

EMMANUEL HERALD

Sunday School/Bible Class: 9:00 (Sept-May)

Divine Service: Sundays 10:00 am
Sundays 9:00 (Memorial Day through
Labor Day)



From the Pastor's Study

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I think it's safe to say that Holy Week 2020 in America is going to be unlike any in living memory. We won't be able to celebrate Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar on Maundy (Holy) Thursday. We'll miss the sober candlelight service and the powerful closing of the tomb on Good Friday. We'll be unable to shake hands with others when we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. The situation is disappointing and, for many of us, it's sad. What it's not is unique.

All though the centuries, the Church has endured times of trials and hardships that limited public worship. Nero (64 AD) sadistically persecuted Christians; including burning them as torches in his gardens. Decius (249-251 AD) sought to exterminate Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Diocletian (303-311) ordered the destruction of churches and Bibles and the death of Christians. In Japan (1550-1873) Christianity was illegal. During World War 2, the members of the Confessing Churches in Germany (those who refused to capitulate to government control of their congregations) met secretly and many died in the Death Camps. Christians in the Soviet Union lost their jobs and their exiled to Siberia. This Easter, as they have in previous years and on previous Sundays, Christians in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and Somalia will worship secretly (this list isn't exhaustive, by the way).

As I mentioned, the situation in which we find ourselves isn't unique. Do you know what else isn't unique? God's role in all of it! Jesus promises His Church, ***“On this rock [the confession that Jesus is the Son of God] I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*** (Matthew 16:18) It doesn't matter whether the Church is able to gather physically or not. It doesn't matter if the Church is livestreamed or whispers prays and readings. What matters is that it's God's Church and He will use it for His glory. It's His Church and He will sustain it regardless of the obstacles that Satan puts in His way.

During every period of persecution and in every area where it was taking place, the Church not only persevered, it grew. The Church is exploding in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. I pray that during this time of separation the Church will continue to thrive. God uses everything that happens for His good purposes, and He'll do so now.

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Think about the good things that God is doing right now.

- 1) While it's disappointing that youth sports have been cancelled, it's also a time for parents, grandparents, and kids to see that time together, family meals, and a slower pace are better than rushing from one event to another.
- 2) Our neighbors are scared, people are getting sick, and many are dying, and yet, all types of people are stepping up to help. There has been a concerted effort to make masks, gowns, and ventilators. Doctors and nurses are sacrificing much. God is using this disease to lead His people to show love for their neighbors and to show people all the good things the Church does.
- 3) Since we've been encouraged to stay home, this leaves more time to read the Bible. Think about it, when do you have time to sit and mediate on what God has to say? Some of you have plenty of time, while for others, this is a new experience, so try spending time in God's Word.
- 4) This is a difficult time financially for millions of people, and it will continue. However, just as God has provided in the past, He'll do so again. Are you not worth more than a sparrow?
- 5) While this is a frightening time for so many, it's a time when we can look to God and remember His promises to never forsake us, to always give us hope, to be the One upon whom we can rely on, and to be the one who will preserve our salvation.
- 6) As time goes on, we'll see God at work more and more in this difficult time.

This article got a little out of hand because I have so much I want to say, and I hope you stuck with me to the end. I don't blame you if you're afraid, uncertain, or a little anxious. I'm not going to condemn you for thinking everything is a little over the top. In whatever camp you find yourself, I pray that you also see God hand at work. His presence, His forgiveness, and His love are seen in this time and we can have that certain hope that He will use this for the good of all those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

I miss you all and pray that you're healthy, and that we'll soon be able to gather again. I am not visiting too many while trying to practice self-isolation (to protect you), but if you need anything, please don't hesitate to call. I will be glad to listen to you, pray with you, or bring communion to you.

In Christ, Pastor

Easter Service

Some of you may have heard my excitement over a "Drive-In Easter Service" at one of the East Sac School parking lots. I breaks my heart to say that because of the ongoing Covid-19 situation we will not be able to have this service on Easter.

