



This is what the
Lord GOD
showed me ...

Amos 8:1, NRSV

Welcome !
Rally Sunday 2019

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
September 22, 1019

“It is wonderful to worship with you today”



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Making Christ Known
Through Worship, Nurture, Service, and Outreach



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

“Rally Sunday”

September 22, 2019

Welcome to Emmanuel !

It is wonderful to worship with you today!

All are welcome regardless of your faith affiliation.

If you are a visitor worshipping today, we are blessed by your presence. Please sign the guest book in the Gathering Space, so we can keep in touch.

All parts of today’s worship service are printed in this bulletin. Words to all songs are provided.

If you would like to use the hymnals to sing with music, most songs are noted with the hymnal color and song number for easy look up. Music is provided for songs not in one of the hymn books.

This is a service of Holy Communion. All God's people are invited to the table by our Lord Jesus Christ. You will find instructions for Holy Communion later in the bulletin.

Assistive hearing devices are available in the Gathering Space.

Restrooms are located in the hall off the Gathering Space immediately to the left.

Parents with children are welcome to use the children’s activity bags, located by the entrance to the Sanctuary. If needed, our nursery room is at the end of the hall off the Gathering Space.

Please silence your phones, but feel free to post pictures, videos, tweets or texts to social media. Help us share the word of God!

Introduction to the Day

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price.

“Christ Jesus, himself human... gave himself a ransom for all.”

Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

(Psalm 100:4)

THE SERVICE

PRAISE TIME *(please sing along)*

Led by Julie Freed and Doug Landis

“This is the Day”

“Lord, I Lift your Name on High”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word
you created the world, calling forth life in which you
took delight. Through the waters of the flood you
delivered Noah and his family.

**Through the sea you led your people Israel
from slavery into freedom. At the river
your Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters
and sons, making us heirs of your promise and
servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that
sustains life, and above all we praise you
for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness,
grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus
Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now
and forever.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING RESPONSE

I'm so Glad, Jesus Lifted Me (Blue 673)

**1 I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

GATHERING SONG

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Green 543)

**1 Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

**2 Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings
of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**3 Praise to the Lord,
who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness
and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**

**4 Praise to the Lord!
Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you
all.

And also with you.



SONG OF PRAISE

Come, All You People (Blue 717)



U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



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come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to
learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil
paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts
to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Amos 8: 1-7

ANTHEM

A reading from Amos:

“Every Time I Feel The Spirit” -

Emmanuel Men’s Choir

This is what the Lord GOD showed me — a basket of summer fruit. He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me,

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

A Reading from 1 Timothy.

"The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," says the Lord GOD; "the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!"

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
· saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain;
· and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

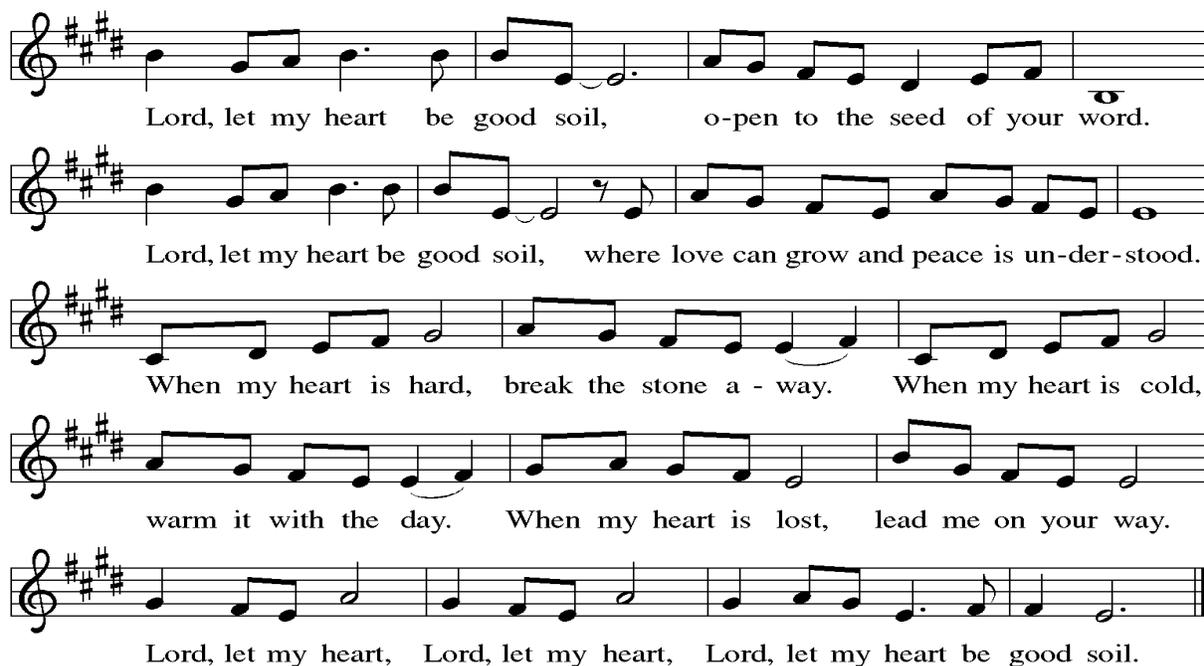
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Please sing once before, and once following the reading of the Gospel.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’

