

EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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FROM PASTOR RON

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest
(Matthew 11:28)*

War . . . political vitriol . . . crime . . . racism . . . assassinations . . . poverty . . . hunger & starvation . . . greed . . . corruption . . . fear. The world is falling apart! Where is God?

We line up on each side of every issue, militant and ready to go to blows to make our point, to force our opinions on others. I'm right and you're wrong!

To perhaps put Jesus' words in a modern vernacular; "Give it a rest, Chill out, Take it easy, Breathe." While the younger generations think the world is on the brink and the older generations look back nostalgically to a time when things were "better," the world is exactly the same as it has been throughout history—"Jesus wept."

Each of our troubles are the result of sin, and sin was introduced to the world with the original sin when humankind decided we were right and God was wrong. You don't have to read a history book to understand this. Christian, pick up your Bible and read the Old Testament. Then read the New Testament. The violence and bloodshed of the innocent and the guilty has continually ruled within a culture of selfishness and personal desire over others. The fact that it continues today is no surprise—"Jesus wept."

It permeates the church as well. I cannot tell you how many times over the years people of the church have begun a conversation with me with the preface of "I am . . ." followed by their political, professional, or emotional position. Placing the faith of God, they claim to have, in a subordinate, lesser position in their life—"Jesus wept."

The answer then and the answer now is Jesus Christ. The weariness and the heavy burden of doubt and fear is overcome by the cross and resurrection—where sin is forgiven and death no

longer reigns. But taking on the "yoke" of Christ doesn't come easily. You've got to work at it and, most importantly, you must embrace a love of God and others that puts yourself secondary to the welfare of others. Until we truly learn to live it, the burden of the world's sin will continue to wear us down.

FROM THE TREASURER – GREG RUFVOLD

Financial Update

	Thru 3/31/26	YTD Budget	Thru 3/31/25
Offerings	\$72,209	\$83,013	\$73,271
Expenses	<u>\$78,979</u>	<u>\$83,013</u>	<u>\$74,829</u>
Net Income(loss)	(\$ 6,770)	\$0	(\$ 1,558)

NEW MINISTRY GROUPS

Unraveling Grief

A new ministry group, Unraveling Grief, will begin on Sunday, April 26th. The group will meet for six weeks in the library at 3:00p, with each session lasting approximately 1 to 1.5 hours.

We warmly invite you to join this group, led by our own Deb Pimm, a retired pastor, as we journey together through grief in a supportive and compassionate space.

If you are interested or want more information, please contact Deb at 715-219-4205.

Online Women's Bible Study

Want to join a Bible study but can't make the class times at Emanuel? We have an option for you!

Join our new member, KaLee Lane, for an online Women's Bible study. The group meets once a month via Facebook Messenger, making it easy to participate from home.

For more information, contact KaLee at hendekal12@gmail.com or text at 608-477-3104.

PRAYER GROUPS

Pastor Ron often reminds us, "Little prayer, little power. Some prayer, some power. Much prayer, much power!"

Emanuel currently offers two weekly prayer groups: one meets Monday evenings at 5:15p in the library, and the other gathers Tuesday mornings at 10:00a in rotating locations within the church. The ultimate goal of our prayer groups is to practice and improve spending time in God's presence. We aim to listen to what He has to say to us, just as much as we pour out our requests to Him. Seeking His voice and direction is a place all of us Christians yearn to grow!

The Monday group includes Sharon Thies, Michele Miller, Laura Stack, and Kristin Kaster. The Tuesday group includes Emily Weigel, Diane Schlender, Pam Mittelsteadt, Tom and Diane Groeneweg, Ralph and Pam Krainik, Deb Pimm, and Brad Schreiner. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us—please feel free to reach out to any of us or simply come to a meeting.

If anyone would like to be prayed with or has a prayer request they would like our group to pray for, please let any of us know.

Come be a part of prayer—and its power!

YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH

Spring has Sprung. We can't believe that the youth group only has a handful of Wednesdays left. We are preparing to wrap up the year with a favorite day of putting a handprint on the wall for all new members, a bonfire, pizza party and our bittersweet senior send off. We will be losing 4 amazing seniors this year. We are so excited about their next adventures. Watch for a set up in the narthex with their picture and a bible. We would love for you to add words of wisdom, highlight verses, or leave them special notes in this bible that they will take into adulthood.

EMANUEL WOMEN

May Mission: Pantry Power

During the month of May, the Emanuel Women invite you to join in a special effort to support St. Vincent's Food Pantry.

Please see the flyer in the narthex for a list of requested donation items, and place your donations in the shopping cart located in the Sunday School hallway.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM DANI

PANCAKE FUNDRAISER

Swing by the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 17th between services (9-10:30a) to support our Mission Trip to Kentucky. We will be flipping up pancakes, sausage and fixings. All proceeds raised will go towards supporting the youth of Emanuel at the work camp. Last year we worked on siding and roofing projects in the heart of Appalachia.

VBS Registration is live!

In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids need to know there is a God who cares for them. At Emerald Crossing VBS, they'll journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from worry to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. Get your passport ready for Ireland and join the adventure! Kids 4k-5th grade are welcome.

June 15th-18th

4:45p Free Family Dinner

5:30-7:30p VBS Program



Scan here to register!

RED BIRD MISSION TRIP, JULY 18-24

Emanuel is heading back down to Beverly, Kentucky this July for a work camp. This is open to youth group, the congregation and friends of Emanuel.

Please find more info/ sign up in the narthex if you are interested.

LAST DAY OF PROGRAMING

Wednesday, May 13th - Fun in the Sun

Wednesday, May 13th - Youth Group

Sunday, May 17th - Sunday School

Thank you to all our leaders, facilitators, and helpers during the Fall/Winter programming events.

We appreciate you and your faithful service!

MISSIONS

The community meal for June will be held on Monday, June 22nd. With VBS June 15th-18th, the June community meal date has been adjusted.

Consistent Giving – Consistent Ministry