

FROM THE RECTOR

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

Tara and I recently bought a camper trailer. It is a 1977 Ideal trailer, and it is so cool. From the sellers, it looked and sounded like it had been gone through and was ready for the road. So, we anticipated it would only take some basic sprucing up before we put it to use. Our first clue that something was wrong was when water was running down the interior wall during a rainstorm. Then, there was water on another wall. Then we bought a moisture meter, which told us there was water in many of the walls. On pulling off the wall material, we discovered a lot of rotten framing. Now, what looked like a simple project is turning into something much larger.

Jeremiah was a prophet in the southern kingdom of Judah in the time leading up their captivity in Babylon. He proclaimed a message which called the people of Judah to repentance and warned them of judgment if they did not. Our verse from Jeremiah encouraged his audience to challenge their hearts and to be wary of trusting their impulses and desires. The problem was that the people of Judah were blind to the deception in their own hearts. Thus, they could not identify their own sin and rejected Jeremiah as a prophet because they did not see that his words were a divine diagnosis of their condition.

The human heart has not changed since Jeremiah prophesied to the people of Judah. Humans are still saddled with hearts which are devious. The only hope for the heart is to have it changed. In the book of Ezekiel we see God's offer, "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). This heart transplant opens up the possibility of a restored relationship with God and our neighbor.

Our trailer is in the tear-down phase. New problems are still being discovered. Yet, at some point it will receive new framing and the places which allowed the intrusion of water will be sealed up. It will be more work than we expected, but that is what happens when you look into the walls. Even with the restored heart that God promised in Ezekiel, not every challenge is fixed. In this world we still struggle with the deceptiveness of our will and desires, but by God's grace our new hearts can hear His challenge and be convicted of our rebellion. Let us walk in humility before the God who died to give us a new heart.

In Christ, *Seth*

EASTER MEAL GRACE

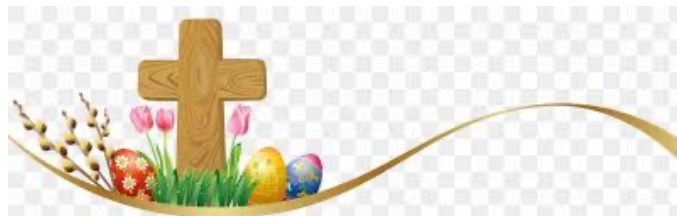
*We are celebrating today, Lord a mixture of hiding colored eggs and angels rolling away stones.
Join us as we gather to share a meal and ponder both, enjoying the one and giving thanks for the other.*

Bless these about the table savoring both the food and the message of this day.

*Remind us, too, Lord of unexpected appearances, that this also is the season of spring,
a time when rebirth is not so surprising after all.*

*Send us after lunch into the yard where, while hiding colored Easter eggs for the children
we may suddenly understand what this day really means.*

- Margaret Anne Huffman -



Easter Day Festivities 2025



We have a long-standing tradition at Emmanuel Church on Easter Sunday, **Flowering of the Cross**. The children of the parish, and visiting children, flower a cross that is displayed near the front of the church during the 10:00 a.m. service. Sunday School teachers will be discussing this with the children.

We ask that families attending bring at least one or more stems (6 inches in length, please) for kids to use to decorate our cross for this lovely activity on Easter. Other members, who don't have children, may also bring flowers with stems 6-inches long. Leave the flowers (already cut to size) in the kitchen by 9:30 a.m.

Our Annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service. As in years past, the Hunt will be (weather permitting) on the two lawns in the front of the Church. The Egg Hunt will be for ALL children attending service that day.

If children would like to bring their own basket or bucket for hunting that's great – we will have bags available as well. In order to accomplish this, we are asking that once the Choir has exited the building, we allow our families with children to make their way (before anyone else departs), to the Choir Room where we will hold the kiddos until all have been gathered.

Can you help with this fun tradition? The many empty plastic eggs recycled from years past will be available for pick up out of boxes on the stage in Buck Hall. Please sign out the number of eggs you take to fill so we know what our expected egg count is for the hunt. There is a helpful [How to Fill the Eggs](#) description for you to take home.



We hope to have the eggs filled with a variety of goodies, not just candy. Oriental Trading Company and the Dollar Store in town are great, inexpensive resources. If you plan early enough, Oriental Trading Company ships quickly. Each small piece of candy should be individually wrapped and must not include peanut butter or peanuts! Please bring them back to the stage and place them in the box for filled eggs by Easter Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.