So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’

Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’

And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

(words on previous page)

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian

At conclusion of the sermon, please stand as you are able for the Hymn of the Day

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take my Life and Let It Be (ELW 583)

Refrain:

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

**1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

**2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain**

**3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. Refrain**

**4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each petition, the minister will say

"Lord, in your mercy."

The congregation responds:

"Hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us now share a sign of God's peace with each other.

OFFERING

Please be seated as we gather our offerings and present them to God.

OFFERTORY

Choir Anthem - "Fanfare of Praise" (*Althouse*)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

As the Grains of Wheat (Blue 705)

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our
midst, may we share the presence of your love.

Refrain

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you.

Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us
with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our
possessions.**

**Use us, and what we have gathered, in
feeding the world with your love, through the
one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

(Spoken by pastor)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we
should at all times and in all places give thanks and
praise to you, almighty and merciful God through
our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame
death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church
on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your
name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(please sing)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent to us to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever.**

Amen.

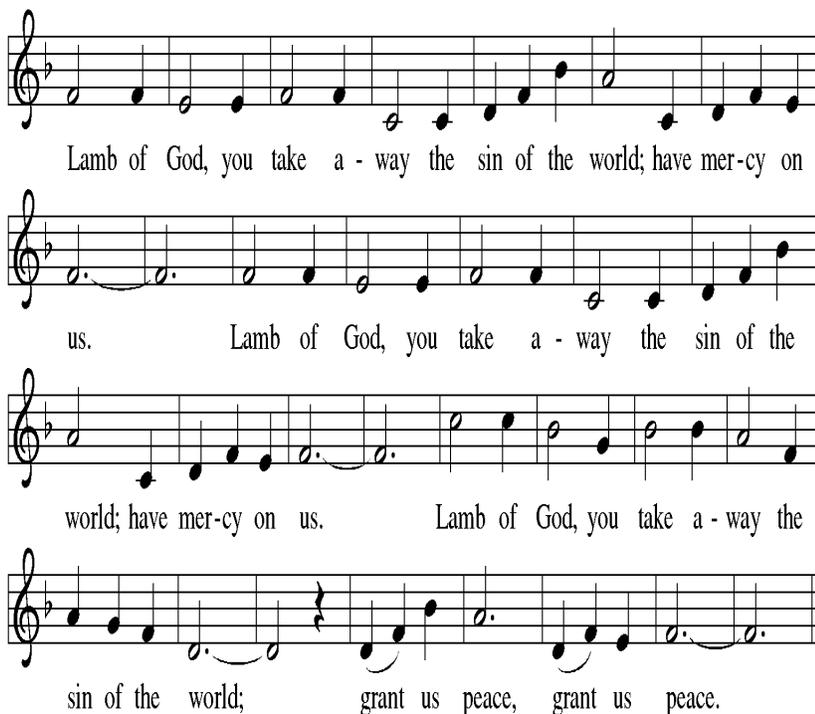
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet. The feast is now ready.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD *(Please sing)*

Please be seated.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All God's people are invited by our Lord Jesus Christ to receive Holy Communion. We receive these gifts of bread and wine, of Christ's body and blood in faith, trusting that in this meal our Lord comes to us, forgives our sins, renews us in faith and leads us into new life.

