

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL

Welcome to worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! The grace of God has brought us together to be light and leaven in and for the world. As a congregation, Emmanuel is committed to following the path of Jesus' spirituality, serving as an oasis of healing, and promoting unity and understanding between religious traditions. Our food pantry, soup kitchen, and half-way housing reach out to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the Rockford community. There is a place... Emmanuel.

Welcome Visitors! We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Thank you for worshiping with us. Emmanuel strives to live as a safe and healing spiritual community for all who come, regardless of economic conditions, race, sexual orientation, or spiritual struggle. All are welcome in this holy space. We invite you to worship with us on Sundays at 10:15am.

Watch for the RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Task Force Report that is in the newsletter that you just received in the mail. Extra copies of the report are on the counter in the church office.

Subs & Scripture with Pastor Amy: Stations of the Heart"

When: Noon Wednesdays during Lent. All are welcome. Free-will offering. You are invited on a special journey during Lent! As a congregation, we will be using Stations of the Heart by Herbert Brokering to guide our daily devotional practice and forge our conversations at our Wednesday noon lunch meetings during Lent (formerly known as Soup 'N Scripture). Written by Herb Brokering, Stations of the Heart is a powerful Lenten journey that guides readers along forty-seven stops of faith to find rest and gain vision to believe the hope of God. Each of the stations represent places common to us in our daily lives, and the devotions are written as conversation and prayer with God. This journey focuses on forty-seven scripture readings taken from the book of Psalms where people of faith wrestle and petition, praise and plead in their faith walk. Stations of the Heart devotional guides will be available soon in the church office. Subs & Scripture sponsored by Adult Education and Worship & Music.

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Tuesday Morning Spiritual Journeys

The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind--A New Perspective on Christ and His Message by Cynthia Bourgeault

If you put aside what you think you know about Jesus and approach the Gospels as though for the first time, something remarkable happens:

Jesus emerges as a teacher of the transformation of consciousness.

Cynthia Bourgeault is a masterful guide to Jesus's vision and to the traditional contemplative practices you can use to experience the heart of his teachings for yourself.

Books are available to you in the Office or from Ruth Ann on Tuesday mornings. Price: \$11.50. (Please write checks to Ruth Ann Molyneaux.) Tuesday Morning Spiritual Journeys meets weekly at 9:30am at Emmanuel. Everyone is welcome.

Emmanuel's Mission Statement:

"The Grace of God has brought us together
-to become Christs
-to become the New Community
-to be Light and Leaven for the World."

The Vision Statement casts our Vision:

We are called to...

- Study and Practice the Spirituality of Jesus.
- Be a Safe & Healing Spiritual Community for all who come, regardless of economic conditions, race, sexual orientation, or Spiritual struggle.
- Be instruments of God's Grace:
- promoting understanding and unity between religious traditions,
- encouraging healing of the soul and the community through sacred arts (chant, ritual, dance, poetry, visual arts, music) and Spiritual Practice
- reaching the suffering ones among us through ministries of the food pantry, soup kitchen, addiction recovery, half-way housing, and holistic counseling
- work toward healing and protection of God's Sacred Creation.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

February 24, 2013

Meditation

The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw and knew I saw God in all things and all things in God. —Mechtild of Magdeburg

Welcome / Gathering Prayer

Leader: No matter where we are, God is with us.
Welcome to Emmanuel a safe and healing spiritual community for all.
May you remember the light of Christ is always with you.

Congregation: And also with you

Temple Talks

Leader: Let us pray together.
All: O Still, Small Voice, speak to us this hour as we remember that Jesus came as a light to all people. Help us to live in the light of Christ as we strive to bring healing and wholeness to our families, our community and our world.

Centering Song **Ways of Wisdom (Spirit Anew 142) sing 2x**

Let us fol - low ways of Wis - dom and de -
light in ways of Wis - dom. All her paths_ are
peace._ All her paths_ are peace._
All her paths_ are peace. Let us peace.

