

EmausELCA Staff & Worship Times				
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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.				

## April Calendar

Good Friday English Worship Good Friday Spanish Worship-Saturday Worship (English) -Sunday Worship (English)-Sunday Worship (Spanish) -Coffee and Conversation Sundays, 1:00 pm 6:00 pm 4:30 pm (**No worship April 16**) 9:00 am 11:00 am 10:00, Sunset Room (Starting April 3)

English First Communion classes	Saturdays, 10:00 - 12:00
English Confirmation	Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 pm Apr 5 & 19
Spanish First Communion	Saturday, 10:00-11:30 am
Spanish Confirmation	Saturday, 12:00-2:00 pm

#### Latino Worship Services for the Holy Week.

- Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 11:00 am (If the weather is good, we are planning to start our worship service with a procession around the church). Led by Pastor Jaime Dubon.
- April 14, 2022 in person meetings of the Latin Committee at 5:pm
- Good Friday Services, April 15, 2022 at 6:00 pm led by Ramiro Flores.
- Easter Sunday, 17 April, 2022 at 11:00am led by Pastor Jaime Dubon.

Apr. 6	Stitchers	10:00 am			
6	Bible Study	1:00 pm			
7	Community Meals Program				
10	Palm Sunday				
13	Stitchers	10:00 am			
17	Easter				
19	Council	6:30 pm			
20	Stitchers	10:00 am			
27	Stitchers	10:00 am			
27	Book Club	1:00 pm			
28	Northside Food Pantry	1:30-4:00 pm			

# Celebration of Holy Week

The main event in the month of April is the celebration of Holy Week. For the

Christian faith, the resurrection of Christ is the most important event because it shows us three things. First, that human life does not end with physical death, but it continues even beyond death; second, that Christ overcame death and in doing so he has brought us life; third, because

Christ died, we too have died with him, and because Christ rose, we too will rise with him to eternal life.

There is plenty of biblical and historical evidence for the resurrection of Christ.

1) The empty tomb: everyone who went to the tomb found the tomb empty. This is a recognized place (John 15:47). The very theory that the disciples stole the body (Matthew 28:11-15) is proof of the empty tomb. Also, there was a guard watching over the tomb (Matthew 27:62-66).

2) The different and many appearances of the resurrected Jesus Christ that are described in the four gospels (eleven in all). According to Luke the period of appearances lasted forty days (Acts 1:13) and ended with his ascension.

3) The existence of the church for more than two thousand years is the best historical proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because no lie (if it were) holds up for that long.

The resurrection is a historical fact, and it constitutes the basis of the Christian faith. It is a liberating work of God because it takes Jesus out of the prison of death. Any denial of this event is nothing more than an attempt to distort the heart of faith and the power of God. So let us joyfully proclaim that Christ has died, Christ has risen, and that Christ will come again.

On the other hand, on April 25 the church also celebrates the Day of Saint Mark the Evangelist. According to the Bible, Mark was not part of Jesus' group, but rather an evangelist who worked alongside Peter, Paul, and Barnabas (Acts 13:5).

"John" was his Hebrew name and "Mark" his Roman surname (Ac 12:12). He is the author of the Gospel According to Saint Mark.

He was the son of a rich widow named Mary, whose house was a meeting place for the early Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 12: 12-17). Mark has been believed to be the young man in the white sheet who ran away naked, mentioned in Mark 14:50-52. According to tradition he was the founder and first bishop of the Church of Alexandria. Years later the Venetians seized his remains and took him to Venice where today he is the patron saint.



Pastor Jaime Dubon

# EASY Kids Raise Money for Ukraine

The EASY kids have been learning about the Ukranian people having to leave their homes and families to find refuge in other countries. They began donating money to contribute to the funds being raised by Emaus ELCA that will be sent to Lutheran World Federation for distribution to the refugees. So far the kids have raised \$587. We are proud of their generous support and caring for others who are in need.



