATURDAY SCHOOL

We hope you are ready for another fun year of Saturday School. We kicked off our second year on Rally Day, Saturday, September 19th. This year we will be learning about stories & people in the Bible, and using games, skits, music and crafts to reinforce the message. A special unit on the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed will also be offered during the year. 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. Interested in helping out with this ministry opportunity? Call Julie Steffenson at 507-206-3048.

## Church Pictorial Directory

Picture This! We're on the home stretch. There's still time to submit a photo. Thanks to Debbie Vomhof, Leitha Bothum, Julie Steffenson & David Carl for working on this ministry project.

## **“Shepherds for the Sheep” Clergy Appreciation**

What? It can't be. No! It's not October already is it? Yep. The nights are taking on a light chill and there's a full schedule of football games. It's time to complete the end-of-season maintenance on the lawnmower and begrudgingly change the oil and sparkplug in the snow thrower (yeah, I said the “S” word!). And if you had any doubt, the stores are putting up Christmas displays already.

But, there's something else important in October. It's Pastor Appreciation month. You didn't forget, did you? Pastor Appreciation Month is a time when congregations throughout Christianity set aside a time to ‘officially’ say Thank You to our pastors and pastoral teams. Those teams include the dedicated spouses of the pastors.

The roles of the pastor are many and varied, but one of the most important aspects is to build-up the people of God's church & to equip them with the knowledge & inspiration to do His work, to be disciples. The devil doesn't want us to believe the wonderful “Good News” and he does everything he can to divert us from focusing on our mission of being disciples. So, God gives us His called shepherds to help prepare and protect His sheep, His followers. Our pastors lead us, the sheep, to feed in the green pastures of God's Word, the Holy Bible, to nourish our faith and to teach us His word.

A stated requirement for a called and ordained servant of Word and Sacrament is to be able to teach so that we learn the whole counsel of God which is His instruction for our lives in Him, guidance for our families and to hold fast to His Word in our worldview and opinions. We read in I Timothy 3:2, “An overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, and able to teach.”

God's greatest desire is for each person to believe in His Son Jesus and have eternal life in heaven. True pastors increase our faith as we hear both Law and Gospel, and help us keep our spiritual lives on the straight highway, not in the ditches, edifying the body of Christ.

So, please take a moment to say an ‘official’ Thank You to Pastor Dave and to Julie for all the work they do, not just ministering to us at Emmanuel, but to all of Rochester, every day!

And remember too, we don't have to wait until October to do it.

—Written with Appreciation, An Emmanuel Member

—*pastor's keyboard, continued from page 1...*

My dear friends at Olivet Lutheran in La Crosse, WI are “Serving up Suds and Hot Air!” They are putting their faith in to action. They are instruments in the hands of a loving God; small pencils leaded with the great love of Jesus. They refer to their holy work as “Servolution”. On September 19, disciples of Jesus from Olivet Lutheran served the La Crosse Community by providing free washers & dryers at 5 local laundromats; preloaded with quarters. The blessing of clean clothes helps to create a feeling of confidence and provide a financial need for those who use laundromats. Good works do not make a Christian good, but a Christian does good works. Martin Luther reminds us that “we are saved by faith alone, but if faith is alone, it is not faith.”

The Psalter ends with a tenfold hallelujah (Psalm 150). Everything that has breath is an instrument of praise. In heaven and on earth, instruments are employed in an endless service of worship, praising God for His mighty deeds and excellent greatness. Trumpets, lutes, harps, tambourines, strings, pipes, and loud clashing cymbals are offering themselves in service to the LORD, who fashioned them for His glory. Praise the LORD!

Disciples are God's instruments, seeking not a pat on the back or the commendation of others, but always, & only, the praise of God. Jesus says, “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’” (Luke 17:10) We may be the only Bible some folks ever read. May it be a good read! “Lord make us instruments of your pardon, presence and peace.”

*A small pencil in the hands of the Master, Pastor Dave*

## **PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

Each month, on the 15th day of the month, we pray for an area school. During the month of October we are praying for Hoover and Churchill Elementary schools and delivering goodies as an expression of our love & gratitude (Monday, October 19). Thanks for keeping students and their families, teachers and administrators in your prayers! This ministry is supported by an Action Team gift from Thrivent.

*Pastor Dave is taking Monday as his weekly day off. Please call for emergencies only.  
Thanks for your partnership in ministry!*

## 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.

### Third Annual Prayer Walk and Potluck

On Reformation Sunday, October 25 we will gather to pray for our community. Following our prayer walk we will enjoy fellowship & a potluck meal. We also plan on showing the movie, “Do You Believe?” Watch for more details.

#### Women’s Gathering at the home of Judy Pearce:

Monday, Oct. 12 @ 10 a.m. Experiencing community & discussing Ministry Ideas. We hope you can join us!  
Address: 657 Main Street East, Hammond, MN. 55991

## 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 October 17, 2015 (9 am—Noon).

**Women of the Word!** The Women’s Bible Study has resumed for the Fall. Sessions 3 & 4 of the afternoon study will be held on Wednesdays, October 7 & 21. We are studying famous Women in the Old Testament. An evening option may also be offered if there are interested women. Contact Pastor Steffenson if you are interested in hosting or participating in an evening study option.

### Council Highlights (Sept. 15):

YTD Financial Report — \$18,336 of Reserves has been used. Notification of Thrivent Choice Dollars YTD for Emmanuel — \$1692.

Emmanuel Mission Roadmaps are due Saturday, October 3. Congregational input is desired. Pictures are being assembled for the first Emmanuel Picture Directory.

Save the Date: Our Annual Meeting has been set for Saturday, Jan. 30. The next Council Meeting is Tuesday, October 13 at 10am.

**Thank You:** Emmanuel supported the Gideons with a gift of \$450.00. Thanks for your generosity!

**Hearts at Home North Central Women’s Conference:** Moms Night Out + Saturday Conference

(Two Main Sessions + 4 Workshops of your choice + Lunch) = The Best Weekend Ever!! When? Friday and Saturday, November 13-14, at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. Cost: \$98.00 until October 21. Four \$25 scholarships are available for the first four women who register.

**Looking Ahead:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social on Wednesday, November 25 at 6 p.m. Give thanks to God and enjoy piece of pie with a dear friend. Feast of Saint Nicholas Celebration on Saturday, December 5. Learn the real story of Santa Claus, get a picture taken with St. Nick, and go home with a keepsake storybook.

**Congratulations!** Offering thanks to God for the gift of Jonah Cafferty, infant son of Rachel & T.J. & brother of Micah. Jonah was born on 9/20/15.