



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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WOV - With One Voice  
CH - Celebration Hymnal  
LBW - Lutheran Book of Worship

Lay Minister: Will Bartz

Organist: Marena Henkle

Acolyte: Sophie Urbatsch

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

Prelude

Order of Confession and Faith

WOV p. 10

The Gathering Song: *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

LBW # 537

Apostolic Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Opening Dialogue:

P: Holy is the Lord, the Almighty. **C: He was, he is, and he is to come.**

P: He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

**C: He created all things. By his will they came to be.**

P: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain;

**C: worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.**

P: By his blood he purchased for God

**C: people of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.**

P: Christ made of them a kingdom **C: and priests to serve our God.**

P: And they shall reign on earth forever. **C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: The Apostles' Creed**

LBW p. 128

Old Testament Canticle:

*Listen! You Nations*

LBW #14

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you**

Prayer of the Day: **Almighty God, judge of us all, you have placed in our hands the wealth we call our own. Give us such wisdom by your Spirit that our possessions may not be a curse in our lives, but an instrument for blessing; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12 *(read responsively)*

LBW p. 237

The Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-11

The Gospel Acclamation: *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

WOV # 612

The Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

VBS Songs by children

The Sermon *Seeing Jesus as He really is: "How Jesus Works For Us"*

Sermon Hymn: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

LBW # 458

Collection of the Offering

The Offertory: *For the Fruit of All Creation (verse 1)*

WOV # 760

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing- *Three-fold Amen*

Announcements

The Closing Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision*

WOV # 776

Chimes and Postlude

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**Welcome...** in the name of Jesus. May our time together be blessed. Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

**Our Condolences...**to Jeff Miller (our custodian) and family, on the death of his sister on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. May God comfort all who mourn.

**Congratulations...**to Caylee (Bartz) and Hayden Hubbard who were married yesterday. May God bless the couple in their new life together as husband and wife.

**A Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday...**to Judy Trenhaile on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. God Bless you with every happiness!

**Please note...**next Sunday there will not be communion. It will be on the last Sunday in August.

**This Week at Emmanuel August 1<sup>st</sup> -August 7<sup>th</sup>**

Monday, August 1 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 pm	Special Council Meeting
Sunday, August 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Worship w/Mark Borchardt
	10:30 am	Fellowship

**Thank you...**to the VBS kids for sharing their music and to all those who helped make it a successful program this week!

**Offering: Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Attendance: 82**

**General Fund: \$3,355**

**Building Fund: \$35**

**Benevolence: \$55**

**An Open Letter To The Members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
In Grafton, Iowa From Pr. David E. Schafer  
July 25, 2022**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, I will be celebrating my 39<sup>th</sup> year of my ordination of the Office of Word and Sacraments in the Lutheran Church. Every day, I thank God for my calling and for the privilege of serving our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Indeed, I thank our Redeemer for the honor of serving you as well as your interim pastor. Thirty-nine years ago, at my ordination, I made a number of promises to God and the Church. Among these promises, I vowed, with God's help, to *"...give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that I do"*.

This means, in part, I need to be honest and responsible for my words and actions. As you may know, a few weeks ago, I was unable to fulfill my duties to you because I was under the influence of alcohol. Let me assure you that I am more than disappointed and filled with my deepest regrets for my actions. Moreover, I want to let you know that I have taken a number of steps to ensure that I will not repeat my poor decisions.

These steps include:

- I have completely stopped my consumption of alcohol.
- I have been attending meetings of the group like Alcohol Anonymous known as *"Celebration Recovery"*. This organization uses a 12-step program based on the Bible. The first step of this organization reads, *"We admitted we were powerless over our addiction and compulsive behaviors, that our lives had become unmanageable."* The Scripture for this step comes from Romans 7:18 *"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out (without God's grace)."*
- Ongoing outpatient treatments for my addictive behavior. As a part of my recovery, I am exploring the reason(s) for my actions.
- I am in conversations with fellow trusted colleagues for the sake of prayer, support, and accountability.
- I am open to having conversations with you. Please call me at 563-568-6199.
- Trusting in Jesus Christ, I pray that He will use my situation to His glory and be a witness of hope to others who find themselves to be in my situation.
- I would welcome an unannounced visit from any member of the council to visit with me and to check out the parsonage and my personal belongings.
- I have set up an appointment with my doctor for a complete physical and an evaluation.
- I am willing and wanting to be open to any other suggestions that you may have regarding the situation at hand.
  
- I am willing and wanting to be 100% accountable to you.
- I welcome your prayers and kindest thoughts.
- Each and every day, I am trusting myself to the mercy, grace, and love of God to help me to move forward with my life and the ministry that Jesus and you have entrusted to me.

The 12<sup>th</sup> step of Celebrating Recovery states *"Having had a spiritual experience (sobriety) as the result of these steps; we try to carry this message to others and practice these principles in all of our affairs."* The Biblical foundation for this step comes from Galatians 6:1 *"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."* Over the past three weeks, I have shared with you a sermon series entitled *"Seeing Jesus As He Really Is"*. I believe that the best way for us to see Jesus is to look upon the cross. There are two forms of the cross in our sanctuary. One of the crosses is the crucifix that reminds us of our Lord's suffering, agony, and death for our sakes and for our salvation. The second cross is the Easter cross that rests in the middle of our altar. This cross is empty of the body to remind us of the empty tomb. The cross is empty because of Jesus' victorious resurrection over sin, death, and the devil.

Allow me to close this letter to you with a quote from a contemporary Christian song sung by *"We the Kingdom"* entitled *"God So Loved"*:

*"Bring all your failures; Bring all your addictions,  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross.  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms, see His open arms."*

*"For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever!"*

All throughout my life, I have come to the foot of the cross to receive forgiveness, mercy, and life. During this chapter of the ministry and the mission of Emmanuel, I believe that Jesus both invites and welcomes us all to the foot of His cross. It is only at the foot of the cross that we can receive all that we need for life here and now. It is also at the foot of the cross, and there alone, we are able to receive all that we can ever hope for with regards to our eternal salvation. I want to thank you for your times and consideration in this matter. May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, bless and keep us throughout all of our lives and bring us to life eternal.

*-Respectfully, Pr. David E. Schafer*

***A note from the Church Council:***

At the July Council meeting, council members discussed the events leading up to and including the Sunday of Pastor's inability to lead worship service on July 10<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the council chose to give Pastor Schafer a three week leave of absence to deal with his substance abuse and other health issues. Council also voted to not extend Pastor Schafer's contract past the original August 21<sup>st</sup> agreement. It is the Council's opinion that Pastor Shafer get the help that he needs to deal with his substance abuse and other health issues before continuing as an Interim Pastor either here or at another church. A special meeting will be held on August 1<sup>st</sup> to make decisions moving forward at Emmanuel.

We wish Pastor Schafer only the best and appreciate the time that he has spent at Emmanuel with our congregation. He has shown a loving ability to connect with members and has helped us along our journey to find our new pastor and we are grateful for those moments. Please continue to pray for Pastor and Loretta in their forward journey, as well as our own Call Committee and our journey here at Emmanuel.

*-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer*