



# The Emmanuel Envoy

February 2020

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## Emmanuel on the Move

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Back in 2017 our congregation took a survey called the CAT, the **Congregational Assessment Tool**, to help us better understand our identity as a congregation and our priorities moving forward. One of those priorities, identified by people across the age spectrum in our congregation was called Priority 3. Priority 3 was “Provide direct services to those living on the margins of society (i.e. homeless, transient,

migrant, people).

Emmanuel is a caring community of faith and when people have needs, we step up. Later in this issue of the Envoy you will read that we raised \$680.00 and filled a car trunk with non-perishable food items for the Souper Bowl of Caring. People are meeting every week at our church to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief in our 11th year of quilting. Over the years we have sent hundreds of health care kits and school kits to Lutheran World Relief. There are thank you notes hanging on one of our bulletin boards thanking us for the Christmas gifts we sent to kids in Ascentria’s intensive foster care program. Every month our Matthew 25 fund helps people who are in need of rental help, food, gas, car repairs, and other things. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. Emmanuel is a community that feels called to help when people need help. But Priority 3 tells us something *else*. Priority 3 tells us that we’re ready to get our hands dirty. We’re ready to provide direct service, to look people in the eyes, to leave our safe space to go where people are, to enter into the realities of the complexities of other people’s lives, to be changed and to bring relationship.

The challenging thing is, that we’re not exactly sure what that would look like. Emmanuel is a busy church with lots of things that people can be involved in. What we don’t want is just one more thing that is on the buffet of activities and opportunities that people can be involved in at Emmanuel. We want something that can be part of the life and the fabric of our community, something that we all can feel invested in. In order to find “that thing”, the Forward Leadership Team has asked some questions over the past two years. We sent out a survey, we had a forum, we went through the *Why Emmanuel* process. Every time we did one of those things, we learned something important about this congregation. We learned even more fully than we already knew it that this is a congregation that deeply values our commitment to and care for each other and that is willing to embrace as family whoever walks through our doors. We learned that this is a congregation where people deeply value the opportunity to use their gifts to make the world a better place. We learned that there is a huge spectrum among people at Emmanuel in terms of community needs that they have identified and way that they think that they should be addressed. What we didn’t learn is what we should do, what problem we should tackle, how we should get involved in the needs of the larger community.

So, this is where we have decided to start. Rather than die from paralysis by analysis, we have decided to **look for** opportunities to get into the world and do some good, and then to reflect on the experiences that we have to decide if the things that we tried are ways we would like to continue to be involved, either by starting some new ministry through our church or by partnering with other organizations. We are going to learn by **doing**.

When we first started talking about this in our Forward Leadership Team meetings, I started calling it the Hebrews 10:24 Initiative (I have a thing about naming things after scripture passages.). Hebrews 10:24 says, “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds...” I also called it the “Provoking Initiative.” Thank goodness wiser minds than mine prevailed and we are calling this “Emmanuel On the Move”.

Our first Emmanuel On the Move opportunity will happen on **Saturday, May 2nd, 9:00-12:00** at the Pine Street Inn in Boston. We will take 8-10 volunteers to help prepare a meal for the guests at the Inn on that day. There might be another opportunity to serve in that area on the same day, so that we could involve more volunteers. Watch for more information about Emmanuel On the Move in the coming weeks and months.

We’ll be actively seeking out other ways to serve, other groups to partner with, and other ways to live out Priority 3. Priority 3 is simply a way of saying that we want to follow where Jesus walked, to meet people where they are, to be present to people and on the margins, and to share good news and help and hope with all people.

On the move with you,  
*Pastor Amanda*



**Seasonal Worship Folders – 8:45 service** - This Lent you will notice something new about our worship resources at the 8:45 a.m. service. Instead of receiving a bulletin with all of the details of the day’s service printed in it, worshipers at 8:45 will receive a seasonal Worship Booklet with the pattern of worship, the liturgy for the season, in it, and a bulletin with the details for the day in it (the hymn numbers and readings), and your usual bulletin insert with the announcements in it.

This is an experiment being run by the Worship Team to see if can reduce paper costs and paper waste by producing seasonal worship booklets rather than printing a 16 to 24 page bulletin every week at both services. We do not want to sacrifice the opportunity for everyone to easily and comfortably follow the worship service, but think that this might be a good compromise. After people have had a few weeks to try it, there will be an opportunity to provide feedback to the worship team about how these new worship resources are working and whether this is something that we could continue in future seasons of the church year.

## Prayer Concerns List

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Bernie Byrnes	Jack Gradijan
Pat Sheek	Christine Howard
Kathleen Fabio	Emma White
Terri Loomis	Sara Williams
Aeschliman Family	Ingrid Bamber
Jovanni Sanchez-Colon	Arthur Lusty
Susan Tomasello	Gordon Sheek
Tony Nikolassy	Rebecca Sol
Jody Gebhardt	Pat Goodman
Patrick Donovan	Liz Easton
Ann-Marie Litcof	George Haras
Paul & Heather Crisafulli	Lyndsay Boysen
Caroline Kiley	John A. Grant
Roth Family	

## Remembering Our Shut-ins

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Eleanor Bjornson and Richard Spencer

## Thank You Notes

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Dear Christmas Carolers,

Your singing was awesome as usual, and I enjoyed it! Thank you for coming and spreading "good cheer". I am so glad I have friends at Emmanuel.

*Ann-Marie Blomquist*

Dear Friends,

The Volunteer Services Department wishes to thank you for the recent donation of can tabs. These tabs will be sold and all the proceeds used to purchase needed equipment for use at Shriners Hospital for Children – Boston.

The Shriners Hospital for Children – Boston has remained the premier pediatric burns hospital in the world, providing comprehensive high-quality care to the burned child. Their goals combine quality patient care, research and training of medical personnel. In addition, all care and services are provided without financial obligation to patients or their family.

It is through ongoing support like this that children with severe burns will have a brighter future.

Sincerely,  
*Craig Walsh* – Director of Volunteer Services

My church friends,

I would like to thank the people of Emmanuel for your kind good wishes for my milestone birthday,

Many thanks,  
*Rosemarie Lusty*

Members of Emmanuel Lutheran,

Thank you so much for the lovely Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. I can tell a lot of thought was put into preparing them. I also enjoyed the cards done by the Sunday School. It was such a nice surprise.

*Sally Alborghetti*

Dear Friends & Family of Emmanuel Lutheran,

Many thanks for the Christmas basket and all the goodies in it. Also, thanks to Hank & Evie Sundquist for bringing it to us.

We had a most enjoyable visit with Pastor Amanda in December. Thank you, Pastor, for a fun and meaningful afternoon.

A happy and healthy New Year to all.

*Larry & Ruthie Sundberg*

Many thanks to our friends at Emmanuel for the delightful basket of Christmas goodies. These baskets for shut-ins give great pleasure. I think for Jack the best part is knowing that there are people at Emmanuel who care about him and pray for him. Second best are the sweet treats.

Thank you so much.

*Jack Gradijan*

## Quilting has begun again in February

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"The Piecemakers" are now meeting every Saturday morning in February and March, from 9 to noon. Fabric will be available in Kask Hall for those looking for material to work with. Anyone with questions can e-mail me at [lawsue51@verizon.net](mailto:lawsue51@verizon.net) or call me at 508-660-7459. All are welcome!

## Book Group Meets...

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The Book Group will be meeting on Friday evening **March 20th at 7 p.m.** and the book we're reading for that meeting is "*Born a Crime*" by Trevor Noah.



Looking ahead to April – the book to be discussed is "*The Wrong Girl*" by Hank Phillippi Ryan, and we'll be discussing it on April 17.

## Epiphany STAR Campaign for Our Church Home

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The Epiphany Season may be drawing to a close, BUT, we have a **lot** of projects planned for our church building in 2020. We need to replenish our capital improvement

fund to make it possible to keep up the good work that's been going on.

Things that we hope to be able to do are: work on improvements to Kask Hall; renovate the women's bathroom outside of Kask Hall; and of course, be prepared for any emergencies that might come up.

To help replenish that fund, please take a "star" (or more than one!) from the tree in Kask Hall or the one in the Narthex, and contribute that amount to the cause. Your contributions to this fund will allow projects to continue to be tackled and completed!

## Silent Auction 2019 "Temperature Blanket"...and the Winner is...

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As a means to continue raising money for the capital improvement fund, Leslie Daskam donated a blanket that she completed knitting in December. It is called a "temperature blanket". It has 365 rows, one for each day of 2019. Each row's color represents the temperature for that day. There are 8 different colors that correspond with 8



temperature ranges.

