

EMMANUEL'S MESSENGER, JANUARY 2026

Emmanuel's Mission Statement: To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

FROM THE RECTOR

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Isaiah 1:18

The New Year is upon us. Each new year is another opportunity to start afresh, so many of us will try to pick up a new positive habit to influence a change in our lives. I love the idea of a fresh start, and apparently, so does God.

The hope of a new start is embedded in our faith. We can see it here in our passage from Isaiah, where God speaks to His people in Judah and Jerusalem. His words for them are difficult to hear. God tells them, "Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow," (Isaiah 1:16-17). Israel had become just like their neighbors, even incorporating foreign religious practices. They were turning away from God, and though they still completed the obligations of their religious practices in the Temple, their hearts were far from God. This led them to forget about the calling to care for the oppressed, fatherless, and widows.

But God offered them a chance to start afresh. "Come now, let us settle the matter... Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." God was going to cleanse them of the stain of their sin. How would this happen? Was it going to be through an effort to exchange their bad behaviors for good ones? Certainly, God did call them to change what they were doing, but that wouldn't make them clean; it would just prevent them from getting dirtier. The people needed God to cleanse them from their past. They needed God to give them a fresh start. Though they did not understand it, Jesus was going to do this impossible task for them. His sacrifice was going to wash over them and make them clean.

This January, we are presented with a new opportunity to start afresh. This is a wonderful thing, but in the midst of our changes to habits and routines, let us remember the true fresh start which God can offer us and turn to Him to have our sins washed away. Then, as redeemed people, let us remember the oppressed, fatherless, and the widow, loving them as God has loved us.

In Christ, *Seth*



Starting the new year with a new perspective involves mental resets, setting meaningful intentions (not just resolutions), practicing gratitude, learning from the past, embracing change, focusing on mindfulness and quality experiences over quantity, and finding small, everyday moments for a healthier, happier, more connected year.

**STEWARDSHIP 2026
UPDATE AND FINAL APPEAL**

As of December 7th, we have received 71 giving forms totaling \$274,180 in pledges and \$34,135 in Endowment Fund Loan Repayment. This is out of 190 mailings. Pledge amounts received are up by 12%. Thank you to those that have turned in a pledge form.

Last year, we ended our stewardship campaign with 72 pledges totaling \$282,052. If you have not completed a giving form, there are forms in the Narthex and in Buck Hall. You can place them in the plate, drop them off, or mail them to the office. You may also complete the form online located on the church website.

Keep in mind, your pledge is an estimate. Things happen and we understand if you are not able to fulfill this pledge. We really need to hear from the parish, as the Vestry has begun the challenge of determining the 2026 budget.

If we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. In Christ, Co-Chairs for 2026:

Spence Strickley	Al Lehmkuhl
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NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning January 1st, the secretary's office hours will change to Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is due to budgetary adjustments and changing staffing needs to support the mission of the church. Emmanuel Church Vestry

NOVEMBER 2025 FINANCES

Actual November Revenue	37,957.59
Budgeted November Revenue	35,730.00
Actual November Expenses	36,120.23
Budgeted November Expenses	35,730.00
November Net	1,837.36
2025 Total Revenue	367,198.61
2025 Total Expenses	386,629.25
2025 Year-to-date Net	<19,430.64>

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



06 Christian Tonn	14 Toni DeRego
08 Page Brown	18 Whitney Murphy
11 Carol Scofield	23 Christine Shelton
11 Julia diCristina	28 Paula Kehoe

**MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST MEETING
Saturday, January 10TH**



fellowship.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, January 10th at 8:30 a.m. All men of Emmanuel Church are welcome. Please come for donuts and coffee and enjoy great

ST. CATHERINE'S GUILD



All ladies are invited to the first Guild meeting of the new year on January 13th at noon in Frank Buck Hall. Marah Deflavia will be speaking to us about the work done by Community Beyond Violence, where survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are supported, engaged, and empowered.

There will also be an update on the Peace stained-glass window, and discussion of the Guild's 2026 budget.

Lunch will be a New Year tradition of scalloped potatoes & ham, along with sides – salad, bread and dessert – that ladies can bring. How about trying a NEW recipe in the NEW year? We can all be your guinea pigs, and excited to try new things!

You can reach Carey Daly at (530)277-5970 or jimdaly@comcast.net

to let her know what you'd like to bring.

