

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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MAY 2023

*Dedicated to those who are completing
their studies and moving forward in their
lives as Christ calls them to.*

***For Pastoral Care, contact
Pastor Weeg at 641-381-0675
For all other needs throughout the
month, contact the church office or
Sharon Hulshizer at 641***

WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)?

He is Risen....He is Risen, indeed!



We read or say these
words on and after Easter.
They are a reminder that death
could not defeat Him and that
he sacrificed himself so that we

also will have victory over death. When we look
back at the beginning of our Holy Week
celebration, we remember our children parading
around the church, waving palm branches as we
recall how Jesus rode on a donkey as the crowd
shouted praises and waved palms, laying them
before him. They celebrated their king, the one
long-awaited for.

But only days later, they shouted to crucify
him, after he shared his last supper with his
disciples, where he told them that one of their own
would betray him. And on Good Friday, we heard
the sharp clang of the spikes as we heard his last

words on the cross. Followed by the clash of the
cymbals as he took his final breath.

The quiet was deafening and the silence put
his followers in fear as his body was laid in a tomb
and sealed so that he could not escape. What
would happen now that the Messiah, the one that
they had been waiting for to rescue them, was no
longer there? For days they waited, mourned,
questioned who this man really was and what
would happen now? What would Jesus Do?

In our Connection Group, Season 3 begins
with the Sermon on the Mount. As Jesus preaches
his biggest sermon yet, the people cannot stay
away. Even though they feel his teaching is "upside
down," in comparison with the real world, it
makes them question what they had been taught.
What are the beatitudes? How can the meek, the
suffering, or the least of all be blessed?

Jesus had chosen his twelve apostles to learn from him, to go out two by two, and perform the miracles that they had watched him perform in the name of the Lord God. They had to be anxious when he encouraged them to go with only the clothes on their backs, no money, no food, no extra staff to use for protection. They did not wish to be separated from their teacher.

God does not call only those with the highest degree of learning, the eloquent, or those with the most prestigious jobs. He calls those who he wishes to follow him, no matter the cost. And unlike the disciples, who did not have the knowledge of how the story would end, we have been called to be his chosen as well. Our lives are to be shaped by His calling, whatever that may be for each of us. It does not end with his death and resurrection. We follow Him as he asks of us. Easter is only the beginning.

As we move forward into May and the months to come, our lives will become busier, the weather warmer. Our young people will be confirmed or graduate from high school to embark on new chapters in their lives. We pray that they



will ask "what would Jesus do?" as they experience new

situations. We are all his chosen people and need to continue to live as such. We are not perfect, we are sinners, but the one who came and died, died for all, so that we may live with Him!

He is Risen...He is Risen, indeed!

-Sharon

Pastoral Acts

Caren Kay Bartz died on March 30th in Rochester, Mn. Her funeral service was held on April 8th at Emmanuel.

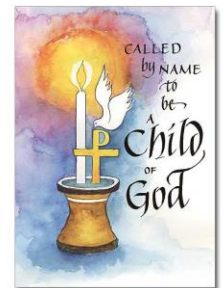


The Rev W. Paul Weeg officiated. Inurnment took place at the St John's Cemetery following the service.



May God comfort her family and all those who mourn her loss!

On April 23rd, **Collin Leo Rustad**, son of Klay & Nicole Rustad, was baptized at Emmanuel by the Rev. W. Paul Weeg. Collin was born February 22nd in Charles City, Ia. Collin's sponsors are Aaron Rustad and Megan Rustad.



We welcome Collin into our church family and pray for him as he grows in Christ!



THANK YOU, EMMANUEL

Greetings from the Share Shoppe Board:

We had a great year, with Congregations and Women's groups volunteering, giving monetary gifts, and uplifting prayers for the Share Shoppe. We would like to let you know as a congregation where we are financially. The Shoppe has been receiving about \$300 each month from the donation box. Our monthly costs are \$601.56 (rent: \$475, phone: \$26.56, Mona Pierce: \$100). We have been able to pay these bills with the generosity of our churches. We truly appreciate all that you do. Through your generosity, we received over \$4,000 from the Churches and Women's groups this past December. To God be the Glory for this blessing.

Our mission is to help others and you have truly supported us in this mission. We trust in God's word as written by St. Paul to the Christians in Corinth: *"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."* Please know that we are very grateful for your continued support.

Yours in Christ, the Share Shoppe Board.



