

SPECIAL EDITION

The Emmanuel Envoy

Spring 2021

I can feel it. I suspect that you can too. Hope. A sense that we might get through this, that something that we recognize as normal might return and might return soon. Many children will be returning to full time school in the next month. More and more things are opening up. With more people getting vaccinated, people are starting to do things that they haven't done in a year. Eat in a restaurant, go to a gym, plan a trip, come to communion at church, so many things that, during the hard and frightening winter that we're coming out of, seemed like a distant dream.

Of course, things can never go back to exactly the way that they were. We've lost too many people. We've lost too much. We're all going to come out of this time scarred in some way, some more than others. But we're also going to come out of this time having learned some things about what is really important in life and about how to care for each other in new ways. Many of us will also come out of this time having learned to use some new technology, that has helped us to stay connected with each other, with work, with worship, with family during this time.

With the sense of the things opening up and with the feeling of hope in the air, many people have started to ask when we will be getting back to in person worship. Of course, we have been worshipping in person at Emmanuel since June 14th, when we had our first Communion in the Courtyard services and we've been worshipping in the building since the weather required us to move those outdoor communion services indoors on November 15th. But I know what people mean when they ask when we're getting back to in person worship. What they're really asking is, when will worship go back to looking like it looked in 2019 and early 2020, back to what worship looked like for most of our lives before this pandemic came along and turned every aspect of our lives upside down. The quick answer is, "I don't know." We don't have a timeline yet. But rest assured that that is the next thing that we're going to be doing as a congregation. We will celebrate resurrection during our Zoom Easter service and then we will focus our attention on experiencing a kind of resurrection in terms of our in-person worship life. There are a lot of things that we need to consider during the process though. Obviously, health and safety continue to be our number one concern, as we take into consideration the fact that, while many of us have been vaccinated, many are still waiting for their turn. Even when we get back to in person worship it might not look like what we're used to right away. We also need to consider all of the ways in which our online worship services have been a blessing to many people who either don't live in the area or who aren't able to come to in person worship services for other reasons. I imagine that our future will include some kind of ongoing communal Zoom worship offering, though I'm not exactly sure what that will look like. There are a lot of questions and a lot of things that we need to figure out, but still, I can feel it. Hope. This is the next thing that we're going to work on and I'm excited to see how our coming back together will unfold.

Here's a crazy thing. I haven't preached a sermon while standing up since March 8, 2020. I miss that. I miss being in the pulpit. I miss seeing the Sanctuary full. I miss singing with you. I miss placing communion in your hand. I miss having someone give me communion. I miss you. Even though we have found many ways of being together safely during this time, ways that have been, deeply meaningful, I still miss the in-person fellowship that we share. And getting back to that is what's next. So, it is with a different kind of hope and confidence that I write the words that I first wrote on March 15th, the first Sunday when we were not able to be together in the building, "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	Paul & Heather	Melissa White	Thomas Becker
Sandra White	Bill Rapp	Crisafulli	Doris Dimpel	The Davis Family
Kris & Jill	Richard Makert	Bo Ruda	Graham & Kim	Danny Connolly
Jon Keenan	Robin & Kathleen Bailey	Megan Nowak		Chelsea & Isabella



Thank You Notes



Dear Emmanuel Church,

Thank you so much for the Dunkin Donuts gift card! It was such a thoughtful gesture. School has been going well considering the circumstances. God will get us through this!

Sincerely,
Ava Gundal

Dear Emmanuel,

I want to thank all of you for the wonderful thank you cards and well wishes I received for my retirement as Parish Administrator. I enjoyed working in our church office and feel blessed to remain a part of Emmanuel Lutheran. I look forward to seeing all of you when we resume in person worship.

Thank you,
Diane Bragg

Thank you to all my friends at Emmanuel,

Thank you all for the flowers and friendly card. I was very happy to receive them.

It was a hard and lonely time. I like my new home and life will go on. It was a very hard time for me. Losing everything. But God gave me the help and strength to go on.

