



June & July The Journey 2020

My dear siblings in Christ at Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

To say life has been strange and disrupted over the past few months would clearly be an understatement. To date, more than 110,000 of our American neighbors have died from Covid-19, with far more worldwide. And though the push is clearly on for more openings and fewer restrictions, there are many, many members of our congregation who remain at high risk for the virus.

Your duly-elected Congregation Council has taken and continues to take the path of adhering to the recommendations from our N.C. Synod office and the ELCA nationally, which are calling for refraining from communal worship until North Carolina moves into Phase 3, which may come at the end of June. But whenever it comes, be assured that every precaution for the health and well-being of every worshipper will be taken into consideration. The Council has been working on a protocol for worship which, when completed, will be sent to every member and will set forth our procedure for corporate worship. Know, too, that if you are among those who will not feel comfortable or safe coming to worship, you will continue to receive the on-line service and links for your use, so you are truly included in our worship experience.

In addition to the Covid-19 disruptions, we have been clearly faced, as perhaps never before- in our community and throughout this country- with the reality and sin of systemic racism. I believe that it is our call and our duty, as Christians, as followers of Jesus the Christ, to live and speak and walk in the way that our Lord calls us to- loving our neighbor as ourselves, regardless of who they are, and striving to cast out the log in our own eye before being concerned about the speck in another's eye. Hard work lies ahead for us, the citizens of this nation. Hard work and deep soul-searching and difficult honesty. For only when we are willing to engage in looking at ourselves and our participation in deeply-ingrained systems which have and continue to hold down and harm people of color *without our becoming defensive or accusatory* can we ever hope to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

My prayers are with you, my beloveds. My prayers are with this nation and its leaders. I ask that collectively and individually our eyes will be opened and our hearts convicted with the need for change: long-lasting and much-needed change which will transform us into the people God intends for us to be, for we are each only free when ALL of us are free.

Peace...love...hope...blessing.

Pastor Linda



June

Prayer Focus

We pray the Holy Spirit will equip and inspire us to live lives that can't be ignored or go unnoticed, lives that cause people to ask who we are, what motivates us and how they too can share in our faith, joy and hope –

not for our own recognition, gratification or legacy, but for God's glory.

When life seems dark, our problems deep and insurmountable or we long for forgiveness, pray to the Lord and trust God's word, steadfast love and power to save.

Remember in prayer parents and children during the summer months, a time when challenges of child care, hunger and meaningful, safe activities for youth can be complicated and acute; pray for wisdom and inspiration in creating services, programs and activities that support and strengthen families in your community.

It's sometimes tempting to underestimate our influence and impact in the world as children of God, followers of Jesus. Ask God to encourage us through the presence of the Holy Spirit to be confident and bold in bearing the good news of Jesus Christ and living, acting and advocating for the well-being of all people and communities.

July Prayer Focus

Lord, we lift up all those who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens in this nation and throughout the world.

We ask God to forgive us when we stray from God's truth and ways, that we will stay on paths of humility, love and justice.

When we feel weak, experience trouble or fear our enemies, we pray to God for strength, giving thanks and praise for the promise of God's enduring love and refuge.

We come to God in prayer, trusting in God's patience and responsiveness to our concerns, appeals and expressions—spoken and unspoken—and ask that God will deepen our faith and teach us to pray without hesitation or self-consciousness.

We lift Helen Sloop, Merlyn Schultheis, Ginger Eschenberg, Nancy Woody, Nancy Miller, Erin Woody, Marilyn Stewart, Gray Bowman's sister, Jamie Green, Diane Arbogast, Bonnie Faust, Stacy Smith, and Susan Smith's sister, Janet to God, praying for peace and comfort.



May Financials

Offerings	\$ 16,683.25
Expenses	<u>\$ 14,057.99</u>
	\$ 2,625.26

Year-to-Date

Offerings	\$ 79,954.67
Expenses	<u>\$ 74,321.60</u>
	\$ 5,633.07

Attention! Attention!

We are tentatively planning to reopen and have our first worship service on July 12th, as long as our governor has moved the state to Phase three. We will let you know as soon as an official decision has been made.

How to Give to Emmanuel On-line

1. Go to Emmanuellutheranchurch.org
2. Click on the Give online button under Links near the top right.
3. A secure window will open. Fill in the blanks. It will give you an option to create an account. If you create an account, you will not need to enter your information each time, but you do not have to create an account to give.
4. Press submit and you're all done.

You may also download the Tithe.ly app.
Go to: <https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>

When you search for a church, we are listed as Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. After that, just follow the prompts to give.

FYI--the fees for using a credit card are 2.4% plus \$0.25 per transaction and 0.5% plus \$0.25 per transaction for a bank draft.

June/July 2020

Newsletter

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1401 Heathcliff Road

High Point, NC 27262



Worship Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

336-882-2119

Email: Lutheran@northstate.net

Webpage: www.emmanuelchurch.org

Emmanuel Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Staff

The Reverend Linda Faltin, Interim Pastor
lindafaltin@gmail.com

Amy Vitola, Office Administrator

Geneva Berry, Youth Leader

Jacqueline Canter, Director of Choirs

Ford Ewaldsen, Organist

Jeanine Martin, Nursery Attendant

Emmanuel Senior Enrichment Center

Kimberly Miller-Mcdowell, Director Emmanuel Senior Enrichment Center
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