Chords: C, Am, F, Fmaj7, Dm, C/E, Gsus4, G, Dm, C/E, Gsus4, G, Dm, Am7, Bb, C

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, in the gospel, we witness the strength of Jesus to finish his work and also His grief and frustration over Jerusalem. We are reminded that the journey is hard, but on the journey, God's love is our strength, we need not be afraid.

Gracious God, we thank you for your comforting presence that surrounds us here today.

Let us pray together.

**All: Oh Great Sustainer of life, you are all around us and in us.
From the east we hear you call us to freshness and newness of this day
From the west we hear you call us to the completeness and wholeness we are created to be.
From the south we hear you call us to warmth and growth
From the north we hear you call us to wisdom and peace
From below we hear you call us to honor that where we stand is holy
From above we hear you call us to honor the Great Mystery of all that is.
And from within we hear you call us to recognize your presence, power and light in our soul.**

Opening of the Heart

Song Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil WOV 713

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your
Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where
love can grow and peace is un - der - stood. When my heart is hard,
break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Leader: We take time now to reflect on our lives. Beloved God, help us open our hearts, to look inside ourselves with your eyes, acknowledging what we see.

All: **Holy and uncontainable God, for trying to contain you, forgive us.**
Loving and limitless God, for trying to limit you, forgive us.
Gracious and boundless God, for trying to bind you, forgive us.
Help us to risk letting go, to stand free as your servant people.
Fill us with vision, lead us into the future you have for us.

Leader: O Great Seeker of our souls, seek and find us as we are, with our short-comings which trouble us, with what we have done and what we have left undone. We come to you now in the silence. Hear what is on our hearts.

Silence

Proclamation of Grace

(Please stand as you are able)

Leader: The Good News is we are beloved children of God. We live in the promise of Christ and NOTHING can ever separate us from Gods love.

Song of Praise Here In This Place WOV 718 (verses 1&2)

1 Here in this place . . . new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,
van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.
Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er. gath-er us in and
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peop - les to - geth - er,
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Psalm 27

Love is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?
Love is the strength of my life, Of whom shall I be afraid?
When fears assail me, rising up to accuse me,
each one in turn shall be seen in Love's light.
Though a multitude of demons rise up within me, my heart shall not fear.
Though doubts and guilt do battle, yet shall I remain confident.

LOVE IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE. OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

One thing have I asked of Love,
that I shall ever seek:
That I might dwell in the Heart of Love
all the days of my life,
to behold the Beauty of my Beloved,
and to know Love's plan.

LOVE IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE. OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

For I shall hide in Love's heart
in the day of trouble,
As in a tent in the desert,
away from the noise of my fears.
And I shall rise above
My struggles, my pain,
Shouting blessings of gratitude
In Love's Heart
And singing melodies of praise
to my beloved.

LOVE IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE. OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

Do not turn from me,
You who have been my refuge.
Enfold me in your arms,
O Blessed One.
Though my father and mother
may not understand me,
You, my Beloved, know me and love me.

LOVE IS THE STRENGTH OF MY LIFE. OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID?

Teach me to be love, as You are Love:
Lead me through each fear.
Hold my hand as I walk through
valleys of illusion each day,
that I might know your peace.

Second Reading: "For Those who Have Far to Travel " Jan L Richardson

*If you could see the journey whole you might never undertake it;
might never dare the first step that propels you from the place you have known
toward the place you know not.*

*Call it one of the mercies of the road: that we see it only by stages as it opens
before us, as it*

Comes into our keeping step by single step.

*There is nothing for it but to go and by our going take the vows the pilgrim takes;
To be faithful to the next step; to rely on more than the map; to heed the sign-
posts of intuition and dream; to follow the star that only you will recognize; to
keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path;*

To press on beyond distractions beyond fatigue

Beyond what would tempt you from the way.