There will be an **Easter Reception** in Buck Hall following each service. If you would like to contribute something to share, please bring a sweet or savory item (or both) already prepared and ready to set on the table. Please use your nicest plates or platters for this Easter Sunday Celebration! If your item needs a serving utensil, bring your own. You are welcome to bring something to share for both services or just for the one you attend.

Sign up on the Easter Sign-Up Sheet posted in Buck Hall. We encourage you to bring your delicious donations. Let's make this the best Easter Reception!



Share our Church with your loved-ones and friends. Be sure to invite your family and friends to attend our Easter services at Emmanuel.

Remember, you can help by:

- ❖ Checking out and filling eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- ❖ Bringing freshly cut flowers on a six-inch stem for the children's Flowering of the Cross.
- ❖ Providing sweets or savories on your nicest plates/platters for the 8 or 10 o'clock services, or both.
- ❖ Tell your family and friends about our Easter Day Festivities schedule.

LiNC NEWS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Calling all volunteers! LiNC, Love in Nevada County, is having a Kick-Off Rally and Dinner for the Spring Community Serve Event on Friday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. at Abundant Life Community Church, 10795 Alta Street in Grass Valley. You can learn more about jobs for volunteers available on that day, meet some future co-laborers, and enjoy a tasty meal. Wahoo! No cooking or schlepping required.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP via email to linccommunityserve@gmail.com. Hope to see you there. Cathy Edger

ST. CATHERINE'S GUILD

All ladies are invited to the first Victorian Christmas Faire meeting at 11:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 8** in Frank Buck Hall. Come to share ideas and help plan for another successful fair to be held the first full weekend in November. Gloryanne Bryant has agreed to chair and coordinate this event once again.



Then stay or come for the guild meeting beginning at noon. It's National Library Week so come prepared to share the name of your favorite book. Bring one of your favorite salads for a big salad bar lunch. There will be yummy lemon bars for dessert. Call Carey at 530-277-5970 or send an email to jimdaly@comcast.net to say you'll be there.

THE MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST MEETING

Our next meeting is on **Saturday, April 12** at 8:30 a.m. All men of Emmanuel Church are welcome. Please come for pastries, coffee, and great fellowship.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Spence Strictley at 530-205-0937 or Email at sstrict14@gmail.com

EMMANUEL WOMEN'S SILENT RETREAT

All women of Emmanuel Church are invited to join us for a two-day Silent Retreat at the Monastery of Our Lady of New Clairvaux, a Benedictine monastery in Vina, California, from June 20 through June 22. The cost for the weekend is \$200 per person. Space is limited and there are only a few spaces left. If you would like to attend, please contact Carol Fegte or Deacon Karen for details and to reserve a room.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend an inward prayer time in a serene setting, punctuated by participation in the monk's circle of the Daily Hour.

Carol Fegte 530-432-0659/Deacon Karen 714-501-2763

07 Julie Barker	19 Ruth Barsotti
10 Barbara Colborn	21 Gregg Lefferts
13 Paul Keasberry	21 Pat Wolff
13 Lorraine Lingonis	25 Kari Stehmeyer
16 Cathy Edger	25 Gilda Buchanan
16 Grace Dolan	26 Bob Kennedy
16 Darryl Welborne	30 DonnaJo Woollen
16 Tom Benoit	

FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCES

Actual February Revenue	31,838.71
Budgeted February Revenue	35,730.00
Actual February Expenses	37,450.89
Budgeted February Expenses	35,730.00
February Net	<5,612.18>
2025 Total Revenue	70,932.14
2025 Total Expenses	70,781.84
2025 Year-To-Date Net	150.00

CELEBRATE EMMANUEL'S 170 YEARS WITH A CHURCH COOKBOOK



We are collecting your favorite recipes for a new church cookbook. Bring your best-loved recipes – *lots of recipes* - and place them in the basket in the foyer of Buck Hall, or email them (pdf) to Millie at themadhouse86@gmail.com as soon as possible. Add your name to the recipe so we will know who to thank when we try your recipe. Include recipes that you rely on for company, comfort food, passed-down family recipes, holiday favorites, etc.

If you have questions, please phone Millie at 530-265-3112 or email themadhouse86@gmail.com. Thank you!

CAN YOU DO IT?