Emmanuel's tradition is that communion is distributed continuously. After the sacraments are consecrated, the ushers will direct those in the congregation by row to proceed down the center aisle toward the pastor or assisting minister who will distribute the bread.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please signal to the pastor or assisting minister as you approach. As you walk down the aisle on the left or right side, there are tables on which there are trays holding individual cups. If you wish to receive wine, please take an empty cup with you prior to receiving the bread. If you prefer grape juice, please take a pre-filled cup as you pass.

After receiving the bread turn to the left or right where an assistant will pour wine into the empty cup. After you have consumed the bread and wine (or juice), please return to your seat via the side aisle, placing the empty cup in the receptacle provided on your way to your seat.

If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please come forward with your arms folded across your chest in the form of the St. Andrew's cross. (X)

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

BELL SOLO – *Stephanie Moyer*

Jesus Loves Me

Spirit of Gentleness (Blue 744)

Refrain

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**1 You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings." *Refrain***

**2 You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. *Refrain***

**3 You sang in a stable,
you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. *Refrain***

**4 You call from tomorrow,
you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise. *Refrain***

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Together, let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son.

By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All children attending school are invited to come forward with their backpacks for a special blessing.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

I Know that My Redeemer Lives (Green 352)

**1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!**

**2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.**

**3 He lives to grant me rich supply;
he lives to guide me with his eye;
he lives to comfort me when faint;
he lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

**4 He lives to silence all my fears;
he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart;
he lives all blessings to impart.**

**5 He lives to bless me with his love;
he lives to plead for me above;
he lives my hungry soul to feed;
he lives to help in time of need.**

**6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!**

**7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.**

**8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and thanksgiving to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“The Heavens Declare”-Psalm 19 (*Marcello*)

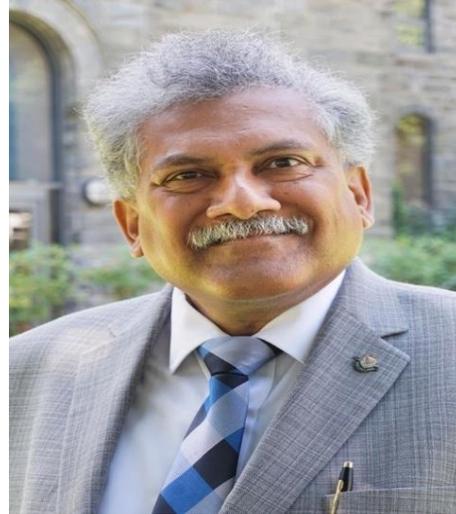


Emmanuel Worships !

Welcome
Today's Special Guest
Preacher!

Today – Sept. 22

Ministers: All God's people gathered
Acolytes: Jacob Gilbert, Abram Vasey, Keira Drissel
Assisting Minister: Dave Blaich
Altar Guild: Elaine Cash, Debbie McElwee, Pat Conard
CD Delivery: Brenda Nace
Communion Assts: John Wellington, Toni Quinn
Counters: Team 3: Bill Morral, Cheryl Starke, Co-captains.
Greeters: David & Marlene Natali
Lector: Deb Seeley
Ushers: Team 5, Cory Gilbert, Capt.



The
Rev. Dr. J.
Jayakiran
Sebastian

H. George
Anderson
Professor
of Mission
and
Cultures
and Dean

Next Week – Sept. 29

Ministers: All God's people gathered
Acolytes: Lily Pifer, Dylan Drissel
Assisting Minister: Jen Casta
Altar Guild: Fran Hunsicker, Gerry Blaich, Liesl Stroup, Kathleen Coll
CD Delivery: Pat Frankenfield
Communion Assts: Chris Harubin, Jane Vogel
Counters: Team 3: Bill Morral, Cheryl Starke, Co-captains.
Greeters: Bob & Ann Renner
Lector: Cory Gilbert
Ushers: Team 1, Daniel Vogel, Capt.

