

The Emmanuel Epistle!

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

Pastor’s Keyboard: “Discipleship: On the Clock!”

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, in his poem, “**God’s Minute**,” writes: “I’ve only just a minute, Only sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, can’t refuse it, Didn’t seek it, didn’t choose it, But it’s up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it, Give an account if I abuse it. Just a tiny little minute, But eternity is in it.”

Time is a Gift of God for you! We are born into *Chronos* (biological time; chronological, calendar, & clock time) and born again into *Kairos* (holy opportune time). Discipleship allows us to measure our time. How well will we spend the time God gives us? Only time will tell!

Time flies. The clock is ticking! The wages of sin is death. There is no escaping our mortality. But *in Christ*, we live in the promise of immortality. The perishable will put on the imperishable. Death will be swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ!—I Corinthians 15.

One of my favorite hymns “Rock of Age” contains these words: “Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.” For everything there is a season



& a TIME for every matter under heaven. One year ends & another year begins; at the stroke of Midnight. We are clock and calendar people. Time is money. Lost time is never found again. Time! Free time, making time, killing time, hard time, and a whale of a time. Time doesn’t always heal all wounds. We can’t turn back the hands of time. When it comes to decision making, only time will tell.

“The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now.”

—Rick Warren

Dorothy Bass, in her book, Receiving the Day, discussing **Psalm 90**, describes how this psalm brings together two kinds of time: i.e. Our short sigh & God’s mountainous eternity.” Our lives are so miniscule compared with the vast perspective of God; yet somehow, each of our tiny

little lives is sacred and full and unique. Our saving Faith in Jesus embraces this beautiful paradox: Human life is infinitesimal and epic at the exact same time. In other words, *Chronos* is redeemed by *Kairos*.

St. Paul says, “**Redeem the Time!**”—Ephesians 5:16. Paul is talking about Kairos time! By the grace of God, we are on the clock with Christ! David Jeremiah writes, “Saving us is the greatest and most concrete demonstration of God’s love, the definitive display of His grace throughout time and eternity.” Ole Hallesby writes, “You can use your time to no better advantage than to pray whenever you have a moment, either alone, or with others, while at work, at rest, or walking down the street! Anywhere!”

In January of 2016, Rori Blakeney wrote, “What is Kairos Time?” He quoted Mays’ poem (**God’s Minute**) & added, “In

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June 2021
Newsletter
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Food For Thought:

O God Our Help in Ages Past! “Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all our years away; We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.”

—Isaac Watts

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June 19--Blessed Father's Day!

We have ONE Heavenly Father, and by the grace of God many who serve as father to us here on earth. We give thanks to our Father in Heaven who gave His only begotten Son for the salvation of the world. We give thanks to our Triune God who blesses us with faith-filled fathers here on earth who teach us the WAY of the LORD!

Psalm 103:13 - "As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him."

Matthew 7:9-11 - "Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

SEMAC Mission Work Trip—TEXAS

SEMAC will be home this weekend! Thanks for your prayers & support. SEMAC restored homes & hope in Fort Worth, 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 & members of the SEMAC Servant Team responded to this need during the week of May 22-30. All praise and glory to God!

COVID-19 (The Honor System)

Regulations regarding Covid-19 have been lifted or lessened in our country, county, communities and churches. Presently, anyone who has been fully vaccinated is no longer required to wear a mask at Emmanuel Lutheran (inside the Oasis building). We will continue to us caution in our exercise of freedom, aware of the fact that some of our members have compromised immune systems.

Celebrating Independence Day

July 4th marks the birthday of the United States. Many of us will commemorate the occasion with fireworks, cookouts, or displaying an American flag. There are Biblical Reasons for Celebrating Independence Day: 1) America offers significant religious freedom for Christians (and others) to freely worship; 2) Christians can thank God for those who serve in the Armed Forces & have given their lives to defend our freedom; 3) We can thank God for giving us voice and the opportunity to participate in the democratic process of our nation; and 4) We can thank God for the peace He daily provides for our families, our communities, and our nation. As Jeremiah 29:7 teaches, we can seek the good of the city where we live and work to impact those around us with the love of Christ. July 4 reminds us that it is not our Independence or Nation that saves us, but rather our Dependence on God!