PS: Have you been thinking about a New Year's resolution?

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

May the New Year bring you joy, peace, and abundant blessings. Here's to looking back in gratitude for the past year and looking forward to new beginnings! Amen.

THE MESSENGER IS GOING ELECTRONIC

Beginning in February, Emmanuel's monthly newsletter will be sent electronically using the Saturday E-Newsletter distribution list.

If you are not receiving this weekly email, please contact the parish office with your email address. For those who would like a printed copy, a limited amount will be available at the Connect Table in Buck Hall.

This change is part of the Vestry's effort to reduce annual expenses in 2026. - Emmanuel Church Vestry

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark the page in your new calendar. Emmanuel's Annual Meeting will be held on February 1, 2026.

SHROVE TUESDAY WAFFLE SALE

Tuesday, February 17

Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, is early this year. We will begin calling you, asking you're help, early in January.

This event, sponsored by St. Catherine's Guild, began in 1916. Not many local churches or organizations, can boast holding an event with such a long history.

St. Catherine's guild holds two major fund-raising events each year. One is the Christmas fair and the other is the waffle sale. The money raised goes to support Emmanuel needs, the Mexico Mission-Clinical Filadelfia, and several non-profit organizations in our community.

The waffle sale is staffed not only by the women of the church, but with our men's help, too.

Please, say YES when you are asked to volunteer. There are two shifts. One is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the second one is from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30. There is a special need for help to set up on Sunday, February 15 before, and help to clean up and pack up at 7:30 p.m. as soon as customers leave. There are various ways in which you can offer your time and talent.

If you have questions, please phone me at 530-265-3112, or email themadhouse86@gmail.com I'll see you in the foyer in Buck Hall! Millie

CEMETERY GRAVE SITE FOR SALE

Emmanuel Church received a cemetery plot at New Elm Ridge Cemetery, which is located in Grass Valley on Kidder Avenue off of Bennett Street. Hooper and Weaver owns and maintains this cemetery and currently sells burial plots for \$4,500. We are asking \$3,000. There is also a \$100 transfer fee.

If you are interested, please contact me for further information. Spence Strickley, (530) 205-0937 or srstric14@gmail.com

ATTENTION KNITTERS!

We are starting a new knitting group at Emmanuel on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the St. Cecilia's Room (inside the church). New knitters, as well as old-time knitters, are most welcome. Please come and see if this new activity is for you.

Also, I have received no notice about the IFM Holiday Food for Families program, but I know it will probably be launched this week. I'll keep you posted about that. Carol Fegte

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Four thousand years ago, the ancient Babylonians made resolutions part of their New Year's celebrations. While two of the most popular present-day promises

might be to lose weight and to stop smoking, the Babylonians had their own two favorites: to pay off outstanding debts and to return all borrowed farming tools and household utensils!

EPIPHANY AND THE KING'S CAKE



It was during the reign of Roman emperor Aurelian, in the late 3rd century, that December 25, the winter solstice of the Julian calendar, was declared to be the official birthday of the divinity *sol invictus*, the Invincible Sun. Soon afterward the Church seized the day for its own.

In the story of the Epiphany, as related in the gospel of Matthew, "three wise men from the east visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem on the twelfth day following his birth. An epiphany is a manifestation, and January 6th became the day appointed by the Church to celebrate the revelation of Christ's divinity to mankind.

In the 4th century, the western world's most influential preacher, St. Augustine romanticized and embellished the story of the Epiphany. The gift-bearing wise men became "kings," and the Feast of the Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas, evolved into a major holiday imbued with royal associations.

Medieval monarchs would don their finest regalia, maybe even wager in a game of dice. Presents were given to children to commemorate the gifts given by the kings to the baby Jesus. In the great houses of Europe, the holiday became a glittering finale to a 12-day Christmas cycle, with elaborate entertainments featuring conjurers, acrobats, jugglers, harlequins and other humorous characters – notable among them the Lord of Misrule, whose task was to organize the festivities. In England, where the seasonal extravaganzas might include elaborate allegorical dramas called masques, that paid homage to the monarch as a guardian of the state and a provider of peace and prosperity, he often was appointed on November 1, All Saints' Day, to allow him time to prepare. His reign lasted throughout the 12 days of Christmas and sometimes even extended to the traditional feast day that serves as the overture to Lent - Shrove Tuesday.