## **EASY** Activities

A lot of varied activities have kept the EASY kids engaged! We have **discussed the situation in Ukraine**. The kids have been very tuned in to what is happening. They are concerned about the people and how their lives have been literally changed. They know that many families, especially moms and children with only a backpack and a bag, are fleeing the country for safety. When asked how they can

help the unanimous reply was collect loose change. A special box was created. All



have willingly donated. One of our youngest left the church the first day we talked about donating money; told his mom and returned a few minutes later with a \$20 dollar bill clenched in his hand!! Our mantra in EASY -KINDNESS MATTERS!





This month we have **celebrated women.** We talked about Harriet Tubman. This is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth. "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world". All received a book about Harriet for their home

library. We also introduced them to 2 children's authors; Kate Messner and Andrea Davis Pinkney.

March is the birthday celebration of wellknown artisans. The kids listened to several different Bach compositions. Our Hands on Science project was to play a song on bottles. They tried their hand at Vincent van Gogh's sunflowers. The sunflower has been highlighted because that is the country flower of Ukraine. Each painted their own interpretation of a sunflower, and created a sunflower with Legos.

A fun activity involved a **relay involving** scooters and buckets and beanbags. Lots of cheers and laughter!





SURPRISE, SURPRISE! The kids had **special visitors who presented them with bags of goodies**. Karen Sedgwick and her group from Alpha Delta Kappa wanted to remember the EASY kids and put together

bags which included crayons, pens, pencils, scissors, notebooks, an activity book, snacks, a puzzle, and a reading book. WOW! They presented EASY with a check for \$50. When asked what we should do with the money, the unanimous response was, "Give it to Ukraine!" View this video: <u>https://youtu.be/BnSOEsu05Xs</u>

# Steps for setting up the Emaus ELCA service to watch live.

Go to Youtube.com Select Subscribe (Choose the free option for now or pay if you wish) Subscription appears on the left. Select Emaus ELCA on left under subscriptions Select service.

OR

Find the link to the streaming services on the Emaus website (<u>EmausELCA1.org</u>) under Service Times on the front page.

## Watching the service live after it is set up.

Go To Youtube.com before the service is scheduled EmausELCA appears on the left under subscriptions Select EmausELCA Follow the directions on the screen

# Staying Safe

Wearing masks in the church is now optional unless there is another surge of the virus. We ask that everyone continue to observe social distancing.

## Coffee Hour Resumes

We will begin meeting again for a time of coffee and conversation after the 9:00 worship service on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone is welcome. Helpers are needed to provide treats, serve and clean up. A sign-up sheet will be provided.

## **Outreach For Hope Lenten Videos**

Various groups involved in Emaus ministries have participated in devotional Lenten videos with Outreach For Hope. You can find links to them on the EmausELCA website.

## SCRIP

Scrip gift cards make great gifts and are useful when shopping at your local retailers. By ordering Scrip, you are also contributing to the general fund of Emaus. In April, Scrip gift cards will be ordered April 10 and 24. Please have your

order to Cathy Meyer via text (262) 498-4931 or email (<u>cjanemeyer@yahoo.com</u>) by Sunday evening at 9:00 p.m. Thank you for your support of this program.

## Recycling

The recycling cabinet has been moved from the back entrance of the church to the narthex. We continue to accept recycling items, especially ink cartridges, because we receive money for those. Aluminum cans are also turned in for money for the church and those are still being collected by the back door of the building. Thank you to all who contribute to this fund raising project.

#### Thank You Message

I want to thank my friends at Emaus for their concern and caring during the Covid19 Pandemic. Living alone, I am so grateful to everyone who reached out through phone calls and visits during lonely times.

Thank you for thinking of me. Love you all.

Boots LeRoux

# North Side Food Pantry Thank You

Thank you to the Emaus Team and your congregation for your continued support of the North Side Food Pantry. During 2021, the pantry served almost 1,000 families consisting of 2,000 adults and 900 children during a very unusual year. The impact of government money provided some financial relief to families and an increase of charities distributing food drove our numbers down and gave families other options to meet their needs. We are already seeing an increase in our numbers as the government money runs out.

Emaus's congregation contributed almost 700 pounds during 2021. Thank you for your support and I look forward to new adventures in 2022.

North Side Food Pantry 2021 Report Steve Oppeneer- Director

#### From Cindi and Loren Larsen

Words cannot express how thankful we have been for the support of our Emaus family during 2021 in support of this important ministry. Thank you.

## Synod Assembly

Synod Assembly for the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod will be held on May 20-21. Representatives from Emaus are Pastor Marcy, Soledad Beltran, Carol Yust and Marisol Dubon.



# A Pastoral Letter Affirming our LGBTQIA+ Siblings

"For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." - Psalm 139:13-14

Friends in Christ:

To be honest, there are a whole host of issues that have filled recent headlines that weigh heavy on my heart and mind: war in Ukraine, economic challenges, political division, and all of the uncertainties related to the pandemic. One issue, however, that has garnished significant attention, which I believe the gospel of Jesus Christ directly addresses, is the recent assault on the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly our transgender siblings. Recent legislative efforts and religious pronouncements have sought to portray these siblings and those who love and support them as criminal and sinful. This is contrary to what our church teaches and what I believe deep in my heart and soul. This is also contributing to a climate in which the <u>rates of suicide and</u> <u>depression among transgender youth</u> is truly alarming. This is not about being politically correct; it's about saving lives.

I'll admit, my own understanding of what it means to be transgender has grown significantly in recent years, and there is still much that I don't know and may never

understand. But the gospel that saves and guides us is crystal clear: we are to love and serve and protect our neighbors. All of them.

Human sexuality, romantic love, and gender identity are amazing and complex gifts from God that defy simplistic understandings and rigid definitions. We are all "fearfully and wonderfully made," and we are all on a journey of discovering what it means to live in loving and life-giving relationships. I call upon all our congregations and leaders to take the time to listen to and learn from those with differing gender identities and expressions, and to engage in the hard and holy work of ensuring that our communities truly embody grace, mercy, and radical welcome for all. Let's work together so that all people everywhere hear this life-giving and life-changing message:

God meets you where you are. God loves you as you are. God will walk with you as you discover who you are. In grace and hope,

Bishop Paul Erickson

Download the Signed PDF

To learn more about providing safe and welcoming places for all, please be in touch with the <u>Greater Milwaukee Synod</u> <u>Reconciling in Christ Team</u> at <u>ric@gmselca.org</u>. Additional information and resources are available at <u>Reconciling Works</u>.

The synod office is open to visitors by appointment only for the foreseeable future. Hours and lines of communication remain the same. <u>Contact us here</u>.

#### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Communion Assistants	Reader	Ushers
4/2 4:30	Missy Porcaro				
4/3 9:00	Kathy Christensen	Carol Yust	Kathy Christensen Cheryl Dexter	Carol Eschmann	Loren Larsen
4/9 4:30	Cathy Meyer Linda Clinton				
4/10 9:00 Palm Sunday	Cindi Larsen	Kathy Christensen	Karen Sedgwick Carol Eschmann	Carol Yust Kathy Christensen	Chris Lamberton
4/15 1:00 Good Friday				Karen Sedgwick	
4/17 9:00 Easter	Barb Toslek Jamie Toslek	Cindi Larsen	Kathy Christensen Joy Lippmann	Sandy Strini	Cheryl Dexter
4/23 4:30	Missy Porcaro				
4/24 9:00	Audrey Villolobos	Karen Sedgwick	Nancy Smith Chris Lamberton	Nancy Smith	Denis Kreimer
April 30 4:30	Cathy Meyer Linda Clinton				
May 1 9:00	Joy Lippmann	Carol Yust	Carol Eschmann Karen Sedgwick	Karen Sedgwick	Diane Melander