



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

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December 2021

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Sunday Worship Service at 9 a.m.*

Advent

The Christmas story is a story about love. God came to live as one of us because of God's love for us. God thought he made it pretty clear when he made that covenant with the Hebrews early on, never considering there would be a lot of room for argument or deviation from the plan. It was simple, God thought, "I'm going to bless this guy Abraham and his wife, Sarah, and through them I'll be able to bless the whole world." God forgot how stubborn humans could be. Forgot that humans tend to retreat and retaliate when they feel threatened. They tend to hold on tighter to what God wanted them to give away in the first place. We hold on tighter, because we think there isn't enough, fearing we might lose what we have or won't get what we want. So, God came, born into the world. A tiny, vulnerable baby, born to a poor unwed teenage mother, grew into a man who was crucified because he kept telling everyone to love more and give abundantly to those who have less -- there's enough of everything, including God's love, for everyone.

Advent is the time of preparation. Preparing our hearts for Jesus is not an easy undertaking. It's not something we do once, and then magically our heart stays open and full of love, every day, all the time. We're human. We stumble, we retaliate, we get scared, we hunker down. If we can remain open even when we want to slam the door shut and run in the other direction, if we can extend to ourselves just the teeniest, tiniest bit of compassion when it feels utterly impossible, an amazing thing happens. We soften, our hearts soften, and lo and behold, we can experience the joy of

a miraculous birth of an extraordinary human, right in the middle of our heart space. The space where Christ lives.

God's peace be upon you.
Rev. Holly+

Senior Warden's Corner

Loren Maxwell, Senior Warden

Emmanuel has never been a place where we spend an excessive amount of time talking about money. We believe in Spirit-led giving. A wise minister once said, "If you do God's work God's way, you will get God's pay." Last month was Stewardship Month in the Episcopal Church. Those of you attending Sunday morning services may have noticed the pledge cards in your bulletin. Some churches push for everyone to fill out a card for planning purposes; Emmanuel does not. Whether you fill out a pledge card or not, I would ask you to prayerfully consider your participation in the financial health of the church in the coming year. Since we are entering the last month of the year, you may also consider a little extra year-end giving. If we break even or end up with a surplus this year, it will put a smile on our Treasurer's face and allow us to continue to do the things that God has laid on our heart. We have taken steps this past year to supplement congregational giving, but the bulk of money needed to cover our expenses depends upon your generosity. We thank all of you who donated time and money this year to update our facilities, to launch the Discovery Gardens Early Learning Center and to make Rev. Holly's Institution celebration a success, as well as those regular contributors to the General Operating Fund which covers the normal expenses of the church.



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

Operating income for October was \$29,990.48 thanks to a very generous \$9,000 donation from one of our parishioners. Operating expenses for the month were \$27,177.54. This means we had a net operating fund gain of \$2,812.94 for the month. Year to date, the Operating Fund has a deficit of \$35,543.03. Last year at this point the deficit was \$47,284.62. Giving from the congregation to the Operating Fund so far this year is \$176,848.21 which is down from last year which was \$193,880.80 at the same point in time.

Based on the information available at this time I project that giving to the Operating Fund in 2022 by the congregation will be at least \$33,000 less than in 2021. That's going to have a significant impact on our operations. Please pray for our financial needs.

With much gratitude for your prayers and support!

Blessings!

Dave Dunlap, Treasurer
davidrdunlap@gmail.com
Cell: 949-861-0694

Why Emmanuel?

Debi Andreff's roots at Emmanuel go back to Father Paul's early days, when Emmanuel was still meeting at the YMCA. Debi's grandparents and Father Paul's In-laws were neighbors in Ramona. The word of a vital new ministry was passed from her grandparents to her father, and in 7th grade, Debi found herself at Emmanuel singing in the children's choir.

Debi is not one to sit around. She started working as a senior in high school in a family-owned fish market in Anaheim that also sold fish and chips. The family soon had stores in Anaheim Westminster, Garden Grove and Torrance, and Debi worked for them until she met and married Joe.

After the early years of mothering a son and daughter, Debi received her water safety instruction to teach swimming. She taught at a large park in Anaheim in the summertime and also taught at Anaheim High School. Her

athletic family later got into bowling, which has remained a big part of Debi's life. She eventually became a league secretary and fifteen years later is still there. She loves bowling, she says, "because it's mainly competition against yourself. As long as people work as a group and support each other, it's a lot of fun."