May you all have God's blessing.

Thank you so much, also for the Valentine's greetings

Elvira Aipperspach

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Norwood Ecumenical Community Food Pantry, thank you very much for your recent donation of soup collected during your "Souper Bowl of Caring", on Superbowl Sunday.

The pantry continues to be busy serving over 350 families, with new clients arriving at the door each week. We are most grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Eileen Hickey, Secretary

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 and it is also available on our website. 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 (New York)

Meeting ID: 950 5873 6666

Passcode: 534965

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/5080d4baa-a82fa2fe3-zoom> or you can contact Pastor Amanda by phone or email.

We're grateful to everyone who helps to create beautiful Zoom worship by sending in artwork, videos, and music. Special thanks go to Gabby for the wonderful music that she produces week after week, to Rebecca Sol, for creating many wonderful videos and slide shows that enhance our worship services, to the people who have chanted the Psalm for our Lenten service, to Bryon Sol, who coordinated our virtual Congregation sing of *Silent Night* for Christmas, and to the Zoom Worship Planning Team and the Worship Ministry Team. Both groups have worked hard and creatively to help us create meaningful worship during this challenging time. Many thanks also go to our Altar Guild members who are assisting with communion preparation and clean up every Sunday afternoon.

Afternoon Communion services continue to be offered every Sunday in the building, at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in either the Sanctuary or Kask Hall. We alternate where communion is held every week for each group.



We all need to be especially mindful of Coronavirus protocols when we are in the building, paying careful attention to masks that fully cover our mouths and noses, social distancing, making sure that we sign up for communion ahead of time so that we do not exceed our state mandated occupancy threshold, and self-assessing before we go out into public, including coming to church.

If you would like to come receive communion at Emmanuel (masked and socially distanced), you can sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baa-a82fa2fe3-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 Pastor Amanda or the church office. Communion is delivered in a contactless way.

There will be additional opportunities to receive communion during Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday, 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on Easter Sunday, at 1:00 p.m., as well as at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. All of these services will be held in the Sanctuary. If you would like to come for communion on these days, please use the Sign-Up Genius link above or contact Pastor Amanda or the church office by phone or email.

Lenten Evening Prayer Worship

We have been meeting on Wednesday evenings for a service of Evening Prayer.



Our speakers, Pastor Amanda, Lisa Hunt, Laurie Alley, and Katerina Gebhardt have shared messages about their favorite scripture passages that have given them strength and hope during challenging times. There is one more Wednesday Lenten Evening Prayer service left, on Wednesday, March 24th. Val Dutcher will be speaking. The link for the meeting for those on email will be sent out next week and is available on our website. For those who might want to join by phone, here is the call-in information:

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 943 5726 8903

Passcode: 199658

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.

If you would like to catch up with services that you have missed you can find them on our website under "Latest News" (Click on any item on that list and you will have an opportunity to click back to whatever event you're interested in.)

Gathering for Prayer



Our prayer group has been gathering together every **THURSDAY** this Lent 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. Prayer Group will return to Wednesdays on March 31st and it will remain on Wednesdays after that.

The link to the prayer gathering does not change from week to week, but it is still emailed out every week. It is also on our website under events.

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 Confirmation class is currently participating in Lenten Evening Prayer as its weekly activity. Students in the class have served as

our "Designated Responders" for most of the Evening Prayer services. On Super Bowl Sunday and the week before and after the Confirmation class raised money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We are staggered by the generosity of the members and friends of Emmanuel! \$1,705.41 was raised to help fight hunger! That's the highest amount that the Confirmation class has ever received for this effort, by far! Once the Confirmation class is meeting for regular classes again, they will decide what hunger fighting organizations will receive the money. We'll keep you posted about where the money is donated.

Sunday School: For **Valentine's Day**, the Sunday School children completed a small art project that was delivered to Emmanuel's homebound members called the Healing Envelope. The Healing Envelope is a place to keep short prayers that are written on strips of paper. At a special time, each day or each week, the person can open their envelope and read the prayers, add to their prayers, pray for the child that created their envelope, etc. It is often a way to bring worries or concerns to God but can also be about happy things, prayers for people we love, upcoming events, prayers for wider issues, etc.

