



SPECIAL EDITION

The Emmanuel Envoy

June 2021

I was so well prepared for my 2020 sabbatical. I had people scheduled to lead worship for me months in advance. I had pastoral care coverage lined up for me, in case of an emergency during my three months away. I had reservations made and routes planned for eight weeks of travel. I felt well prepared for our trip and I felt that you, the people of Emmanuel were well prepared for a time when I would be away. As you know, all of those plans had to be cancelled as the events of 2020 unfolded and it became clear that I would not be going anywhere.

I will be eligible for a second three-month sabbatical in 2022. I didn't imagine that I would take it, knowing that I would be going on a three-month sabbatical in 2020. However, as it became clear that the 2020 sabbatical wasn't going to happen, I began to talk with church leadership about the possibility of my taking a one-month sabbatical in 2021 and then my three-month sabbatical in 2022. We talked about it and decided that we could make that work for Emmanuel, so that is what is going to happen.

In fact, it's going to happen now. I will begin a one-month sabbatical on Monday, June 14th and will return to the church office on Tuesday, July 13th. It feels kind of sudden, even to me, that this time that I have looked forward to, but not taken a lot of time to plan for is upon me, upon us. Here are some things that I will be doing (and not be doing) while I am away from the day-to-day workings of Emmanuel:

- I don't have any major travels planned, although we might take some time for a couple of overnight visits to out-of-state friends.
- I will be spending time with my family, immediate and extended.
- I will be working on improving my "homemade" Confirmation curriculum which has been an ongoing project of mine since I arrived at Emmanuel.
- I will be working on some of my scrapbooks, which, as you probably know, is a favorite hobby of mine and something that I find to be very refreshing and relaxing.
- I will be visiting some local churches that are holding in person worship, so that I can see how other churches are doing it.

When I return from this mini-sabbatical I hope to do it with a spirit refreshed and renewed for the joys and challenges of reopening our church building and moving forward in our ministries together.

When I return, I also look forward to learning what plans our congregation's leadership has made for our reopening and to seeing what work has been done in the building. If you keep reading in this edition of the Envoy, you will see that there are some big projects planned.

For fifteen months now I have been signing my correspondence with you, "Until we meet again, peace be with you." As I prepare to go on sabbatical that sign off has particular poignancy, as I will truly be away for some time, not meeting you on Zoom or in person for worship and prayer and

learning and service and fellowship. I look forward to this time of rest and renewal and I also look forward to that time when we do meet again, and when we see what God has next for us at Emmanuel.

So, until we meet again, peace be with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda

Prayer Concerns List

Pat Sheek	Susan Tomasello	Lyndsay Boysen	Emma White	Rebecca Sol
Katarina Ruda	Pat & Pat Riley	John A. Grant	Sara Williams	Pat Goodman
Terri Loomis	Ann-Marie Litcof	Tony Nikolassy	Josh Andrews	Liz Easton
John Olson	Jovanni Sanchez-Colon	Bo Ruda	Melissa White	Thomas Becker
Sandra White	Bill Rapp	Megan Nowak	Doris Dimpel	Danny Connolly
Kris & Jill	Richard Makert	George Beaudoin	Graham & Kim	Chelsea & Isabella
Jon Keenan	Robin & Kathleen Bailey		Arlene Zolla	The Ott family <i>on</i> <i>the death of Caryl's</i> <i>mom</i>
	Paul & Heather Crisafulli			



Thank You Notes



Dear Emmanuel,

Just before Easter a bag of goodies and palm fronds were transported across the bridge by Lorraine Lynch and arrived in my Cape Cod apartment. I enjoyed the photos from the Sunday School, the book, the Easter bunny decor, and the chocolate kisses but most of all being remembered by friends at Emmanuel.

Thank you,
Ingrid Bamber

Dear Emmanuel,

I want to thank Emmanuel for the cards and the gift bag. Will use the candle on Easter.

Dick Foster.

