

The Emmanuel Epistle

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: “Preaching the Gospel”

Timothy George, Dean of Beeson Divinity School, writes, “At the heart of the Christian faith stands a Savior who was a preacher. ‘And Jesus came preaching’ (Mark 1:14). Jesus once declared that the very purpose of his mission on earth was to preach: ‘I must proclaim the Good News of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent,’ and he kept on preaching ...” (Luke 4:43-44a).

The WORD becomes flesh when God speaks. A new creation is given birth when the Gospel is heard, by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Connections. “It’s not what you know, but who you know.” Right connections can make all the difference in the world, & in eternity. Right connections can bring blessing and abundant life. Wrong connections can bring heartache and death. St. Paul writes, “In Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive”—I Cor. 15:22. “The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”—Romans 6:23. Connections matter! Grace alone! Faith alone! Scripture alone.



Christ alone!

One of my favorite hymns bespeaks the TRUTH: “In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live!”

“The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.”

—John Calvin

Yes in Christ alone, my hope—your hope—our hope is found! In Christ alone! This is the Gospel, the WORD of God which must be preached! How

beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news.

St. Paul, unashamedly, preached Christ crucified. We, unapologetically, preach the folly of the cross. Each year in the month of October, Lutherans remember & celebrate the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther posted the 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany on the eve of All Saints, October 31, 1517.

False teaching had crept into the institutional church and Luther refused to turn a blind eye to sin and evil. Bad teaching & preaching will inevitably lead to bad, corrupt, & immoral living. Believing and behaving are connected; inseparable.

Tetzel & others were selling indulgences as though salvation could be purchased apart from the merits of Christ. Tetzel preached bad faith: “A coin in the coffer rings & a soul from purgatory springs.” In Thesis 62, Luther reminds —Continued on page 3

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Food For Thought:

“The Holy Scriptures call Christians saints and the people of God. It’s a pity that it’s forgotten that we are saints, for to forget this is to forget Christ.”

—Martin Luther

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Thanksgiving Eve Worship—November 21

This year, Emmanuel Lutheran will be hosting its Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at the Madonna Tower's Main Chapel. The residents of Madonna Tower's will be our guests. Worship will begin with Gathering Music at 6pm and end with the Benediction at 6:50pm. Following worship a Dessert Social will be served. Members of Emmanuel are invited to bring a desert to share with our dear friends at Madonna Tower's. Desserts must be store-bought.

This Community Worship Event has received a Thrivent Action Team grant, complements of Karen Peterson. Save the Date and join us in sharing the love of Jesus!

“Building for the Future”

Presently, we have received almost \$85,000 in pledges and gifts for the Emmanuel Building Fund. Thanks is offered to everyone who has invested in God's future for Emmanuel. The **Change Jar** is also adding up. We've already filled the jar once and now we're working on our second \$500 collection of coins & bills.

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

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. **Dates:** Oct. 4 & 25; Nov. 1 & 15; Dec. 6 & 13. The Psalter was Israel's Prayer Book & Hymn Book. Martin Luther saw the imprint of Jesus on every page & verse of the Psalter. On October 4 we'll be looking at Psalms 22 and 23 (Lament & Trust). Invite a friend!

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. Please bring a dish or a dessert to share. We hope you can join us!

Saturday School & G.I.F.T.

Children are learning Bible Stories reading C.S. Lewis' “The Last Battle”. Adults are reading and discussing Mark Cahill's book—One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven. We are Growing In Faith Together. Thanks is offered to those who teach and those who learn. People need the Lord.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR OCTOBER—Pastor Dave preaching

Saturday, October 6 - Pentecost 20 (6pm)

Scripture Reader: Jenna Serr

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Bob Mulvihill

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

PIANIST: Karen Salz (Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy)

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Samia Nelson & Marcia Harms

Saturday, October 13 - Pentecost 21 (6pm)

Scripture Reader: Deb Vomhof

Ushers: Tom Vomhof & Cabe Siebenaler

Acolyte: Addison Siebenaler

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe (Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy)

Communion Assistant: Deb Vomhof

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Jean Wanek

Saturday, October 20 - Pentecost 22 (6pm)

Scripture Reader: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Lary Vomhof & Joe Vomhof

Acolyte: **PENDING**

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe (Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy)

Communion Assistant: Judy Caudill

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Judy Pearce

Saturday, October 27 - Reformation (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Lee Pearce

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Brock Edwards

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

PIANIST: Scott Schilbe (LBW Liturgy)

Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Sound & Coffee: Don & Peg Holtan

Treats: Barb Steffenson

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

—Continued from page 1

us that the true treasure of the church is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Given the Reformation's central focus on the gospel, it would be a mistake to celebrate the Reformation in any other way than by proclaiming the gospel.

The particularity of the Gospel is what Luther referred to as the "FOR YOU"-ness of Jesus. "For our sake God made Him to be sin, who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Welcome to the new creation. Faith comes by hearing and what is heard comes through the preaching of Christ alone. If we confess with our mouths that Jesus is LORD and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved! Luther writes, to proclaim the gospel, therefore, is to bestow Christ with all his work on the believer. It is to invite the person to believe that "Christ himself, with his deeds and suffering, belongs to you," in a manner that is utterly dependable, "as if you had done it yourself; indeed as if you were Christ himself" (Luther's Works 35:119).

