

THE EMMANUEL EPISTLE

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Marks of Discipleship: SHARING”

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. I love to tell the story. Do you?

Disciples share all things in common. In John 6, we hear the familiar story of the feeding of the 5000. A boy offers his sack lunch (5 small barley loaves and 2 tiny filets of fish). Jesus gives thanks and distributes the food. All eat and are satisfied. Twelve baskets of leftovers are gathered up, and nothing is lost.

Martin Luther once wrote, *“Whatever is not shared has been stolen.”* This month we are reflecting on the mark of discipleship known as *sharing*. The Latin word *communio*, from which we get our word Communion, means to “share in common”.

In the Book of Acts, the Pentecost Community, ignited by and clothed with the Holy Spirit, shares all things in common. Peter preaches a sermon: “God has made Him both Lord & Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” The hearers of



the Word are cut to the heart. 3000 people repent and are baptized. The church devotes itself to the Apostles’ teachings, to fellowship (Christian Community), the breaking of bread and the prayers. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. They were selling their possessions and distributing them as any had need. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (Acts 2).

“I love to tell the Story; twill be my theme in glory.”

During a recent session of the Women’s Bible Study, a question was asked, “Why didn’t the five wise bridesmaids share some of their extra oil with the five foolish bridesmaids?” It’s a fair question seeing that we are taught from early on (in the Bible, in the home, and in school) to share what we have and not hoard. I gave this

response to the question: **“Faith must be shared, but it cannot be borrowed.”** The wise bridesmaids don’t have enough extra oil for themselves and for the foolish. No one gets into heaven—the Wedding Feast—on the shirttails of another. The Wise do however share a word of grace with the Demanding Foolish: “Go to the dealers and buy some oil. Hopefully it’s not too late for you to play your part.” But when the Demanding Foolish Bridesmaids return the DOOR IS SHUT. “Lord, Lord, open to us,” they demand. But the Lord says, “I never knew you.”—Matthew 25

There is still time. Faith must be shared, but it cannot be borrowed. Faith comes by the hearing of the Word and what is heard comes from the preaching of Christ. How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news. St. Peter reminds us that we

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Food For Thought:

“The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.”

-- George Orwell

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are a “royal priesthood, so that we may proclaim the wonderful deeds of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks for the reason that you have a living hope in you (I Peter 1-5).

Disciples are opportunistic about sharing the good news of the resurrection of our Lord. We share all things in common and claim nothing as our private property. When God opens a door, we rely upon the Holy Spirit to put the right words into our mouths so that we may “praise, proclaim and practice Emmanuel—GOD WITH US—in daily life. We love to tell the story. We tell it in our words, in our deeds, & in our sharing. We share a Great Commission in common! Thanks for sharing!

Shall We Commence?

Commencement Exercises

On Saturday, May 31, during worship at Emmanuel Lutheran, 2 high school graduates will be wrapped in handmade quilts & blessed with the grace of God as they embark on the next leg of their walk with Christ. Graduation is not an ending; it is a new beginning; a commencement exercise. Emmanuel Lutheran congratulates Emma Mulvihill & Michael Carl as they celebrate their High School graduations. Emma will graduate from Mayo High School on June 7 & study Law Enforcement at MN State University—Mankato. Michael will graduate from Byron High School on June 8 & will study Exercise Science at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato. Congratulations to the Mulvihill and Carl families. We pledge you our love and our prayers during this season of transition. May God grant each of you great grace!

Let’s get it started; the rally cry of a sports team determined to experience victory rather than defeat. Don’t get me started; cautionary words from a disgruntled and upset individual trying to avoid an endless rant. He started it; defensive words spoken to a mother intervening in a sibling squabble. Don’t start what you can’t finish; prophetic words for the perpetual procrastinator. The bell rings, the teacher looks at her watch, the calendar says December 31. The signal is given and everyone knows what time it is. “All rise! Court is in session.” It’s time to begin. Happy New Year.

It’s the season of graduation. Congratulations! My youngest daughter graduated from Medical School. One day later my grandson experienced a commencement exercise of his own; his baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Some people think that graduation is the end of the road, the finish line. But in Truth graduation is always a new stretch of highway for the beloved child of God, the starting gate. Every ending is a new beginning, guaranteed by the One who calls Himself Alpha and Omega.

My daughter graduated from kindergarten, and then from high school, and then from college, and now from medical school. My daughter graduated from crawling to walking, from training wheels to behind the wheel, from single to marriage and family. Graduation for my daughter means the beginning of residency and then a fellowship. And then what? In Christ a new creation! In the Kingdom of God, graduation is always commencement exercises.

When many think that it’s all but over, God shouts “Let’s Begin!” A favorite graduation commencement address is found in Jeremiah 29: “For surely I know the plans that I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11). When we think we are at the end of our rope, the completion of a course, or the dead end of death, finished, God sounds the last trumpet and shouts, loud enough to wake the dead, “Shall we commence?” In the Book of Revelation, chapters 3-4, Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One, offers this invitation: “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me....After this I looked and in heaven an open door.”

When will it finally be over? What if the answer is NEVER, and in Christ, FOREVER? Yes, we shall commence! Congratulations graduates!

- from, Pastor Dave Steffenson (printed in the Rochester Post-Bulletin, Saturday, May 24, 2014)

Getting to Know You: LeRoy & Margaret Quam



When you enter Margaret & LeRoy's home, their beautiful antiques & memorabilia echo a lifetime of memories, & seem to be quite compatible with the quaint historic district of Southwest Rochester where they have lived for many years. In reflection though, after visiting with them, one memorabilia seemed to be missing from their collection and that is two pair of roller skates.