ELC Grants and Camperships



Educational Grant applications and Camp Calumet summer campership applications are available by contacting the church office by email at :
(office@emmanuelnorwood.org) .

Notice of June Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our June Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, June 27th, at 10:35 a.m. on Zoom**. We will use the same link that we use for worship, so no one needs to log out and then log back in. Please remember that that you can login to a Zoom service via a land line phone, a computer, a tablet, or a smartphone. The link for the June 27th worship service and congregational meeting will be emailed out the week prior to the meeting. Here is the land line login information for the Congregational Meeting:

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (NewYork)

Meeting ID: 913 1174 8004

Passcode: 331680

At this June congregational meeting we will be voting for new council members, hearing an update about the 2021 budget, and learning more about the life of this congregation. Please plan to attend so that we can have our quorum (Confirmed members of Emmanuel have voice and vote, Associate members of Emmanuel and guests have voice, but no vote) and so that you can be up to date about what's going on at Emmanuel!

Worship



Sunday Worship continues via the computer video conferencing tool, Zoom. We gather using a computer, tablet, smart phone or telephone.

For those who have been accessing our Zoom worship services, they are a real blessing; an opportunity to gather together while still being physically apart. Our Zoom worship services have even gone international, as, in addition to our local members, we have had visitors from around the country and from Canada join us for worship via computer, laptop, tablets, cell phones, and landlines!

The link for Sunday worship is emailed out every week on Fridays or Saturdays. If you would like participate by landline telephone, here is the information that you need to do that:

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (NewYork)

Meeting ID: 913 1174 8004

Passcode: 331680

Members and friends of Emmanuel serve as worship assistants during our Zoom worship services, as designated responders, Psalm

leaders, lectors, and petitioners (leading the prayers). If you would like help to lead worship in one of these ways you can sign up via sign up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baaa82fa2fe3-zoom> or you can contact the office by email (office@emmanuelnorwood.org)

Communion services continue to be offered every Sunday in the Sanctuary. We are now offering a single service at **11:15 a.m.**

If you would like to come receive communion at Emmanuel (masked and socially distanced), you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baaa82fa2fe3-communion> or you can contact us at the church by phone or email.

If you would prefer to have communion delivered to your home (along with prayers and scriptures that you can read), you can contact the church office. Communion is delivered in a contactless way.

Gathering for Prayer



Our prayer group continues to gather together every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. to check in with each other, share prayer requests, read and reflect on scripture using a process called *Lectio*

Divina, and pray together.

The link to the prayer gathering does not change from week to week, but it is still emailed out every week.

If you would like to participate in the prayer group by phone this the information that you need to call in to the meeting:

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 953 6668 1219

Passcode: 206384

Please note that long distance charges do apply if you call into a Zoom meeting, so please consider your long-distance plan if you decide to call in to any Zoom experience at Emmanuel.

You are welcome and encouraged to drop in to the prayer group any time you are in need of a little extra prayer and fellowship. You can join any time you are able whether you can come for one meeting or for all of them.

Faith Formation

Growing in faith has also been continuing in new and different ways.

Confirmation Class: The 2020-2021 class recently was confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. Kayleigh Afonso, Alan Frerichs, Joseph Luciano, Isabelle Ritz, and Patrick Sorensen affirmed their baptisms and became full adult members of Emmanuel. We welcome them heartily!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to the Confirmation class's 1,705.41 was raised, which is almost triple the amount that has been raised in previous years. This year the Confirmation class decided to divide the money up into seventh's so that each student could direct a portion of the money to the hunger fighting agency of his or her choice. Three organizations were supported in this way.

\$243.63 will go to Unicef's program for famine and food crises, \$487.26 will go to Lutheran World Relief, and \$974.52 will go to Feeding America.

Sunday School: Sunday School completed its full year of classes via Zoom. Ten children regularly attended each week, and it went very well. It was an enjoyable experience for the students and the teachers.