Connections matter. Connections make all the difference. The devil is the father of all lies. The devil masquerades himself as an angel of light. Jesus is the TRUTH, the only begotten Son of the Father. Jesus declares, "The Father and I are one." Question: "Who's your father?" Connections matter. Jesus is the True Vine. We are his branches. "Apart from me," Jesus preaches, "You can do nothing." Abiding, remaining in Jesus produces abundant fruit to the glory of God. Abiding means keeping the commandments of God, joyful living and answered prayer.

Connections matter. "It's not what you know, but who you know." Knowing Jesus is more than an accumulation of cognitive information. Knowing Jesus is a daily death and resurrection relationship; daily dying and rising in the good news of forgiveness in the name of Jesus. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we might walk in them." "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." Connections matter. Jesus is our righteousness. His grace is our gospel gait! Thanks for preaching the good news!

Staying Connected, Pastor Dave

Guest Musicians for Special Services of Worship at Emmanuel

One of the priorities identified in our recent Emmanuel visioning process is: "Growing the worship life of our congregation without compromising our core values & beliefs". We are fortunate to have friends, and friends of friends, who are gifted musicians eager to share the love of Jesus in worship through the offering of their musical talent. On Feast Days (Reformation, All Saints, Christmas, etc.) it is wonderful to have added gifts of music in worship. If you, or someone you know, are interested in sharing a musical offering, or a providing funding for such gifts of music, please contact Pastor.

SAVE the DATES!

- Wednesday, November 21 (6pm): Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Madonna Towers (Main Chapel) followed by a Dessert Social!
- Christmas Eve 2019: Worship with Communion & Candlelight at 9pm. **Theme**: "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory!"
- The 12 Days of Christmas Bell Ringing Worship Service will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 6pm.
- 2019 SEMAC Mission Trip is February 10-22 in Houston, Texas. See newly designed brochure!
- Ash Wednesday: March 6, 2019 at 6pm.
- Easter Monday Public Reading of the entire New Testament: April 22, 2019.
- Mega Kids Camp: Monday-Thursday—July 29-August 1, 2019
- Emmanuel Picnic: Home of Larry & Deb Vomhof: August 4, 2019.

Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester, Minnesota

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Attn. Pastor Dave Steffenson

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SAVE THE DATE!

“Rock the Red Kettle”

*The Salvation Army kickoff: Bell
Ringing at the HyVee North (Circle
Drive) on Saturday, November 17
from 9am-5pm at both doors!
Emmanuel is Rocking!*

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.

Thank You

Pastor Dave and Julie offer their gratitude and thanksgiving to all who blessed them with gifts of money, cards and prayers as they celebrated 5 years of Ministry at Emmanuel of Rochester, and 35 years of Ordained Ministry. We thank our God in all our remembrance of you! Blessings!

Congregational Care Team

In order to maintain a strong sense of community—a warm and welcoming environment where everyone is valued & cared for, Emmanuel is assembling a Care Ministry Team. Interested? Contact members of the Church Council for more information. A summary of suggested duties for this care ministry may be found on the Emmanuel Resource Table. Thanks for keeping Christ-centered compassion and care in the center of our life together!

Sympathies are Extended to the family & Friends of Deb Brown. Deb went home to be with Jesus on Sept. 9. Please keep Jim, Jessica, Jenny & Andrew in your prayers.

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, October 3 & 17 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this wonderful ministry.

Church Council Highlights—

September 7: Year to Date Budget income is about \$8,700 less than Budget expenses. Keep in mind however that most of our Benevolences for 2018 have already been submitted. We’ve received \$958 in Thrivent

Choice Dollars. Pass the word around: Oasis & Emmanuel have a new mailing address. We’re ready for Rally Day—Sept. 8. Pastor will be on vacation in Washington from October 8-12. A SEMAC brochure has been produced. Revised guidelines for the Emmanuel Care Ministry has been approved. Choral music stored at MarJean’s house needs a new location. Looking into video-taping our worship services. Next council meeting: Oct. 5 (10am).

Men’s Morning Bible Study:

The men of Emmanuel Lutheran meet on Tuesday mornings (8am) at Oasis Church for Bible Study and fellowship. The men are currently studying the Psalms appointed for weekly worship. Join us each week for conversation and coffee!

The Lutheran Study Bible

Top 12 Reasons to PURCHASE

This month: Reasons #6 & #5.

#6. The Lutheran Study Bible has over 120 diagrams and charts, prepared exclusively for this Bible to highlight & underscore key concepts, terms, teachings, events and people in the Bible. We know you like pictures. We do too.

#5. The Lutheran Study Bible has over 220 thematic articles offering discussions on a wide variety of topics, issues and concerns dealt with in the Bible. Faithfully Lutheran, practical and relevant: can’t beat that combination.

Next Month: Reasons #4 and #3. If you can’t wait, contact Pastor Dave & he’ll email you all 12 reasons.