

THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Marks of Discipleship: The Holy Trinity”

“Within the dance of Trinity, before all worlds begun, we sing the praises of the Three, the Father, Spirit, Son. Let voices rise and interweave, by love and hope set free, to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trinity.”

I tell people that I am Christo-centric Trinitarian. You can understand why therefore I was hugely disappointed when I recently worshiped at another Lutheran Church on Trinity Sunday and the Trinity was homiletically shunned. The Gospel text was a repeat of Easter III; the Emmaus Walk. I love the Emmaus Story, but I was looking forward to hearing a rousing sermon on the Holy Trinity.

As an aside, the Revised Common Lectionary omitted verse 14 from the second reading for Trinity Sunday (II Corinthians 13:11-13), which reads: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Why it was omitted is beyond me.



This month as we continue our reflection on the marks of discipleship, we are looking at the centrality of our Trinitarian faith. The appointed Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday, which we celebrated on June 14, was Matthew 28:16-20; i.e. The Great Commission. Jesus has ALL authority and He commands His church to GO and MAKE disciples of ALL people in ALL places, promising to be with His beloved Body of Believers ALL-ways.

“Holy, Holy, Holy...God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity”

The recipe for disciple making is mysteriously simple: “Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;” and teach obedience to the commandments of Christ. We make disciples by being disciples. “Father, Son and Holy Spirit” is not

God’s gender; it is God’s revealed name. In baptism we become God’s namesake & keepsake.

The word Trinity is not found in the Bible. The word “*trinitas*” was first coined by a Church Father named Tertullian (150-220 A.D.). Tertullian was a lawyer in Carthage, North Africa, converted to the Christian faith by St. Augustine. The Trinity is not so much a doctrine to be explained or defended as it is a relationship to be proclaimed and experienced. Thomas Jefferson wanted Christians to abandon the doctrine of the Trinity and to focus instead on following the “simple Jesus”. The irony of course is that the more we focus on following the “simple Jesus,” the more we end up at the feet of the Trinity.

Darrell W. Johnson in his book Experiencing The Trinity writes, “The Bible says that GOD IS LOVE (I John 4:8). Love implies relationship. The

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Food For Thought:

“Man can perceive only the hem of the garment of the Triune God. The cherubim cover the rest with their wings.”

~ Athanasius

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mystery is that long before any human being came into the picture God was already love. God had already existed as a community of love. The Father loved the Son, the Son loved the Father, and the love between the Father and the Son was embodied in the Spirit. As St. Augustine of the fourth century put it ‘God is (at once) Lover, Beloved, and Love itself.’ God is the One that loves, the One that is loved, and the Love itself.”-p. 62f.

On Pentecost Sunday, St. Paul addressed a question brought to his attention by the Corinthians: “Now concerning spiritual gifts.” St. Paul cannot address the matter of spiritual gifts without being Christo-centric Trinitarian: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone” (I Cor. 12:4-6). To the Ephesians Paul proclaims, “There is one Spirit, one Lord, one God and Father of us all.” In His Farewell Discourse, Jesus reminds His disciples that He and the Father are one. He also promises to send His Holy Spirit. Remember, your body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit; the Trinity’s portable worship space. St. Peter reminds the scattered seeds of Asia Minor that they are “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, destined for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood.”

It is impossible to read Scripture and not experience the Trinity. The more we focus on the “simple Jesus” the more we inevitably end up at the feet of the Trinity. Recently, I had the joy of leading a group of pastors through our revised edition of Holden Evening Prayer; an attempt to reclaim our distinctive Trinitarian language. Emmanuel Lutheran tasted this new liturgy during the Season of Lent. GIA has given Emmanuel permission to continue using this edited liturgy in the future. We will be using this edited version in worship during the month of September with the ReClaim hymnal as our songbook.

We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Let us therefore continue to sing and confess our Trinitarian faith: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity.”

A Servant of Emmanuel, Pastor Dave Steffenson

Oasis Church Potluck

Oasis Church graciously provides meeting and ministry space to two congregations. Oasis has invited Emmanuel Lutheran and Iglesia Christiana Nueva Jerusalem to join them for a church picnic potluck on **Saturday, July 26 at 12:30 p.m.** A signup sheet is posted outside of the Oasis Church Office where participants may indicate numbers attending and the food one plans on bringing for the potluck meal. Come and enjoy fellowship not only with your Emmanuel Family, but also with our hosting church family Oasis Baptist and our ministry partner, Iglesia.

Housing Request

Pastor Fred Morck, NALC, LCMC, (Cell: 218-371-5647); frederick.morck@ecunet.org, may need to move from Potsdam Parsonage (507) 876-2585 to Rochester, late July or August. If you know of someone with a house or an apartment to rent within a walk or short drive of Oasis Church, please contact Pastor Fred.

A Word about the Wagners

Matt and Megan Wagner are traveling to Lithuania to visit Matt’s parents, Jim and Diane, who are serving the International Church of Vilnius in Lithuania. Jim and Diane Wagner will be spending four weeks in India this summer with the family of a college student who attends the University of Vilnius. “They are terrified and excited.” Let’s lift all the Wagners up in our prayers as they serve God and travel in the days ahead. Matt will have an expanded report about his parents in the August Newsletter.

**Enjoying your Summer?
Our prayers are with you
as you find sacred rest in
the presence of Emmanuel!**

The TRUTH Project— A production of Focus on the Family: Emmanuel Lutheran and Oasis Church are co-hosting a 13 week DVD-based group study designed to equip believers with a comprehensive Biblical Worldview for engaging our world with the good news of Jesus Christ. This Study is being held on Sunday mornings at Oasis Church. Dates are: June 15, 22, & 29; July 20 & 27; August 3, 10, 17, & 24; and September 7, 14, 21, & 28. Weekly format will be as follows: 10:30 a.m.—Coffee and Fellowship; 10:50 a.m.—DVD Segment; 11:50 a.m.—Discussion; 12:20 p.m.—Closing & Prayer; 12:30 p.m.—Departure. Child Care will be provided. Please join us!



