

The Emmanuel Epistle!

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: On Display!”

What’s on display? And for what purpose? Throughout the 50 Days of Easter we are singing, “*Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!*”

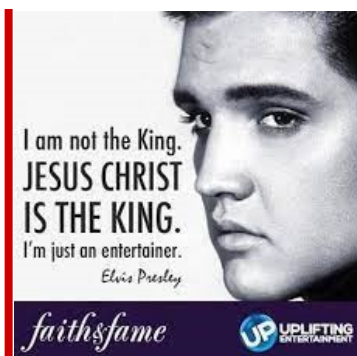
When I was in High School and in college, I worked at a Super Valu Grocery Store. I would sometimes put up a display. My High School had a Display Case, front and center, as one entered the building. Teachers put up displays. There’s nothing quite so magical as a classroom plastered in beautiful display work.

I have visited Washington D.C. where the Smithsonian (World’s largest museum) showcases more than 155 million artifacts, works of art, and natural science specimens. In my home, our refrigerator serves as our family display case. We also have a picture “*wall of fame*” in our basement, showcasing photos of our family.

The question must be asked, “What’s on Display?” Why do we display things? There are several reasons for creating displays. Included items indicate what we value, celebrate & consider important. We display our trophies, accomplishments, and victories. Displays



feature items that are on sale or new in our store inventory so as to catch the attention of shoppers and visitors; inviting consumers to buy or belong. Displays can emphasize compassion and stir generosity, like the “New Life Baby Shower” or the “Soup to Go” for the Salvation Army.



When it comes to Discipleship, what’s on display? St. Paul writes, “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, tells us that WE ARE the salt of the earth and the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hid.” We are God’s

Display Case. So what’s the purpose of being on display? Not to toot our own horn or to inflate our egos. The purpose of “letting our lights shine before others” is so that God gets ALL the glory. Discipleship is our God-given opportunity to showcase the Father’s forever love for us in the gift of His Son. Jesus is the True Vine and we are His fruit-bearing branches. We fast, pray and give alms so that God may get the praise as we care for our neighbors.

What’s on display? During the Season of Easter, we are proclaiming the gift of the Third Day. We are practicing resurrection in daily life. The habit of our hearts is the promise of eternal life. We seek more Jesus! We share the good news of Easter so that our joy may be complete. “This is LOVE (agape),” St. John writes, “Not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent His Son to be the forgiveness of our sins.”

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**May 2021
Newsletter
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Food For Thought:

Oswald Chambers, writing on Philippians 1:20, “It’s as if Paul were saying, ‘My determined purpose is to be my utmost for His highest—my best for His glory; absolutely and entirely for Him alone.’”

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SEMAC Mission Work Trip—TEXAS

San Miguel Lutheran Church, an NALC Hispanic Church in Fort Worth, TX, had a foot of water in its building after pipes burst. Many members of San Miguel also suffered a lot of damage to their homes. Many were in need of help before the winter storms, & even more so now, having minimal resources & no insurance. Larry Vomhof is putting together a work trip for the week of May 22-30. The work will be mainly plumbing, sheet-rocking & taping. Contact Larry if you wish to serve or want more information (#507-251-1342 or dvomhof@gmail.com). Hosting the Work Team will be Hope Lutheran, served by Pastors Joel & Wendy Berthelsen—Gloria Wiebusch's daughter.

“Mega Kids Camp” — July 26-29

MEGA Kids Camp is back for the 9th year. The theme this year: **“Legendary – Journey to the Hall of Fame.”** Location: Rochester Century H.S. - National Volleyball Center. Lots of options for kids to choose from: Pet Care, Adventure Track, Horses, Soccer, Basketball, Cheerleading, and Creative Arts. Pre- Kindergarten will experience customized activities, sports, and arts in 3 gyms just for them. Cost: \$30 before June 30. \$40 after June 30. Planning is underway for full in-person camp with no restrictions, but COVID-19 may make a virtual camp necessary (evangelum.org)

Season One of “The Chosen”

The Chosen is a television drama based on the life of Jesus Christ. Series creator Dallas Jenkins wanted to create a series about Christ that could be “binge watched.” Jenkins' intention was not only to dig deeper into the people who encountered Jesus and to see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, but also to show him in a way that is more “personal, intimate, immediate.”