Things are tight everywhere. With an alarming uptick in usership, and diminishing donations, Interfaith Food Ministry is facing many challenges. The latest on the menu is the unavailability of reasonably priced canned goods, which go into bags available once a month to families. These bags contain soup, fruit, vegetables and beans. Right now, it is difficult to find vendors who will provide these canned goods at a good price.



Please, please bring in cans of beans, soup, vegetables, and fruits so we can help fill these bags! And, in addition to this need, don't stop there. There is no law against giving a cash donation as well. Thank you in advance for your continuing generosity. Carol Fegte 530-432-0659 cfegte@yahoo.com

EMMANUEL FLOWER GUILD



The Emmanuel Flower Guild invites you to contribute toward flowers and plants for Easter in honor of your loved ones. Complete the form included in this newsletter and put it with your donation in the Offering Plate on Sunday mornings, through the office door, or mail it to Emmanuel Church, 235 South Church Street, Grass Valley CA 95945. Donations for flowers help beautify the Church to the Glory of God and support the ministry of the Flower Guild.

Please make your check payable to Emmanuel Church and specify "Easter Flowers" on the Memo line. ***The deadline for your donation is Sunday, April 13.*** Thank you in advance for your generosity.

GOOD FRIDAY AND HOT CROSS BUNS

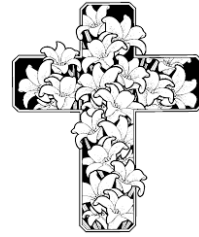
Good Friday is the most solemn day in the Christian calendar. It has been observed with fasting and prayer from the very early days of the Church. Tertullian, writing at the end of the second century, confirms that Christians kept the Good Friday fast strictly and conscientiously. In the year 321 the Emperor Constantine issued a decree making Good Friday a day of rest.

The day has a variety of names. The early Christians called it the Paschal Day, and later, the Day of Preparation and the Day of Absolution. The Eastern Church calls it Great Friday. At one time the English name for it was Long Friday, probably from the lengthy Church services, and it is still called that in Denmark and Sweden. In German, the name is Sorrowful Friday, and in the romance languages it is Holy Friday. The origin of the term "Good" is not clear, though some claim it is from "God's Friday."

Since Good Friday is a day of strict fasting, there are few foods associated with the day. One exception is the hot cross bun, a small brown bun with a cross of white sugar icing on the top. For centuries, families in England ate hot cross buns for breakfast on Good Friday morning. Bakers still offer them for sale on Good Friday in some parts of the United States.

Usually the buns, which we now buy on Good Friday, have been baked the day before in order to be ready for sale on that day. The old belief, however, was that the buns had to be baked on Good Friday itself. The fact that they were prepared on the day Christ died seemed to give them almost magical properties. Some people kept hot cross buns all year in the belief that they protected the house from fire. Others even ground the buns into powder and used them as medicine. Such old superstitions have disappeared, but the buns still survive here and there, with the cross on them to remind us that Jesus died on Good Friday. – From Thy Bounty, Cathedral Book Store

FLOWERING OF THE CROSS, AN EMMANUEL TRADITION



Any symbol is an arbitrary sign that has acquired significance over the ages, and Easter, also known as Resurrection Sunday, is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Hence, the significance of the Easter Cross is very high in the Christian religious faith.

However, this cross was originally the symbol of Crucifixion and not Resurrection. But at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Constantine declared the Holy Cross to be the official symbol of Christianity. The cross not only became the symbol of Easter, but was also used all around the year as a symbol of undying faith.

There can be no Easter without Good Friday and no Resurrection without the Crucifixion. Indeed, the cross rather than the empty tomb has held the place of honor as the primary symbol of the Christian faith. Christian art certainly has many examples of the cross as an instrument of suffering and death, but some of the earliest depictions of the cross emphasize its life-giving qualities. The flowering of the cross is found in Christian art as early as the fifth century and is based on a legend that says that the cross itself burst into bloom at the moment that Jesus died.

What is the significance of the Episcopal flowering of the cross? The flowering of the cross can be traced back to the 6th Century. It represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of His resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol. It is a striking and beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death of Jesus on Good Friday.

There are many adaptations of this symbol. They center on a rough-cut wooden cross, which can be of various sizes, but a full sized cross six to seven feet high is most impressive. This cross is usually erected at the front of the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday or on Palm Sunday. If it is erected on Ash Wednesday, it can also be used as a Prayer Cross throughout Lent with a crown of thorns made of thorny vines. On Good Friday the cross is draped in black, the color of mourning for the death of Jesus.