WORSHIP FOR June 2021 — 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 June 12 & July 3 during worship in prefilled cups.

Saturday, May 29 – 6pm: Holy Trinity — Pianist—Mary Ann Groven (Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy)

Saturday, June 5 – 6pm: Pentecost 2 — Pianist—MarJean Damerval (Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy)

Saturday, June 12 – 6pm: Pentecost 3 — Pianist: Karen Salz (Summer Liturgy with **Holy Communion**)

Saturday, June 19 – 6pm: Pentecost 4 — Pianist: MarJean Damerval (Summer Liturgy; Father's Day)

Saturday, June 26 – 6pm: Pentecost 5 — Pianist—Mary Ann Groven; (Summer Liturgy)

Saturday, July 3 – 6pm: Pentecost 6 — Pianist Pending? (Summer Liturgy with **Holy Communion**)

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

College, it was impressed upon me the importance of time, and how we are gifted with it. ... Our time really does count. More importantly, understanding God's time is key. God's time is often referred to as "Kairos time." Greek in its origin, "Kairos time" reminds us that our lives are filled with God moments. This time is all about the movement of God in our lives. These God moments are often characterized as coincidence or serendipity. Yet, if we would listen to the Spirit, we would discover that these moments are acts of divinity." They are holy, divinely given, opportune moments well spent in meditation & prayer!

Blakeney continues, "Kairos time is designed to help us fulfill our God given purpose in life! Unlike Kairos time, Chronos time can be viewed as ordinary time. It is chronological or sequential time. Chronos time is the clock passing from one minute to the next. While Chronos time is important and a gift, we should seek to live in Kairos time. So, the next time you hear the question, 'What time is it' consider these questions as you determine your answer: Is God speaking to you about a particular issue; a particular time/season in your life; a particular issue in the life of the faith community; or a particular time/season in the life of the faith community?" Good advice for *the Time Being* ... a gift from God! Gordon C. Stewart, in "**Bemused by Time**", writes, "Time and place are gifts of creaturely existence, boundaries within which we live our lives appreciatively or scornfully in the midst of the Eternal (THE LORD). Time and place are set within the larger Mystery – the Mystery that makes us mortals tremble and fascinates us at the same time, the Mystery of the Eternal without which we are nothing. Time and place – birth, finite life, death – exist within the Mystery of that which does not die: Eternity." St. Paul writes, "Behold! *I tell you a mystery*. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."

We are on the Clock. **Times up!** The buzzer goes off. Now what? Waste not; want not. The trumpet sounds. Then what? Chronos time is redeemed by Kairos time. May our time on earth be well spent for the glory of God! Redeemed by Jesus, more time awaits us; eternal time with the ONE who is Eternal; Eternal Life and Eternity for you & for me! "God's Minute: Just a tiny little minute, But eternity is in it." Time is a precious. Time is a treasure. Time must be used wisely. What difference will your God-given time make? "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"—Ecclesiastes 3. There is nothing better than spending TIME (*Chronos & Kairos*) with Jesus!

On the Clock with Jesus, Pastor Dave

Church Land Work Day Saturday, June 5 from 9am-3pm

Members of Emmanuel are invited to participate in a work day on our church land. Judy & Lee Pearce will be providing snacks & lunch for participants. They need a head count, so please let them know if you plan on participating in the work day! Work day projects will include: Reduction of the Brush & Burning Pile, putting the Church Sign on the prepared framing, & preparation of the designated area for Recreation and Play. A **Signup Sheet** is posted in the Gathering Space of Oasis! Come as you are able. Leave as you need to.

