

# THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

## Pastor's Keyboard: "Discipleship - Music Celebration"

St. Paul writes, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." - Col. 3:16

On Saturday, August 13, Emmanuel worshipers will celebrate the gift of music by singing to the LORD a new song! The Psalms will serve as the structure & content of our evening liturgy. Discipleship is a musical offering!

The Psalter was Israel's Prayer Book and Hymnal. Steve Lawson, in his 2012 book, Preaching the Psalms, writes, "It was these two strategic books, Psalms & Romans, that Luther predominantly studied & taught in the years preceding his posting of the 95 Theses.

Romans principally formulated his doctrine, & the Psalms dramatically emboldened Luther to proclaim God's message to the world. In other words, Romans gave Luther his theology, but it was the Psalms that gave him his thunder."

Martin Luther, in his Foreword to Georg



Rhau's (1488 - 1548) Collection, "*Symphoniae iucundae*", wrote: "I, Doctor Martin Luther, wish all lovers of the unshackled art of music, grace & peace from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ! I truly desire that all Christians would love and regard as worthy the lovely gift of music, which is a precious, worthy, and costly treasure given to mankind by God.

*"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."*

The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them.... In summa, next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits...

Our dear fathers and prophets did not desire without reason that music be always used in the churches. Hence, we have so many songs and psalms. This precious gift has been given to man alone that he might thereby remind himself that God has created man for the express purpose of praising & extolling God. However, when man's natural musical ability is whetted and polished to the extent that it becomes an art, then do we note with great surprise the great and perfect wisdom of God in music, which is, after all, His product and His gift.... a heavenly dance, where all meet in a spirit of friendliness, caress and embrace.

A person who gives this some thought & yet does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should

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### Food For Thought:

*"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."*

— Martin Luther

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be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs."

Some of you know that I love music & frequently sing in my sermons. The great music & liturgy of the Church is Scripture scored to the praise of God. When I was young, a pastor told me this: "If God gave you a voice, use it to praise Him; if not, use it to get even with Him."

"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the earth." Listen carefully and you can hear this wind, caused by God's own breath, sweeping across the emptiness of precreation. What beautiful music! C.S. Lewis, in his book, *The Magician's Nephew*, recreates this scene. Aslan, the great lion who represents Jesus, sings Narnia into existence. It's a marvelous image of Aslan wandering around radiating this music that permeates everything. He breathes life into the earth and all sorts of creatures literally grow out of the ground.

One of my favorite hymns, penned by Robert Lowry in the 19th Century, includes these words: "*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*"

In Word and Sacrament, in Creation and on the Cross, Salvation is immersed in a Resurrection Song. The Tomb is empty! Christ is Risen Indeed! Amen. Amen. Amen.

A Servant of The Song, Pastor Dave

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

- Sunday, August 7 (12:00 Noon): Emmanuel Picnic at Vomhof's place.
- Saturday, August 13 (6pm): Music Celebration Worship Service! Volunteers welcomed!
- Saturday, August 27 (3pm): All Church Picnic with Oasis & Iglesia Churches.
- Saturday, September 10 (5:10pm): Saturday School Rally Day.
- Saturday, October 8: Gary Froiland and the Gideon's (6pm).
- Friday, November 4: Men's & Boy's Banquet.

**North American Lutheran News:** The North American Lutheran Seminary celebrated the graduation of four of its students at the Trinity School for Ministry Commencement on May 14.

### **SINCE YOU ASKED!**

**Why do we say in the Creeds that Jesus Christ "is seated at the right hand of the Father"? Does this mean that our Lord is far away from us?** This has little to do with Christ's physical location. Instead it has to do with the authority He assumes. For a King to be seated on a throne is a symbolic gesture of his rule and authority. Heaven itself is a reality that transcends time & space. It is the unseen & timeless realm that underlies the visible & temporal world. We confess Christ to be seated at the right hand of the Father because we believe him to be the rightful King of the universe. Indeed, Jesus is Lord!

**What does the Pastor's Stole signify? (the stole is the colored strip of cloth that loops around the back of the neck and hangs from both shoulders).** The stole represents a yoke such as would be used to link & employ an ox with a plow or cart. When a work animal is yoked to a task, that animal comes under the rule & guidance of its master. As Christians we are to be yoked to Christ (Mt. 11:28-30). We are to fear, love, serve, and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. The Pastor's stole is therefore not only a sign of ordination in the Lutheran Church, but it visibly reminds the whole congregation of our servant hood to Christ.