During the **Lenten season**, for the Heifer International program, the children will assist in suggesting language for a mission fund request to Heifer International which will be sent to the Mission Fund Team. The children will also vote on which animal program they would like to support.

For **Easter**, the parents will take a photo of their children holding "Happy Easter" signs and email them to Cindy Zafft. Cindy will print out the photos and place them on cardstock paper which will be delivered to Emmanuel's homebound members in time for Easter. Also, on April 10th at 6:00 pm, Rebecca Sol will be hosting via Zoom, the award-winning Spark Story Bible video called "*The Story of Easter*". The video uses

spirited animation to help children marvel at God's love for the work through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The video brings the story to life with colorful animation and with Squiggles, an expressive caterpillar whose reactions put children right in the middle of the story.

On May 2nd, during Zoom Sunday School, Pastor Amanda will host "Ask the Pastor" for a question-and-answer session. This is a wonderful opportunity for both Pastor Amanda as well as the children to ask whatever questions that are on their curious minds.

Janice McHugh
Sunday School Coordinator

Friday Night Live

The Friday Night Live youth group has remained online for the winter. We've learned some new games and at during some of the meetings, Pastor Amanda has laughed so hard that her face hurts afterward! We're looking forward to being able to meet in person again as the weather warms up. 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" of Emmanuel are about to begin their 12th season of quilting! Normally, the group begins meeting in February and we work right up until the week before Easter. This year it will be different. (Surprise! Surprise!)

Because the COVID pandemic has kept us from gathering at church, many of us have continued to work on quilts at home. In fact,

the group has been so industrious that we have a ton of quilts ready to be assembled when we finally are able to meet together in Kask Hall. We have stayed in touch with Pastor and the Congregational Council regarding our start-up date and are prepared to begin our work following Easter. By then, at least 9 of us (and, perhaps, more) will be fully vaccinated. We will, however, continue to adhere to the COVID safeguards by wearing masks and limiting the number of workers who can be present at any given quilting session. The specific details will be worked out between now and Easter. We are looking forward to resuming our work for Lutheran World Relief—and to gathering together for our unique form of fun and fellowship!

The Property Corner

It continues to be a busy time around the Emmanuel building. Here's a bit of what's been and IS happening in and outside the building.

Second Bathroom Renovation - The time has finally come to re-do the pink-and-brown bathroom! We have gutted the space, and now need to prepare it for tiling. This includes installing backing boards in the walls for the inset paper towel and toilet paper dispensers, doing some minimal plumbing to get rid of some old water lines that are no longer used, and cutting a nice straight line along the walls.

We may have some wait for a tiler, as I'm hoping to get the same person that did the men's room. Tile for the room was purchased already at the same time we did the men's room, so the two spaces will match. A nice green paint will go up on the walls. It is hoped to have the bathroom done in the next 2 months, knowing we will be waiting on the tiler.

Kitchen - We have hot water!!! After a long time suffering with lukewarm water, we have solved the problem. A faulty "mixing valve", installed in the worst possible location behind the hot water heater in the janitor's closet appeared to be the culprit. The hot water heater had to be removed (water drained, copper pipes cut), the mixing valve cut out and new copper piping installed. It has seemed to do the trick!

So the two sinks by the windows now have hot water. The sink on your left by the refrigerator when you walk in the kitchen from the hallway still has a mixing valve in front of it. This is to prevent too hot water in case a child washes his or her hands at that sink.

Also PLEASE NOTE! Regarding the sink with the rinsing wand – please always shut off the hot and cold-water handles – **don't rely on the wand to turn the water off.** If the hot or cold levers are left on, this can cause a situation where cold water is drawn through the system and will mix with another sink's hot water! Very strange, but it's really a thing. This may have been part of the issues we had been having in the kitchen.