It has literally, taken her a year to complete. It's been on display in the sanctuary (choir loft).

We held a 'silent auction' for the blanket – and...drum roll please.... The winner is **JUDY GEAR**, and her winning bid was \$200. A lovely addition to the Capital Fund!

Thank all of you who participated with a bid.

*Leslie Daskam, and Caryl Ott*  
Capital Fundraising Team

## Community Service Fair

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You are invited to attend an information session about the 10th annual Community Service Fair on **Monday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m. here at Emmanuel**, in our own Kask Hall. The purpose of this information session is to get more people and organizations involved in planning for the 2020 Community Service Fair, which is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the park across the street from Emmanuel. In a nutshell, the Community Service Fair is an opportunity for us to get together as a wider faith and service community to do hands on service projects, learn about volunteer opportunities with organizations working locally and globally to create a better world, have fun and engaging games and activities for children, raise money for service organizations, raise awareness of environmental and sustainability efforts, and build a stronger community as we eat, serve, learn, and grow together. Please put the Community Service Fair on your calendar and consider coming to the meeting on February 24th to learn more.



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

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**Let the Confirmation class make you dinner!** The Confirmation class and their families invite you to a **Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** We will prepare for the Lenten season with good food and good fellowship and by burning last year's Palm Sunday palms to make ashes for our Ash Wednesday services. There's a sign-up sheet outside Pastor's office!



And while you're here... Help raise money for migrant children and families at the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Come take part in a 50/50 raffle and vote for the King and Queen of Mardi Gras, all to help ELCA nonprofit organization AMMPARO. AMMPARO works to address both the root problems of migration and the issues migrant youth and families face in America. For more information, please contact Katerina Gebhardt at [katgebhardt36@gmail.com](mailto:katgebhardt36@gmail.com).

## Ash Wednesday Worship

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We begin the season of Lent with two opportunities for worship on Ash Wednesday **February 26th**. We will gather at **3 pm and 7:30 pm**. The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be offered at both services.



## Midweek Lenten Soup Supper & Worship – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

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Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer Services will be held on five Wednesdays during Lent, starting on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dinner will be from 6:00-6:45 and worship will be held from 6:45-7:30. If you would like to bring soup or bread for the Soup Suppers, please sign up on the table in the hallway outside of the pastor's office.

The theme of our Lenten Midweek Services is

everyday spirituality, inspired by Bishop Hazelwood's book of the same title, *Everyday Spirituality*. Each evening our speaker during worship will be focusing either on a way in which he or she consistently experience's God's presence as a part of his or her daily life or on a time in his or her life when he or she experienced God's presence in a meaningful and unexpected way, that was not connected to worship or church life.

Our focus on everyday spirituality will also extend to our Lenten Soup Suppers. During our meals people will be encouraged to sit with different people every week. Bishop Hazelwood has designed decks of discussion cards that will help people talk to each other about facets of their everyday lives as well as about their experience of spirituality. The plan is for us to use those cards to get to know each other better as we share a meal.

## Snow Cancellation Policy

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I can always get to church, but there are times when it is not safe or community minded for other people to venture out to come to worship.



The reality is that the church of Jesus Christ can never be closed. As long as the people of God engage in prayer for their neighbors, especially those who are put at risk because of dangerous weather, the work and worship of the church goes forward. But, there are times when worship services can and should be cancelled.

This might not come up this coming winter (we can only hope), but if it looks like a storm is coming that will bring significant snow or other seriously dangerous weather to our area, then worship at Emmanuel will be cancelled.

I will let people know about a cancellation, by changing the phone message at church, sending out a mass e-mail, putting it on Facebook, and putting it on local TV stations. If you hear the words, "Blizzard expected Saturday into Sunday morning" this winter, chances are good that worship at Emmanuel will be cancelled! *Pastor Amanda*

## Altar Flowers For 2020

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The 2020 Altar Flower Chart is now posted in the Narthex. To sponsor a Sunday, please sign your name and phone number. Our Flower Coordinator, **Helen Bonaceto**, will contact you regarding the dedication and payment. We appreciate all those who help to adorn the sanctuary on Sundays with fresh flowers.