At Emmanuel our tradition is to have the children of the church, and all children who are visiting with family and friends, bring a fresh cut flower to the front of the church to decorate our version of the cross during the service. If gardens are in bloom, everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring fresh cut flowers with stems up to six inches long to be shared with our many children who look forward to this long-standing tradition. Bringing fresh cut flowers from home is a wonderful offering in honor of the risen Lord, and can also provide an opportunity for

families to talk about the meaning of the cross and the resurrection.

The contrast between the starkly bare cross that worshippers see when they enter church on Easter Sunday to the living, flowered cross dramatically and visually represents the new life that we are celebrating after witnessing the very instrument of death and endings transformed by Christ's rising.

SOUP SUPPER AND LENTEN STUDY

The Soup Suppers and the study of The Apostles Creed continues on Thursday evenings beginning at 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. through Thursday, April 10. Sign up on the bulletin board on Sundays or call the church office to bring soup and bread and to attend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent we will be offering Stations of the Cross each Friday at noon and again at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come journey with Jesus to the Cross. The Stations of the Cross continues through April 14.



PALM SUNDAY, Sunday of the Passion: April 13 at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. The service begins in Buck Hall. This service commemorates the entrance of Christ into Jerusalem before His arrest.

TENEBRAE, a service of Prayer and Shadows, begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, April 16. The ensuing darkness during this service is symbolic of the darkness that covered the land when our Lord died.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, is a service with foot washing and stripping of the Altar. This service is also called Holy Thursday during which Christians recall the events that took place the night Jesus was betrayed.

GOOD FRIDAY, begins at noon on Friday, April 18. This service recalls the traditional time that our Lord was nailed to the Cross.

EASTER VIGIL, also called Holy Saturday, will begin at 7:00 p.m. on April 19. This service is celebrated in the spirit of expectation that Christ will one day reappear in glory and claim us as His own and lead us to our Promised Land.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20, there will be a service at 8 a.m. and again at 10 a.m. with the children Flowering the Cross. The service is followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. A Reception and Celebration follows each service in Frank Buck Hall.

*Be present at our table, Lord,
be here and everywhere adored.
Bless thy creatures great and small,
watch over us all, family and friends.
Sustain us with this wonderful meal,
and guide us to see and give love
each and every day.
Amen*

VISITATION TO BRET HARTE RETIREMENT INN

For the past two month an Emmanuel parishioner has visited the Bret Harte Retirement Inn to share Emmanuel's video stream during the 10 o'clock service. We bring a Home Communion Kit, which contains consecrated hosts and wine, to share communion with the residents who come down to the lobby to participate in the service. It would be great to have one or two more volunteers for this enriching and rewarding ministry.

If you would be willing to join us, we would love your help. Please contact Carol Fegte for further details at 530-432-0659 or speak to her at church.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

February and March have been busy months with The Men's Club Crab Feed in February and the Shrove Tuesday Waffle Sale in March. Both events were a huge success.

Be sure to keep track of Emmanuel's 170th Anniversary celebration. It is our history that brings the Church to what it is today.

New members of Emmanuel met on Sunday, March 16th with a great turnout. Be sure to welcome those new church members.

With some extra quarterly payments in February, the first two months of the year are in the black. Let's all try to maintain in that direction for the rest of 2025.

The Vestry is focusing on the organizational chart and changes that might be needed, continuing to access staffing needs, monitoring church finances, and considering Church buildings and grounds maintenance.

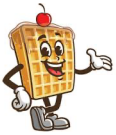
The Church website is being updated by Kathi Olson. Log on if you haven't looked at it. It is impressive.
Ray Gearheart, Senior Warden

What can you stuff Easter eggs with besides candy?



There are numerous ideas for small toys that you could fill eggs with: bouncy balls, small craft items, Play-Doh, tiny cars, mini kazoo's, hand stamps, stickers, toy accessories, mini rubber ducks, fake bugs, mini bubbles, or just for fun - confetti!

SHROVE TUESDAY WAFFLE SALE



On behalf of St. Catherine's Guild, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the parishioners who participated in this fundraising event. Your family donation, time, effort, and support were invaluable to our success and made a real difference in achieving our goal to help twelve non-profit organizations, and Fr. Seth's Discretionary Fund, meet their needs to serve the community and parish.