LED Lighting Conversion Project -For many months now, John Gear and Joy Peter have been swapping out old florescent lighting on the NCNS side of the basement, and have updated most of the incandescent upstairs fixtures as well. The project is nearing completion. As noted above, Kask Hall is already done. Half of the cost of the materials will be paid by a grant from Norwood Light. In addition, the LED fixtures are newer, safer, more attractive, and use less energy than the old fixtures. We find many cases of singed insulation when removing some of the old

1950s fixtures. We have been given an extension, but hope to wrap up soon.

Tree Work - We will be removing the severely damaged tree on Gardner Road by the sidewalk, and trimming the tree on the corner. The lovely large maple in the courtyard has some rot in its center. We will begin by trying to trim the center section beyond the rot. If at that time, the arborist says it can't be saved, we'll probably make the difficult decision to remove the tree. Hopefully it won't come to that, and we can get more years of its company.

NCNS Basement window replacement - This important project will continue as we replace the old single-pane steel windows with Harvey vinyl windows. These old windows are really unsafe for a preschool, allow a lot of heat loss, cannot be opened and are difficult to maintain. It is a big job to remove the old windows, as their frames were set in the concrete as the foundation was poured in the 1950s.

Norwood Cooperative Nursery School is splitting the cost of this project. An additional 19 windows have already been ordered, and will be installed when school is out.

Sanctuary Refresh - We are gathering bids to determine the cost to paint the Sanctuary, refinish the floors, and replace carpet. It's our most important gathering place, and although it will be expensive, we're hoping to raise funds to do this project while we are not using the building. It is a large undertaking, starting with removing all the pews!

Please prayerfully consider a donation.

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!

Emmanuel's Courtyard Garden



The many perennials in our courtyard garden will soon be starting to poke their heads out for another season. Sadly, a few have died off over the last couple years, since its overhaul and replanting, leaving a few bare spots.

If there are any members who garden, and who have and will be dividing some perennials, perhaps you might consider donating a plant or two to the courtyard garden. I'm thinking a mid-April timeframe would be ideal.

In addition to working in the office, I've sort of adopted this garden as a little side project. I noticed a few 'holes' last fall and mentioned to Pastor Amanda, that we might see if there are any members interested in donating any they might be splitting in their own gardens. She kindly reminded me to ask you!

If you have and are interested in donating a plant or two, please drop me an email here at office@emmanuelnorwood.org and we can work out a good time for you to drop your plant(s) by. I'll then figure a good time to come and work them in. The beauty of perennials, is that they come back year after year and need little care. – *Alice Wuschke, Administrative Assistant*

Holy Week Schedule



March 28th - Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Zoom Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Communion 2:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) and 3:00 p.m. (Kask Hall)

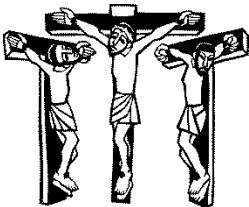
The Palm Sunday liturgy takes us back to Jerusalem on that day of seeming triumph. However, by the time worship ends we will have also experienced the deep sadness of Jesus' passion and death

April 1st – Maundy Thursday

Zoom Worship at 7:30 p.m.

Communion 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. (both in the Sanctuary)

The Zoom worship service will focus on confession and forgiveness, the word, and the stripping of the altar.



April 2nd - Good Friday

On this day, the church remembers the death of our Lord on the cross, but more than that we look to the cross as the sign and reality of God's triumph over sin and death.

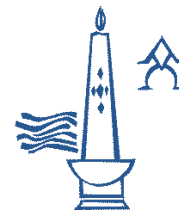
3:00 Zoom Stations of the Cross - We walk the way of the cross with Jesus, marking the events leading to his death with scripture readings and hymns.

7:30 Zoom Tenebrae - Through the extinguishing of candles and deepening darkness, we hear the Suffering Servant song of Isaiah and the Passion according to John, the traditional readings of the church on Good Friday. John witnesses to the culmination of Jesus' ministry: God's glory in the cross.