If you have not yet picked up your 2023 Offering envelopes, they are located on the small table inside the wooden door entrance.

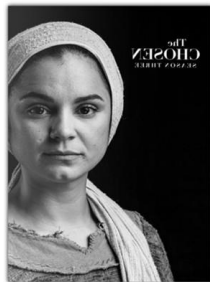
If not picked up by May 15th, they will be placed in your bulletin boxes.

Connection Group Bible Study

continues on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

SEASON THREE's theme is: *"Come to me...I will give you rest."* (Matthew 28:11)

Jesus sends all 12 disciples on their first mission and they face new fears as well as entrenched, old ways. And each one faces his own unique burden, too.



We are watching each episode twice and are excited to see the new things that are happening in the lives of the disciples as they "choose the narrow gate," who is Jesus.

Please contact Charlotte Cole or Sharon Hulshizer for more information.

Thank You, Stewards

...to Pastor Weeg for leading the extra services for Lent and Holy Week, visiting our shut ins, and providing Pastoral care as needed.

...to our organists, Marena Henkle and Donna Schilling for sharing their talents at the organ and piano.

...to our April counters: Teresa Braun, Kim Badker, and Phil & Gloria Hackbart.

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Kristy Arzberger.

...to our Altar Guild Steward, Doris Ralph

...to our PA Operators: Garry Backhaus, Darren Marsh, Dan Nack, and Gregg Urbatsch

...to our April Ushers: Mark Fredrickson, Dick Neeley, Duane Rustad, Steve McCready, and Gary Schotanus.

...to our website manager, Renae Kroneman

...to our Share Shoppe volunteer: Laurie Nack-Bublitz

...to the April Hospitality Team III: *Clarice Bartz, for calling and organizing workers for the month*, Paul Hackbart, Carol & Linda Koschmeder, Sheila Lundon, Josh & Anna Rosenberg, Sharon Walk, Jeanie White, Opal Diedrich, Marena Henkle, Martha Crail, and Doris & Albert Ralph.

...to the Lay Ministry board for opening and closing the church on Sundays.

...to all who answer any call for additional help, large or small. It takes many hands to do our work at Emmanuel!

Special Thanks

...to Belinda Borchardt and Kim Mogk for deep cleaning the pews (removing cushions, vacuuming, and cleaning each pew) and other cleaning jobs done, as needed.

...to Jeff Miller for his willingness to "fill in" as needed, and covering for Harley when she was ill.

...to Tammy Borchardt for her dedicated service in mailing out the packets of information to those on our nursery roll.

...to all who helped with our special services during Holy Week.

...to Charlotte Cole, Emi Kuntz, and Connie Rosenberg for setting out our benches and tables in the courtyard and in front of the church.

...to Kristy Arzberger for providing the beautiful flowers for the Confirmand/Graduate recognition. It added a special touch to the day!



Children's choir singing praises on Palm Sunday!



Listening intently to Pastor Weeg's lesson



(Pictures submitted by Brittany Bartz)



*Our First Communion Recipients:
Trevor Gordon, Aiden Cook, and Trey Feldt.*

Congratulations to these three young men on this step in their faith journey.



First Communion recipients with Pastor Paul Weeg





Easter Lilies ...

Given in Memory of Loved ones, from....

Clarice Bartz
Chris & Teresa Braun
Phil & Gloria Hackbart
Charlotte Cole & Family
Albert & Doris Ralph
Earl & Judy Trenhaile

Given in Honor of Loved Ones, from...

The Zillgitts

Given to the Glory of God, from...

Rod & Emi Kuntz

Given in Memory of, from...

His Loving Family, *In Memory of Allan Hanson*

Sharon Walk, *In Memory of Clarence & Ethel Walk*

Darren & Lori Marsh & Family, *In Memory of Joanne Marsh*

Dean & Mardine Meyer, *In Memory of Dale & Shirley Meyer*

Mark Fredrickson, *In Memory of Ken & LaVerne Fredrickson*

Their Loving Family, *In Memory of Armond & Marcella Braun*

Pastor & Peggy Weeg, *In Memory of Jim & Beverly Erickson and Rev. Warren C. & Rebecca Weeg*
and W. Peder Weeg, *In Memory of William Peder Johnson*

Kim Loland Mogk, *In Loving Memory of my parents, Stan & Lil Loland*

Merlin & Lisa Bartz, *In Memory of Jane Buechele, James & Phyllis Davis, and Orland Bartz*

Connie Rosenberg Family, *In Memory of Harper Putz and Don Anderson*

Haley & Riley Tourtellott and Jessie Gerdes, *In Memory of Tyler Tourtellott*

Kim Hicken and Chris Kruger, *In Memory of the Loved Ones that are unable to be with us-God Bless!*

Laurie Nack - Bubnitz Family, *In Memory of Loved Ones and Kuper Dean Malmin*

Koral Rosendahl, *In Memory of Gene & Connie Bruesewitz and Gilman Olsen, Jr. and In Memory of Alfred & Nora Bruesewitz and Gilman & Edna Olsen*

Thank you to all who shared lilies to beautify our sanctuary!





Logos Legos Youth ready to serve!



Easter Breakfast 2023



Thank you to all who supported our youth for the Easter Breakfast this year. \$618 was received in the Free Will Offering and was divided equally between the Youth and Campership Funds!

(Pictures submitted by Brittany Bartz)



Confirmand/Graduate recognition reception,
Sunday, April 23rd



Ryan Hackbart and parents, Jody & Jason



Confirmation this year for **Landon Hillman**, will be on a Sunday that works best for the family, to be determined. **Harley Rongved**, and **Kenny Conlin** will be recognized at a later date.



Graduates this year are **Ryan Hackbart**, **Madison Hillman**, and **Harley Rongved**. All attend St. Ansgar High School and will graduate on May 21st.



Ryan Hackbart invites you to his Graduation party on **Saturday, May 13th from 4-7 p.m. at his home** at 2288 380th Street, Grafton, Iowa. All are Welcome!

Did You Know

... Emmanuel's Call Committee has updated our profile on the NALC Congregational vacancies page? As of April 15th, there are 74 congregations actively seeking to call a pastor: 45 are openings for full-time ministry. Since the last update in March, four vacancies have been filled or removed, five have updated their profiles (including Grafton), and five new vacancies have been added. Here is our summary from the profile page:

Although we live on the plains of Iowa, Emmanuel truly is a city on a hill. Our beautiful stained-glass sanctuary welcomes in members not only from Grafton, but from multiple surrounding towns. We have members from four different school districts that give our members and youth opportunities to meet new friends and grow together in Christ. We have a strong financial position, beautiful facilities, and dedicated members, which leave us room to grow within our community and beyond. We are located close to the interstate and are within 2 hours of the major cities of Minneapolis, Des Moines, and even closer to Rochester and Mason City. We can offer small town living while being a short distance to major amenities. We have dedicated staff and members that will allow a pastor to be able to focus their time on Word and Sacrament ministry (preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.)

Continue to pray for our Call Committee and their work, for our current Leadership within our congregation and for our future leadership.

...the Lutheran Core March newsletter has an article that addresses the shortage of pastors and suggests how to identify and train lay leaders for an extended period of time. It is an interesting article to consider. If you would like to read it, you can go to the website: www.lutherancore.website, look under communications, newsletter, articles. We are fortunate at Emmanuel to be able to utilize several members as lay ministers. For some churches, this may become a solution for their search for leadership in the future.

...that our Council has voted to establish a "Chair Fund?" This fund will be used to purchase new chairs for the Fellowship Hall in the future. We thank Dean & Mardine for the donation of Thrivent monies used to begin this fund.

...Grand View University in Des Moines, offers a high school youth theology institute for a week in July? This is for youth who may be interested in ministry or who a congregation feels should be considering vocational ministry. The cost is only a \$100 registration fee (usually paid for by the congregation). This year's week is July 16-22nd. To apply, a student (9-12th grade) would go to www.grandview.edu/nexus and complete the registration form. Meals, lodging, and activities are all covered by generous sponsors. (See poster on Bulletin board or contact office for more info.)



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

...at the NALC 2023
Biennial Mission
Convocation in
Oklahoma City,

NALC delegates will elect a Bishop, as well as members of the Executive Council and Court of Adjudication? To prepare for that, the council has provided congregations with a packet of informative materials, including a booklet of prayers to use in the coming months to prepare for the election of our Bishop. Our current NALC Bishop is The Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo.

The Bishop carries out a pastoral ministry within the church, serving as pastor for the pastors and congregations of the NALC. The Bishop preaches the Gospel, forgives sins, administers the Sacraments and judges doctrine (Augsburg Confession XXVIII). The Bishop carries out a ministry of visitation throughout the church, is a defender of the faith, and promotes the mission of the church.

