

The Emmanuel Epistle!

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: Buried & Raised!”

On Ash Wednesday, March 2, the Season of Lent begins. We bury our alleluias and await their return on Easter Sunday. When Jesus was born, he was wrapped in bands of cloth, a pall if you will. When Jesus died on the cross, he was wrapped in a linen shroud (a pall) and placed in a garden tomb.

In the Season of Easter, we sing our baptismal song: *“We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold, and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia! We share by water in his saving death. Reborn, we share with him an Easter life as living members of our Savior Christ. Alleluia! The God of splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit’s fission shakes the church of God. Baptized, we live with God the Three-in-One. Alleluia!”*

In worship, the presence of a pall, appears often. When a child of God is baptized there is, spiritually speaking, the appearance of a pall. Sometimes a white garment is placed upon the child or adult being baptized. When the child of God has completed their earthly course, they are often covered once again with a pall. What is a pall?

A pall is a white or ivory



sheet of fabric that is designed to cover a casket or an urn during a funeral. It serves as a reminder of the white baptismal garments a new Christian wears as he or she is welcomed into the fellowship of believers within the church. In a sense, the pall brings the believer full-circle, from the new life celebrated by baptism to the new life a believer experiences through physical death and the promise of the resurrection of the body. The pall is a remembrance of baptism.

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

—Revelation 21:4

In the Lutheran funeral liturgy, the following words are spoken as the pall is placed on the casket or urn: “When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were

baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his”—(Romans 6:3-5).

Over the years, I officiated at many funerals. I often asked the family of the deceased to place the pall on the casket or urn. The pall reminds us that when a child is born they are wrapped up in a receiving blanket & brought home from the hospital. In our dying, our Lord receives his beloved child and covers them with His own righteousness. The white pall symbolizes the white garment the individual may have worn at the time of his or her baptism.

The pall is all about the resurrection. In Romans 13:14, St. Paul commands believers to “put on Jesus Christ and to make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.”

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**March 2022
Newsletter
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Food For Thought:

“The darker the night, the brighter the stars; the deeper the grief, the closer is God!”

—Fyodor Dostoevsky

“What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly.”

—Richard Bach

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Stewardship Nugget!

Generous Giving and Living is one of the marks of Discipleship in the life of a redeemed child of God. There are many ways that members and friends of Emmanuel choose to support the holy work of God. Each month, during our “Anniversary Year,” we will highlight a way in which givers choose to exercise their stewardship. This month, we have a true to life story from one of our Members: “Two little sisters were squabbling & crying over a baby blanket—both claiming “it’s mine” & getting louder and angrier. After enough irritation, it was time to intercede. I explained that the blanket was given to their mother at a baby shower. Neither of them owned it nor earned it nor deserved it. Everything they had was *a gift given in love for their use*. The next day I realized God had spoken to me. Everything is a gift from God. We haven’t earned nor deserved anything. We should be thankful and be good stewards of all we are given.”

SEMAC Mission Trip

Larry Vomhof and his team of South Eastern MN Area Christians served others in the name of Jesus from **February 13-25, 2022** in Gibson City, IL. The crew completed work on 15 homes & also got things started on 5 additional homes. The servant work included sheet rocking, muddying, installation of laminate flooring & doors, taping, & painting. Workers also enjoyed fellowship with members of the hosting church. This mission trip was in partnership with the NALC Disaster Response. Thanks for keeping SEMAC in your prayers.

Women’s Bible Study

The women of Emmanuel Lutheran are currently enjoying a Bible study based on the book: Twelve Extraordinary Women (John MacArthur). Women meet twice a month at the home of Judy Pearce with Leitha Bothun as the study leader. Next Sessions: **Wednesdays, March 9 & 23 at 1pm.**

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 2022 — 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 Ash Wednesday (March 2) and on Saturday, March 19** during worship in prefilled cups.

Wednesday, March 2– 6pm: Ash Wednesday — Pianist: Mary Ann Groven (**Imposition of Ashes & H.C.**).