## Rummage Sales 2020

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Please mark your calendars. The spring rummage sale at Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be **Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.** - AND our Fall one will be **October 23 and 24.**

If you have any questions, please talk to **Arlene Cegelis** or **Anne Martin.**

## First Communion

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First Communion classes for children in second grade and older who have not yet received communion instruction will be held on **Saturdays, March 2nd, March 9th, March 23rd, and Sunday, March 30th, 10:00-11:30.** There will also be a First Communion Event, for the students, on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00 p.m. The First Communion Event will include, skits, games, a tour of the sacristy, and baking bread for use at the First Communion worship services. First Communion worship will be held on Sunday, May 5th. The children can receive their First Communion at the 8:45 or 11:15 worship services on that day.

## New England Women of the ELCA

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(WELCA) – Boston Metro Area Spring Gathering will be **Saturday, March 28** – 9 am to 2 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, 201 Granite Street, Quincy.

Keynote presentation: *Women of the Bible: The Good Girls and the Bad Girls!*

There are a few flyer/registration forms in the hall outside the church offices.



**Thanks a LOT!**

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Thank you so much for your generous giving to the Souper Bowl of Caring! In addition to taking an impressive amount of food to the Norwood Food Pantry, we also collected \$680.00.

The Confirmation students had a meaningful discussion about how to allocate the money that was collected. They were very thoughtful in their approach to this important question. Finally, they decided that the “proceeds” from this year’s Souper Bowl of Caring should go the food pantries located in the towns represented by the students in the Confirmation class. Since the non-perishable food items that were collected went to the Norwood Food Pantry the students decided that the money that was collected should be split between the other two food pantries. Therefore, the Westwood Food Pantry and Lenore’s Pantry (the food pantry that is located in North Attleboro) will receive \$340.00 each.

Every year that I go through this decision-making process with the Confirmation students the outcome is different, but the process is the same. The students take their responsibility to distribute these funds very seriously and exhibit a depth of concern about how to faithfully and effectively address local and global hunger that is encouraging and inspiring. In addition to helping fight local and global hunger, your donations to the Souper Bowl of Caring help our youth to have the meaningful experience of being trusted by their community of faith to make this important decision.

So, I will say thank you again for supporting this important part of our Confirmation curriculum as well as for helping to fight hunger in our communities and in our world.  
~Pastor Amanda

## Lent and Everyday Spirituality

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This Lent, in our Lenten midweek soup suppers and evening prayer worship services and during 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Studies, will be exploring Bishop Jim Hazelwood's book, Everyday Spirituality.



On Sundays, we will follow a Lenten study guide prepared by Bishop Hazelwood, that explores different chapters of his book as they go along with the themes of the gospel readings that will be read in worship.

Here are the chapters that we will be exploring:

Sunday, March 1	The First Sunday in Lent
Readings:	Matthew 4:1-11 and <u>Everyday Spirituality</u> Chapter 22 <i>Surrender</i>
Sunday, March 8	The Second Sunday in Lent
Readings:	John 3:1-17 and <u>Everyday Spirituality</u> Chapter 11 <i>Trust</i>
Sunday, March 15	The Third Sunday in Lent
Readings:	John 4:5-42 and <u>Everyday Spirituality</u> Chapter 12 <i>Question</i>
Sunday, March 22	The Fourth Sunday in Lent
Readings:	John 9:1-41 and <u>Everyday Spirituality</u> Chapter 24 <i>Disagree</i>
Sunday, March 29	The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Readings:	John 11:1-45 and <u>Everyday Spirituality</u> Chapter 9 <i>Laugh</i>
Sunday, April 5	Palm Sunday/The Sunday of the Passion
Readings:	Matthew 21:1-11 and <u>Everyday Spirituality</u> Chapter 26 <i>Grieve</i>

As you can see, there of skipping around in terms of which chapters we will of Everyday Spirituality that we will be focusing on during our Sunday Morning Studies. However, as individuals or as groups at Emmanuel, we are all encouraged to read the whole book. If you would like to get a copy it is available on Amazon. Don't forget to use Emmanuel's Amazon Affiliate Link--<http://www.shop.emmanuelnorwood.org/> if you are going to purchase the book from Amazon. If you would prefer other buying options or if you would just like to learn more about the book, please check out the book's website,

<https://www.everydayspiritualitybook.com>.

**Note:** If you don't have time to read a new book, don't get the book on time, or if you don't get the chapters listed here finished before the date of the discussion on that chapter, please know that you are still welcome and encouraged to participate in the Sunday Morning Studies.