

Dear Emmaus Family,

November 5, 2021

Selected verses from Revelation 7:

*9* After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

*13* Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" *14* I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

*15* For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

*16* They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

*17* for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

November 1 is the church's celebration of All Saints. Who are the saints of God? Taking a look at verse 7 we might imagine that the saints are those 'who have come out of the great ordeal' and who 'have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

I understand this to mean that the saints of God are those who have strived through life, who have faced temptation, who have been claimed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. A more inclusive understanding of the saints of God is – all of God's people, past, present and future. All of us.

The last line of the passage above promises that 'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' Face it, life can be hard. No one gets through life without some bumps and bruises. No one gets through life without heartache and the pain of loss along the way. The promise in this passage assures us that God provides the

comfort and the hope we need after life takes its toll on our mortal bodies. God will wipe away all the tears of anguish from the faces of the saints.

This weekend, as is our regular practice, we will remember those saints who have died in the past year. You will have an opportunity on your way in to worship to stop for a moment and fill out some prayer sheets for those you would like to have remembered and named in our prayers this weekend. You may sign a prayer requests for loved ones who have died (blue sheet) or for those who are still living (yellow sheet). There will be a basket to place your prayer requests. Please write clearly.

At our Sunday service Wyatt Neuhardt will confirm his baptismal faith in the Rite of Confirmation. We rejoice with Wyatt and we pray for him at this important time in his life.

### **This week at Emmaus:**

#### **Sat., Nov. 6**

5 p.m. – Sanctuary Worship

6:30 p.m. – Portico Worship (outdoor service)

#### **Time change for daylight savings**

#### **Sun., Nov. 7**

10 a.m. – Sanctuary Worship

11 a.m. – Adult Class in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom conferencing

2 p.m. – Senior Recital of Emily Palmer at Stetson University, Lee Chapel

#### **Mon., Nov. 8**

Noon – AA meeting

7 p.m. – Cub Scouts

#### **Tue., Nov. 9**

10 a.m. to noon – Food Pantry distribution

Noon – AA meeting

2 p.m. – Finance meeting via Zoom conferencing

#### **Wed., Nov. 10**

Noon – AA meeting

5:15 p.m. – Emmaus Jubilate Ringers rehearsal (hand bell choir)

7:10 p.m. – Emmaus Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

#### **Thur., Nov. 11**

#### **Veterans' Day – 'Thank you, veterans, for your service'**

Noon – AA meeting

4:30 p.m. – Emmaus Preschool board meeting

6:30 p.m. – Boy Scout planning meeting

**Fri., Nov. 12**

Noon – AA meeting

Edit Palmer, one of our worship/choir accompanists, is inviting our Emmaus family to her daughter, Emily's, Senior Recital this Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m. at Stetson University's Lee Chapel. Parking is available at the Lynn Business Center (corner of Woodland and Michigan). Attendees are asked to wear a mask and observe physical distancing. The one-hour recital is free.

A special 'Thank you' to Suzanna and John Trittschuh for the beautiful flower arrangements in the church last week. We do so appreciate this gift of love given for the glory of God.

**Adult Study** – Our Adult Study group will be discussing Mark 13:1-8. All are welcome to participate in this group. You may attend our in-person gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 11 a.m. or via Zoom conferencing. To receive the login information for Zoom participation, email a request to Sue Cole at: [sbee47@hotmail.com](mailto:sbee47@hotmail.com)

**Food Pantry donations are needed:** Our funds are running terribly low and the need for help is tremendous. The demand placed on our Food Pantry has greatly depleted our resources. Please consider making a donation today.

God has a purpose for you. We are God's hands and feet in the world today. Yes, God will wipe away every tear from the eyes of the saints. On a day-to-day basis, God uses each of us to accomplish this mission. YOU have what is needed to make a difference in someone's life today; someone who is struggling, perhaps struggling alone.

What if you were to speak up if you saw someone in need of a friend? What if you offered yourself as a friend who can listen, without judgement, and offer some comfort to them? This is how God can use you today. This is how you can be a 'saint' in the world, doing God's mission of comfort and hope.

**Stephen Ministry:** Our Stephen Ministers are trained and ready to work one-to-one with those who find themselves in need of ongoing caring ministry. Please call me (Pastor Mark: 386-682-7926) for more information and to be matched up with a Stephen Minister. All conversations are kept in confidence and there is no cost for participating in our Stephen Ministry program.

I ask that you continue your prayers for our congregation, our community, our nation and the world, and also for Carol and me. I have been struggling silently with depression for over a year. I feel your prayers and your love. Thank you, my Emmaus family.

Grace upon grace,  
~Pastor Mark