



The Emmanuel Envoy

September 2021

We're Baaa-ck...

Dear Friends,

It's like we're living in the twilight zone. Earlier this summer, things seemed to be getting better. Things seemed to be normalizing. We seemed to be getting where we wanted to be, with many of us back in in person worship, singing, sharing the peace, receiving communion, not having to have masks required for anyone, although they were certainly encouraged for anyone too young to be vaccinated and anyone who just felt more comfortable and safer in a mask. But then, the news started to fly about the Delta variant of Covid-19. Hospitals around the country started to fill up. Vaccination rates remained much lower than they needed to be to prevent the spread of this deadly variant. And all of a sudden, we started to have conversations in our congregation's leadership that felt more like last summer's conversations rather than the hopeful and optimistic conversations that we were having at the beginning of this summer.

Normally this would be the time when we would be making plans to go back to our "school year" worship schedule, with services at 8:45 and 11:15. Our "Rally Day" would be planned for the Sunday after Labor Day weekend. But we are still not living in "normal" times. Because of that, our Executive Committee decided that this isn't the time to return to our 8:45 and 11:15 services. For now, we're keeping our 9:30 Zoom worship service and our 11:15 in person worship service where they are.

I know that this will be disappointing news for some. It's disappointing news for me. I miss the rhythms and the patterns of our "regular" worship schedule. I miss making plans with some confidence that they will actually happen, and not have to be shifted or adjusted to accommodate this persistent pandemic, which has been described as a slow (very slow) moving natural disaster, leaving destruction in its wake. I miss not waking up to news about burned out doctors and nurses and hospital staff, overwhelmed teachers, students, and school administrators and staff, and overflowing hospitals. I know that all of you miss those things too, and more than anything else, miss those we have lost as a church, as families, as communities, to this disease.

So, we're still in this. But this fall, is just a little bit better than last fall. We're still wearing masks, our worship schedule is still not what we're used to for this time of year, but we are worshiping in person again. We are making plans for in person Confirmation and youth group aka Friday Night Live. We had a meaningful and productive quilting season. Zoom is still a part of our lives, but it has become more of a helpful tool than the only way in which we can be together.

The road to where we hope to be has gotten more complicated even in the month since we reopened our building for in person worship, but we are still on that road. The key take away is that we're not moving to our fall worship schedule, worship at 8:45 and 11:15 **yet**. I can't emphasize that **yet** enough. That is where we're heading. That is our goal and we won't wait for next fall to get there if we don't have to. It's likely that we will continue to have some kind of Zoom or online worship once we go back to our 8:45 and 11:15 worship schedule, all of that is under discussion. So, be ready, for a fall when things might change on a dime to move us forward. Be faithful as we continue to gather in worship, on Zoom and in person, to give thanks for our blessings, to pray for ourselves and our neighbors, to bring our needs, grief, and concerns to God and to find God meeting us in worship, in word, in sacrament, in community. We're on this journey together, following Jesus, keeping each other close, and seeking ways to serve our neighbors, even as the challenges of this time continue.

In Christ,

Pastor Amanda

Prayer Concerns List

Pat Sheek	Lyndsay Boysen
Katarina Ruda	John A. Grant
Terri Loomis	Tony & Sheri Nikolassy
John Olson	Paul & Heather Crisafulli
Sandra White	Bo Ruda
Kris & Jill	Megan Nowak
George Beaudoin	Emma White
Susan Tomasello	Sara Williams
Pat & Pat Riley	Melissa White
Ann-Marie Litcof	Doris Dimpel
Jovanni Sanchez-Colon	Graham & Kim
Bill Rapp	Arlene Zolla
Richard Makert	Patricia Foley Rebecca Sol
Robin & Kathleen	Pat Goodman
Bailey	Liz Easton
Thomas Becker	Chelsea & Isabella
Danny Connolly	Veronica Alley



Thank You Notes

Dear Emmanuel,

Thank you for the 4th of July basket!

Warren Bussow

Dear Pastor and everyone,

Thank you all for the 4th of July basket and all the 'goodies' in it. I so appreciate the support the church has provided me through the pandemic and my illnesses. Thank you all, and I will be seeing you in church soon.

