

EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2025 VOL. 3 ISSUE 2

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FROM THE PASTOR:

*Out of his fullness, we have all received grace
upon grace already given.
(John 1:16)*

Easter is “late” this year, and the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection will occur on Sunday, April 20th. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th and Emanuel will once again be celebrating the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service that evening.

More than just a tradition of the church, Lent is a time of reflection on Christ and his ministry, which culminated in his Passion, all leading up to the glory and significance of the Resurrection on Easter. At Emanuel, our tradition of a Lenten Soup & Study will continue beginning on Wednesday March 12th and ending on Wednesday April 16th and is entitled: “The Way of Grace.”

In John’s gospel he describes the Incarnation of Jesus Christ as God pouring out the grace of salvation on top of the grace God has been pouring out on humanity since creation. Paul reminds us that we are saved by grace, unearned and undeserved favor from God, that does not come from us, but from God alone. The grace of salvation is Jesus Christ provided through his life and ministry, which of course is the gospel message.

In our study we will hear and engage in discussion on the varying perspectives of certain gospel stories of grace, as Jesus journeys to the cross and ultimately his resurrection. Our goal being to encounter sacred time of reflection, renewal, and spiritual deepening of our faith and our life together in Christ.

Pastor Ron

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE FROM DANI:

Save the Date Vacation Bible School at Emanuel!

June 16th-19th, 2025

Dinner 4:45p & Program 5-7p

Help us guide local kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they’ll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what’s true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust.

If you would like to help, please see Dani. We are recruiting our VBS Team and will meet March 11th at 5:30p to start planning.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE FROM MALLORY:

Sunday school is back in full swing and it feels great! Our classes are still working their way through the Bible with Answers in Genesis curriculum and will be learning about Job’s suffering, Abram and Lot, and Isaac until the end of the school year. It’s going to be an amazing semester!

FROM THE TREASURER:

Join us on Sunday, February 2nd for a financial presentation from Greg Rufsvold. This short meeting will be done after both the 8a and 10:30a service, with time allowed for questions.

Disaffiliation Loan Balance \$115,163

Please contact Greg Rufsvold via email at gsrufsvold@yahoo.com or via text or phone at 608-434-9203 if you have questions.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF
Praise Band Coordinator
Kristin Kaster

Each month over the next several, we will be highlighting one of Emanuel's staff positions so the church can better understand its purpose.



For many years now, Emanuel has been blessed with wonderful musicians and joyful voices all dedicated to praising the Lord through music by the Emanuel Praise Band. The Praise Band leads the worship at our 10:30a Sunday worship service leading the congregation in contemporary Christian music.

The Praise Band Coordinator guides the band by first coordinating with the pastor on the scripture, theme, and message of the worship service. Music appropriate to the service is chosen to enhance the message and the worship experience of the congregation.

Discernment in music selection is a key skill for the Praise Band Coordinator. Familiarity, capabilities, difficulty, planning rehearsals, availability of musicians and vocalists all contribute to providing the best experience for praising God. These variables must all come together, each week, in order for Emanuel to engage in praise worship together.

Each Sunday we are blessed to experience Kristin's beautiful singing voice. But her talent goes much deeper. As Praise Band Coordinator, Kristin ensures and manages many of the technical aspects of what you hear and enjoy. Beyond just volume control, which actually occurs at the sound board, Kristin manages microphone selection and placement, floor monitor placement and settings, coordinates the mix of the musicians and vocalists in terms of those who are present on Sunday morning and their sound and voices. She supports the Proclaim slide show (projected on the screen) by inserting the words of each song so that, for the congregation, the song is easy to follow and to sing.

The Praise Band Coordinator is currently considered a "part-time" position here at Emanuel. We are blessed to have Kristin in this crucial staff position.

YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH:
Happy New Year Emanuel Family!

We have kicked off 2025 with a new study on Proverbs. This is a great book that can help as a roadmap for life, showing us how to live wisely, honor God, and avoid mistakes that lead to trouble. We are having great discussion on the difference between worldly knowledge and God's wisdom. We will continue to discuss thru this book - choosing friends and influence, words and the power of the tongue, and trusting in God. The kids are also gearing up for a great trip to Fort Wilderness January 24th-26th. We will be taking 28 youth members this year (PRAY FOR US) 😊. We can't wait for the kids to have a weekend enjoying God's beautiful creation and feeling his Holy Spirit as we listen to our own lessons and wonderful speakers. Thank you for all of your continued support!

CHURCH DIRECTORY...2nd CHANCE:

The Emanuel Church Photo Directory is now up and live on our church web site. The directory is password protected so please contact the church office if you need the password. As a note, once your device (computer, cell phone, etc.) have accessed the directory, the web site will remember your device so you won't have to remember the password.

The nice part of the directory being online is that it can easily be updated or adjusted as needed. If you weren't able to get your photo taken for the directory, please email or bring a photo into the church office that you'd like to have used in the directory. The photo needs to be in "landscape" mode - where the image is captured horizontally.

We will also need you to fill out a directory information card so we know what information (address, phone number, etc.) you'd like published in the directory. If you'd like your name and your contact information listed in the directory, but do not want a photo . . . we can do that also. Just stop by the church office and complete a directory information card.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE
"The Gospel of Jesus Christ"

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
2 nd	He's a Chain Breaker	Luke 8:29
9 th	Guest Preacher: Dave Becraft	
16 th	The Ground is Level	Galatians 3:26-28
23 rd	I Stand Redeemed	Ephesians 2:1-8