Season 1 introduces Jesus and the calling of his initial disciples. Season 2 focuses on the beginning of his public ministry & what happens as word of his ministry began to spread. Dan & Mary Jo Grimsrud have ordered the DVD series of Season 1 of THE CHOSEN. Contact them if you would like to borrow & view it! You won't be disappointed.

GOSPEL Summer Concert Series

Trinity Lutheran in St. Charles is pleased to invite everyone to their Gospel Summer Concert Series. **Pastor Greg Behrend** (Moravian Church in Altura) will perform in the green space behind the St. Charles City Hall at 6:30 PM on June 23rd. **Matt and Brenda Stier** will perform on July 21st also at 6:30 PM. The **RavensFire Band** will round out this year's summer concert series with a performance at 6:30 PM on August 18th.

WORSHIP FOR May 2021 — 6pm

As our Community & Country continues to monitor COVID-19, Emmanuel is adjusting our Worship Services accordingly. We will continue to exercise caution & care, compassion & faithfulness as we gather for in-person worship. We will offer the Lord's Supper on May 8 & 22 during worship in prefilled cups.

Emmanuel will continue to offer online worship opportunities via the Emmanuel Facebook Page and the Emmanuel Church Website. Thanks for worshipping with us in person (6pm) and virtually online.

Saturday, May 1 – 6pm: Easter V — Pianist—Mary Ann Groven; pulpit supply: Pastor Waldemar Gies

Saturday, May 8 – 6pm: Easter VI — Pianist: Mary Ann Groven (Mother's Day); **Holy Communion**

Saturday, May 15 – 6pm: Easter VII — Pianist: Karen Salz

Saturday, May 22 – 6pm: Pentecost — Pianist—Mary Ann Groven; **Holy Communion**

Saturday, May 29 – 6pm: Holy Trinity — Pianist—MarJean Damerval

Liturgy: Easter Hallelujah Liturgy: May 1, 8, 15 & 22. Holden Evening Prayer: May 29 & June 5.

Thanks to Don Holtan for recording our Worship Services and to Julie Steffenson, Peg Holtan, Lee and Judy Pearce, Rich & Janet Sunde, Fred Morck, JeanWanek, and Larry & Deb Vomhof for assisting with worship; ushering, setup, takedown, greeting and sanitization.

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Soli Deo Gloria! We are God's display case for Christ's sake! Like our refrigerator face, our display may be untidy and a bit of a mess, but it showcases what is essential and of utmost importance: The glory of God! St. Paul writes, "We have this treasure in penny clay pots to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." The Great I AM (Jesus) reside and abides in us for our salvation, God's glory, and the good of our neighbor.

A beautiful Children's Song, (Rise and Shine"—The Arky, Arky Song), contains these words, "*Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory! Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory! Rise and shine and (clap once) give God the glory, glory!* (Raise hands to shoulder level and sway back and forth.) *Children of the Lord.*" God puts us on display to show the world His glory. Are we giving others a saving taste of Jesus? The "**shout out**" is always for God's glory, not our self acclaim. We may be the only Bible some folks ever read. Talk is cheap. Actions speak louder than words. Jesus (THE WORD of God) illustrates, demonstrates, and performs God's Word! Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd. I lay down my life for my sheep." Jesus says it and then does it. His WORD is His ACTION for you. Alleluia!

Discipleship on Display for the Glory of God! This is our worshiping Hymn of Praise. C.S. Lewis writes, "A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell." "Don't steal the Glory!" (Isaiah 60:1; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Phil. 2:9-11)

I AM on Display for the Glory of God, Pastor Dave

Emmanuel Huddle Highlights

Members of Emmanuel met on April 17 for a time of conversation & information sharing. The Huddle included a presentation from the "Building for the Future" Implementation Team. Highlights include:

1. First quarter budget shows that expenses have exceeded income by about \$5,600. But we have paid pastor's retirement, & our issuance premiums for the entire year. We have also submitted \$2,500 of our 2021 budgeted benevolences.
2. Handouts were distributed: Updated Membership List with contact information, & the "m & m's of Emmanuel Lutheran" - summarizing our mission and ministries.
3. "Building for the Future" Pre-steps & First steps were reviewed. A proposal (Next Steps), to be considered at the April 24 congregational meeting was discussed. The proposal includes spending money already available in the Building Fund, which will provide a driveway from the Access Road, parking area, electrical service, shelter, & a portable storage shed, and necessary permits.
4. Announcements: a) The Lord's Supper will be distributed during worship with pre-filled cups on May 8 & 22. b) Dave & Kimberly Evenson (Bothun Family) are donating playground equipment for use on our church land. c) A church sign, announcing the presence of Emmanuel, will be placed on the church land in the near future. d) LeRoy Quam is working on a Cross for our church property.