While Twelfth Night customs that spread throughout Europe were subject to numerous variations, one element transcended virtually every culture that observed the holiday - the choice of a mock king for the occasion. He was chosen in various ways, but often a cake would be divided. The person who found a bean or a coin in his piece was the lucky king for the night. Sometimes he picked his own queen, sometimes chance chose her for him, and a pea secreted in the cake conferred the honor on its finder. The temporary change in status was sustained with ceremony: the king was given a crown, the

authority to call the toasts and lead the drinking, and sometimes, the more dubious privilege of paying the bill on the morning after.

Cake and King were thus linked together as good-luck charms for the coming year. The cake, the bean, and the pea were emblems of fertility and harvest, health and prosperity. The King's brief reign spanned the turn from one year to the next, and in his topsy-turvy kingdom, conventions were triumphantly defied.

Many changes occurred to the customs of Twelfth Night festivities through the centuries from its inception. In England, the century between 1760 and 1860 marked the heyday of Twelfth Night giving way to the Christmas tree, Christmas cards, and traditions of "bringing home the yule log", hanging of the holly, and kissing beneath the mistletoe. The traditional Twelfth Night cake was replaced by a full-blown Christmas dinner with a large plum pudding. But in Continental Europe, where the Roman Empire left a more lasting legacy, the ancient traditions associated with the winter solstice and Epiphany endured. The ritual of hiding a tiny treasure in the celebratory cake was, indeed, a symbolic reenactment of Epiphany. In France, the bean – *la fève* – was eventually replaced by a bean-sized baby Jesus; its discovery commemorated the discovery of Jesus' divinity by the Magi.

Legend has it that the cakes were made in the shape of a ring and colorfully decorated to resemble a jeweled crown. The cake was topped with a delicious glazed topping and then sprinkled with colored sugar. The three colors of the sugar were Purple (representing Justice), Green (representing Faith), and Gold (representing Power). It became a tradition to serve the cake with a paper or cardboard crown on top. Whenever found, the person finding the hidden trinket would get to wear the crown and choose a consort.

The cakes themselves have changed through the years. The almond-paste-filled pastry puff that's traditionally associated with northern France, and the *gâteau des Rois* enjoyed by the old Creole gentry in New Orleans, can still be found at some specialty bakeries. But by far the most popular style of king cake these days has more in common with the Bordeaux Twelfth Night cake of southern France, the *couronne*, which is made from brioche dough.

At Emmanuel, following each church service on January 5th, a King's Cake will be served in Buck Hall. Come see who finds the small treasure this year!

MOMENTS WITH GOD

*Happy Moments, Praise God
Difficult Moments, seek God
Quiet Moments, worship God
Painful Moments, trust God
Every Moment, thank God!*

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

Coffee and Fellowship Hour is a time enjoyed by all parishioners. There is a coffee hour after the 8:00 o'clock service and a coffee hour after the 10:00 o'clock service in Buck Hall with lots of goodies to enjoy. If you would like to participate, there is a list of group leaders and their phone numbers on the bulletin board in Buck Hall. Just give them a call. Or, if you are interested in starting your own group, please call Adrienne Ybarrondo at 530-913-1773 for the 8:00 a.m. service and Pam Hall at 530-305-0569 for the 10:00 a.m. service. Thank you.



If you are celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, or other special event that you would like to share with your fellow parishioners, you are welcome to bring a cake, cupcakes, or other item to share at the Fellowship hour following the service that you attend.

SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar Flowers
Our flower ministry is committed to presenting beautiful bouquets each Sunday and they are funded by the donations which we make to sponsor flowers for each Sunday.

Do you have a birthday or anniversary coming up that you would like to celebrate by donating to the flowers which grace the altar on Sundays? Our flower ministry is committed to presenting beautiful bouquets each Sunday and they are funded by the donations which we make to sponsor flowers for each Sunday.

If you would like to sign up to have a loved one or a special event remembered in the church bulletin made visible with flowers, the sign-up sheet is on the wall in Frank Buck Hall. Choose your special date. The suggested donation is \$35 but you are welcome to offer more if you like. The additional money does not make a larger bouquet, but it helps to fill any empty days. Contact the church office (530-273-7876) with any questions or to sign up remotely. Thank you! - The Flower Guild



New Cookbook for Sale! *Thinking of purchasing a last-minute Christmas gift? Do you need ideas for hosting a holiday gathering?* If you are looking for a cookbook that contains great recipes at your fingertips, visit with Millie in Buck Hall between services.

