

A Grace for the New Year

Dear God, thank you for all the exciting things this New Year will bring. Thank you for the chance to make changes and set positive goals. Please help me to keep trying even when I fail. Thank you for a fresh start each day. And thank you for this meal, for my family and those gathered together. Amen

**THE MEN’S CLUB BREAKFAST MEETING
Saturday, January 11th**

Our next meeting is on Saturday, January 11th at 8:30 a.m. All men of Emmanuel Church are welcome. Please come for pastries and coffee and enjoy great fellowship.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Spence Strickley at 530-205-0937 or srstric14@gmail.com.

**SAINT CATHERINE’S GUILD
Tuesday, January 14th
11:45 AM in Frank Buck Hall**

All ladies are invited to the Guild meeting at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14th in Frank Buck Hall. Enjoy a time to meet and greet each other before the meeting starting at noon. We’ll be hearing from Lorraine Larson, Executive Director of Nevada County Habitat for Humanity. She said the Guild’s support is a huge help making a real difference in the lives of local families. Lorraine comes for our Shrove Tuesday waffles and Victorian Christmas Faire, this year she purchased jams, two baskets, and shortbread this year!

Lunch together will again be special with Hoppin’ John, cornbread, and ring-shaped dessert all, according to legend, bring good luck in the new year. RSVPs are very much appreciated, and you can let Carey know you’ll be there by either calling her at 530/277-5970 or sending an email to jimdaly@comcast.net.

Looking forward to seeing you! Carey Daly, Guild President

**EMMANUEL CHURCH CRAB FEED
AND PASTA TOO!
Saturday, February 15, 2025**



The annual Men’s Club crab feed will be on Saturday, February 15th. All parishioners, their family, and friends are invited to the crab feed fellowship and fundraiser. There is only one seating at 5:30 p.m. in Buck Hall. Sign up early to reserve your seat!

We will be serving fresh crab with melted butter and cocktail sauce, spaghetti with marinara sauce, mixed green salad with Italian dressing, French bread and butter, vanilla ice cream and beverages. The cost is \$50.00 per person 12 years and older and \$30 for kids 6-11. Kids 5 and under are free.

There is also a vegetarian option of pasta and salad for \$20 per person 12 and older and \$10 for kids 6-11. Kids 5 and under are free.

Tickets will be on sale after each service in Buck Hall starting January 19th through February 9th. Spence Strickley 530-205-0937/srstric14@gmail.com

Dear Emmanuel Congregation,



Immediately following the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the cemetery in December, the owners of the wreath company will declare a 2 for 1 period for one month. So, until January 14th you can buy two wreaths for \$17.00 and 4 for \$34.00, etc. for the 2025 year. If you purchase wreaths now you can double your order at a reduced price, and your order will be completed for next December

You can give Sally Knutson a check or cash. Make checks to Wreaths Across America. If you still have this year's card with the QR code on it, you can use that, but be sure you go to the Grass Valley, Saint Patrick's website so Emmanuel will be credited with your purchase.

Again, I thank you so very much for your support. I am blessed to have you as my friends. - Sally Knutson Wreaths Across America Co-Chairman DAR

NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCES

Actual November Revenue	36,923.47
Budgeted November Revenue	33,117.00
Actual November Expenses	31,452.15
Budgeted November Expenses	33,117.00
November Net	5,471.32
2024 Total Revenue	361,717.87
2024 Total Expenses	364,272.04
2024 Year-to-date Net	<2,554.17>

JANUARY BIRTHDAY



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 02 JT Stehmeyer | 11 Julia diCristina |
| 06. Christian Tonn | 14 Toni DeRego |
| 08 Felix Windz | 23 Christine Shelton |
| 08 Page Brown | 28 Paula Kehoe |
| 11 Carol Scofield | |

EPIPHANY CAKE

We will celebrate Epiphany at Emmanuel on January 5th following each of the Sunday services one day before the actual day of Epiphany. Please join us on Sunday, January 5th to find out if you will be King or Queen for the day!

Find out more about Epiphany later in the newsletter.

