
THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

Pastor's Keyboard: “Discipleship - All Are Welcome”

You're welcome! Good manners when someone says, “Thank you”. Jesus reminds the apostles that “Whoever welcomes them, welcomes Him, and the One who sent Him. Whoever rejects them, rejects Him, and the One who sent Him.” Hospitality, or the lack there of, is a package deal. “As you do it to the lest of these, you do it unto GOD.”

In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism (LBW p. 125), the congregation offers hospitality to the newly baptized: *“We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.”*

Stating the obvious. I was visiting with someone recently. He said, “To be completely honest with you....” I found myself thinking, “Why did he say that? Is he telling me that most of the time he is being only partially honest wit me? Is he telling me that I need to question the reliability of his spoken words, which may or may not be filled



with lies and half-truths?”

Recently, I drove by a Roman Catholic Church and saw the sign on the front lawn which read, *“a welcoming Catholic Community”*. I thought to myself, “Why are so many churches leading with a “hospitality” disclosure?” Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't it assumed that to be a church or a Christian, one must be welcoming?

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13:2

Truth be told, it actually frightens me when I hear preachers and church members shouting, *“All are welcome here!”* Of course all are welcome. Does that mean that other churches aren't welcom-

ing if they don't flaunt or advertise their hospitality? The proof is in the pudding. “By their fruits you shall know them.” Experience usually reveals whether preaching is actually practiced, & creed is more than just teeth. Personally, I don't need to hear someone tell me that they are welcoming, hospitable, inclusive and tolerant. I need someone to show me; to actually live and practice the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not just wear a name tag.

The Gospel is ... “Jesus Christ, crucified & risen for the forgiveness of our sins”. Hospitality is one of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Time will tell. Let me show you. “You're Welcome!” It's our job description.

Martin Luther was a servant of hospitality. The 42-year-old former monk married Katharina von Bora, a 26-year-old former nun. They moved into the dilapidated

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Food For Thought:

“God put fingers on our hand for the money to slide through them so He can give us more. Whatever a person gives away, God will reimburse.”

— Martin Luther

INSIDE AND BACK PAGE NEWS

<i>Save the Dates</i>	2
<i>The GARMS Family</i>	2
<i>Worship Servants</i>	2
<i>Charlie's New Location!</i>	3
<i>The Lord's Supper</i>	4
<i>SELAH - Pause</i>	4
<i>Back Page Stories “New Life Family Services”</i>	4

— Continued on page 3

SAVE THE DATES!

- Sunday, August 7 (12:00 Noon): Emmanuel Picnic at Vomhof's place. Vomhofs are providing the meats and buns and lemonade. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share.
- Saturday, August 13 (6pm): Music Celebration Worship Service! Invite a Friend!
- Saturday, August 27 (3pm): All Church Potluck Picnic with Oasis & Iglesia Churches.
- Saturday, September 10 (5:10pm): Saturday School Rally Day.
- Saturday, September 24—Emmanuel Huddle following our Worship Service. We'll discuss our mutual ministry, and prepare for our Five Year Anniversary on February 25, 2017.
- Saturday, October 8: Gary Froiland and the Gideon's (6pm). Freewill offering will be received.
- Sunday, October 16 (7pm): The GARMS Family Concert—Southern Gospel Music. Freewill offering will be received.
- Sunday, October 30 (3pm) Third Annual Reformation Sunday Prayer Walk. Potluck follows at Pastor Dave & Julie's house.
- Friday, November 4: Boy's Night Out Banquet.
- Christmas Worship: Saturday, December 24 (2pm) Christmas Eve Children's Service; and Sunday, December 25 (10am) Christmas Day Service.
- Saturday, February 25, 2017—Emmanuel Lutheran Fifth Anniversary Celebration!

PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Each month, on the 15th day of the month, we pray for an area school. During the month of August we are praying for all area schools. Thanks for keeping students & their families, teachers & administrators, in your prayers! This ministry is supported by an Action Team gift from Thrivent.

