

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 4362  
Rockford, IL 61110

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## THE MESSENGER - May 2021



I remember as a child creating May baskets from a dixie cup and a small flower. Then, I would take it to someone's home, and leave it on their porch. This was the celebration of May Day in our neighborhood. May brings numerous opportunities to celebrate the greening and flowering of the earth. There is an exuberance to this time of the year.

Spring's new growth is flourishing. The celebrations of this time of year are also exuberant and celebrate growth. Among Christians in the northern hemisphere there is connection between the celebration of the greening of the earth and continuing celebration of Easter-resurrection-new life.

What is greening and flowering in the world around and within us?

On one hand, I can answer this question with reflections on the continuing pandemic. I feel a flowering of the world as it seems to be opening up to greater interaction. People are finding opportunities to gather and interact in new and familiar ways. Worship gatherings, here at Emmanuel and in many places, are flowering with practices both familiar and innovative. The hope for May is that our hybrid service will settle into a pattern, and that the 9 AM liturgical service, held with Calvary, will be a vibrant service. The greening of spring will bring other new opportunities to gather in nature to celebrate Life.

On the other hand, I would like to leave the question open for each of us to reflect upon. I invite each of us to consider a practice of reflection during May. Find a place where you are in midst of green, and flowering nature. You can take a walk, sit in a garden, or even place a potted plant near your favorite chair. Then ask yourself this question: "what is greening and flowering in my life?" This may be in the circumstances of your life, or perhaps it is within, in your soul. Whatever it may be write it down. Consider periodically returning to that place, see how the plants have grown, and consider how what you have written has grown.

Blessings

*Pastor Frank*

## WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to worship in Emmanuel's beautiful sanctuary. A waiver must be signed and your temperature will be taken upon entry. Everyone must still maintain 6 feet social distance between each person or family and you wear a mask, covering your nose and mouth at all times except when taking communion. We still may not sing but we may enjoy the music provided to us by our very talented musicians. If you have any signs of illness, we request that you worship with us through ZOOM or Facebook until you are well. We all want to keep each other healthy.

Emmanuel still offers Zoom Sunday Worship Service and the services will also be recorded to Facebook.

Spiritual Journeys on Tuesdays and Wednesday's Bible Study are still currently on ZOOM.

If you are interested in any of these, please call the church office at 815-963-4815 and leave a message.

### Message from the Treasurer

Emmanuel needs your financial support. Just like you need an income to pay your electric, water and gas bills, the church has to pay its bills too. We are continuing to use our P.O. Box. Please use this address below for any correspondence and offerings to Emmanuel. Thank you.

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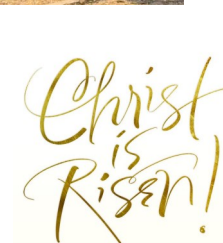
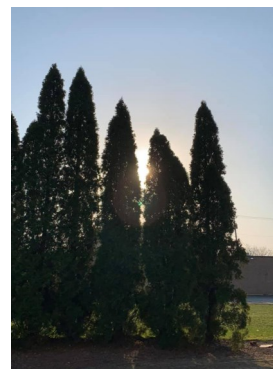
If you prefer to donate online by going to our website at [www.elcrockford.org](http://www.elcrockford.org) and click on the Donate button in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Thank you for your support to your church! Questions, call 815-963-4815.

Jack Ream, Treasurer

*Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021*

*Easter Sunrise Service in Emmanuel's Labyrinth*



*10:30 Easter Festival Service in the Sanctuary*





*Good Friday; April 2, 2021*

Give me courage to speak out against injustice wherever I may find it. Strengthen my conviction to support others in their struggle for justice. Help me deal with conflict your way, they way of peace and non-violent resistance.

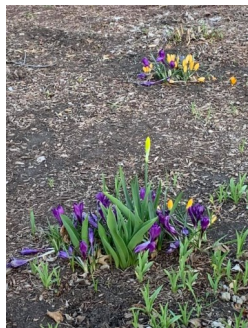


When burdens of sorrow weigh heavily upon me, I often find it difficult to go on with my life. When I stumble and fall, when I mourn for what is lost, give me your strength to rise and walk anew.