There are vows that only you will know;

The secret promises for your particular path

*And the new ones you will need to make when the road is revealed by turns you
could not have foreseen*

Keep them, break them, make them again;

*Each promise becomes part of the path; each choice creates the road that will
take you to the place where at last you will kneel*

*To offer the gift most needed—the gift that only you can give—before turning to
go home by another way.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Song Thy Word is A Lamp Unto My Feet (R 165) refrain 2x

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, ‘Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.’ He said to them, ‘Go and tell that fox for me, “Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.” Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. [NRSV]

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Please be seated

Children’s Message

Pastor Amy Nyman

Reflection on the Word

Pastor Amy Nyman

Offering

Leader: We take this time now to offer our gifts and prayers.

Ushers collect offering

Special Music

**Lead Me, Guide Me
Earthen Vessels**

Blessing of the Gifts

Leader: Divine Creator, you have blessed us with all we have: these gifts, as well as our time, and our talent. As co-creators with you, we seek to be your hands, your body, and your church. May these offerings be a sign of what you are working in us. We pray this in Jesus name.

All: **Amen**

Gathering around the Christ Candle

Leader: Please stand and gather around the Christ Candle as we sing and offer our prayers.

Prayer Song:

As the Deer Pants For the Water



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter you;



you a - lone are my heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.



You a-lone are my strength and shield; to you a-lone may my spir-it yield.



You a - lone are my heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.

Prayers of the People

Leader: God of compassion, we remember the comforting words of Jesus, reminding us that whenever two or more are gathered in your name you are there. Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer: Aramaic

**O Divine Beloved, Your Radiant Presence shines in all the universe.
I will hold your Radiant Presence in my heart.
Create Your Reign of Shalom NOW...
(Use these willing hands and this passionate heart.)
May Your Heart's desire become mine.
May they be joined as ONE.
Grant what we need each day in Bread and Wisdom.
Release us from the burden of our failures as we release those who
have failed us.
Break the hold of our distractions and free us from the fears that hold
us back...
and the evil so close.
For Yours is the Reign of Shalom, the Power, and the Song, from age to age
AMEN. It is sealed in trust.**

Petitions end with 'God of grace'

Congregational response 'Hear our prayer'

Ending Prayer

All: Light of Light, Very God of Very God, you have given us Jesus, the one we are to emulate. We pray his spirit will live in us and bring into our hearts and minds, our plans and actions our hopes and dreams, a greater love and respect for all life. Help us to come home to your love knowing we are all one. Amen

Benediction

Sending Song: Be Not Afraid Spirit Anew 95 (See Insert)

Sharing of Peace: Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you...

Congregation: ...and also with you.

Pastor: Let us all share God's peace.

Postlude: Selection by Earthen Vessels

Following the service, everyone is invited to the Celebration Room for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Celebrant/Preacher: Pastor Amy Nyman
Lector: Marianne Kunkel
Altar Guild: Lois Ference, Jan Peterson
Greeting Cards: Ann Downie
Sound Room: Dan Vorsanger
Hospitality: Tabitha Benson
Nursery: Dawn Allen
Ushers: Phil & Mary Seeber

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2013

Sunday, February 24

9:00am Adult Education
9:00am Sunday School "Joy Tree Workshop"
10:15am Worship
4:00pm Sunday Movie Matinee

Monday, February 25

9:30am Food Pantry
6:00pm Yoga
Tuesday, February 26
9:30am Spiritual Journeys
Wednesday, February 27
Noon: Subs & Scripture
7:00pm Emmanuel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 28

6:30pm Men's Group
7:15pm Sacred Spiral Dancers Rehearsal

Friday, March 1

9:30am Food Pantry

Saturday, March 2

8:00am Music Academy

Sunday, March 3

9:00am Adult Education
9:00am Outreach
9:00am Sunday School "Joy Tree Workshop"
10:15am Worship with Communion
11:30am Emmanuel Youth serve in the Soup Kitchen
5:30pm "Soulcraft"
6:00pm Youth Group

For more information on events at Emmanuel: please visit our website at www.EmmanuelLutheranRockford.org

Be Not Afraid - Spirit Anew #95

Verses

G Gsus⁴ G Gsus⁴

1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you

2. If you pass through rag-ing wa-ters in the

3. Bless-ed are your poor, for the

G Gsus⁴ G D/F# C Csus²

shall not die of thirst. You shall wan-der far in

sea, you shall not drown. If you walk a-mid the

King-dom shall be theirs. Blest are you that

C C/B Am Am/G D/F#

safe-ty though you do not know the way. You shall

burn-ing flames, you shall not be harmed. If you

weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh. And if

G B7 Em Am C F

speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der -

stand be-fore the pow'r of hell and death is at your

wick-ed tongues in-sult and hate you all be-cause of

D G Em A A7 D D7

stand. You shall see the face of God and live.

Am Am/G D D7

side, know that I am with you through it all.

Am Am/G D D7

Me, bless-ed, bless-ed are you!

Refrain G Gsus⁴ G D Am7 D G⁶ C G/B

Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways. Come, fol-low

Bm Em Am D G Gsus⁴ G Gsus⁴ G C/G G

Me, and I will give you rest.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has been meeting regularly and working diligently. We are in continual contact with the Northern Illinois Synod to consider any candidates whose names and profile papers they may give us.

We have placed an ad in the Christian Century magazine and their online publication to extend our search nation-wide. We are also following up all suggestions and leads given us by friends or members of Emmanuel. If you have any further questions or possibilities for us, please contact any of the Call Committee members. We appreciate your prayers and support as we work for Emmanuel's future.

Karen Van Howe (chair): kvanhowe@comcast.net 815-962-5296

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Catherine Rennert: cathy.rennert@gmail.com 815-968-1157

"Crosses: Symbol & Form:

Calling all artists and collectors! Art@Emmanuel invites you to display your artwork in an upcoming show at Emmanuel during Lent.

"Crosses: Symbol & Form" will be a collaboration of new work from artists and pieces from private collections, including favorite small personal items used for prayer. Art@Emmanuel hopes to include a variety of work, in many mediums, from a wide variety of artists and collectors. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Participation forms available on the counter in the church office.

February 25: (Monday) Drop off/due date for artwork/crosses, by 4:00pm.

March 3: Opening Reception for "Crosses: Symbol & Form" after Sunday worship.

March 31: Easter Sunday-- take home your crosses

Call Andrea 815-298-3881 for more info.

Movie Matinee - Today (Feb. 24th) at 4:00pm in the Celebration Room

Join us this afternoon for the movie "Lord, Save Us from Your Followers". Why is the Gospel of Love Dividing America? Filmmaker and follower Dan Merchant donned his bumper sticker man suit and set out across America in this funny and moving look at the collision of faith and culture. Hosted by Mathew Hamp. Pop provided. If you have a snack you would like to share, feel free to bring it!

If you'd like to host a movie in the coming months, please talk to Mathew Hamp for scheduling. The next Movie Matinee is scheduled for Sunday, March 24th at 4:00pm. (What is your favorite Jesus in film?)

A weekend retreat for post-abortion healing is scheduled for March 8-10, 2013 at the STRONGHOLD Retreat and Conference Center in Oregon, IL.

RACHEL'S PEACE is the interdenominational version of Rachel's Vineyard offered in Northern IL. The retreat offers hope and healing to any woman or man who has experienced an abortion. Visit: www.rachelspeace.com or www.facebook.com/RachelsPeace for more information.

A donation of \$150 includes room, meals and retreat materials. Partial scholarships are available and participation is strictly confidential.

For more information or to register contact:

Catherine Rennert at 815/968-1157 or email cathy.rennert@gmail.com

Please Pray For...

Patricia and Thomas; for peace and reconciliation in their marriage.

Bill; for his health.

Bill's sister's baby; for the child's health and development.

Vivekanadan; for help to get her life back together.