Prayer for the Nomination Committee:

Almighty God send Your Spirit, who broods over the world, to fill the hearts and minds of Your servants on the Nominating Committee of the North American Lutheran Church with wisdom, clarity and courage. Work in them as they examine and recommend candidates to serve as Bishop of the North American Lutheran Church. Help them endorse candidates who will effectively proclaim, by the means of grace and by example, the Good News of God in Christ. Challenge this Church to seek and serve Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior-loving our neighbors as ourselves and to be a blazing light for the kind of justice and peace that leads to all people respecting the dignity of all. Be with our Church that we may be open to the challenges that this process will bring to us- and help the whole Church to discern Your will for our future; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
March 7th, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Borchardt – President

Attended: Greg Zillgitt – Vice President, Patti Rustad - Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt - Evangelism, Emi Kuntz - Lay Ministry, Lonnie Hillman- Property, and Sharon Hulshizer - Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Will Bartz – Youth & Education

Devotions: Sharon Hulshizer

Agenda Review: M/S/C to approve agenda as presented.

Review Printed Minutes: M/S/C to approve minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted.

Administrative Report: 1) Pastor Weeg has been meeting with three 5th grade students and parents in preparation for their First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. They have been meeting during the SS hour after worship.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: No meeting

Lay Ministry: Is recommending one Easter service on Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m. M/S/C to follow the Lay Ministry recommendation to have one service on Easter.

Evangelism: 1) Met on Sunday, new member reception tentatively set up; will wait until invitation is sent out to other families that could be potential members. 2) The new sign for Highway 9 is done and is being stored until warmer weather.

Y & E: 1) Logos Legos went to the movie, "Jesus Revolution". Three members and a friend attended. 2) a virtual vote was taken for VBS. It will take place July 25-27th from 5-7:30 p.m. The theme will be "God's Living Water." Brittany Bartz was elected as VBS director. 3) Logos Legos is planning on doing the Easter breakfast again this year. They plan to serve eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, fruit, cinnamon rolls, and drinks. Waiting to hear if there are one or two Easter services before finalizing plans. 4) Last day of Sunday School will be May 21st.

Property: 1) Gregg will fix the men's bathroom; suggestions to check where cold air is coming from before sealing it up. 2) Grant has been submitted for landscaping, waiting to hear in April whether we receive it. 3) New carpet in library- the old carpet is beginning to unravel and show its age and wear. Will get a couple of bids to check pricing and decide whether a grant should be applied for to pay for it. 4) Discussed other items needing to be addressed.

Membership review: M/S/C to accept Kim Mogk's transferred membership.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Call Committee: Met last week. Reviewed and updated the congregational profile.
- b) Old Nativity Set: will wait until fall and decide at that time whether to auction it.
- c) Old Chairs: need to be sorted into ones that are usable and ones that can be given away or disposed of.
- d) Annual Audit: Waiting for a date to be chosen.
- e) Endowment Fund: Meeting will be set up between the Stewardship board, President, Vice President, Lisa Bartz, and Clarice Bartz to discuss and understand how the fund is to be managed.
- f) NALC Seminary- discussion of sending more monetary support.

New Business: No new business

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Will Bartz
Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C – meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information for March 1-31, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$68,943.39

Interest: \$11.43

Offering Revenues: \$10,400.00

Reimbursement: \$5.50 (copy paper)

E-giving Revenues: \$270.00

Total Revenues: \$10,686.93

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$79,630.32

Expenses: \$12,737.52

End of month Balance: \$66,892.80



TWC (The Women's Council)
April 20th, 2023

Sharon read devotions from Our Daily Bread, based on the story of Samuel's calling from God. It reminds us that we are to listen for God's calling and can also share our faith with one another by simply making a call and offering to pray for one another. TWC was opened with the sharing of the purpose. Secretary minutes from March were approved as read. Treasurer's report shows \$1,414.95 in Checking and \$4,004.24 in Savings. There are a few outstanding bills to be paid. Correspondence from CIS, the Share Shoppe, and the St James Lutheran Church Women was shared. A sympathy card was signed to send to Sandra Madden on the death of her son. Confirmation and Graduation cards and gifts were signed and put together.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: were taken to the LWR truck on April 17th by Belinda and Charlotte. Clarice has a list of all projects the women have completed the past year. They will continue to quilt and put together kits as they have time and materials. 2) Kitchen Remodeling Project: a) Emi has finished repainting/touching up the baseboards. b) the dishwasher needs to be moved back in place and hooked up for use. c) Possible fundraiser in fall: discussion on having a Chicken & Dumpling soup supper in the fall, near the end of September. 3) Fellowship Teams: continue to function as able. Still need to replace a few unit leaders. We appreciate all