Jesus, after you died...

Some of your followers turned away in disappointment; others fled in fear. Give me the strength to be a faithful friend. Help me to be consistent in my love for others, so that I stand by them in good times and bad, in joy and sorrow and in their struggle for



Jesus, help me to walk with you on the path of justice, love, and truth one day at a time. I trust in your promise, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10). I know that you are the source of all life and hope and will transform this world.

## History of Emmanuel Lutheran Church from the 75th Anniversary Book. 1882-1957

The principles that Emmanuel was founded on sound very familiar for us today.

1. An unusual independence of spirit among the laity. Emmanuel has, from her very beginning, been a gathering place for those who could not find a spiritual home in congregations who, in years past, seemed to be dominated by a narrow pietism or were lacking in Christian tolerance. Frequently in Emmanuel's history her laymen have fostered new creative ideas which have later become established policy in the Lutheran church life of Rockford.
2. An identification with the community through early acceptance of the English language. The Pastors have been encouraged to accept leadership in community projects throughout her history.
3. A concern for good government and a sound conviction concerning the relevance of the Christian Gospel in modern civil life. Historically, Emmanuel members have built up an amazing record of public service in positions of sacred trust.
4. A pulpit free to discuss controversial issues in a spirit of intelligent devotion to truth in the light of the abiding Christian revelation.
5. An insistence upon the highest standards of culture and religious artistry— not only in architecture and symbolism but also in music, instrumental and vocal. Consistently, Emmanuel has sought to merit the name often given to her by many distinguished visitors, "The Church Beautiful."

In a sermon by Pastor W. E. Benson introducing Emmanuel's Diamond Jubilee in 1957.



### **May Birthdays**

Lisbeth McLean	5/1	Mariana Delcourt	5/23
Brenda Finkbeiner	5/2	Anastasia Benson	5/24
Bronte Benson	5/6	Kara Thompson	5/25
James A. Roberts	5/6	Pat Becker	5/26
Susan Stauffer	5/10	Erick Knaus	5/26
Paula Stahl	5/17	Rocio Aldana	5/27
Christopher Walter	5/18	Dagny Johnson	5/27
Alexandra Benson	5/19		

#### The Emmanuel 2021 Council Members

President: Karen Van Howe Vice President: Holly Blair Cascio

Treasurer: Jack Ream Secretary: Catherine Rennert

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Chuck Johnson: Building & Grounds

Dawn Johnson: Membership

Lou Ann Johnson: Caring Connections & Social Justice

Catherine Rennert: Center for Arts & Spirituality

Jack Ream: Finance

Karen Van Howe: Worship & Music

Holly Blair Cascio : Soul Garden (Formerly, Adult Ed)

Gary Peterson: At Large

Sally Susan: At Large

Ann Downie: At Large

Don Heckelmiller: At Large

Marcia Terrill: At Large

Erick Johnson: At Large

### **Here's to Our Health**

Bereavement, isolation, fear, loss of income and loss of control, and other stressors during the Covid-19 pandemic have triggered mental health conditions or exacerbated existing diagnoses. For some, there is a real struggle with increased anxiety, insomnia, depression, and self-medication or substance abuse. Experts across the country anticipate an increase in mental health challenges and consequences of prolonged stress in the months and years to come. The following might be helpful when your family member or friend is struggling:

Do you want to talk about it?

What can I do to help?

That sounds really difficult...

I'm really sorry you're going through this...

Are you looking for my perspective or would you rather I listen?

What have you tried that helps?

Be patient, non-judgemental, and available as you are able.

When the struggle is yours: Continue your daily activities. Make plans and carry them out. Be part of a faith community or other group.

Volunteer. Strive for 30 min. of daily physical activity. Make a list of self-rewards. Use available, healthy and helpful strategies. Find your people. Seek professional help. May is Mental Health Month.