Congregational Meeting Summary

Emmanuel held a special congregational meeting on April 24 following worship. 29 covenant members were present. The following motion was passed: "That the membership of Emmanuel Lutheran Church approve the allocation of funds from the Designated Building Fund #357, not to exceed \$90,000, which will accomplish the following steps in our "Building to Serve" Plan of Action: Driveway from Access Road, Parking Area, Electrical Service, Shelter, and a Portable Storage Shed, and necessary permits. Work to be performed by AB Systems (Peter Schuller)." Only one "no" vote was cast. All other votes were "yes". Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting.

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 emailed to you. We will have in-person studies during the months of May & June: **Wednesdays, May 5 & 19, and June 2, 16, & 30, at 11am.** Location: Oasis Church Worship Space, or weather permitting, we'll meet outdoors. We will wear masks. Bring a Bible & a heart eager to hear God's Word.

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



SAVE THE DATES!

Emmanuel Church Picnic

Sunday, August 1

Happy Birthday!

Emmanuel turns 10 on Feb. 25, 2022!

Pre-filled Communion Cups

During COVID-19, Emmanuel has offered the Lord's Supper at least once a month. We have consecrated the elements during worship & distributed them as worshipers exited the building. Beginning on May 8, Emmanuel is using prefilled Communion cups and bread. We will distribute the elements as members arrive for worship. The elements will be consecrated and received during worship. We have purchased the prefilled containers from **World Communion Cups** (www.wccups.com). Visit their website and you'll know why we are supporting this Christian company.

Emmanuel Care Team!

A Word from Judy Pearce: "It has been a privilege to have served on the Emmanuel Care Committee, but it's time to allow others an opportunity to offer their gifts in caring for others. Karen Peterson, Peg Holtan, & Jean Wanek have all participated previously. The committee helps maintain contact with all our members by such things as phone calls, cards, flowers, gifts, and visits. Julie Engle now will be assuming the committee chair position. I am sure she would welcome inquiries & volunteers to help with committee work. My involvement has been extremely rewarding and refreshing." **Thanks** to Judy for her faithful service in the past; **prayers for Julie** as she assumes her role as chairperson.

Back Page Stories

Church Council Highlights April 8, 2021-Zoom Mtg.

Budget Income for the month of March was \$9,117.86; Expenses were \$10,345.79. First Trimester Giving Statements will be sent out in early May. Pastor on vacation: April 30-May 6. MarJean Damerval will resume worship pianist duties on May 29. Pastor & Julie are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Trinity Lutheran, in St. Charles, MN, has called Rev. Doug Hedman to serve as their pastor. (Note: \$100 was given to their building fund in celebration of pastor's Installation). Mary Bates Presentation on April 25. Church Land Sign was approved; will be installed by Larry Vomhof & volunteers. Motion of the

Implementation Team was approved and will be presented at the Special Congregation Meeting on April 24. Pre-filled Communion cups will be ordered & used beginning on May 8. Oasis has a wheelchair for use when needed. Judy Pearce will be stepping down as chair of the Care Team. Next Council Mtg. is May 10 at 1pm

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 look forward to the time when we can resume Saturday School with our little ones. Until then, we will provide take-home resources for our children. **Children's Messages** are posted weekly on our Emmanuel Website & Facebook Page.

THANKS!

One year anniversary. Pastor Dave was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer on April 27, 2020. He began intensive chemo treatment on Monday, May 11, 2020. His next chemo will be on May 11. Pastor Dave and Julie give all the glory to God. They offer their thanks to their many prayer warriors!

Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$1,279

If you have Thrivent Products don't forget to designate your Choice Dollars. Go online at www.thrivent.org or call #1-800-847-4836. Thank You for supporting Emmanuel!

Blessed Mother's Day

Blessed Mother's Day to all who are called by God to serve as mother's, physically & spiritually, in the lives of God's people! Thank you!

Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!