The new cookbook contains recipes for breakfast on-the-run, recipes for one to six, recipes for brunch for a bunch including muffins, sweet breads, coffee cakes, waffles, hotcakes, French toast, puffed pancakes, strata, quiche, breakfast casseroles,

and more. There are also recipes for sandwiches, soups, chowders, chili and stew.

The first cookbook contains recipes for desserts, appetizers, tea parties, beverages (non-alcoholic and alcoholic) for one, a few, and a variety of punch recipes to serve many.

The first cookbook is priced at \$24.00 and was paid for by St. Catherine's Guild. The second cookbook is priced at cost for \$20.00.

HISTORY OF THE TOURNAMENT OF ROSES ASSOCIATION

What began as a small effort by Pasadena's distinguished Valley Hunt Club to promote the city's charm and beautiful weather, the Tournament of Roses has since become America's New Year Celebration. In the winter of 1890, the club members brainstormed ways to promote the "Mediterranean of the West."



"In New York, people are buried in snow," announced Professor Charles F. Holder at the Hunt Club meeting, "Here our flowers are blooming and our oranges are about to bear. Let's hold a festival to tell the world about our paradise." They invited their East Coast neighbors to a mid-winter holiday, where they could watch games such as chariot races, jousting, foot races, polo, and tug-of-war under the warm California sun. The games on the town lot (which was re-named Tournament Park in 1900) included ostrich races, bronco busting demonstrations, and a race between a camel and an elephant (the elephant won!). In 1895, the Tournament of Roses Association was formed to take charge of the festival, which had grown too large for the Valley Hunt Club to handle.

The abundance of fresh flowers, even in the midst of winter, prompted the club to add another showcase for Pasadena's charm: a parade to precede the competition, where entrants would decorate their carriages with hundreds of blooms. During the next few years, the festival expanded to include marching bands and motorized floats. Reviewing stands were built along the parade route, and Eastern newspapers began to take notice of the event. In 1895, the Tournament of Roses Association was formed to take charge of the festival, which had grown too large for the Valley Hunt Club to handle. A football game was added in 1902 to attract more visitors, leading to the Rose Bowl Game.

The Tournament of Roses has come a long way since its early days. The Rose Parade's elaborate floats now feature high-tech computerized animation and

natural materials from around the world. Although a few floats are still built exclusively by volunteers from their sponsoring communities, most are built by professional float building companies and take nearly a year to construct. The year-long effort pays off on New Year's morning, when millions of viewers around the world enjoy the Rose Parade.

More than 80,000 hours of combined manpower is supplied by 935 volunteer members of the Tournament of Roses Association. Each volunteer is assigned to one of 31 committees, with responsibilities ranging from selecting parade participants to directing visitors on New Year's Day, to serving food to band members at the end of the parade route, to giving presentations about the Tournament to community groups. Nicknamed "White Suiters" because of the distinctive white uniform every volunteer wears, these community-spirited men and women give up their evenings, weekends and holidays to ensure the success of the Parade and Game. A small full-time staff provides support and continuity to the volunteer organization.

What are the rules for the Rose Parade floats? Rose Parade float requirements mandate that every exposed surface must be covered in natural materials like flowers, seeds, and bark, following the annual theme, with strict rules on size (under 14 ft tall), materials (no dyed elements), and construction requiring extensive volunteer work (thousands of hours) and adherence to safety standards for design, engineering, and parade presentation

What is the average cost of a Rose Parade float? Approximately \$275,000. For a high-quality float, design and construction costs vary and generally begin at approximately \$275,000. Costs can be higher or lower depending on sophistication of design, degree of animation and the variety of floral materials. The Tournament considers floats with both smaller and larger budgets.

The theme for the 2026 Rose Parade is "The Magic in Teamwork," chosen by President Mark Leavens to highlight the power of collaboration, community unity, and achieving greater things together, inspired by local efforts and everyday support systems in the Pasadena area. This theme celebrates how individuals, organizations, and volunteers unite for shared success, seen in community recovery, volunteerism, and inspiring stories from participants like Shriners Children's and The UPS Store.



EMMANUEL'S MESSENGER

Published Monthly by Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Established 1855
235 South Church Street, Grass Valley CA 95945, Volume 32 Issue 1
Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, Phone 530-273-7876
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