**Registration for the Covid-19 vaccine is available on the Winnebago Co. Health Department website: [www.WCHD.org](http://www.WCHD.org)**

Registration takes only a couple minutes, requires a bit of health Information. Interested people will need an email address and cell phone number for alerts.

As of April 12, 2021, Illinois has opened the opportunity to receive the vaccine to everyone 16 years of age and over. Please protect yourself and others. Get your vaccine and continue to wear your mask.

Want some help? Call Sue, your Faith Community Nurse, 815-963-4815!

## Emmanuel Members Hospitalized or Recovering at Home



Phyllis Weir is settled in her new home at Bickford House. Her phone is hooked up and the number is the same number she and Don had at their home on Winthrop Lane, 815-399-8971.

Her new address is 960 N. Mulford, apt 219, Rockford, IL 61107. Since visitors are still limited, text or call 815-985-7587 to make an appointment if you would like to visit.

Karen Johnson is at St Anne's Center, 4405 Highcrest Rd, Rockford, IL 61107, email; BridgetGraulich@Ascension.org to schedule appointment to visit.

Roycealee Wood has been at Warren Barr Rehab,  
150 Jamestown Lane, Rm 202A  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

The current plan is that Roycealee will go home with  
24 hour caregivers. Until we know she is home,  
Warren Barr will forward her mail.

Jim Burcham is recovering at home.

Debra Roose is at East Bank Rehab after a fall at her residence.  
East Bank's address is 6131 Park Ridge Rd, Loves Park, IL 61111.  
She is able to have 2 visitors per week (excluding family &  
care-givers), schedule visit at 815-633-6810

If you are feeling lonely and would like someone to talk to,  
remember that Emmanuel is here and cares about you. Please give  
us a call. Let us know how you are doing.

Pastor Frank 309-509-5241 Sue Scott 815-222-1299



## May MLP Newsletter

Check out our new Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Midtown-Lutheran-Parish-101030175425386>

**Opportunities in MLP—All Are Welcome**  
*For in-person activities, masks are worn, social distancing practiced.*

**Cars and Coffee**, Saturday, May 1, 9 am-noon in the RPS parking lot.  
C&C Masks available for \$10 from Pastor Mike of Zion Lutheran

**Katie's Cup** is open Tuesday thru Friday 8 am - 4 pm and  
Saturday 9 am -1 pm

Memorial Day Weekend at 6 pm (Check our FB page later for  
exact date):

**Three Icons Road Show: Buddy Holly, Patsy Cline, Roy Orbison**,  
performed by Trinidora Rocks 3.0 (John Bishoff, Janel Nelson,  
Ron Holm) RPS Parking lot.

**Rockford Midtown Market** Thursdays, June 3-September 30,  
9 am -1 pm, in RPS parking lot. (501 Seventh Street)

**Emmanuel Lutheran Pantry**—Mondays and Fridays 9:30-11:30 am

**First Lutheran Naomi Circle** meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month  
at Katie's Cup lower level, 11:30 am-2:00 pm, using "Gather" Magazine  
devotion.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Spiritual Journeys Book Study**, Tuesdays, 9:30  
-11 am. Currently reading MLK's "Where Do We Go From Here?"  
We read together and discuss. Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88225771321>

**Emmanuel hosts NPR's ON BEING** on Zoom every Sunday at 9 am.  
We listen together, read along with transcript, and pause to share our  
thoughts. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88058004528>

### **Bible Studies:**

**Salem Lutheran:** Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Founders' Room  
**Emmanuel:** Wednesdays at noon. Zoom link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356888344?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356888344?pwd=dEw2NHVsS0JzYWdxUWdGVVlk3OE5XZz09)  
[pwd=dEw2NHVsS0JzYWdxUWdGVVlk3OE5XZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356888344?pwd=dEw2NHVsS0JzYWdxUWdGVVlk3OE5XZz09)