The students were sent a goody packet which included a Certificate of Participation, a Bible Reading plan, pencils, stickers and some candy. Thank you to Sue Navalta, Cindy Zafft

and Martha Russell for teaching the children this past year! More details will follow during the summer on how the Sunday School will look like in the fall.

Friday Night Live

The Friday Night Live (FNL) youth group has begun meeting in person again. During our time back together the Friday Night Live youth have had the opportunity to participate in the work of the *Piecemakers* by putting together three quilts, to sort and count items donated for the Lutheran World Relief personal care kits, and to put together sixty personal care kits.

In addition to these service opportunities, the FNL group has also played a lot of games together, including the Emmanuel favorite, Jailbreak!

With all of the ways that we have had to change and adapt our Friday Night Live gatherings two things about them remains the same week after week. We always pray together and we always share highs and lows!

Service

The Quilting Group: The *Piecemakers* began their 12th season of quilting on Saturday, April 10th and have been meeting every Saturday since then.

Because so many women spent their “COVID days” making quilt tops, we had tons of work ahead of us! As of June 5th, we have assembled 101 quilts!!

There are 92 hanging in the church and another 9 to be hemmed. Even with a somewhat diminished work force, we have been incredibly productive and are looking forward to “The Blessing of the Quilts” on Sunday, June 13th!

We are hopeful that a local church may have an ingathering so that we can ship the quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse which is located just outside Baltimore, MD.

Although we will take a break after our session on June 12th, we plan to start up again in the fall because there are still nearly 50 quilts to assemble. We have been pleased to resume our work for Lutheran World Relief and to gather together for our unique form of fun and fellowship!

The Service Group: The Personal Care Kit collection is wrapping up and we will have made up almost 150 kits!

A HUGE thank you to all who donated items and helped put together the kits.

Our next collection for Lutheran World Relief will be coming in **August and September**. We will be looking for items for School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

- 70-page spiral bound notebooks approx. 8” x 10 1/2”
- 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- pencil sharpeners
- pairs of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- boxes of 16 or 24 crayons (please **no 36**)

The Dollar Tree on Rte. 1A in Walpole is a good source for these items and Walmart may have some good sales.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation towards the cost of the drawstring backpack-style cloth bags, please make out a check to Emmanuel with a note indicating that it be applied to that portion of the kit cost.

Children who receive these kits would not be able to attend school without them. So, we thank you in advance for your contributions.

I’ll be putting containers in the hall for your donations. If you have any questions, please call me. Thank you.

Arlene Cegelis 781-762-0360

The Property Corner

It continues to be a busy time around both the inside and outside of Emmanuel's building.

Second Bathroom Renovation - The tile for this bathroom has been installed.

NCNS Basement window replacement -will begin relatively soon as school has finished for the year.

There are quite a number of projects going on, so if you would please prayerfully consider a donation toward our building refreshing!

As always, if you're interested in helping out around the building, we can always use help with painting, some yard work, and more! Contact Joy at 508-954-7552 – thank you!

Stewardship Report –

	Target Income	Received actual	Received actual
May 2021	\$22,211.54	\$20,572.40	93%
YTD	\$97,730.77	\$96,124.48	98%

Ministry Highlights for May

- On-line church service continues.
- On-line Mid-week prayer group continues.
- Communion was held in the Sanctuary every Sunday.
- Confirmation classes were held.
- On-line Sunday School continued.
- Friday Night Live continued.
- 5 young adults were confirmed. Kayleigh Afonso, Alan Frerichs, Joey Luciano, Isabella Ritz, Patrick Sorenson.
- Choir Check-in took place.
- The Property Team coordinated a clean-up day at the church. Thank you to all who volunteered.
- The *Piecemakers* Quilting group continued assembling quilts.
- Collection for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits finished up.
- An Ezekiel 37 meeting was held, with four ministry teams meeting: Learning Ministry, Mission Fund, Welcome Witness, Service.
- Other Ministry Meetings: Forward Leadership Team, Executive, Council Meeting.

Thank you for your generous giving.

We are Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Worshiping God with joy, loving one another, serving all.

We welcome you!