Implementation Team Update

We met on Friday, May 14 and we've got exciting news to share with you. Generosity (new dollars and donated labor) is coming our way & it looks like we may be able to build a combined shelter and storage area (72 x 24), AND still be under our \$90,000

approved church vote. Praise God! The goal is to have 1/2 of the larger shelter open and 1/2 of the shelter enclosed providing indoor meeting space, storage and security. This will allow us to use the larger building SO MUCH MORE! One new gift of \$5,000 has already been received for this purpose. Those hoping to have a portion of the shelter enclosed are invited to help fund this dream. If you've been thinking of giving a gift to the Building Fund, now is the time to do it! No gift is too small or too large! God loves a cheerful giver."

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. We will have In-Person studies on: **Wednesdays, June 2, 16, & 30, and July 7 & 14 at 11am.** Location: Oasis Church Worship Space; or weather permitting, we'll meet outdoors. 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 on the church land!

Happy Birthday!

Emmanuel turns 10 on Feb. 25, 2022!

Cross with Eternal Circle - for our Church Land

A donation from LeRoy & Margaret Quam. A Picture with an explanation of the cross will be in the July Newsletter.

Emmanuel Mini VBS - Sunday, August 8 (2pm)

Story Telling with Pastor Dave. Weather permitting, church land. Music & crafts, snack & a surprise! 1 Day! 2 Hours!

Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MN!

Calling all kids! Save the date: "Operation Overboard". This is a one day mini VBS event on Sunday, July 25 from 2:00-4:30pm at the St. Charles Community Center. Enjoy an afternoon of fun, games, and learning that "Jesus is our life-saver!" This event is open to children ages 4 thru 4th Grade. Register by July 2nd at www.vbsmate.com/tlcstcharles.

GOSPEL Summer Concert Series!

Trinity Lutheran in St. Charles invites you to their Gospel Summer Concert Series; Wednesdays at 6:30pm on the green space behind the St. Charles City Hall. **Pastor Greg Behrend** (Moravian Church in Altura) will perform on June 23rd. **Matt & Brenda Stier** will perform on July 21st. **The Ravens Fire Band** will perform on August 18th. A freewill offering will be received at each concert, which will benefit the holy work of God in the local community.

Back Page Stories

Church Council Highlights May 10, 2021-Zoom Mtg.

Budget Income for the month of April was \$9,969.16; Expenses were \$8,627.03. First Trimester Giving Statements have been sent out to all contributors. YTD Thrivent Choice Dollars: \$1,306. \$100 was given to the Trinity Lutheran, St. Charles, in celebration of Rev. Doug Hedman's installation. Use of in-person prefilled Communion cups was very positive! Iowa Mission District Convocation: Saturday, Sept. 11th in Emmons, MN; Bible Saturday, Sept. 25th: Gary Froiland (Gideon's presentation). Updates received: the Implementation Team, the sign and cross for the church land, Mary Bates presentation,

& the SEMAC Work Trip to Texas. A porta-potty will be on the church land as of June 1. Care Team has a new chairperson: Julie Engle. The 2018 guidelines are being reviewed. Bob (March 31) & Vicky (April 16) Mulhill have retired & are moving to Florida. Bob was serving the first year of a 3-year term on the Audit Committee. Tom Vomhof will complete the remainder of 2021 for Bob. Next Council Mtg. is June 7 at 1pm.

Gift of Grace - In our Prayers!

Our sister congregation, Gift of Grace Lutheran, served by Pastor Tim Duesenberg in Holmen, WI, is celebrating its 10+1 year anniversary on **Sunday, June 6** with an outdoor reception at 2:30pm. Worship will be at 1pm; seating is limited. Emmanuel sent a card & a Building Fund gift!

THANKS!

We are offering thanks to Matt Serr, Joe Vomhof & Darald Bothun for picking up the donated Church Land Playground Set on Saturday, May 22.

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 hope to resume Saturday School with our little ones on Sept. 11. Weekly Children's Messages & take-home resources are being provided via our Church Website & Facebook Page.

THANKS!

Pastor Dave received good news from his recent blood draw and CT Scan. His pancreatic cancer is being effectively battled! He and Julie give all the glory to God. They offer their thanks to their prayer warriors! **4:31 Prayer Time!**