Saturday, March 5 – 6pm: Eve of Lent I — Pianist: Mary Ann Groven

Tuesday, March 8—6pm: Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer: Jane Cabaya

Saturday, March 12 – 6pm: Eve of Lent II— Pianist: Mary Ann Groven

Tuesday, March 15—6pm: Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer: Jane Cabaya

Saturday, March 19 – 6pm: Eve of Lent III— Pianist: Mary Ann Groven; with Holy Communion

Tuesday, March 22—6pm: Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer: Jane Cabaya

Saturday, March 26 – 6pm: Eve of Lent IV— Pianist: Mary Ann Groven (**Guest Preacher:** Dallas Groten); Fellowship time after worship is being hosted by the Serr family in loving memory of Barb Steffenson.

Tuesday, March 29—6pm: Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer: Jane Cabaya

Saturday, April 2 – 6pm: Eve of Lent V— Pianist: Mary Ann Groven (Gift of Music - Kim Starr)

Tuesday, April 5—6pm: Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer: Jane Cabaya

Thanks to Don & Peg Holtan, Kim Starr, Julie Steffenson, and all of our weekly servants who assist with worship; recording, ushering, setup, takedown, greeting, etc. Soli Deo Gloria! Coffee Hour is hosted once a month. Interested in serving? Greeters are pending.

Continued from page 1...

The baptismal garments and the funeral pall both represent this in a physical way. The pall is a sign of the hope of the resurrection of all believers, focusing those present at a funeral on the blessing: "May they now share with Him eternal glory." The focus is on identifying the deceased as a member of the redeemed body of Christ. While it is acceptable for a pall to have a Christian cross on it as ornamentation, it is not necessary. A plain white or ivory cloth provides all the symbolism needed.

The Pascal Candle, lit on the occasion of a baptism and during the Season of Easter, is also lit for the Christian funeral. This Paschal candle is one of the most sacred and enduring elements in Christianity. The candle's wick signifies Christ's humanity, and the flame His Divine Nature. It is adorned with one or more Christian symbols. The Paschal candle is a rich symbol of our faith. It reaches its pinnacle at Easter. Each year during the Easter Vigil Service on Holy Saturday night, a fire is kindled and the Easter Candle is lit. The candle, which represents Christ himself, is placed on a special Paschal candle stand near the altar. The Paschal Candle remains in the Sanctuary on its special candle stand during the full 50 days of the Easter season, and is lit for liturgical services during that time. After Pentecost the candle is placed next to the baptismal font.

The Pascal candle is lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized. The words from our Lord's Sermon on the Mount are spoken as a candle is presented to the baptized person: "*Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" The candle is also used at funeral services, and placed next to the casket or urn during a funeral service. At funeral services it is a reminder that the Sacrament of Baptism is itself a death & resurrection in Christ, and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.

Weekly, as the Eucharist is celebrated, another pall is visibly present. On the altar, the elements of Communion, the paten (plate with the bread) and the chalice (cup), are covered with a square of white cloth, also called a pall. This Communion pall also covers a body, only in this case it is the body (and blood) of Christ, crucified and risen for the forgiveness of our sins. This pall, just like the pall on the casket or urn, is intended to draw attention to the resurrection.

When the funeral service ends, the pastor leads the procession and the pall is removed at the entrance of the church before the body or ashes are taken for interment at a cemetery or a columbarium. The pall is removed and readied for the next celebration of the resurrection. The pall reminds us that young or old—rich or poor—all are equally covered with the righteousness of Jesus, the atoning sacrifice for our sin. We enter the church on equal ground—sinners one and all, and we depart as saints, sinners saved and redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

Lent is a Season of baptismal instruction. Thanks for practicing your baptism, your dying and rising in daily life. "*A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood. The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!*"

I, I Am, Baptized, Pastor Dave

Forty Days of Lent!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Our Lenten Theme this year is "The Miracle of Easter!" Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday (March 2) at 6pm for the imposition of ashes & the Lord's Supper. Midweek Lenten Services will be offered each Tuesday during Lent from 6:00-6:45pm, featuring Holden Evening Prayer & miracle stories from the Bible. We hope you can join us!

