

The Emmanuel Envoy

May 2019

Sabbath and Sabbatical

For a very brief time my kids had a Bible picture book that got on my nerves. They had it for a brief time, since I found it a new home once I realized that we never read it, because it annoyed me. How, one might ask, could one be annoyed by a Bible picture book, especially when one is a pastor? Well, the very first Bible story in this Bible picture book was the story of creation, as it is told in Genesis 1:1-1:31. The book portrayed, the creation of the light and day and night (Genesis 1:3-5), the dome/sky (Genesis 1:6-8), the dry land and the seas, and the vegetation on the earth (Genesis 1:9-13); the sun, the moon, and the stars (Genesis 1:14-19); the birds, and the fish (Genesis 1:20-23), the animals (Genesis 1:24-25); and humanity (Genesis 1:26-31). And that is where the story stopped, with two human creatures, male and female, who later in Genesis, were given the names, “Adam” and “Eve”. The implication of the story as it was told in that Bible story book was that humanity was the pinnacle of God’s creation. But that is not how the actual Bible tells the story. The story in Genesis continues into chapter two where we find these words:

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:1-3)

The final thing that is created is Sabbath, a time for the creation to rest. That is the pinnacle of creation.

Later in the Biblical story, this Sabbath rest, that was built into the fabric of creation, becomes one of God’s commandments. It is a rest that is commanded for all living things, including servants, strangers, and animals. We find this commandment in Exodus 20:8-11:

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

The word “sabbath” is the root word of the word “sabbatical”. This summer, beginning on July 1, our wonderful church musician, Gabby Heath, is going to be taking a sabbatical. This means that she is going to be taking a rest from her usual work here at Emmanuel, of planning and leading and playing the music for our Sunday morning worship services. Gabby will be back in early September, in time for our return to two services and the beginning of the 2019-2020 choir season. This time of rest for Gabby will enable her to have free weekends to spend time with her family when they are free from their own work schedules.

Gabby’s sabbatical was recommended by the Mutual Ministry Committee, approved by the Church Council, and is being planned for by the Worship Team. In order for this to be a paid sabbatical, the

Council found money to pay for substitute musicians while Gabby is away outside of the regular church budget.

We are inviting substitute church musicians to come and play while Gabby is away and have most of the Sundays in the summer covered already. We also have a team of 10 people who will be planning the music for this year's summer worship services. Because we will be having guest musicians all summer we will not be able to have *Hymns from the Hat*, but that will give us something to look forward to for the summer of 2020. We should feel very blessed to have a church musician like Gabby, who is able to play anything that comes out the hat without any previous review or practice.

We are blessed to have Gabby as a part of our church community and we are blessed to be able to offer her this time of rest!

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda

Being Welcoming and Providing Nursery Care



Children are a vital and welcome part of our worship services here at Emmanuel. We rejoice in being able to worship the Lord in the company of all of our sisters and brothers in Christ, from the youngest to the oldest.

However, we have heard from some parents of young children that sometimes it is a challenge for the youngest among us to stay engaged during the whole worship service, which makes it hard for their parents to focus on worship as well. During our "Why Emmanuel" sessions many

people shared with us that worship on Sundays helped them to recharge their mental, spiritual, and emotional batteries for the week ahead and as much as we love to have children in worship, we also want parents to be able to have that chance to recharge and reconnect with God during worship as well.

We want to help parents and children all have a positive experience at Emmanuel so, to that end, beginning **on May 26th at our 9:30 a.m.** service, we will be offering nursery care during worship for children up to age 4. Every week two Nursery Attendants will be available downstairs in the Gathering Room so that children can be dropped off for care. If there are no children dropped off in the Nursery prior to the service, the Nursery Attendants will come to worship and sit in the back row on the right (as you face the altar). If at any point parents of young children decide that their children could use a break in the Nursery, the Nursery Attendants will be available to go downstairs with the children and sit with them for as long as the parents would like.

Every week we will need two adult Nursery Attendants (unrelated and over the age of 18). Teens younger than 18 are also welcome to help offer Nursery care, but they will work alongside two adult Nursery Attendants. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Cindy Zafft at zaffts@comcast.net or 781-801-9546.

Prayer Concerns List

Helene Bier	Jack Gradijan
Bernie Byrnes	Tony Nikolassy
Helen Hultman	Dorothea Hanes
Heather Crisafulli	Lyndsay Boysen
Tom Ellard	Lorraine Earle
Kathleen Fabio	Helen Hahlen
Christine Howard	Hilary Shaw Family
Sue Becker	Jody Spillane
Ruth McHugh	Lorraine Lee
Warren Spencer	Susan Tomasello
The Hayes Family	Jovanni Sanchez-Colon
Pastor Schlak	Rebecca Hendrickson
Jeff Pitman	Rich Dunn

Remembering Our Shut-ins

Eleanor Bjornson and Richard Spencer

Thank You Notes

Our Sincere thanks to everyone at Emmanuel for two years of prayers for our son and brother, Dan, and for the many expressions of sympathy that we received.