Love to all,
Shirley Thoms

Dear Emmanuel Elves,

I didn't see or hear anyone but here it is a lovely pail of goodies at my doorstep! The items are all so practical. Thank you.

Love,
AnnMarie Blomquist

P.S. Looking forward to church in the near future.

Blessing of the New School Year



On Sunday, **September 5**, during the 9:30 a.m. Zoom service and the 11:15 a.m. in person service, we will offer a liturgy of blessing for students, teachers, administrators, and all those who work schools. Students of any age are invited to bring (or have with them on Zoom) their backpacks or something else that represents the beginning of school to them. Teachers, professors, aides, principals, administrators, office staff, cooks and cafeteria servers, librarians, janitors, bus drivers, crossing guards, and anyone else whose work supports the education of our communities' young people are also invited to come and receive a blessing and affirmation of your vocation as you serve children and families in your daily work!

Acolyte Training

On **Saturday, September 11th**, at 10:00 a.m. there will an opportunity for children in third grade and older to be trained as acolytes. Serving as an acolyte is a wonderful way for children to play an important part in our worship services. It benefits children by helping to build their confidence and helping to build their connection to the worship and to the church, and of course, it benefits the church, by having a vital role filled in our worship services.



If you would like your child(ren) to attend the acolyte training on September 11th or if you would like to discuss having trained at a different time, please contact Pastor Amanda at: pastor@emmanuelnorwood.org.

Norwood Day

Norwood Day is **Saturday September 18th** 10:30am - 2:30pm! Come and help at the Emmanuel booth. We will be handing out information about Emmanuel and have games for people to enjoy.

Below is the link to the sign-up sheet or you can contact Ann Frerichs (afrerichs@ymail.com, 781-

255-9033) to sign-up. Any time you can spare to help at the booth is appreciated!

[2021 Norwood Day Volunteer Sign-up](#)

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes for youth in 7th grade and older will begin on **Wednesday, September 22nd 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Confirmation classes meet most Wednesdays during the school year 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Our Confirmation program is a two-year program that encompasses teaching about the topics covered in Luther's Small Catechism, about life in the church, and about the stories we find in the Bible. This year the Confirmation program will be focusing on the Bible.

The first Confirmation class on September 22nd will be an orientation session for first and second year Confirmation students and their parents. We will be meeting in person in Kask Hall with masks. If you would like to register your child for Confirmation, please fill out the registration form that is located on Emmanuel's website at:

<http://wip.emmanuelnorwood.org/education/c/confirmation-class/confirmation-class-registration-form/>

If you have any questions about Emmanuel's Confirmation program, please contact Pastor Amanda at pastor@emmanuelnorwood.org.

Friday Night Live

On Friday Night Live youth ministry will kick off on **Friday, September 24, 6:00-9:00 p.m.** for



youth in 7th-12th grades. Friday Night Live usually meets 7:00-9:00 p.m., but we want some extra time for our activity that night, which is the crowd favorite, Jailbreak!

We'll have pizza for dinner and then spend a couple of hours playing. Don't know what Jailbreak is? You should come and find out!

Youth are welcome to bring phones and/or flashlights if they have them, because Jailbreak is played in the dark and there's often a group chat involved. Friends are welcome to come and play!

Everyone will need to wear a mask, except when we're eating, of course! Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BA-AA82FA2FE3-friday> or email Pastor Amanda at pastor@emmanuelnorwood.org if you're coming, so that we know how much pizza to get!

