



EMAUS ELCA VISITOR

Caminando Juntos + We Walk Together

APRIL 2021

<u>EmausELCA Staff & Worship Times</u>		
Pastor: Anglo - Rev. Marcy Wieties	262-880-1122	wieties@sbcglobal.net
Worship Leader: Latino - Ramiro Flores	262-822-8620	rf732747@gmail.com
Outreach Director: Carol Yust	414-208-9083	cyust@aol.com
Secretary: Maribel Vega Madrid	262-883-5284	mbellievega22@gmail.com
Church Office: 262-634-5515	E-mail:	EmausELCA@gmail.com
Website: emauselca1.org		
English-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Saturday evening at 4:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:00.		
Spanish-spoken worship services are held at Emaus every Sunday morning at 11:00.		
Emaus office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.		



Happy Birthday Pastor Marcy—April 3rd

Updated Reopening Schedule from Pastor Marcy

I know we were all hoping that by this Easter, we'd be able to gather in person again! Unfortunately, that is not a possibility. However, there is light at the end of this very long tunnel! (More on that in a minute...)

Holy Week Schedule

The Holy Week schedule for English-language worship will be as follows:

Palm Sunday (March 28) - Zoom, 9am

*Remember to pick up your palms at church on Thursday, March 25 between 9am and 1pm or from Ramiro's front porch anytime after that.

Maundy Thursday (April 1) - Zoom, 6:30 pm

Good Friday (April 2) -- Joint community Way of the Cross service

*This is a pre-recorded service led by Racine's ELCA congregations. The link will be distributed when it becomes available.

Easter (April 4) - Pre-recorded at Emaus

* The link will be distributed a day or two ahead of Easter.

Please note that worship for the **week after Easter** (April 11) will be a service distributed by the Synod. There will be no live worship that Sunday.

Finally, I just want to make mention of worship for Pentecost Sunday (May 23). At this point, I am hoping that will be our first English-language in-person worship service!! (Of course, it goes without saying that that is subject to change based on conditions by that time.)

Details will be forthcoming if it seems like we can go ahead!

April Calendar

Sunday Worship (English) - Zoom, 9:00 am or as noted

Sunday Worship (Spanish) - Facebook, 11:00 am

English

March 28	Palm Sunday	Zoom, 9:00 am
April 1	Maundy Thursday	Zoom, 6:30 pm
April 2	Good Friday	Pre-recorded
April 4	Easter Sunday	Pre-recorded
April 7	Bible Study	Zoom, 1:00 pm
April 11	Sunday Worship	Pre-recorded (from Synod)
April 14	Pew Sisters	Zoom, 1:00 pm
April 18	Sunday Worship	Zoom, 9:00 am
April 20	Council Meeting	Zoom, 6:30 pm
April 21	Pew Sisters	Zoom, 1:00 pm
April 22	Food Pantry	1:30 pm, Northside Food Pantry
April 25	Sunday Worship	Zoom, 9:00 am
April 28	Book Club	Zoom, 1:00 pm

Emaus Reopening Proposal:

The following Reopening Proposal was approved at the Emaus ELCA Council meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

Current worship with Emaus:

- Saturday 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. worshipers will continue online worship service via Zoom 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings or pre-recorded services on YouTube. Pastor Marcy emails link.
- The 11:00 am Facebook live worship will continue Pastor Jaime leads worship.
- All worship services are available to view after on the Emaus ELCA website (emauselca1.org).

Tentative Starting Dates 2021

- April 25, 2021 for 11 am Spanish worship.
- May 2, 2021 for First Communion and Confirmation (11 am Spanish worship).
- May 22, 2021 for Saturday 4:30 pm English worship.
- May 23, 2021 for Sunday 9:00 am English worship.
- Baptisms can be held during worship services only.
- Building will remain closed for other groups (Pew Sisters, TOPS) and Hall use for events until at least August 2021.

Registration requirements

- Person/s must register to attend in-person worship to ensure safe practice of social distancing and to prevent having to turn people away at the door. Limit of 100 people. There will be a wait list for the next worship service.
- Please call Maribel Madrid to register between 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. - 8p.m. at 262-884-5284. Please no text message. Maribel must ask for information.
- Ramiro Flores will call families to remind them of the in-person worship and to verify attendance.

Further changes or additions will be determined by the Re-opening Committee.

Requirements for in-person worship

- Masks are REQUIRED.
- Temperatures will be taken
- 100-person limit.
- Follow directions from the Ushers and the posted signs.
- Persons MUST register to attend worship service.
- Families may sit together in the same group but maintain 6 feet apart from other worshipers.
- Worshipers need to stay seated in the marked areas. Children MUST always remain with their parents.
- No congregational singing. Music will be provided.
- No "Peace" handshake. Maybe a head nod to show "Peace".
- Directions will be given for Communion.

- When worship service concludes, offerings can be dropped into the designated boxes.

Re-Opening Committee: Pastor Jaime Dubón, Ramiro Flores, Cindi Larsen, Maribel Madrid, Cathy Meyer, Jess Sedgwick, and Pastor Marcy Wieties.