May God grant you and yours a blessed Fourth of July Celebration as we embrace the gift of Freedom given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord! For freedom Christ has set us free. Since the Son sets us free we are free indeed! Declaration of Interdependence.

Emmanuel Church Picnic

Deb and Larry Vomhof are hosting a congregational picnic at their house (11530 Hwy. 52 S.E., Chatfield, MN) on **Sunday, August 3**. Emmanuel members and friends are invited to participate in a fun day of food and Christian fellowship. We hope you can join us.

Time: Arrive after 11:30 a.m. We will eat at 12:00 Noon.

Bring: A dish to pass, plus chips. Vomhofs are graciously providing hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs, along with the fixings. Coffee and Lemonade will also be provided. Bring additional beverages if you wish.

Activities: Vomhofs have a pool, so bring swimsuits, towels, lifejackets, and blowup tubes. Enjoy conversation, and outdoor games. Make a new friend.

Directions: From Oasis Church—travel on U.S. 52 South approximately 20 miles. Destination will be on the right; about 5 miles from Marion between the 2 county road 7's. Watch for the balloons.

Being Evangelical: Olivet Lutheran Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin annually hosts a Dollar Carwash. What's the catch you ask? The Gospel is the catch! People looking for a good deal stop by and get their car washed assuming that it's only going to cost them a dollar. Here's the gospel catch: As customers exit the carwash, they receive a one dollar bill from the church and a thank you blessing. "THANK YOU for letting us serve you in the name of Jesus. God bless you!" **YES, they'll know we are Christians by our love!**

Thank you to Rushford Lutheran Church for their partnership in ministry! Emmanuel Lutheran recently received a benevolence gift of \$2,500.00 which will be used to provide mileage and professional expense reimbursement for Pastor Steffenson. Pastor Steffenson will in turn provide pulpit supply for Rushford Lutheran on Sunday mornings when their pastor is away. God is continually providing the resources needed for growing His church in Rochester. We offer God our thanks and praise!

THE MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Pray Daily

Worship Weekly

Grow Spiritually

Read & Study Scripture

Serve Others

Share the Good News

Give Generously

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)
pastor@emmanuelofrochester.org



SAVE THE DATE!

VBS at OASIS CHURCH

“WEIRD ANIMALS”

Roaring in the name of Jesus!

Sunday-Wednesday, July 13-16

Sunday (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

Monday-Wednesday (5-8 pm)

HELPERS NEEDED!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—June 17

Emmanuel is on track financially half-ways through the 2014 Mission Plan Budget Year. We are thanking God for everyone's practice of generous first fruits giving. Approximately 20 people are participating in the Truth Project DVD series. Summer picnics are coming up soon. We hope for a good turn out by Emmanuel Members. Logo-wear and Window clings are being displayed. Thanks for being a witness! 20 additional copies of the ReClaim Hymnal are being purchased and will be used with the revised edition of Holden Evening Prayer in the month of September. 10 copies were given in celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Dave & Carol Olson. Additional copies may be purchased by Emmanuel members and dedicated in honor, or loving memory, of a special person or event. The Bakke's have given Emmanuel 20 copies of the ReClaim Hymnal. A DVD series by Dr. James Nestingen on Lutheran Theology has been purchased and will be used this fall. Our next Council Meeting is July 15 at 10am.

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR THE FALL

- *Saturday School—Christian Education for all ages on Saturdays prior to Worship*
- *Potluck Bible Study on the Book of Revelation*
- *View and Discuss DVD—“God Is Not Dead”*
- *September Liturgy: Revised Holden Evening Prayer with ReClaim Hymnal as our Songbook*
- *Confirmation Class—The Magician's Nephew*
 - *Women's Bible Study—I Corinthians*

Back Page Stories

Sharing Good News! Help us Get the Word out! Emmanuel Window Clings are available for purchase. Only \$1.00 each!

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Weekly fellowship around God's Word at 8 am Tuesdays at Charlie's (1408 2nd. St. SW). Join us in being Evangelical. Invite a friend. Share the Good News!

Super Market Saturday: The next Channel One opportunity is July 19 (9 am—Noon). Let's share the heart of Emmanuel by caring for the needs of our neighbors.

Women's Bible Study: Pastor Dave & Julie are leading a nine session Bible Study on the Discipleship Parables of Jesus. Women are meeting at Oasis Church, twice a month, on Mondays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. We are studying the Parable of the Wise Manager (Luke 12:35-48) on July 14, and the Parable of the Invitations (Luke 14:7-14) on July 28. Please join us. Bring a friend.

Weekly Confirmation: Our study of The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe has ended. We'll be watching the DVD and enjoying some homemade Turkish Delight in the very near future. Watch for more de-

tails for follow. This Fall we will read C.S. Lewis' Prequel—“The Magician's Nephew”—How Aslan created Narnia and how evil entered Paradise.

Please keep St. Paul Lutheran Fellowship (Twin Cities Church Plant), **and our missionaries Jim & Diane Wagner** (International Church of Vilnius in Lithuania) **in your prayers!**

GIFT OPPORTUNITY: Would you like to purchase a ReClaim Hymnal for Emmanuel in celebration of something or someone special? Perhaps in memory of a loved one? Contact Pastor Steffenson. Cost is \$22.00 per hymnal.