Another fact about Debi is that she has taken advantage of every open door. When her bicycle was swiped by a floral delivery truck, Debi found herself a new vocation. Starting out making deliveries, she soon became trained in floral arrangement. For years, everyone who enters our church has had an opportunity to appreciate her beautiful work. In addition, she also volunteers two days a week in the church office.

Joe and Debi were married for 48 years. He helped to build swimming pools and then started his own pool business. Their son became part of the business and took it over completely when Joe retired in 2020. Sadly, Joe passed away earlier this year, and Debi is in the process of moving to a mobile home park in Orange. Debi's and Joe's children and two grandchildren, a nine year old boy and a five year old girl, live close by.

What Debi loves most about Emmanuel is that it feels like a family: "People are aware of each other's needs and reach out to one another; they care for each other." Debi has had a rough year, but the love at Emmanuel has helped her through.

The Growing Connection

When I started to work on this Epistle article, I began as I always have, by looking over the last article I wrote. I was surprised to find that the last article I wrote was for June. Kudos to Gordon for stepping up and doing a wonderful job of sharing what has been happening in the Garden. I considered just letting him have the job, but I really have missed sharing with you.

Our spring and summer gardens flourished. We had a great crop of leeks early in the growing season. Then came the shallots and onions. Gordon will be planting next year's shallots soon and we will order onion starts, along with the leeks, for planting in January. We will probably sneak in some fingerling potatoes again. The potatoes this year were not as good as we would have liked but we would like to try again.

We will also do more planting from seed this year, but I hate throwing out the ones that are just more than we need, in fact I can't seem to do it. For example, we started winter squash from seed in the garden bed. (Do you know that winter squash do not grow in the winter? They grow in the summer for keeping into winter, for eating when the snow is knee deep and nothing is growing.) We started the seeds according to the package directions – three seeds per hill, two feet apart. You know what happened - - every seed grew and they were way too close together. So we took some of the plants out and put them into pots for the Plant Sale, shared with others, and took some home. They were planted over the potatoes and onions we had in our new 12 X 12 vegetable growing area.

In the Garden we planted the squash on a trellis over two of the beds. We purchased a 20 ft cattle guard fence, formed it into an arch over the walk between the two beds. This was new to us and big success, so much so, that we are planning to install another for this spring. We, along with the Beth and Robert Jahncke, took wheelbarrows of produce to Anne and Loren for the HUB. The San Marzano tomatoes were a little slow to get started but, in the end, they were very prolific. We have many jars of sauce in the freezer. Some also went to the HUB.

This year we would like to try summer squash, zucchini and their relatives, yellow crookneck and patty pan. Patty pans are so fun, they are white, some light green, but they look like flying saucers. We will also try beans and peas, some more beets, some different types of lettuce, spinach, and Swiss chard. We are also thinking about carrots.

As I write this on November 10, we are closing in on Thanksgiving. Aren't we all grateful to be coming out of the Covid time? We hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and that the coming New Year is filled with Love, Peace, and Joy.

Happy Growing to One and All,
Lorra and Gordon

December 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM Taizé Service	2 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	3 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	4 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study
5 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Advent Study Group after Service 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	6 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	7 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	8	9 6:30 PM Early Birds 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	10 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	11 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study
12 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Advent Study Group after Service 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	13 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	14 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	15 6:30 PM Vestry	16 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	17 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	18 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM EKKO Church. Recess (Respite Ministry for Special Needs Families) 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Plant Sale and Garden Work Day
19 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Advent Study Group after Service 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Greening of the Church and Supper	20 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	21 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	22	23 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	24 3:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service 9:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day
26 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Emmanuel Sunday Service 2:00 PM - 8:30 PM EKKO Church (Whole Campus)	27 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Evening Bible Study	28 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study	29	30 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	31 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM EKKO Church	

This Month's Happenings

Mondays at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Saturdays at 9 a.m.

December 5,12,19 at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, December 1 , 7pm

Thursday, December 9, 6:30pm

Saturday, December 18, 9-12

Sunday, December 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Friday, December 24 at 3 p.m.

Friday, December 24 at 9 p.m.

Evening Bible Study begins September 20

Women's Bible Study begins September 21

Men's Bible Study

Advent Study Group after Service

Taizé

Early Birds

Plant Sale and Garden Work Day

Greening of the Church and Supper

Family Christmas Eve Service

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service and Choir

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