Sunday School

Sunday School will begin this year on **October 3rd**. More details will be coming soon from the Sunday School Planning Team! Registration forms for Emmanuel's Sunday School can be found at: <https://www.emmanuelnorwood.org/education/youth-sunday-school/sunday-school-registration-form>. Stay tuned!. *Janice McHugh*

Blessing of the Animals



On Sunday, **October 3rd** at **3:00 p.m.** we will be holding a Blessing of the Animals in Emmanuel's courtyard. Blessing of the Animals services are opportunities

for us to give thanks to God for the animals that are a part of our lives and to affirm God's care for all of God's creation and our stewardship of animals and the rest of the earth. Pets of any kind are welcome at this service as long as they are properly contained and cleaned up after. If you pet does not enjoy meeting other animals or new people, then then or she would probably not enjoy this event. If that is the case, please feel free to bring a picture and have your pet blessed in absentia! - *Pastor Amanda*

Knotty Knitters

The Knotty Knitters meet to work on various projects of choice, including prayer shawls to be given to members of the congregation during times of illness or grief, as well as personal knitting or crocheting items. Sixty two hats, scarfs and pairs of mittens were recently delivered to Nativity Lutheran Church in Rockport, Maine to be distributed this fall to needy people in the surrounding communities.

The group usually meets on the third Wednesday of each month, barring weather problems. Given the uncertainty of the Covid situation, please check with Helene Bier at hbier@verizon.net for more information. All are welcome..

Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale is ON once again and it is coming SOON and we really need your help to make it the success it has always been.

The Rummage Sale will be **Friday, October 22** and Saturday, **October 23, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

We will be setting up on **Wednesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 24**, starting around 9:00 am until, usually sometime after lunch (which we provide!). We *especially* need help setting up tables on or **prior to** Wednesday morning set up. The next greatest need for help is on Saturday afternoon, to take “leftovers” to Savers and clean up Kask Hall. Please consider how and when you could help and let Arlene Cegelis know.

Helpers can feel free to bring a friend – the work is fun, we laugh a lot, you get lunch – and you might even find a bargain or two!

Now, regarding donations! Please start to bring your good stuff **after** services on Sunday, October 17, drop off in Kask Hall. Sorry, please **do not bring** TV’s, monitors, computers as it costs us to dispose of them. We, also, **cannot accept** baby car seats or cribs.

This is an event for all members of Emmanuel and friends. In past years we have used some of the proceeds to buy items not in the church budget. We also provide camperships to Calumet. All left over books, CDs and DVDs will again be donated to the charity “More Than Words”.

This is a fun event with much laughter and food. We supply coffee, snacks and yummy lunches all four days. If you have any questions, please talk to Arlene Cegelis (781-762-0360), acegelis@norwoodlight.com.

Donate Used Eyeglasses!

We continue to collect used eyeglasses to donate to ReSpectacle, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization in Wisconsin. There is a container in the kitchen near the microwave for your contributions.



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.

Emmanuel and Amazon



For several years Emmanuel has had an association with Amazon through their Amazon Affiliate account and we are now also set up with Amazon Smile where a small percentage of your transaction is donated to Emmanuel by Amazon.

To enroll in Amazon Smile simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com>. Search for Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Norwood and select that as your charity ; you can start shopping with Emmanuel as you would normally. In order for funds to be credited to Emmanuel you will always need to go through the following URL: <http://smile.amazon.com>. If you are using the Amazon mobile phone (iPhone or Android) application you can configure it so that it will always use AmazonSmile – go to settings, AmazonSmile and set the configuration accordingly. (This feature is only available on phones, not tablets)

Please also note that there have been a few occurrences where Emmanuel didn't show up on the list of charities, if this occurs when you are trying to enroll, please try again in a few minutes and it should rectify itself.

Also, it is best to continue to utilize the Amazon Associate link on our website which now joins the two experiences together.

ELCA National Youth Gathering Informational Meeting



The 2022 National Youth Gathering is less than a year away and it's time to get a group together from Emmanuel to attend this triennial gathering of Lutheran youth from around the country. The National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis, MN Sunday, July 23-Thursday, July 28, 2022. It's time to think about who wants to go/is able to go and how we're going to get there. **We'll be having an Informational Meeting about the National Youth Gathering for interested youth and parents on during our regular Friday Night Live time on October 1, 7:00 -9:00.** Youth who will be able to attend the 2022 National Youth Gathering are youth who will be high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the fall of 2022 and 2022 high school graduates. (If you're interested in the National Youth Gathering, but can't make it to the informational meeting on October 1, please let Pastor Amanda know and we'll get you looped in.)