Hospital Policy

If you are hospitalized in Rochester or know of someone who is, please contact Pastor Dave & let him know about the hospitalization. Mayo Clinic no longer supplies patient lists for pastors to view & we are dependent upon hearing from our members about their hospitalization. We want to be a support for you, so let us know if you need care at the hospital.

A Life Well-Lived!

Connie Lindeman died in the year 2000 from cancer. The following clipping was pinned to the bulletin board above the coffee pot in her kitchen: *"When I reach the end of my days, a moment or two from now, I must look backward on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses & land and stocks & bonds. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people, and an earnest attempt to serve God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense."*

THE GARMS FAMILY CONCERT

David and Kris Garms, with six of their children, are traveling full time throughout the country spreading the love of Jesus. This home-schooled family loves to work as a team, & their joy as a family overflows as they sing and play together to the glory of God. They weave Southern Gospel, gospel bluegrass, and their own unique musical style to create a memorable concert experience. Each song is an adventure as they combine beautiful harmonies and solid instrumentation, utilizing over 20 instruments on stage. Emmanuel Lutheran will be hosting this amazing family & musical performance at Oasis Church on Sunday, October 16. The concert will be held at 7:00 pm and will be followed by a dessert fellowship. **Save the date!** You'll be blessed and encouraged, moved to laughter and tears, and your soul will be directed heavenward by this anointed family. CD's will be available for purchase and a freewill offering will be received in support of the Garms Family Ministry. Special thanks is offered to Larry & Deb Vomhof, who have made this musical opportunity possible.

— Continued from page 1 ...

Black Cloister, which had once housed forty monks, including Luther—who had lived there for 14 years. On the night of the Luther's public wedding ceremony & celebration, Andreas Karlstadt - a frequent adversary of Luther's - showed up at their door. He had fled the Peasants' War & was seeking shelter. Martin invited him to hide at the Black Cloister. Karlstadt stayed for 8 more weeks! Luther's house was filled with the sound of children. Luther & Katie had 6 children in their first 9 years of marriage. A few years into their marriage, they took into their home the 6 children of Luther's sister. They also raised Katherine's nephew. Martin often told them stories, taught them songs & games, played melodies on his lute, & instructed them in the faith. University students often ate & boarded there. Luther's letters make reference to a steady stream of guests either coming or going. There was a waiting list for those who wanted to room & board with the Luthers—no doubt because of the stimulating theological education & conversation; also because for many years the Luthers didn't charge anyone for room & board (Justin Taylor, "Hospitality & Generosity in the Luther Home" -2012).

Abraham served over-the-top hospitality to three men who visited his tent (Genesis 18). He washed their feet, and fed them calf, curds, milk and some bread (three *seahs* = 5+ gallons of flour). Martha, in Luke 10, hosted Jesus in her home. Only the best for the LORD! We learn and live hospitality when we sit at the feet of Jesus & keep company with Christ who is Lord of welcome! We love others best when we love Jesus most. Jewish homes had guest rooms. When we purchased our current home, we needed two extra rooms; one for my office and one for guests. Jesus is our Host & we are His guests. All are welcome here. It goes without saying!

A Resident of God's Hospitality, Pastor Dave

Men's Bible Study Breakfast - NEW LOCATION: Oasis Church

For the past three years, Emmanuel Men have gathered weekly on Tuesday mornings to enjoy fellowship and Bible Study. We have been keeping company with Jesus & each other, while enjoying good food at Charlie's.

Ginger has been our waitress. Our study has been the weekly lectionary readings for worship. Charlie is moving to a new location at the end of August. After soliciting input from participants, we've decided to relocate our Men's Bible Study to Oasis Church beginning on Tuesday, August 30. A simple Continental Breakfast will be served each Tuesday morning at 8am. We'll begin our study promptly at 8:15am and be finished by 9:15am. Our new study in September will be the Book of Revelation. Please join us!