I gratefully appreciate everyone who worked before the sale cleaning and setting up and during the day of the sale. Although everyone was stellar, I would like to point out one family in particular. The whole diCristina family worked together during the evening. Jon and Frances worked in the kitchen behind the counter taking and passing out orders. Their lovely daughter, Julia aged 14, worked again this year as a waitress. She is efficient, delightful, and lovely. Stealing the show were Alex and Bobby, aged 10. They were truly amazing. I sat with lifelong friends and they remarked how capable the two young boys were. They brought smiles to customers all around the room.

A special thank you goes to Marty Lombardi. He works with youth in the community, helping them find opportunities to earn service hours and much, much more. On behalf of the guild, I want to express my deep gratitude for the dedicated work he does with and for the young people he brought to our rescue when we didn't have the necessary number of workers for the evening shift. They were a wonderful addition to the event.

Finally, I want to convey my sincere regard to the few people remaining to clean up after everyone else left. Marnie Ratkovsky finished cleaning the waffle table and waffle irons before joining those in the kitchen to work more. Carey Daly and Paul Hauck were here, there, and everywhere working and working. Evan Murray washed so many dishes and "all the things", and continued until the last bubble went down the drain and then walked Marnie and I to our cars. What a blessing these people were. The waffle sale was a success this year!

PERSONAL MEMORIAL AND BEQUEST INFORMATION BOOKLET

To help you plan ahead in making decisions for your funeral or memorial service, Emmanuel has created the Personal Memorial and Bequest Information Booklet. Filling this out in advance will ensure that you can help plan your own service, and at the same time, eliminate some of this burden from your loved ones during their time of sorrow. Ask for a copy in the church office, fill it out, and return it. The office will keep it on file.

The following is included in this booklet:

- Basic information – birth date, place of birth, date of baptism, etc.
- Space for a brief personal history
- Date and place of marriage
- Instructions for a funeral or memorial service
- Psalms, Lessons, Hymns you prefer
- Pall bearers
- Disposition of your body
- Comments or information for survivors
- Who to notify of your passing
- Bequest information
- Will there be a reception to follow? Where?
- Suggestions for someone to settle your estate if not provided for in a Will or Trust

Please note: These opportunities will not be held during Holy Week

EMMANUEL HEALING SERVICE

Emmanuel offers a service of Healing each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 on Zoom
Thursday mornings in Buck Hall at 11:00 a.m.

MEN'S WEEKLY GATHERING

All men of Emmanuel are welcome to meet with the group Online on Thursday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Join us for fellowship, prayer, and spiritual growth. For more information speak to Fr. Seth.

Look for the answers for the 170th Celebration historical questions in the May issue of The Messenger.



EMMANUEL'S MESSENGER

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Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, Phone 530-273-7876
Email emmanuelgv@sbcglobal.net Website www.emmanuelgv.org

VESTRY

Senior Warden

Ray Gearheart 530-559-7872
Email rgearheart1@gmail.com

Junior Warden

Cathy Edger 415-328-7772 Email cedgerl@gmail.com

Vestry Members

Barbara Coborn Email barbara.colborn15@gmail.com

Jim Daly 530-274-7804 Email jimdaly@comcast.net

Toni DeRego 530-432-3904 Email jderego@comcast.net

Al Lehmkuhl 908-279-3233 Email jalehmkuhl@aol.com

Barbara Neely 760-533-6210 Email neely@digitalpath.net

Chris Shelton 530-273-5227

Email ctshelton9625@gmail.com

Spence Strickley 530-205-0937 Email srstric14@gmail.com

Clerk of Vestry Debra Wicks 530-268-1472

Acting Treasurer Roxanna Parker 530-559-3106

Email roxparker4@gmail.com

Please DO NOT forward “junk” mail to Vestry Members

STAFF

The Reverend Seth Kellermann, Rector

Cell 615-8545 Email frsethk@gmail.com

The Reverend Canon Mary Hauck, Priest Associate

432-2537 Email canonhauck@gmail.com

The Reverend Karen Hoida, 714-501-2763

karen@hoida.net

Music Director/Organist Thomas Greathouse

702-355-8838 Email thomgreathouse@gmail.com

Debbie Thaten, Church Secretary

Office 530-273-7876

Millie Beatie, Editor of The Messenger

530-265-3112 Email themadhouse86@gmail.com

MESSENGER DEADLINE – Please submit your articles by the 3rd Sunday. Include your name, phone number or Email address. Send to Millie at themadhouse86@gmail.com



2025

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
235 South Church Street
Grass Valley CA 9594

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