United Lutheran Seminary
Philadelphia

Rejoicing  Spirits

Join Us For Worship!
October 13 at 4:00 PM
And Every 2nd Sunday at 4 PM

*“Creating Inclusive Worship
and Fellowship”*

Attendance for Sunday, September 15, 2019 –72

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Emmanuel Worships !

**Coming to Emmanuel
Friday, October 6**



New Path is a faith community where people in recover and the people who love them can worship God, explore spiritual practices for recovery, and find company on the journey.

Come as you are and experience God's grace and unconditional love.

First Friday evening of the month

7 pm – Refreshments and Fellowship

7:30 pm – Worship and Conversation

Sponsored by Kairos Communities
For more information:
Info@kairoscommunities.org
[Facebook.com/kairos](https://www.facebook.com/kairos)



Weekly Schedule

**Sundays after
Worship*

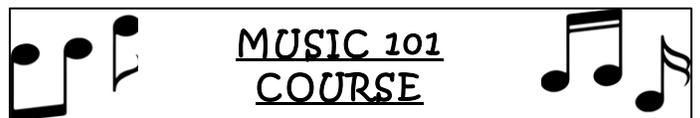
**Wednesdays at
7:30PM*

Singers may come to either or both rehearsals. A second rehearsal gives singers the option of coming for extra work, or to make up for a missed session.



**Wednesdays
@ 6:30 PM**

You don't need to know much about music, just how to count! Before long, with a little coaching you'll be ringing 2 – 3 – or 4 bells.



**Wednesdays: 8:30 – 9:00 PM
Beginning on September 18th**

For anyone who wants to get more joy from music and for those who know a little or nothing about reading music. We will start from the beginning, which is the best place to start. You'll be surprised at how quickly you can learn the basics!



Emmanuel Worships !



Musical Notes from
Deacon Ethel Geist,
Dir. of Music



There's more to being part of a choir than singing.

Do you want to:

Cultivate new friendships?

See and hear familiar Biblical passages in a whole new way?

Learn about those weird symbols in music?

Blend your voice with others?

Enjoy spending time with others who share similar interests?

If your answer to any of these is "YES", then you might want to be part of Emmanuel's choir.

Emmanuel's Choir is a group of singers who love to share their musical skills. When there are more people singing a part together, each member leans on the voices of the others. It is a more supporting and uplifting experience. Adding voices to all four sections (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) creates sounds and possibilities that enrich worship even more.

Even if you have never sung in a choir, or cannot read music, don't let that stand in your way. There is a place for you. Why not give it a try?

The most common excuses I hear are "I can't sing well enough.," "I don't have time,," "I can't read music.," If you can match a pitch, or come close, you are welcome in the choir. Finding time is difficult in our world, but many find choir singing rewarding, especially when voices blend together, the sounds created are beyond the ability of any single voice.

Questions? Curious? Feel free to spend some time with us after Worship today and see more of what it's all about! Or talk with me – if I'm not with the choir, you'll probably find me on an organ bench!



Emmanuel Nurtures !

Coming Up Soon:

Wed. Oct. 16th

@ Noon

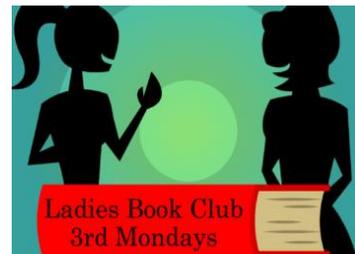
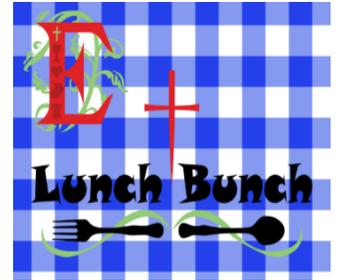
Location:

Hometown Family
Restaurant

(formerly O'Grady's)

For information, and transportation needs,
contact: Gloria Heckler 215-799-2264

**Join us for lunch, conversation and
fellowship every 3rd Wednesday**



Next Meeting

Monday, Oct. 21
@ 7:00 PM

October's Book:
"Before We Were
Yours"

by Lisa Wingate

*Join the ladies of Emmanuel for fun conversation
and fellowship – and always a good read!*

For information, e-mail Mary Anne Morral
morral@verizon.net

Knitters and Crocheters !