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR AUGUST - Liturgy: Lutheran Book of Worship

Saturday, August 6 - Pentecost XII (6pm)

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Sharon Matzke

Ushers: Darald Bothun & Larry Vomhof

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

Communion Assistant: Darald Bothun

Treats: Samia Nelson

Saturday, August 13 - Pentecost XIII (6pm) - Music Celebration (Pastor at NALC Convocation)

Worship Leader, Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Bob Harms & Brock Edwards, Mason & Gavin

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

Treats: Marcia Harms

Saturday, August 20 - Pentecost XIV (6pm) - Baptism of Jonah Cafferty

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Vicky Mulvihill

Ushers: Bob Mulvihill & LeRoy Quam

Acolyte: Elijah Matzke

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Treats: Judy Pearce

Saturday, August 27 - Pentecost XV: (6pm)

Scripture Reader, Prayers, and Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun

Acolyte: Cabe Siebenaler

Treats: Deb Vomhof

NOTE: MarJean Damerval will be our pianist. Julie Steffenson will take care of set up & Janet Sunde & friends will take care of the take down. Peg Holtan will provide the coffee & Don Holtan will be our sound technician each week.

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Save the Date!

Jonah Thomas Cafferty, born to Rachel & T. J. Cafferty, will be baptized into the Body of Christ on August 20. His brother Micah will assist Pastor Dave.

Holy Communion: Peace Lutheran, Northwood, IA

Holy Communion is open to those who have been baptized “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; have a sincere faith in Jesus as their Lord & Savior; and believe that Jesus is truly present in, with, & under the bread and wine - His body and blood that are “given and shed for you for the remission of sins,” as Luther states in the Small Catechism. Children who have received Communion instruction, are welcome to receive the Lord’s Supper. The Lutheran church believes that both elements - bread and wine are to be offered to communicants. However, because of health issues, some people cannot eat bread, & others cannot drink wine. If this is the case, be assured that when you receive either the bread or wine you have received Christ. Therefore, while both bread & wine is encouraged, it is not required. If you or your children are in need of Communion Instruction, contact Pastor Dave.

SELAH: Time to Pause

The Hebrew word *selah* (pronounced “sayla”) occurs 74 times in the Bible – all but three of them in Psalms. Biblical scholars are not sure what it means, but a few ideas have predominated: a musical interlude, a break to ponder or weigh the passage just shared, an affirmation akin to AMEN. Some scholars, noting connections in Hebrew to the word for “lift up,” suggest *selah* may indicate a place to stop and exalt the Lord. The website GotQuestions.org advises that we combine these possible meanings: “When we see the word in a psalm or in Habakkuk 3, we should pause to carefully weigh the meaning of what we have just read or heard, lifting up our hearts in praise to God for His great truths.” In the words of Psalm 24:10, “Who is the king of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory! *Selah*”

Back Page Stories

Men’s Bible Study Breakfast:

Weekly fellowship around God’s Word at 8am Tuesdays at Charlie’s until August 30. Join us in being Evangelical. Invite a friend.

Supermarket Saturday: The next Channel One opportunity is August 20, 2016 (9 am—Noon).

Women’s Bible Studies: The Afternoon & Evening Women’s Bible Study groups have ended their current studies and will meet again, starting in September. Study: Revelation!

Madonna Towers Ministry:

Pastor Dave is leading worship & preaching at the Madonna Towers

Skilled Care Chapel on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Members of Emmanuel are invited to participate in this ministry to seniors of our community. Our next Worship Services will be on Wednesdays, August 3 & 17 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to help with this wonderful ministry.

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.

All lives matter! “New Life Family Services” is celebrating 43 years of Service. Fill a baby bottle in the next 43 days to help celebrate

their anniversary. Your gift will ensure that “New Life” can continue to provide free services for years to come. “New Life” serves over 500 clients every month. Choose to fill your bottle with pennies (\$6 = one pack of wipes), nickels (\$24 = one box of diapers), quarters (\$48 = pregnancy test), or dollars (\$103 = ultrasound). For many women, an unplanned pregnancy tips them over the edge into crisis. Often times they are barely surviving as they are facing homelessness, unstable relationships, unemployment, multiple children that they are currently parenting, and experiencing overall instability in their life. Your bottle will provide immediate practical help to women & families served by “New Life”.