Don, Barbara, & Matthew Carow



Summer Worship Schedule



We will begin our Summer Worship Schedule on **May 26th**.

Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Coffee Hour at 10:30 a.m.

Acolyte Training

On **June 1st 10:00-11:00 a.m.** and **June 2nd 10:45-11:45 a.m.** there will be two opportunities for children 2nd grade and older to be trained as acolytes. Serving as an acolyte is a wonderful way for children to play an important part in our worship services. It benefits children by helping to build their confidence and helping to build their connection to the worship and to the church.



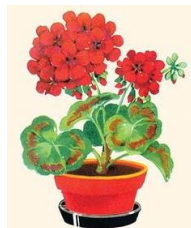
See this article to learn more about the benefits of serving acolytes:

<https://www.buildfaith.org/let-there-be-acolytes-10-hidden-benefits/>

If you would like your child to be trained as an acolyte at Emmanuel, please sign up for one of the two acolyte trainings on June 1st and June 2nd.

If neither of those dates work for your child, please contact Pastor Amanda at pastor@emmanuelnorwood.org.

Geraniums for Pentecost



Pentecost is June 9th, and as part of the observance, we'll decorate the sanctuary with red geraniums. To sponsor one (or more), it's \$15 for each 8" pot, please use the envelope in your pew to place your order and to

designate it in memory/honor of a loved one. There is a slip in each envelope where you can list any memorial(s) you wish.

You are encouraged to take your geranium home after the service to enjoy throughout the summer. Envelopes are in the pews! **Last day to order: June 2nd.**

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, **June 16th**, we will be honoring those members and friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school during the worship service and at a reception afterward. If you are graduating please sign up on the list outside Pastor Amanda's office.



ELC Grants and Camperships



Educational Grant applications and Camp Calumet summer campership applications are available in church hallway. Please complete application and return to the church office no later than **June 16th**. Thank you.

Book Group



The Emmanuel Book Group tries to meet once a month to discuss a chosen book. We read both fiction and non-fiction. While not focusing on religious titles, we do select books that have a moral or ethical component. Our next meeting will be Friday, **June 21** at 7:00 pm in the Founder's Room to discuss "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Please come and join us for lively discussions!

Notice of June Congregational Meeting



Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our June Congregational Meeting on Sunday, **June 23rd**. It will be held at **10:30** a.m. in Kask Hall – after our one worship service. Additional parking is available within walking distance of Emmanuel at the Winslow Medical office building on Chapel Street.

Rummage Sale Thank You

I would like to offer many thanks to all the people who helped with the rummage sale. The proceeds will go to camperships and other items not covered by the church budget.

The benefits of the sale extend far beyond the funds we take in. There is the service to the community, allowing those with tight budgets to find clothing and household goods, which they otherwise couldn't afford. Even our leftovers, some of which went to the Community Service Fair and some to Savers, serve the purpose of helping the less fortunate purchase items at a low price. All the books, DVDs and CDs go to a wonderful charity, *More Than Words*.

Thanks to Caryl Ott, Joan Carlson, Evie Sundquist, Kendra Lassen, Homer Everhard, Ruth Rinker, Martha Russell, Linda Morse, Karen Swan, Julie Ackley and Bob, Chris Gradijan, Judie Aliano, Peg

Flood, Greta Carlson, Ruth and Larry Sundberg, Joy Peter, Pastor Amanda, Glenn Ott, Elaine Gebhardt, Hannah Lassen, Vik Benson and Britton Warner. Thanks to our wonderful office staff, Diane Bragg and Alice Wuschke, who published announcements and made signage. More thanks to Helene Bier for handling publicity. Finally, thanks to everyone who contributed items to make this sale a success.

These people moved tables, set signs in place, sorted through mountains of boxes and bags, arranged, rearranged, folded and refolded, checked people out, cooked our meals and snacks, arranged our huge white elephant tables, carted items to cars for our customers, bagged and boxed unsold items, brought a carload of leftovers to Savers, swept the floors, put the tables, and signs away and so on and so on. Even though everyone worked very hard, there was genuine fellowship and good time had by all.

Thanks and blessings to all of you,
Arlene Cegelis

First Communion

This past year eight young people gathered together for instruction on the sacrament of Holy Communion. On May 5th, they joined the congregation in receiving. We celebrated them with cake during fellowship hour.

The class included: Ngozi Akukwe, John Campbell, Ava Cushing, James Cushing, Briana Haydon, Violet Gillis, Matthew Sorensen, and Cyrus Warner.