Come and gather
to make shawls for those
in need of comfort.



Next Meeting: Sunday, October 6 @ 1PM

And every first Sunday of the month.

Instruction available for all who are interested.



Emmanuel
Nurtures !



Have fun! Form faith! Make friends!

Sunday's at 10 AM

“A New Kind of Sunday School”

Warning!

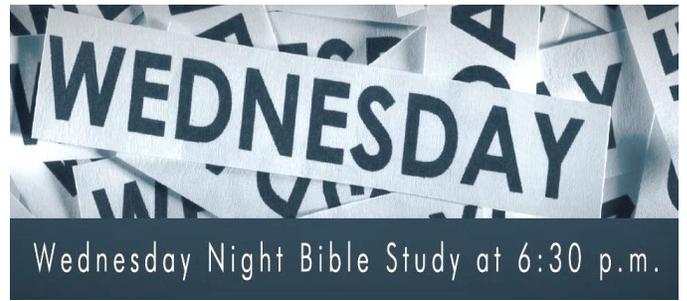
Your children, grandchildren,
nieces and nephews
may love this so much,
they will make YOU
come to church

All new energetic and
interactive curriculum !

Guaranteed
to be “Faith - Tastic!

Sing the songs of faith.
Hear the stories of faith.
Do the acts of faith.

Drop-Off begins at 9:45 AM



All New Curriculum

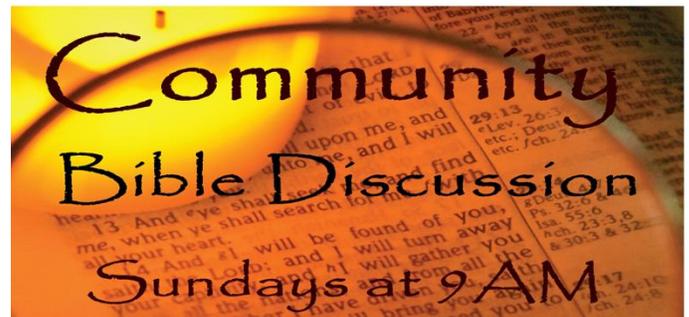


book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

*“Making Sense
of the
Christian
Faith.”*

*Developed by: The
Rev. Dr. David Lose*

If you have any questions, please
contact Fred Crouthamel
215-721-1953



Led by Deacon Marlene Natali

*Feel the power of God's Word
revealed though Scripture
and community discussion.*

**In the Parlor
Sundays at 9 AM**



Emmanuel Nurtures !



Thoughts on God's Word for Today

Sept. 22, 2019

Let's start by reading the Gospel lesson on page 6.

Now let's do a quick word study, if you will. When you read scripture, you are always trying to interpret it – asking the simple question, “What does it mean?”

There are two ways to determine the meaning of the text – by exegesis or by eisegesis. Those are two “seminary words”. Basically, exegesis is seeking the meaning of the text as it would be understood by the author, characters or audience. Eisegesis is seeking meaning by reading things into a text from your own personal experiences or point of view.

Eisegesis is like waiting at an intersection for oncoming traffic. The oncoming car makes a turn and you say it turned to the right, because it turned to **your** right. Exegesis would cause you to say the car turned left, because that was the driver's experience.

Most times when we look at scripture we should interpret by exegesis – understanding how the text would have been received by its audience, and by those who are part of the story.

Today's text contains a parable that is puzzling to us, because we seek to interpret by eisegesis – reading into the text current experiences and points of view. As a result, we look at the actions of the manager as dishonest, and we wonder about Jesus who seems to lift up the manager's actions as commendable.

Is Jesus really telling us it is OK to act dishonestly – even illegally – in order to protect ourselves? Well, that's not really Jesus' point, and that's the problem with eisegesis – where understanding of a text is colored by personal experiences and morality.