Roller skates marked the beginning of their relationship. The story of Margaret and LeRoy began at the "Quamamingo Roller Rink" in Wanamingo, MN. Back in the 1960s & 1970s, Wanamingo was referred to as the Holy City because dancing was forbidden (although it was acceptable to square dance). LeRoy's parents when they retired from farming looked for a secondary endeavor and opened the roller rink. Although roller skating was first documented in 1760, the 1960s & 1970s brought a resurgence and the sport grew in great popularity and became a "cool" activity. So although the young folks couldn't dance, they could roller skate and it was here at the roller rink that Margaret met her future husband who was helping his folks on weekends.

Margaret was raised in the Red Wing area. Her Father worked at the Red Wing Pottery, and when Margaret graduated from High School she became the candy

girl at Woolworths. Margaret was very active in the young people's group at her church. She belonged to a trio of Christian girl singers who performed & sang in many churches throughout the area as well as for The Youth of Christ rallies. One of the chosen activities of her church's youth group was to go to Wanamingo to roller skate. Well as many stories go, the rest was history. LeRoy knew that there would only be one girl for him and she had to be Christian. Margaret was a Christian, and after a courtship which included LeRoy finishing college, they married. With his degree in accounting and economics he took a position with Marigold/Kemp foods and the young married couple moved to Rochester, MN.

Margaret attended the Baptist church. But after she married she said, "My husband was head of our home, as Christ is the head of our church, and I wanted to worship with him." LeRoy had been raised in a home where his family went to Land's Lutheran Church in Zumbrota so they sought a Lutheran Church and worshiped for many years at Gloria Day Lutheran Church in Rochester. LeRoy said that one of the most poignant memories of his youth was seeing his maternal grandfather reading the Bible. LeRoy was raised in a multigenerational home—children, parents and grandparents, and therein was created a great legacy of faith.

And it was this very faith that supported this family when LeRoy at the age of 3 was diagnosed with polio. Polio was and is a devastating disease. Although the disease left LeRoy's arm weakened, with his family's encouragement and his fortitude and strength, LeRoy led a life filled with multiple school activities. Today he

By Carol Olson
Phone: 507-367-2353

still stays busy fishing, hunting, collecting 2-cylinder John Deere tractors & old gas engines. LeRoy and Margaret participate in several parades and historical shows during the summer months.

When Margaret moved to Rochester she transferred with Woolworth's and continued to be the "candy lady" for three years. However, she joined Mayo Clinic and retired from the accounts receivable section after 34 years. After his first retirement from Kemp's Dairy, LeRoy also worked 10 years at Mayo in a wide variety of jobs which did not involve him sitting behind a desk doing book work.

The roller skates are tucked away in the attic for safe keeping and do not hang among the memorabilia in their home, but there is on one wall a representation of the foundation of their marriage and their faith--the cross.

When I left their home that afternoon after visiting with them, I thought of St. Paul who wrote: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans (12:12 & 13):

And indeed, the gift of hospitality is one of Margaret and LeRoy's gifts whether in their home, their neighborhood, or welcoming a new face at Emmanuel. The warmth of their smiles, their strength & patience in adversity, and their faithfulness, is a reflection of the love each of them share for one other & the love they have in their hearts for Jesus.

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 will be 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!

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)

“ALONE, Yet Not Alone”

The movie—Alone Yet Not Alone—is based on a book by the same name. Tracy Leininger Craven draws on her family history in her moving historical novel. Fleeing religious persecution in Germany, the Leininger family seeks a new start in uncharted country - America. Despite the escalating tension mounting around them, the Leiningers give thanks and praise for the sparkling streams and majestic forests around Penns Creek and above all, their freedom to worship. Carving out a homestead can be arduous work, but the Leiningers labor joyfully. After all, what the land will not yield, the cherished family Bible would, providing the everlasting nourishment of God's promise. Then the unthinkable: In 1755 during a terrifying raid on Pennsylvania settlers, Delaware warriors kidnap the two young Leininger daughters (Barbara and Regina, ages 12 and 9, respectively) and attempt to indoctrinate them into native culture. Through their ordeal they never lose hope; their faith becomes their freedom.

Told from Barbara's point of view, the story focuses on how her Christian faith helps her endure her four-year captivity. When the tribes separate the sisters, Barbara risks escape to find Regina, but is recaptured and nearly burned alive. The chief's son, Galasko, stays her punishment, but Barbara vows to one day escape and find Regina. Bolstered by her friendship with Marie, a fellow “Yengee/Yankee” captive, Barbara swears, “Together with Christ's strength, we will continue on until we are free.” This movie is scheduled to be in theaters--June 13.

CHURCH PICNICS!

Saturday, July 26 — *Church picnic with Iglesia Christiana Nueva Jerusalem, Oasis and Emmanuel.*

Sunday, August 3 — *Emmanuel Church Picnic at the home of Larry and Deb Vomhof.*

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 June 21 (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 Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) on June 2, and the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) on June 23. Please join us. Bring a friend.

Weekly Confirmation: Grades 3-6 reading C.S. Lewis' The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe on Wednesdays at Oasis Church at 4:15 p.m..

Council Highlights: Logo Witness

Wear will soon be delivered. Pastor Dave will be attending this summer's Lutheran Core Theological Conference and the NALC Convocation at the Citadel in Charleston, S.C. (July 21-25). Church Constitution revisions are underway. Pastor Dave is busy preaching at supporting congregations on Sundays. We would like to begin recording our Worship Sermons on DVDs. Next Council Meeting: June 17 @ 10 am.

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!