HOWEVER,

I pray you will join me online as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus at 9:00 am on Easter. Easter won't be the same without joining our fellow Christians in person, but Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He is the Risen Christ whether we're in church or not, and this is our joy, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council—March 11, 2020

Those present: Pastor, Beth Hatch, Jodi Pieken, Lannie Miller, Roger Pieken, Marlin Johnson, Dave Woltman, Wes Drost

Wes called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer. Minutes from the Feb. meeting were emailed to all council members. Minutes were approved. The financial report for Feb. 2020 was given. Dave made a motion, seconded by Roger to approve the financial report. Motion passed.

Elder Report: Nothing to Report

Trus-

tee Report: There are a few lights out that need to be changed. The batteries in the smoke detectors need changed.

Evange-

lism Report: Fish Fry is March 22, 5:30-6:30.

Pastors

Report: Visits: shut in – 5, sick/hospital – 3. Reminder for everyone to please take the time and do the assessment. Lannie made a motion, seconded by Marlin to approve the transfer of Rhonda Daniel and kids to Saint Paul in Carroll. Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is a 9-week program that will be open to the community and will be held at Emmanuel beginning May 13. On April 26 Emmanuel will be hosting Engaging Your Community. Rev. Todd Kollbaum, Director of Rural and Small Town Ministry for our synod will be speaking about how the church can engage in the community. The congregation is strongly encouraged to attend.

Old Business: None

New Business:

None

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. A motion was made by Roger, seconded by Marlin to adjourn the meeting. Next council meeting will be April 8, 2020.

Submitted by Jodi Pieken, Council Secretary

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council— March 17, 2020

Those present: Pastor, Beth Hatch, Jodi Pieken, Lannie Miller, Roger Pieken, Marlin Johnson, Dave Woltman, Randy Drost, Wes Drost

Wes called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer.

As of right now there will be no church for the next 2 weeks. Steps will be turned off and the thermostat in the church will be lowered. The church will remain open normal hours. Council discussed what we as a congregation can do to help the elderly or those who are compromised. A list will be put together of members who are willing to help members out. If a group of 10 or less would like to get together and have Pastor come and give a message and communion, he would be happy to do that. Pastor will give an address to members so that offerings can be sent in. Lannie and Judy Miller will be in charge of counting the offerings that are sent in. Pastor is looking into how to livestream his sermon and post it on the Facebook page. Confirmation for the 6th and 7th graders is done. The 8th graders will start meeting on Sunday mornings. If this lasts longer than 2 weeks, we will figure something out so that members can come and receive communion. Pastor will be sending an email/letter to all members letting them know all this information.

Birthdays

Name	Date
Lynn Mohr	April 1
Peggy Busch	April 8
Wayne Smidt	April 9
Bob Bogue	April 10
Lavon Karstens	April 15
Brian Leitz	April 15
Susie Petersen	April 16
Rena Schmidt	April 16
Jason Phillips	April 16
Reed Musselman	April 17
Darlene Wollesen	April 19
Michelle Leonard	April 19
Matt Mork	April 19
Elaine Frank	April 20
Jennifer Bohm	April 20
Landon Graff	April 23
Doris Larsen	April 26
Kevin Schmidt	April 27
Sydney Murillo	April 29

Anniversaries

Larry & Barb Bundt	April 3 (55 Years)
Jim & Norma Wallace	April 10 (65 years)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office so our records can be updated.

Serving in God's House

Elders:

April 5:	Lannie Miller (712) 661-9216
April 12:	Dave Woltman (712) 660-3532
April 19:	Craig Wallace (606) 584-3321
April 26:	Lyle Tegels (712) 830-7151

Worship Online

Facebook.com/LakeViewEmmanuel— Holy Week and Sunday services will be shown live and a recording will be available.

www.lakeviewemmanuel.com—click on the box with a video camera. The video here is not live but directs to the recorded Facebook video (you do not need a Facebook account to watch the video).

Call (844) 605-2344 and listen to the service live or call later and listen to the recorded service. This option has been a bit of a struggle. If the service isn't recorded, the sermon will be available to listen to by noon on Sunday.

Contact Us

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