Men's Bible Study

During the Season of Lent, study notes will be emailed to the men each week. In-Person studies will take place only when announced.

Church Land Pictures are being assembled by Mary Jo Grimsrud (Call #507-421-1889).

Implementation Team Financial Update!

The next meeting of the Building Committee will be on Sunday, March 6 at 5pm (Oasis Church). Emmanuel presently has a total of \$58,207.33 in our **Designated Building Fund**; \$24,739.90 is available for our current project (Shelter, etc.) and \$31,736.89 is available for the next steps we take as a congregation. In April 2021, Emmanuel approved \$90,000.00 for Phase One of our church land project. Since that time, an additional \$26,470.00 has been designated for the enclosure of our expanded Shelter. Total available for Phase One: \$ 116,470.00. Thus far we have paid two invoices to AB Systems (\$76,430.00 & \$14,345.00) along with a Conditional Use Permit fee of \$1,779.00 and windows/doors of \$1,730.10. Total spent thus far on Phase One: \$94,284.10.

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SAVE THE DATES!

*Easter Worship on our Church
Land—Sunday, April 17*

*Holy Week! Maundy Thursday at
6pm and Good Friday at 12:00 Noon.*

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13 and ends on Sunday, November 6, 2022.

The idea of aligning waking hours to daylight hours to conserve candles was first proposed in 1784 by American polymath Benjamin Franklin. In a satirical letter to the editor of The Journal of Paris, Franklin suggested that waking up earlier in the summer would economize candle usage and calculated considerable savings. Some people say that Daylight Saving Time should be abolished. A sleep neurologist explains the science. Springing forward doesn't just make for a sleepy Monday morning; it also affects your health and your safety. That's why experts are calling for an end to the back-and-forth that confuses our bodies twice per year and instead establish permanent Standard Time.

Funeral Pall

This memorial gift was given to Emmanuel, and was used for the first time at the funeral of Barbara Steffenson.

Pastor Dave and Julie Steffenson purchased this funeral pall to be used at funeral services when the deceased has chosen cremation.



Back Page Stories

Church Council Highlights: Feb.

3—Budget income in January was: \$14,545.93. Expenses for the month were: \$8,044.83. January 29 Annual Minutes were reviewed. Think Bank signature card now has President Jeff Patzke's name on it. Benevolences have been submitted to the NALC, NALS, NALC Disaster Response, & SEMAC. Pension was also submitted for Pastor Steffenson. Pastor Dave will no longer be offering monthly worship services at Madonna Towers. Worship Pianists are secured for the month of March (Jane will play at the Mid-week Services, and Mary Ann will play at the Saturday Services). Pastor Dave will be spending a week of Continuing Education (Feb. 20-27)

drafting an historical narrative for our Emmanuel 10 Year Anniversary. Our Annual Parochial Report has been submitted to the NALC. Arne Nelson will be our second voting member at the August Iowa Mission District Convocation. A picture of our new Council Members has been taken and posted on our Emmanuel Website. Council Members will be installed at worship on Feb. 26. The following people have keys to the Oasis Church: Pastor Dave, Jeff Patzke, Lee Pearce & Don Holtan. Pastor Tim Duesenberg delivered 3 dozen boxes of items for the local NALC Disaster Response Warehouse. Two Thrivent Action Team grants have been received in support of the SEMAC Mission Trip to Gibson City, Illinois. The next council

mtg. will be on Monday, Mar. 7 at 5pm.

This and That!

- Thanks is offered to all who offered compassion and care to the family of Barb Steffenson during their time of loss & grief. A funeral was held in the Timothy Chapel at Autumn Ridge Church on Feb. 25.
- \$3,100.00+ in Memorial gifts, designated in support of the Emmanuel Building Fund, and in loving memory of Barbara Steffenson have been received.

Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!

“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, & they were all filled with the Holy Spirit & continued to speak the Word of God with boldness.”