We are hoping to live-stream the worship services when we return to worshipping in the church so that those who are not ready or are unable to attend in person can also participate in worship.

A Message From Our Parish Nurse

CDC issues new guidelines for when you've been fully vaccinated (information from the Veteran's Administration website)

Have you been fully vaccinated, but aren't sure what to do next? If you've been vaccinated, you've reduced your risk of getting COVID-19. But there are still some safety precautions you should follow.

CDC has [new guidelines](#) to help you understand what's safe to do now, and what hasn't changed.

What's changed?

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can visit friends and family from one other household who all live together without masks unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#).
- If you're exposed to COVID-19, only get tested if you have symptoms.
- If you live in a group setting and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

What Hasn't Changed

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You should still [protect yourself and others](#) by wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Take precautions whenever you're in public or spending time with anyone unvaccinated, especially if they're at an [increased risk of severe illness](#).
- Avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.
- Delay travel. If you do travel, you'll need to follow CDC [requirements](#).
- Watch out for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you've been around someone who's sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.

EASY Has a Busy Month

The Cat in the Hat Plus One

Yes, EASY celebrated Read Across America! All the fanfare about some of Dr. Seuss's books are being taken in stride. We can learn from many writings of long ago. Let these books be teaching moments about how our society has evolved over the years. We still have lots to learn about how we think and respond to the written word! The kids enjoyed creating their own Cat in the Hat plus one!



During the month of March, EASY has studied many **women who have made huge contributions to our society**. We have read about Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor. They have learned that women have had to fight for justice and the right to vote. Do you know who Elizabeth Cady Stanton is? She is right up there with Susan B. Anthony. How about Temple Grandin, a women who struggled with Autism when she was young and is now a renowned animal scientist. They learned about Eleanor Roosevelt and how her leadership was instrumental in starting the United Nations. Many of these women dared to different. Lastly, they watched in awe as Simone Biles, the Olympic gymnast, showed off her amazing exercises. Did you know she practiced up to 30 hours per week?

The kids also created "**Spring**" **greeting cards** for the residents of Home Harbor. Do you remember Spirograph? All received a Spirograph tin so they could experiment with drawing patterns. And they are trying their hand at a paint by number picture. A very busy month!

Geraniums For Pentecost

We are offering an opportunity to purchase geraniums which will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost. The cost per plant will be \$5.00. The deadline for ordering is May 8th.

Payment can be made by cash or check to Emaus ELCA or you can make your payment online designating "Geraniums" on the "Other" line.

Please respond by calling or emailing Kathy Christensen at 262-909-4799 or rdckic63@yahoo.com.

How many?

In memory or in honor of _____.

I wish to take my plant(s) home.

I wish to donate my plant to be planted on the church grounds.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to come help us Tuesday mornings during our food giveaway! Carol and other several team members drive out to Kingdom Manna to pick up food for 30 families.

- Tape boxes together.
- Help unload/load boxes into vehicles.
- Fill boxes with food.
- deliver to families without transportation.
- Thursdays (11 a.m.)- pick up donated food items from Faithworks Pantry and deliver/unload at Emaus.

Also, if you know of someone that is in need of food, please have them call me at the Emaus office number 262-634-5515 to sign up for Tuesdays.

Social Justice:

Thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity to the members of our community who haven't been able to receive stimulus checks. As you receive your latest round of stimulus, please consider sharing it again with our undocumented neighbors: <https://racineimmigrantsupport.com/>. We have already distributed more than \$20,000, but the need is still great.

We are also asking Emaus members to help spread factual information about drivers' cards. The governor has put them in his budget again, and we're really hoping it will pass this time. There are so many reasons why we should do this, but just to name a few:

1. It keeps families together by preventing a major cause of family separation. (Because "driving without a license" when you can't apply for one can put you on a path to ICE custody and eventual deportation.)
2. It keeps our roads safer because everyone can insure their own cars.
3. It helps police because it reduces hit-and-run incidents.
4. It "drives the economy" by increasing state revenue.

Spread the word!

Dr. Stephanie Mitchell
Social Justice Chair

Living Faith Lutheran Church Letter

To Our Friends in Mission,

Thank you so much for your generous monetary donation to purchase needed items for the LWR Personal Care Kits as well as for the many items donated to make up the kits.

We are excited and blessed to partner with you in this mission and believe that "together we can make a difference!"

Wishing you all God's blessings Each and Every day.

Your friends at Living Faith

Pre-opening off to Strong Start!

During the past month the Reopening Committee has named Pastor Mary to spearhead pre-opening efforts to ready Emaus for future in-person worship and activities. To date, the response has been very generous and filled with energy and hope.

Thank you to those who have already given or pledged over \$8,000! Thank you to our expanded custodial staff, (Chris Miller and Nancy and Mario Posadas), our part-time temporary cleaners and painters, and to our many volunteers who are making this a real team effort! We are also grateful for the many in-kind gifts: stackable washer and dryer (to be placed in shower stall in restroom off kitchen), upgrade in WiFi technology, over 3,000 face masks, 3 standing sanitizing stations, Insinkerator disposal, cleaning supplies, thermometers, and 2 carts for custodians. In addition, all memorial money for John Knuteson has been designated for organ tuning and repair!

What pre-opening projects have been completed by press time? They include:

- Cleaning of Sunset Room. Pastor Marcy's office, main floor kitchen, restrooms, window washing
- Vacating and painting of main floor utility closets
- Purging and shredding outdated paperwork in safe room
- Cleaning and restarting ice machine in downstairs kitchen
- Inventory and reorganization of cleaning products

The goal is to have pre-opening work completed on the main floor by mid-April and the remainder of the building by the end of May.

Mary

"Out of chaos, we look forward to order!"





Synod Assembly

The ELCA Synod Assembly will be held virtually on Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1.

Along with Pastor Marcy Wieties and Pastor Jaime Dubon, Carol Yust and Maribel Vega Madrid will attend as delegates. Che Che Saramiento will also attend if an interpreter is provided.

Covid Relief Funds Approved

We are pleased to receive another round of funds to help families during this time.

Request:

Emaus ELCA would like to continue to help our fellow brothers and sisters through their economic struggles they continue to endure during this pandemic.

Specifically those who do not qualify for the stimulus package aid due to their immigration status.

Response:

We are pleased to let you know that your recent request for the COVID-19 relief funds (provided by our ELCA Churchwide partners) has been fully granted at the amount you requested!

It is humbling to be able to participate in God's economy of grace; these funds are only possible because of the generosity and love of your siblings in Christ from around the country, as they responded to the ELCA's COVID-19 relief drive.

We pray the funds are a blessing to the families who will receive them.

You will receive a check in the mail, along with a letter you can share with your members and leaders, very soon.

God bless you, and all our siblings at Emaus. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Peace,
Rev. Matthew Short

Reopening Message from Bishop Erickson

An Important Message on Returning to Church Considerations from Bishop Erickson

January 25, 2021

Friends in Christ:

As we pass the one-year anniversary of the first case of COVID-19 in the United States, it's safe to say that most, if not all, of us are weary from the many changes and restrictions the pandemic has brought about. Our congregations, communities, and leaders have worked diligently and tirelessly to find new ways to worship, learn, connect, and serve. We have sought to stay true to our mission while following the guidance of our public health professionals. We have tried to find the right balance between the desire to gather with the need to do so safely. Through it all, we have been guided by our call to love our neighbor as ourselves. I am deeply grateful for all your efforts to continue faithful ministry in these unprecedented times.

You may recall that, on November 11, 2020, I encouraged the congregations of the Greater Milwaukee Synod to discontinue indoor gatherings for worship or other activities until at least January 2021. In recent weeks, we have seen the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Southeast Wisconsin plateau and decline a bit. We have also witnessed the release of two COVID-19 vaccines, which give us hope that the pandemic may someday come to an end.

In light of these developments, I know that many congregations are reviewing their plans for whether, when, and how to return to their buildings for worship and other activities. While I am also encouraged by recent trends and developments, I want to encourage congregations to continue refraining from holding in-person, indoor gatherings. I offer this recommendation based on the guidance provided by our partners in the Wisconsin Council of Churches. They have recently released an updated set of recommendations, "Returning to Church 2.0". These recommendations are based on an extensive review of the scientific data and public health wisdom.

Here's a brief summary of their recommendations:

- Pay attention to these three indicators: vaccinations, new cases per 100,000 of population, and percentage of positive test results.
- There are three phases to consider: Unsafe to return, Safer, and Safest. Based on the most recent indicators, we are still in the "unsafe to return" phase in all counties of Wisconsin.
- When at least 50% of the population is vaccinated, new infections are less than 10 per 100,000 people, and the test positivity rate is less than 10%, we can begin to explore returning to in-person, indoor gatherings.
- Even though vaccine distribution is uneven across the state, encourage people to get vaccinated whenever it becomes available to them.
- The use of masks, distancing, hygiene and other safety protocols will need to continue for the foreseeable future.

The WCC documents include references to reliable sources of updated information that will allow you to track these numbers in your area. Based on current trends, it is likely that we are still several months away from being able to consider safely returning to indoor gatherings.

I recognize that the prospect of yet another Lent and Easter season without worshipping and gathering in person may be discouraging. I encourage congregations, leaders, and rostered ministers to consider the following:

1. Regardless of what you decide, pay attention to how you decide. Work to create an environment in which people are able to speak, be heard, and understand which factors led to the decisions made.
2. Recognize that this has been and will continue to be a stressful time for all of us, and the levels of weariness among your leaders is high. Be gentle with one another, and make sure that your pastors, deacons, and other staff have the support they need and that they are able to take time away. Consider allowing staff to roll over unused vacation time from last year to this year, or even granting additional vacation time this year.
3. Trust that the Church is resilient, and God's Holy and life-giving Spirit has been with us every step of the way and will continue to guide, nourish, and embrace us whatever 2021 brings.

I continue to be grateful, proud, and hopeful for our congregations and our communities as we confront and respond to the many challenges of this pandemic. We're in this together, and I look forward to the time when we will be able to come together, in person, to discover what the next chapter of God's story will look like for us.

In faith and hope,
Bishop Paul D. Erickson