

EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2025 VOL. 3 ISSUE 3

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FROM THE PASTOR:

Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters . . . to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God— this is your true and proper worship
(Romans 12:1)

In the modern church, we call it having “A Servant’s Heart.” Being willing, humbly, to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. To serve in Jesus’ name is to serve out of love— *agape* love, “God’s love,” unconditionally and sacrificially. James advises us, “faith without deeds is a dead faith” (James 2:25).

Paul tells us that God’s Spirit gives us gifts so that we may serve in the name of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). Whatever talent, skill, or blessing God has provided is to be used in His name to love God and to serve others (Romans 12:5). The Greatest Commandment, to “love God and to love others as yourself” follows Jesus’ teachings on “the practice of your righteousness”— serving others, in Matthew 6. Here Jesus tells us we are not to serve “to be honored by others” (V2), that our reward will come from the Father himself (V4).

God’s gifts of the Spirit also come from learning with training and what is “helpful for building others up” (Ephesians 4:29). None of us develop our gifts without the help of others. So, God may call you to something that you need to learn and, in this way, provides His gifts to you by working through others. When I received my call to ministry, my only view was from the outside— a pastor worked an hour on Sunday and told people what to do! The truth was that I had no idea. It took time and the gifts of others to turn me into a pastor . . . to serve others.

Now it is always good to be kind and show appreciation to others. Paul writes, “Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10). But serving in the name of Jesus must start from our love for Jesus and, by what he did humbly and sacrificially for us, in the same way we are to serve. He tells us quite poignantly in Luke 17:10, “*So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’*”

We serve out of love, in the name of the One who loved and served us first.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE FROM DANI:

Lenten Devotionals Available Soon!

When the people in the Passion narrative looked at Jesus, what did they see? Who misunderstood Him? Who acknowledged Him as the Son of God? The Eyes on Jesus daily devotional will direct our attention to Jesus Christ. Through each devotion, we will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood, innocent sufferings, and death. Grab your copy from the narthex when they arrive.

Youth Group Sunday

Join us on Sunday, March 2nd as the Emanuel Youth Group blesses you with worship, scripture, communion, and testimonies! They will be leading both services at 8a & 10:30a.

Ash Wednesday Service: March 5th at 6p

Join us as we begin Lent with prayer, scripture, and ashes as a sign of humility and God’s grace. All ages are welcome to attend.

VBS Planning Meeting

Join us Tuesday, March 11th at 5:30p as we start to plan for VBS (June 16-19, 2025). Help us guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. See Dani or sign up in the narthex if you would like to help. We would love to have you!

2025/2026 Lange Memorial Scholarship

Applications are available in the Narthex and from the church office. Applicants must be entering or continuing in a college, university, seminary, or post-high school vocational technical school as of Fall of 2025. Scholarships may be received for three years and are available to members and friends who are active, believing participants in the work, worship, and mission of Emanuel Church. Applications must be returned to the church office not later than March 15, 2025. Questions may be directed to any member of the Lange Memorial Scholarship Committee: Darlene Bach, Greg Rufsvold, Gail Frank, Michelle Bahe, Brittany Crammond, Ann Effinger, or Pastor Ron.

Lent Wednesday Soup & Study

"The Way of Grace"

Soup Supper at 5:15p & Study at 6:00p

Nursery available

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
March		
12 th	Beginning with a Test	Luke 4:1-13
19 th	When Waiting Means Wonder	Luke 9:28-36
26 th	Finding Grace in Life's Hard Places	Luke 13:1-9
April		
2 nd	The Journey Home	Luke 15:11-32
9 th	The Fragrance of Love	John 12:1-8

YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH:

Well, we went and came back from Fort Wilderness Camp with the exact amount of kids and chaperones we left with...WHEW! Camp was amazing. Our theme was 1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." In this verse Paul encourages young people to set an example in 5 powerful ways to others. We wanted their takeaway to be that despite their age they can make a big difference. We had amazing conversations on each point for leading this way and what that looks like in a teenager's busy life. There was also plenty of fun this weekend in the great activities they offer like ice skating, tubing, broom ball and cross country skiing. Thank you to everyone who made this weekend possible. We are truly blessed with an amazing, supportive church family!

THE JOY OF BOYS:

Join us for a Baby Sprinkle!

Both Kira Hacker & Katrina Behnke are expecting their 2nd child in June-and it's a boy! Help us show them some love and get them stocked up. Snacks and cake will be provided! Sunday, April 13th at 11:30a in Fellowship Hall.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Lenten Series: "Christ's Passion"

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
2 nd	Youth Sunday (8a & 10:30a)	
5 th	Ash Wednesday Service: 6:00p	
9 th	Betrayal I: Expectations	Mk 11:12-14
16 th	Betrayal II: Friends	Mk 14:43-51
23 rd	On Trial	John 18:& 19
30 th	He Suffered	Matthew 27

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

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

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ronald C. Bupp



If you asked a hundred churchgoers what a pastor is, you'd get a hundred different definitions all related to how the individual church member, personally, sees and relates to this person called "pastor."

The biblical definition of a pastor comes from Greek meaning "shepherd." Added to this from Latin is the verb "to feed." So, a pastor is someone, who has been called by God to be a shepherd to God's people and, as Jesus says in John 12, "Feed my sheep." And so, the pastor of a church is called to preach, teach, pray, and counsel his congregation, "feeding" them God's word.

The Methodist Church identifies the pastor as one who is called through ordination to Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. Word—to preach, teach, and counsel in the way of Jesus Christ; Sacrament—officiate/preside over Baptism and Holy Communion; Order—Oversee the life of the local church in keeping with the rules and processes of the denomination and laws of government; and Service—providing pastoral care and guiding the church for service in mission and ministry.

Education, experience, and maturity are vital to being a successful pastor. Pastor Ron has a doctorate degree in Ministry, Master of Divinity and Master of Business Administration degrees, and a bachelor's degree in business. As a "second career" pastor, he has thirty plus years of organizational and personnel management, and public speaking experience. He has sixteen years of experience in local church pastoring, with a specialty in intentional, interim, transitional ministry or in laymen's terms—church crisis management.

"If I had to sum up the word 'pastor' in one sentence" he says, "It would be a firm commitment to sharing the truth of Jesus Christ with love and compassion in every aspect of life."