Interpreting the text by exegesis requires a little understanding of its social setting. Let's start with the Roman Empire and its oppressive, cruel and unjust occupation of Palestine.

The social structure was supported by a patron-client system, similar to medieval feudalism. If you were a member of the poorer class, you served someone from the upper, ruling class. If you were poor, you had little hope of ever breaking the ceiling to become a member of the upper class.

Sometimes, the rich had so much property, they had to hire a manager – lifting someone from the poor class – to manage property, collect taxes or debts. The manager would have been part of a very tiny – and very vulnerable middle class, caught between the powerful rich, and the poorer class. As they collected taxes and debts from the poor, managers were to get compensated by commission, often by doubling what was owed the master, then splitting the take 50/50 with him. The managers, therefore, were extorting from those who had little, and were completely vulnerable to those who were rich. If a manager's job was threatened, few options were available to him. One of those options was returning to the poorer class, as a traitor, a sell-out. There was no job market, no court of appeal, no unemployment insurance, just rejection and abject poverty.

I think that helps us understand the motivation of the manager and his shrewdness in creating favor among the poorer class. Jesus is not praising the manager's dishonesty. Instead he is commending the manager for shrewd action under a corrupt and unforgiving system. For using money, before money used him. It is a picture of repentance on the part of the manager, and forgiveness on the part of the master.

By doing this, Jesus warns us that the love of money is a dangerous thing – it creates power structures where wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few, the middle class is squeezed, and the poor pay more and more of what little they have just to live. That is not Jesus's vision of the Kingdom of God – a world without classes, predatory practices, hoarding of wealth or poverty. That's the real message contained in this parable. Relationships, compassion and love are of eternal value, not wealth, property or power.

Now that we've done some good interpretation by exegesis, does that change your point of view of the “Unjust Manager”? Do you see him in a different light now that his predicament is better understood?

I hope so. That's the beauty of interpretation by exegesis. In exegesis – we find Jesus as the subject of the story. In eisegesis – we are the subject, author and audience. The bible was given for us – not really to be about us.



**Emmanuel
Nurtures !**



For our Homebound Members

Doris Alderfer	John Kemmerer
Gloria Buschmann	Kitty Kramer
William & Helen De Turk	Jane Niemczyk
Norma Detweiler	Kathryn Stover
Mary & Bill Frank	Joseph Sykes
Rita Fritz	Faye Wetzell
Louella Gehringer	Dorothy Wohlgemuth

Current addresses for our homebound are posted in the Gathering Space

**For Health and Healing
Members of Emmanuel**

Roy Becker	Keira Drissel	Kermit Schnable
Anthony Campolei	Craig Freed	Anita Sykes
Elaine Cash	Craig Kulp	Shirley Treichler
Pat Conard	Doug Landis	Robert Ziegler
Dominick DeSalvo		

Friends of Emmanuel

Donna Clemens (friend of Janel and Barry Gibson)
Luca Condo (friend of Ruth Miller)
Helen Freed (Craig Freed's Mom)
Sabrina Haap (Ruth Miller's Niece)
Donald Heller (Shirley's Brother-in-law)
Dixie Kephart (Darlene's Mother)
Ed Natali (David's Brother)
Samir Nowar (friend of Pastor John)
Stewart Schrauger (Julie Freed's Brother)
Michael Smith (friend of Cheryl Starke)
Eric Sykes (Anita & Joe's Son)
Pam Valenti (Lou Gehringer's Sister)
Alexander & Sylvia Wagwicz (Friends of DeSalvos)
Suzanne Willauer (Ed Cash's Sister)
Alicia Ranberg (Friend of the Crouthamels)
Chase Ziegler (Christman's Great-Grandson)

While Away at School

David Henry	Abby Steiny
Samantha Plinke	

In order to keep our Prayer List up to date, names will remain for four weeks unless otherwise notified



**Emmanuel
Serves !**



Sponsored by:

**Emmanuel's
Men in Mission**

Saturday, Oct. 12

8:30 - 10:00 AM



**Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage
Community and Conversation**

**Join us this Saturday
And every 2nd Saturday!**



Emmanuel Reaches Out !