help on Sundays. 4) Bible Study: is going well. Average attendance is 12-15. We are watching and studying Season 3 of "The Chosen". 5) Birthday party at Good Samaritan in St Ansgar: is May 11th. We provide 20-30 minutes of entertainment. Still determining who will go. 6) Confirmation/Graduation Recognition Sunday: is April 23rd. Set up will be on the 22nd, jello cakes have been lined up to be made and the regular cheese, sausage, and crackers will be served.

No New Business

Upcoming dates: TWC on May 16th at 9 a.m. Conf/Grad Recognition: Sunday, April 23rd; Birthday party at Good Sam: May 11th.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women Projects for the year April 1, 2022-April 1, 2023 (Submitted by Clarice Bartz)

Quilts:	56
LWR shipped	5
Salvation Army	5
VA	5
Men's Shelter	5
Women's Shelter	5
Bremwood (LSI)	10
Crisis Intervention	5
Graduates	3
Northwood LRH	1
Held back for Local needs	7

School kits (Activity kits)

LWR shipped 53

Personal Care Kits

LWR shipped 21

Layettes

LWR shipped 10

Thank you to all the hands that helped in completing these gifts used for those who gladly receive them.



Memorial Day services will be held at the Grafton Cemetery on **Monday, May 29th**, beginning at **10 a.m.** A program will be organized, involving the Legion Honor Guard, the St Ansgar Middle School band, a guest speaker, memorial tributes, and special music. In case of inclement weather, the service will be in the Grafton Community Center. Please join us in honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

MY HEART WILL GO ON



On April 14, 1912, at 11: 40 PM ship time, the British passenger liner, the RMS Titanic, hit an iceberg, which caused her hull plates to buckle inwards in a number of places on her starboard side, and opened five of her sixteen watertight compartments to the sea. Over the next two and a half hours the ship filled with water until just before 2:20 AM ship time, on April 15, 1912, when she broke up and sank with over fifteen hundred people still on board.

One hundred years later – April 15, 2012 – was a Sunday. In fact, it was the Sunday after Easter. That day I preached a sermon entitled, “My Heart Will Go On.”

I am sure you recognize that phrase as the title of the main theme song of the 1997 blockbuster movie, “Titanic,” a fictionalized account of the sinking of that great ship. It starred Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as members of two very different social classes who fall in love aboard the ship during its ill-fated maiden voyage.

Recorded by Celine Dion, the song “My Heart Will Go On” quickly became the number one song all over the world. The fact that that song became Celine Dion’s greatest hit, one of the best-selling singles of all time, and the world’s best-selling single for the year 1998, I believe shows a deep longing in the human heart.

On the Sunday after Easter, April 15, 2012 – one hundred years after the sinking of the Titanic - I shared with the congregation during the sermon that I could imagine the disciples – after the resurrection of Jesus – gathering together many times and sharing thoughts and feelings very similar to the ones that are expressed in Celine Dion’s song.

“Every night in my dreams I see you, I feel you.
That is how I know you go on.

Far across the distance and spaces between us
You have come to show you go on.

“Near, far, wherever you are
I believe that the heart does go on.
Once more you open the door and you are here in
my heart
And my heart will go on and on.”

In one scene in the movie, as the ship is sinking, Leonardo DiCaprio says to Kate Winslet, “Do not let go of my hand.” Kate Winslet replies, “I will never let go.”

And the resurrected Jesus says the same thing to us today. “Do not let go of my hand” and “I will never let go of you.” Therefore, because of Easter, like the original disciples, we too can say, My heart can and will go on.

First, because of Easter, your heart can and will go on **BECAUSE YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN.**

Have you ever been halfway through a project and then wished that you could start out all over again? A lot of people are living their lives that way. They get halfway through life and then they wish that they could start out all over again.

We have all done things that we wish we had not done, said things that we wish we had not said, and thought things that we wish we had not thought. We all have regrets. We all carry a heavy load of guilt.

A lot of people cannot move on with the present and the future because they are stuck in the past. Some guilt and/or regret has them all tied up. They are allowing a former relationship to mess up all their current relationships. They are saying, “I guess I am just going to have to sit out the rest of my life.” They are carrying around this huge emotional baggage, and they are wondering why they are so unhappy.

The apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 2: 14, “He erased the record that stood against us with its legal demands; He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Jesus nailed all your sins to the cross. He paid for all your guilt. Which means that you do not have to pay for it anymore.

He was nailed to the cross so that you can stop beating yourself up. He wants to – and He can – forgive your past. He can cancel all of your debts – all of your emotional debts, relational debts, and spiritual debts. He can cancel them all.

Like a bill that has been paid, once it has been paid, you can forget about it. The same thing is true with your sins. Once God has forgiven it, you can forget it. It is like when you pay a bill online. Once you have paid it, you can get a receipt for it. If anyone says it has not been paid, you can show written proof that it has been paid. The Bible is written proof that the debt for our sins has been paid. Why would anyone not want to be a follower of Jesus if for no other reason than just to have a clear conscience? Because of Easter, your heart can go on because your past can be forgiven.

In our First Reading for Easter Sunday, in Acts 10: 43, Peter is at the house of Cornelius, the Roman centurion. He says about Jesus, “Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name.”

Paul wrote in Romans 8: 1, “There is therefore now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Jesus.”

Did you ever have an Etch-A-Sketch? What can you do if you mess up the picture on an Etch-A-Sketch? You can flip it over, shake it, and then turn it right side up again, and there you will have a clean slate. The cross is God’s Etch-A-Sketch. He wants to and He can give you a clean slate.



Because of Easter you can know for sure that every single thing that you have ever done wrong can be completely forgiven. There is therefore now no condemnation. Jesus did not come to rub it in. Rather He came to rub it out. Jesus said in John 3: 17, “I did not come to condemn the world; rather I came to save the world.” He wants to help you. He wants to change you. He wants to give you a new beginning. Because of Easter, your heart can and will go on **BECAUSE YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN.**

And then ***second***, because of Easter your heart can and will go on **BECAUSE YOUR PRESENT CAN BE MANAGEABLE.**

Several years ago I was driving on one of the southern California freeways during the middle of the day when all of a sudden my windshield started getting pelted by dozens of little objects as if it were hailing. But the sky was clear. Then I thought that maybe I just got hit by a bunch of gravel that came flying off of a truck in front of me. But there was no truck in front of me. Then I realized that I had gotten hit by dozens and dozens of bees. There were splattered bees all over my windshield and mangled bee bodies on my windshield wipers. I must have run into a swarm of bees. I was just glad that I was not riding a motorcycle with my mouth open.

And the truth of the matter is that you never know when you might run into – or get run into by – a swarm of something. Much in life is unmanageable.

Somebody once said, Maturity is when you figure out that you do not have it all figured out. Maturity is when you realize that you cannot control everything that life is going to send your way.

Faith is realizing that you cannot control everything in your life, but God can. So why not look to God and ask Him for His help. Let God take charge of your life.

Many people say, “My life is out of control. I feel powerless in my situation and powerless to change my situation. I feel powerless to break a bad habit, save or sever a relationship, get out of debt, or get on top of my time, my schedule, and/or my finances.”

We all need a power that is greater than ourselves and that is outside of ourselves. You were never meant to live life on your own power. The Bible says in Ephesians 1: 19-20, “How incredibly great is His power to help those who believe in Him. It is the same mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead.”

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead can help you rise above, deal with, and face your problems. The same power that God displayed in the resurrection of Jesus two thousand years ago is available to you in your life right now.

We do not know what the future holds, but we can know who holds the future. Even if it is out of our control, it is not out of God's control. He can give you the power to face it and deal with it.

In the Gospel writer Matthew's account of Easter Sunday morning the angel says to the women (28: 5), "Do not be afraid," and Jesus says to the women and the disciples (28: 10), "Do not be afraid." But we all have many reasons to be afraid.

John mentions three people in his account of Easter Sunday morning – Mary Magdalene, Peter, and "the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved," who is generally considered to be the disciple John. Each of them had reason to feel that their life was out of control.

Mark 16: 9 describes Mary Magdalene as the one from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons. How those demons gained access to her life – and what kind of destructive affect they had on her life – we do not know. But before she met Jesus her life must have been out of control.

Peter had real issues with lack of impulse control, and John must have been a real hot-head, because Jesus called John and his brother James the Sons of Thunder. Yes, all three of these first witnesses to the resurrection before meeting Jesus were living lives that were unmanageable and out of control.

The apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4: 13, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." No problem is too big for God. No situation is hopeless if you turn it over to Him.

The Bible does not say, I can face all things through the power of positive thinking. Nor does it say, I can face all things if I get myself sufficiently all psyched up. Rather it says, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

Because of Easter, your heart can and will go on **BECAUSE YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN** and **BECAUSE YOUR PRESENT CAN BE MANAGEABLE**.

And then, **third**, because of Easter, your heart can and will go on **BECAUSE YOUR FUTURE CAN BE SECURE**.

One of the universal problems that we all have is death. Everybody is going to die. Someday I am going to die, and someday you are going to die. Only a fool would go through life not preparing for something that is inevitable. Will Rogers once said, Worry must really work because almost nothing that I worry about ever happens. But death happens – sooner or later – to everybody.

It just does not make sense. But so many people get so busy with the here and now that they do not stop to think about and prepare for what is 100% certain to happen.

A group of children were asked to write down what they believed about death. An eight-year-old wrote, "When you die they put you in a box and bury you in the ground because you do not look so good." A nine-year-old said, "Doctors help you so you will not die until you pay their bills." Another nine-year-old wrote, "When you die, you will not have to do homework in heaven unless your teacher is there too." And then a ten-year-old said, "A good doctor can help you so you won't die. A bad doctor sends you to heaven."
















The truth of the matter is that every one of us will die. But many people do not want to think and/or talk about it. But still, there is a deep, universal, human longing to know, "What is going to happen to me after I die?" Because of Easter, your heart can and will go on because you can know for sure what will happen to you after you die.

Because of Easter, your future can be secure because if you believe in the Christ of Easter, then you can know for sure that you can and will spend eternity with Him. Because of Easter, your heart can go on because **YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN**, **YOUR PRESENT CAN BE MANAGEABLE**, and **YOUR FUTURE CAN BE SECURE**. Why would you not want to give your life to and live your life for the Christ of Easter?

*I pray that you experience the depth of God's love
and the joy, hope, and power of the resurrection
during this Holy Week.*

Dennis D. Nelson
Executive Director of Lutheran CORE

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Pastors' Text <u>Study</u> 9:30 a.m. at Emmanuel	3 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.	4	5 	6 
7 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:30 Worship w/Lisa Bartz (<i>no Holy Communion</i>) 10:40 Fellowship Sunday School	8 <u>Church Council</u> 7 p.m.	9 Pastors' Text <u>Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	10 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.	11 	12 	13 <u>Choir</u> 9 a.m. Ryan Hackbart Graduation party 4-7 p.m.
14 Mother's Day <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:30 Worship w/HC (Choir sings) 10:40 Fellowship Sunday School	15 	16 <u>TWC</u> (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m. Pastors' Text <u>Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	17 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.	18 	19 	20 
21 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 9:30 Worship (last Noisy Offering collection for the SS year) 10:40 Fellowship/Last day of Sunday School St. Ansgar Commencement	22 	23 Pastors' Text <u>Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	24 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.	25	26 	27 
28 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 9:30 Worship 10:40 Fellowship	29  Memorial DAY 10 a.m. Grafton Cemetery	30 Pastors' Text <u>Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	31 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.			



May 2023

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

308 4th Avenue
PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

641-748-2736
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<u>May</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, May 7th <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	Raiden Kuntz	Marena & Cody Henkle	Marena Henkle
Sunday, May 14th <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	Jaxon Edwards	Sara & Tanner Hoy	Donna Schilling
Sunday, May 21st <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	Gus Walk	Taylor & Brian Huinker	Marena Henkle
Sunday, May 28th <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	Aundraya Paulson	Sharon & Randy Hulshizer	Donna Schilling

Hospitality Team V: Teresa Sorenson, Katie Bass, Kayla Pappas, Debby & David Bublitz, Marlin Rosenberg, Sam/Shelly, and Nicole Venechuk, Katie Vandewalker, Kara & Joe Walk, Larry Diedrich, Jon & Kim Badker, and Calvin & Sandy Thompson.

Ushers: Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Ken Kroneman, Calvin Thompson, Troy Tourtellott, and Gregg Urbatsch.

Lay Ministry: Janice Nelson

Counters: Belinda Borchardt and Connie Rosenberg

Altar Guild: Charlotte Cole & Janice Nelson

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Gloria Hackbart

PA Operator: Darren Marsh

