

# The Emmanuel Epistle!

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

## Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: Sharing God’s Peace!”

St. Paul writes, “But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ; for He Himself is our peace!” Jesus is the Peace Child.

In the setting of worship, we ambassadors of peace share & exchange the peace of Christ. We do so in the context of Confession, and Holy Communion. Sharing the peace of God is not an extracurricular activity; it is a core requirement for those who are reconciled with God through the blood of Jesus. Peace is not a gift to be hoarded; it is a blessing to be bestowed & passed on.

Do you recognize these words? “When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.” This beloved hymn proclaims a special kind of peace; a peace of God-given wholeness and wellness; a peace that is not circumstantial, but comes from faith in Christ. Eternal! By the grace of God, we are resting in the peace and presence of Christ. Charles Stanley writes, “Lasting peace is the presence of God. Isaiah says to God,



‘The steadfast of mind you’ll keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You” (Isaiah 26:3). **Christ is our peace**—His presence is the presence of peace within us (Ephesians 2:14). And so Jesus declares, “In me you may/will have peace” (John 16:33).”

*The angels sang at the birth of Jesus: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”*

— Luke 2:14

“My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought. My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more; Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul.” In the waters of Holy Baptism, we receive the saving faith of Jesus. Watchman Nee says, “A born-again person ought to possess unspeakable peace in the spirit.” In Christ, it is well with your

soul & mine as well.

In Christ, God has broken down the dividing walls of hostility. Peace is a matter of reconciliation & pardon. Forgiveness is our birth-right. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount lays a foundation for the practice of sharing God’s peace. “So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to you brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift” (Matthew 5:23-24).

We are commissioned by Jesus to be instruments of His peace. We ought not wait until the one who has wronged us comes to us, but instead we can make the first move. It is not possible for redeemed sinners to be at peace with God and not be at peace with the Body of Christ; it is a package deal. In John 20, the Resurrected Jesus

—Continued on page 3...

**August 2021  
Newsletter  
Volume 9  
Issue 8**

### Food For Thought:

*“Peace comes when there is no cloud between us and God. Peace is the consequence of forgiveness, God’s removal of that which obscures His face and so breaks union with Him.*

— Charles H. Brent

### **INSIDE AND**

<i>Mini-VBS</i>	2
<i>Church Picnic</i>	2
<i>Church Land Work Day</i>	2
<i>August Worship</i>	2
<i>Men’s Bible Study!</i>	2
<i>Implementation Team</i>	3
<i>Women’s Bible Study</i>	3
<i>Picnic &amp; VBS</i>	4
<i>Back Page Highlights Council Minutes</i>	4

### Church Land Work Day — July 29

Please join us for a work day on our church land on Thursday, July 29 at 9am. We'll burn the brush pile, mow and weed whack. We want to get everything ready for our church picnic (August 1) and our Mini-VBS (August 8). We look forward to your participation.



### Coffee Fellowship—after worship

Once a month, members of Emmanuel are hosting and serving refreshments following our worship service. Samia & Arne Nelson will be hosting the **August 14 coffee hour** in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Judy Pearce will be hosting the December Coffee hour. If you would like to host the September, October or November coffee hour, contact Pastor Dave Steffenson.

### Emmanuel Mini VBS - August 8 (2-4pm)

Emmanuel is hosting a MINI-VBS on Sunday, August 8 from 2-4pm on the Church Land, weather permitting. **One Day! Two Hours!** For children ages 4 through fourth grade (entering 5th grade this fall), AND their friends! “Story Telling” with Pastor Dave. Music & crafts, snacks, recreation, & a surprise gift! Enrollment is limited to 25 youth. Register ASAP. Interested in attending or helping out? Contact Pastor Dave ASAP.

### Men’s Bible Study (Email & In-Person)

The men of Emmanuel Lutheran are currently meeting on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am via email & studying the Scripture Lessons for the upcoming weekend. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like the study notes. We will have In-Person studies on: **Wednesdays, August 4 & 18 at 11am.** Location: Oasis Church. Bring a Bible & an open heart.

### GOSPEL Summer Concert Series!

**Trinity Lutheran in St. Charles** invites you to their Summer Concert Series on Wednesdays at 6:30pm on the green space behind the St. Charles City Hall. **The Ravens Fire Band** will perform on August 18th. A freewill offering will be received.