Lutheran Disaster Response to Help Recovery from Dorian

“About 17% of Bahamians are suddenly homeless after Hurricane Dorian wiped out neighborhoods and ripped houses off foundations,” (CNN, 9/10/19 . “That’s 70,000 people who have lost almost everything.”

Lutheran Disaster Response is monitoring the situation closely and keeping in touch with our synods, partners and various social ministry organizations throughout the areas expected to feel the greatest impact – from the Carolinas through Florida. We are ready to respond and stand by our neighbors as they recover from this hurricane others this season may bring.

Lutheran Disaster Response-Eastern PA, a ministry of Lutheran Congregation Services (LCS), a service of Liberty Lutheran, is taking these actions to keep up to date on the events related to Hurricane Dorian.

- Keeping up to date on information provided by LDR, ECLA Churchwide news, FEMA and other organizations providing assistance.
- Reaching out to partner agencies and synods in the South Atlantic states, including the Florida/Bahamas Synod.
- Keeping up to date on efforts of partner agencies in Pennsylvania (especially early responders)

*If you would like to make a donation to help Hurricane Dorian disaster relief efforts, please insert it into an envelope and mark it:
“LDR – Dorian 2019”*



“PIE DAY”

WHEN: Tuesday, October 1st

DROP-OFF: By 10:30am

(in the Gathering Space)

***Please only bring Nut Free baked items!**

The kids enjoy Brownies, Cookies and Cupcakes too – not just Pie!



Open House at Feast of Justice Oct. 1

Feast of Justice, a feeding ministry housed at St. John's, Mayfair, 3101 Tyson Ave., Philadelphia 19149, will hold an open house on

Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 6-8 pm.

See their newly renovated space, learn about their expanded programming, and see how you can support this vital work.

RSVP's appreciated to 215.268.3510.

- Learn more at feastofjustice.org
- or fb.com/FeastOfJusticePhiladelphia



Emmanuel
Reaches
Out!



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S

TRUNK or TREAT

Saturday, October 26

2PM - 5PM

Decorate your cars and hand out treats!!



FREE pumpkin decorating and fun activities!

*feel free to come in costume!



We need volunteers to set-up, clean-up also!

Sign-ups will be hung in the Gathering Space next week!



**Emmanuel
Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

**THE BULLETINS TODAY
ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY
OF MATTHEW VOGEL
BY JANE VOGEL**

New Sunday Schedule

Starting September 22

Bible Study/Discussion – 9AM
Worship and Sunday’s Kids – 10 AM
Fellowship Time – 11 AM

Contact Us:

69 W. Broad Street • Souderton, PA 18964
Church Telephone: 215-723-7514
Church Fax: 215-723-1846

Office Hours:

Mon – Thu: 9 AM – 2 PM
Fri: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Other Times by Appointment

E-mail:

Emmanuel@emmanuellutheranchurch.net

On the Web:

www.emmanuellutheranchurch.net

Facebook.com/EmmanuelSouderton

Church Staff

Reverend John T. Heidgerd, Pastor
Mobile Phone: 914-275-3106
Email Address: jheidgerd@gmail.com

Dcn. Ethel Geist, Dir. of Music Ministries
Michael B. Geiger, Facilities Manager
Richelle L. Jones, Parish Administrator
Rev. Richard G. Miller, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
Marlene H. Natali, Parish Deacon



**Here is What’s
Happening
@ Emmanuel**

9/22 – 9/29

Sun	9:00 AM	Bible Study/Discussion
	10:00 AM	Worship
	10:00 AM.	Sunday’s Kids
	11:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
Mon	5:30 PM	Bushi Karate
	7:00 PM	Property
	8:00 PM	AA Group
Tue	5:30 PM	Bushi Karate
	7:30 PM	AA Step Group
Wed	5:30 PM	Bushi Karate
	6:30 PM	Bible Study/Discussion
	6:30 PM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	8:30 PM	Intro to Music
Thu	5:30 PM	Bushi Karate
Sat	9:00 AM	Bushi Karate
Sun	9:00 AM	Bible Study/Discussion
	10:00 AM	Worship
	10:00 AM.	Sunday’s Kids
	11:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal