

Dear Emmaus Family,

April 13, 2022

*God proves his love for us, in that, while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

This is one of my favorite Bible verses. The reason is because I recognize that I am a sinner – you are, too. Being a sinner, we hear in these words that Jesus Christ died for us. It's the unconditional love of Jesus that saves us.

At Christmas, an angel appeared to the shepherds and said, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For to you is born, this day, in the city of Bethlehem, a Savior who is Christ the Lord."

The angel brought good news of a Savior. Why? Because we needed a Savior. Jesus was born to be our Savior – and he became our Savior when he died on the cross. His death – as the above verse tells us – proves God's love for us. Proof of God's love. I'll take it.

This is Holy Week. This is the week we follow the events of Jesus that led to him willingly give up his life for us on the cross. Because Jesus died for us – we will live.

My grateful thanks goes to Pastor Kent Klophaus for taking on a larger role during this season of Lent. The weekly Lenten devotions Pastor Kent and I have been posting on the Emmaus Facebook page have been a blessing and a joy to share with you.

Speaking of Facebook; our Facebook page became defective. I'm not exactly sure how, or in what way. The bottom line is that Facebook has shut down our church's Facebook page. We have lost some of the videos we posted along with other pictures and messages that have been added to our page over the past several years. We were able to save some of our uploads – but not all of them.

We have a new Facebook page. You can find us by searching for:

Emmaus Lutheran Church, Orange City, FL

Then click on 'Follow' and you should get updates as before. Time will tell how this all works out for us.

This week at Emmaus:

Thur., April 14 – Maundy Thursday

7 p.m. – Worship with Last Supper Communion and Foot Washing

Fri., April 15 – Good Friday

7 p.m. – Worship following the ‘Stations of the Cross’

Sat., April 16 – Vigil of Easter

5 p.m. – Easter Vigil Worship beginning in our Portico and moving inside

6:30 p.m. – Easter Vigil Worship in our Portico

Sun., April 17 – Easter Day/The Day of Resurrection

7 a.m. – Sunrise Worship in our Memorial Garden

8:30 a.m. – Easter Continental Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

10 a.m. – Easter Festival Worship in our Sanctuary

No Adult Study

Mon., April 18

Noon – AA meeting

7 p.m. – Cub Scouts

Tue., April 19

10 a.m. to noon – Food Pantry distribution

Noon – AA meeting

6:30 p.m. – Congregation Council Meeting (via Zoom Conferencing)

Wed., April 20

Noon – AA meeting

5:30 p.m. – Handbell choir rehearsal

7:10 p.m. – Emmaus Choir rehearsal

Thur., April 21

Noon – AA meeting

6:30 p.m. – Stephen Ministry supervisory session

7:15 p.m. – Girl Scouts meeting

Fri., April 22

Noon – AA meeting

6:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts meeting

Sat., April 23

5 p.m. – Sanctuary worship

6:30 p.m. – Portico worship

Sun., April 24

10 a.m. – Sanctuary worship

11:15 a.m. – Adult Study (Fellowship Hall or via Zoom)

Maundy Thursday – 7 p.m. in our Sanctuary

- *Individual absolution for sin
- *Communion at tables
- *Foot-washing (optional participation)
- *Stripping the altar and chancel of all adornment

Good Friday – 7 p.m. in our Sanctuary

- *Service of ‘The Stations of the Cross’
- *Intentional time of silence for prayer

Easter schedule:

Easter Vigil – Saturday at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

- *We begin in the Portico around a fire pit
- *We bring the fire – the light of Christ – into the Sanctuary
- *The service begins solemnly with dim lighting
- *The service ends with bright lights and the joyful Easter good news

Easter Sunrise service – 7 a.m. in our Memorial Garden (parking lot)

- *Sunrise is at 6:59 a.m. – we gather at 7 a.m.
- *We celebrate Christ’s victory over death and the assurance we receive
- *Bring lawn chairs if you wish

Easter Breakfast – 8:30 a.m. in our Fellowship Hall

- *Continental breakfast

Easter Festival Service – 10 a.m. in our Sanctuary

- *Special music from our Jubilate Handbells and Emmaus Choir
- *The life-changing news of Christ’s resurrection from the dead is proclaimed

Emmaus Concert Series

May 1st at 2:00 pm in our sanctuary : Heather Thorne and Vivacity

We have had Heather and her group here before. Her energy and musical style made our parking lot rock last year. This year we are going to have her in our sanctuary where she can really show off her talents.

In the past few weeks I have seen some of our ‘snow birds’ head back north – or to Germany or France. And I know that more will be leaving in the next weeks. We will miss all of you and we will look forward to seeing you in the fall.

But also, some of our members have been returning to church after the long absence brought on by the pandemic. It is so good to see you again! Welcome home.

We will be having a New Member Orientation/Dinner coming up sometime in May. No date has been set at this time, but we have several who have expressed an interest in becoming members of our Emmaus family. The meeting/dinner will be opened to anyone who wants to join the church – and also to anyone who wants more information about Emmaus. More information to come.

This week – more than any other week of the year – brings Romans 5:8 into sharp focus. Jesus serving the disciples (Maundy Thursday); Jesus dying on the cross (Good Friday); Jesus rising from death to new life (Easter); these all point us to the truth that *“God proves his love for us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

A blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter to all.

Grace upon grace,
~Pastor Mark