### WORSHIP FOR August 2021 — 6pm

Emmanuel will continue to offer in-person worship weekly on Saturday nights at 6pm as well as online worship opportunities via the Emmanuel Facebook Page and the Emmanuel Church Website. Thanks for worshipping with us in person and virtually online. We will offer the Lord’s Supper on August 7 & 28 during worship in prefilled cups. **Sermon Series on Ephesians:** July 10-August 28.

**Saturday, July 31 – 6pm: Pentecost 10** — Pianist: Mary Ann Groven (Summer Liturgy—Pastor Dave on vacation; pulpit supply: Rev. Waldemar Gies)

**Saturday, August 7 – 6pm: Pentecost 11** — Pianist—Mary Ann Groven; (Summer Liturgy with **Holy Communion**; Guest preacher: Dallas Groten). Greeters: Jeff & Elise Patzke & Luke.

**Saturday, August 14 – 6pm: Pentecost 12** — Pianist—MarJean Damerval (HEP Liturgy); **Coffee Hour hosted by Samia & Arne Nelson** — **Celebrating 50 years of Marriage!** Greeter: Julie Engle.

**Saturday, August 21 – 6pm: Pentecost 13** — Pianist—MarJean Damerval (HEP Liturgy). Greeters: Arne and Samia Nelson.

**Saturday, August 28 – 6pm: Pentecost 14** — Pianist—MarJean Damerval (Summer Liturgy with **H.C.**). Greeters: Arne & Samia Nelson

**Saturday, September 4 – 6pm: Pentecost 15** — Pianist: Mary Ann Groven (Summer Liturgy)

**Thanks** to Don & Peg Holtan, Julie Steffenson, and all of our weekly servants who assist with worship; recording, ushering, setup, takedown, greeting, etc. Soli Deo Gloria!

—Continued from page 1...

breathes on his distraught disciples and bestows on them the peace of God. The Church inherits the “office of the keys” and is commissioned to share the peace of the Lord! Jesus says, “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” Reconciled with God, we are now ministers of reconciliation, God making His appeal through us. Jesus is our peace!

The Pastor says, “The Peace of the Lord be with you always.” We reply, “And also with you.” Then we receive the invitation, or is it a command, to share the peace with one another. The exchange of peace is not an occasion for saying hello, chewing the fat, or catching up on the news. It is an act of reconciliation. It serves as a transition of grace in the liturgy of WORD and MEAL. After confessing our sins, praying for peace, and sharing God’s peace, we receive the gift of Christ’s peace—His Real Presence—in the Holy Communion. The peace we share is a sign of our baptismal unity.

Jewish author, Elie Wiesel, tells the parable of a man in a boat. The man is not alone, though he acts as if he were. One night without warning, the man decides to cut a hole under his seat. Other people onboard were naturally alarmed. “What on earth are you doing?” they exclaimed. “You are going to destroy us all.” “Why are you alarmed?” replies the man. “What I am doing is none of your business. I paid my fare. I am not cutting under your seat. Leave me alone.” Wiesel concludes his parable with this comment: “What a fanatic will not accept, but you and I cannot forget, is that we are all in the same boat.” Reconciliation & sharing God’s peace is a MUST for us. Our salvation depends on it!

“And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight. The clouds be rolled back as a scroll. The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.” Don’t let Satan steal your peace!

Sharing *with you* God’s Peace, Pastor Dave

### Implementation Team—Update

Things are moving forward with A.B. Systems & our Church Land Project. We’ve got large scale drawings of our church land master plan & the current projects approved at our Congregational Meeting on April 24. Drawings will be posted/distributed in the Gathering Space at our Saturday night worship services & our Aug. 1 church picnic. Presently, we have in excess of \$128,000 in our Building Fund! Donated labor & extra dollars allows us to build a combined enlarged shelter & enclosed storage building. Thank You!