— *Responses from Rev. Tim Duesenberg*

### **HUMOR DEPARTMENT**

**The Picnic**—A Jewish Rabbi & a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham! Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?" The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

### **GOOD NEWS!**

**Our Emmanuel Lutheran Church "Articles of Incorporation" have been filed and approved with the State of MN. We have also received our Sales Tax exemption with the State of Minnesota.**

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR JULY - Liturgy: Lutheran Book of Worship

### **Saturday, July 2 - Pentecost VII (6pm)**

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Don Holtan

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Rich Sunde

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

Communion Assistant: Julie Steffenson

Treats: Julie Edwards

### **Saturday, July 9 - Pentecost VIII (6pm)**

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Darald Bothun

Ushers: Darald & Leitha Bothun

Acolyte: Elijah Matzke

Communion Assistant: Leitha Bothun

Treats: Jean Wanek

### **Saturday, July 16 - Pentecost IX (6pm)**

Scripture Reader & Prayers & Communion Assistant: Jenna & Matt Serr

Ushers: Jim & Addison Siebenaler

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

Treats: Jenna Serr

### **Saturday, July 23 - Pentecost X: (6pm)**

Pianist: Karen Salz

Scripture Reader, Prayers, and Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce

Ushers: LeRoy Quam & Creig Anderson

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

Treats: Margaret Quam

### **Saturday, July 30 - Pentecost XI: (6pm) - Baptism of Edison Kirby Konop**

Scripture Reader, Prayers, and Communion Assistant: Deb Vomhof

Ushers: Larry & Deb Vomhof

Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler

Treats: Deb Vomhof

**NOTE:** Pastor Dave will be our worship leader & preacher each week. MarJean Damerval will be our pianist each week except July 23 (Karen Salz). Julie Steffenson will take care of set up & Janet Sunde & friends will take care of the take down each week. Peg Holtan will provide the coffee & Don Holtan will be our sound technician each week.

## **POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Organization) International - active in Rochester**

POBLO is a Christian organization working to transform the way missions is approached in the United States by responding to the changing demographics that have brought the mission field to our own front yard. POBLO serves immigrants & refugees. POBLO trains & educates churches on how to engage in cross-cultural outreach, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practical & culturally relevant ways. As Christians, we are called to “go and make disciples of all nations”. The U. S. has long been recognized as a melting pot of people, culture, & religion. The influx of Muslims and other non-Christian immigrants & refugees into the U.S. has grown significantly in recent decades, creating a truly global community. It is estimated that 45.8 million immigrants live in the United States—more than 13% of the total population; 7 million of whom are Muslim. For Christians called to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the nations, what better place to accomplish the mission than here? We no longer need to travel great distances to share God’s love with unreached people groups; we simply need to walk across the street. The mission field is here; the time is now!

**Testimonial:** “*The Man Whose Name was Changed*” - Through the efforts of POBLO International, Brookfield Lutheran Church (BLC) in Wisconsin is experiencing a breakthrough in outreach to the Indian Hindu community. The number of those from a Hindu background who connect to BLC every week exceeds 40—those coming to men’s Bible class, women’s Bible class, worship, English class, or serving as volunteers. The following story is about a man who now goes by the name of “Andrew”. His real name is Kishur. It was Kishur’s birthday recently, & the young IT engineer wanted to go to BLC to have Pastor Mrosko pray for him & bless him. That is what Kishur had planned to do. However, during the prayer, the

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### Save the Date!

***Edison Kirby Konop, born to Amber & Joe Konop on May 19 will be baptized into the Body of Christ on July 30. His brother Marek will assist Pastor Dave.***

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Holy Spirit moved him to ask the pastor to give him a new name. Kishur had been in the men's Bible study group, as well as attending worship, & the Holy Spirit had been at work in him. Suddenly, after Pastor Mrosko finished the prayer, Kishur said to him, "I want you to change my name--give me the name of one of the 12 disciples." Pastor Mrosko, thinking about Kishur's sincere love for Jesus, and seeing him as a future evangelist who will tell others replied, "Your new name is Andrew—I can see you telling your friends and others to come to Jesus, in the same way that Andrew told his brother about Jesus." (John 1:41-42) "Andrew immediately went to find his brother, Simon, saying, 'We have found the Messiah', and he brought Simon to Jesus."

Kishur's wife, was equally surprised by her husband's decision to take a new name. His wife commented, "I thought maybe he was kidding—but now I see he is serious, and that he's telling everyone to call him Andrew." Missionary Priya, who was present with her husband, Praveen, during the prayer said, "I thought I saw tears in his eyes." And Andrew himself later confessed, "If Pastor Mrosko had said one more word during the prayer, I would have started crying."

Now, Pastor Mrosko will work with Priya and Praveen to disciple Andrew, helping him to further understand who this Jesus is whom he desires to follow. Sometimes, as we experience new life through God's grace in Christ, it is also good to hang onto a sign of that newness, in this case, the name of one of the Twelve Disciples. May God bless Andrew on his new journey, as he prepares himself to be one who brings others to Jesus!

## 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 July 16, 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!

**Council Highlights (June):** YTD income is \$42,474. YTD expense is \$45,160. Net loss of \$2,686 for the first five months of 2016. Thanks for

everyone's generous tithing. A gift was given in support of Adam & Michelle Morgan's missionary work in Canada. Thanks is offered to MarJean who is offering her services as worship pianist, gratis. Offering envelopes have been reprinted by Johnson's Printing. Emmanuel's Fifth Anniversary Celebration will be on Saturday, February 25, 2017. Save the Date. Next Council Meeting is July 6 at 5pm.

### 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, July 6, and August 3 & 17 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to participate in this wonderful ministry.

### PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS:

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

**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.