April 3rd – The Resurrection of Our Lord – Vigil of Easter

7:00 p.m. Zoom worship

This year, we will be offering an Emmanuel created Easter Vigil at a 7:00 p.m. Zoom worship service.



April 4th –Easter Morning

9:30 a.m. Zoom worship



Easter will be celebrated with the return of the Alleluia, joyful hymns and special music, an Easter message, and the joy of our celebration of Christ's resurrection!

Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

1:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

On this day, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

How you can HELP with Holy Week & Easter Zoom Worship



Palm Sunday Procession: We need people of all ages to be a part of a video that we are creating for Palm Sunday. We will gather at Emmanuel at **11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 20th**, to be a part of a Palm Sunday parade, which will be recorded and edited to be part of our Palm Sunday Zoom worship service.

Most of the “parade” will be recorded outside with us walking around the park, waving our palms. The very end will be recorded in the sanctuary with us responding to the line “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord” with us saying “Hosanna in the Highest”. The time spent in the Sanctuary will be very brief, and of course, whether we’re inside or outside everyone will need to be masked and socially distanced between households. We’ve never done this before, so, plan for an hour, although, if it goes smoothly it might take much less time.

Please sign up via Sign Up Genius to let us know that you’re coming. It will really help us to plan. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAAA82FA2FE3-palm>

If it’s rainy on the 20th our rain date is Sunday, March 21st at 12:30 p.m. If we do need to switch to our rain date, everyone who is signed up to participate will be contacted.



Palm Sunday Passion Reading: Sign up here to participate in the reading of the Passion from the gospel of Mark at our Palm/Passion Sunday Zoom worship service, 9:30 a.m. on March 28th:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d45adae2faafe3-passion>



Serve as a Worship Assistant for Holy Week: Sign-up here to serve as worship assistant during our Holy Week and Easter worship services:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4baaa82fa2fe3-zoom>

Serve as a reader for one of our Good Friday Zoom worship services.

Sign up here to read at our 3:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** service on Good Friday, April 2nd:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAAA82FA2FE3-good>

Sign up here to read at our 7:30 p.m. **Tenebrae** service on Good Friday, April 2nd:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAAA82FA2FE3-good1>



Artwork for Holy Week: We are looking for three different kinds of pictures for Holy Week worship.

For Palm/Passion Sunday: pictures of people gathered at meals and/or at the communion table.

Send in your pictures to elcnorwood.digital@gmail.com by Wednesday, March 24th, 9:00 p.m.

For the Easter Vigil:

- pictures of water (waterfalls, streams, rivers, oceans, lakes, etc.)
- pictures of candles burning and/or people holding candles.

Send in your pictures to elcnorwood.digital@gmail.com by Friday, March 26th, 9:00 p.m.

Videos for Easter Sunday: As we did last year, we're encouraging people to make a video of themselves participating in the Easter Acclamation by saying "Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!" These videos will be a part of our Easter Sunday Zoom worship service. Videos need to be emailed to elcnorwood.digital@gmail.com by Friday, March 26th, 9:00 p.m.

Please note: If do not feel comfortable using sign up genius for any of these things or if you need any other help navigating the technology that is such a big part of our worship experience right now, please contact me at pastor@emmanuelnorwood.org and I will help you! Pastor Amanda

Stewardship Report

	Target Income	Received actual	Received actual
February 2021	\$17,769.23	\$19,290.63	109%
YTD	\$39,980.77	\$35,115.77	88%

Ministry Highlights for February

- On-line church service continues.
- On-line Midweek prayer service continues.
- Communion in the church building took place.
- Confirmation was held.
- On-line Sunday School continued.
- Friday Night Live continued.
- The Ash Wednesday Service was held.
- The Lenten Midweek services began.
- Thank you to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring. It was the largest dollar amount received by the confirmation students!
- Forward Leadership Team, Learning Ministry Team, Mutual Ministry Committee, Executive and 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!