### Tentative Project Timeline:

- July 19, 2021 – Oronoco Land Development Plan (CUP) was submitted to Olmsted Planning Department.
- Bids are being received for revised concrete drawings.
- August 16, 2021 – 6:00 pm—Oronoco Planning and Zoning Advisory Board Meeting.
- Pending approval, the site contractor, De Cook, could start site preparation, during the week of August 16, 2021.
- The building truss delivery was moved from October 15th to August 13, 2021. Emmanuel may want to take delivery after the 16th.
- After August 16, Peoples Energy Coop will install electrical service approximately 4 weeks after ordered.
- Pricing of all items is being firmed up.
- Construction start date of Shelter/Storage is pending.



Thanks for making Christian Education a priority in your family and in your life! **Saturday School begins on September 11. Save the Date!**

### Children’s Ministry

Worship Bags are available for kids each week. We hope children enjoy these resources during worship. Youth are asked to take the bags home with them. We plan to resume Saturday School with our little ones on September 11. Weekly Children’s Messages & take-home resources are being provided via our Church Website and Facebook Page.

### ***Women’s Bible Study — Coming in October***

Judy Pearce & Leitha Bothun will be leading a study on 12 amazing women of the Bible who, though ordinary by virtue of their humanity, became extraordinary by the grace of God. Character studies of 5 Old Testament & 7 New Testament women, who participated in the redeeming work of Jesus, will be surveyed.

## 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)  
pastordavesteffenson@gmail.com



**When?** Sunday, Aug. 8

**Time?** 2-4pm

**Who?**

Kids age 4-grade 4

**Where?**

Emmanuel Church  
Land

**WHAT?** Storytelling with Pastor Dave, plus music, crafts, recreation, snacks, and a SURPRISE Gift!

**Theme:** *FORGIVE "S'MORE"* 

**Limited Enrollment: Only 25 spots! Sign up Today!**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church — #507-206-3048**

**We're on the Web:**  
[www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org)

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**Emmanuel Church Picnic —RSVP**  
**Sunday, August 1 on the church land!**

**Happy Birthday!**

**Emmanuel turns 10 on Feb. 25, 2022!**

### ***Emmanuel Church Picnic - Sunday, Aug. 1***

Arrive at 11:30am. Eat at 12:00 Noon. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Don Holtan at [dholtan@q.com](mailto:dholtan@q.com) or call #507-280-8231. **Catered Menu on Church Land.** **YOU BRING** – Lawn Chairs, Canopies, Personal Food and/or Drink, Toothpicks – But Not Food to Share!

## Back Page Stories

### **Church Council Highlights** **July 8, 2021-Zoom Mtg.**

Budget Income for the month of June was \$8,519; Expenses were \$8,670. About \$8,000 of additional funding has been received for the expanded Shelter/enclosed Storage Building. Mid-year audit of our church finances will take place on July 17. Mid-year benevolences have been submitted. Pastor will be on vacation from July 25-31. Pastor Gies will serve as our pulpit supply on July 31. The Iowa Mission District Convocation will be held on Sept. 11 in Emmons, MN. A.B. Systems will attend the next Implementation Team Mtg. on July 18. Church Land work day will be on July 29 (9am). Don Holtan is the

point person for the church picnic.

RSVP required. The back-up location for the Church Picnic is the residence of Dick Stanley (The Homestead). Mini VBS will be held on Sunday, August 8 on the church land (2-4pm). A farewell blessing for Bob & Vicky Mulvihill will take place on July 17. The next Council Meeting will be an In-Person Mtg. on August 12 (1pm).

### **Cross with Eternal Circle**

Thanks is offered to LeRoy & Margaret Quam for their generous donation of an aluminum cross for the church land. LeRoy has spent countless hours on this project. We are hopeful that the new cross will soon mark the church land as a sign of God's redemptive and eternal presence (John 3:16).

### **Prayers for Pastor Berkland**

There are no more treatment options for Pastor Dan. He is on medical leave from Oasis and is at home with hospice nursing twice a week. Please keep Dan, Bridget, Zoe & Ezra in your prayers!

**Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!**  
*"Pastor Dave had a blood draw & CT SCAN on July 26, & a visit with his oncology team on August 27. No new cancer growth! His Chemo vacation continues for another 4 weeks! PTL*

**Martin Luther:** "I have held many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

### **Disaster Response Warehouse**

The NALC has a temporary storage facility at the residence of Larry & Deb Vomhof. Donations are welcomed!