EMMANUEL'S ANNUAL MEETING



Please come to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2nd following the 10:00 a.m. service. For those attending the 8. o'clock service, we hope you will return for the meeting.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

At the November Vestry meeting, the subject of replacing the four HVAC units that were the same age as the two units that were replaced in the Chapel a month before (that were beyond repair) was discussed. They were all considerably over their life expectancy. With upcoming new EPA regulations effective January 1st and rising refrigerant costs, the Vestry voted to approve replacing the remaining three units in the church buildings and the unit in the 248 Mill Street building provided monies were raised to completely pay for the projects. We were able to get monies from pledges for Capital Improvement and several donations in addition. None of the Emmanuel's operating funds for 2025 were used.

By replacing all four units in December the Church was able to get a 10% diff the new units discount from the supplier and some grant monies. Work has started and expected to be completed rapidly. Another benefit the church should see in 2025 is reduced utility cost due to the new units being 30 percent more efficient. Thanks to the congregation who helped make this possible thru their donations. A special thank you to our Treasurer Roxanna Parker, who brought this opportunity to the Vestry's attention and personally supported the project.

During December the Vestry will be working on the 2025 operational budget. If a member of the church is interested in attending any of these meetings, please inquire with myself or father Seth. This process takes place after the stewardship pledges are in hand and we can somewhat forecast what the church expenses will be. The budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting to all

Church members on February 2nd 2025. Everyone will want to attend.

The Men's Club will sponsor the annual Crab Feed on February 15th, so mark your calendars and plan on eating some great crab meat. Jerry DeRego is betting on large rabs this season!

Ray Gearheart, Senior Warden

A LESSON IN COMMITMENT

A hen and a pig strolled down the avenue. The hen looked up at the huge billboard advertising ham and eggs. "Look at those magnificent fried eggs with the orange yellow yolks," said the hen. "Look at the fried ham steak," said the pig. They thought for a moment, then the pig spoke, "For you, those eggs were a contribution, but for me the ham was a total commitment." Some make contributions, others are totally committed.

2025 STEWARDSHIP REPORT



Thank you to everyone who turned in their giving form. We are making great progress and have experienced generous giving for next year.

Your Vestry has begun developing a 2025 budget. If you intend to submit a pledge, please complete your giving form now so the Stewardship Committee is able to determine what programs can be provided in 2025.

If you need a giving form, you can find them at the back of the church and in Buck Hall. You may also submit an electronic form within the new Emmanuel website.

We are so blessed and have much to be grateful for at Emmanuel!

Ray Gearheart and Al Lehmkuhl
2025 Stewardship Co-Chairs

SUNDAY SCHOOL – FOR JANUARY

Emmanuel Sunday School is available every Sunday from 10 a.m. to around 10:40 a.m. with a story and program. We invite children, visiting grandchildren, nieces, nephews and others to participate in the Sunday School time, which is held in Buck Hall. The children come to the Church service at the "Passing of the Peace" to join their parents, grandparents, etc.

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

AAA offers the following driving tips:

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions.
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly.
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds.
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill.

If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles can't see yours on the shoulder.

FELLOWSHIP TIME FOLLOWING SERVICES



COFFEE GROUPS DURING 2024 -

The gatherings in Buck Hall after the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services are a grand opportunity to socialize with your fellow members, as well as welcoming new guests. Many church members have formed coffee groups that supply the coffee and lots of delicious foods for both services.

COFFEE GROUPS DURING 2024 – For years the coffee groups for many 8:00 a.m. services have been done by Toni DeRego, Adrienne Ybarrondo, and Chris Shelton. Their kindness and generosity is beyond comparison.

Emmanuel currently has 9 coffee groups for the 10 o'clock services, and we would like to add 2 more groups. The current coffee group leaders are Linda Gearheart, Carol Scofield, JoAnn Lehmkuhl, Gretchen Corbin, Cynthia Strickley, the di Christina Family, Spence Strickley and The Men's Club, Tara Kellermann and the Youth Group, and Carey Daley and Saint Catherine's Guild. The coffee groups serve every 9 weeks.

COFFEE GROUPS FOR 2025 - When you see a Coffee Group working for you, be sure to thank them for their service. To form a new group or to be added to an existing group for the upcoming year, contact Adrienne Ybarrondo at 530-913-1773 for the 8 o'clock service, and Linda Gearheart at 530-913-9466 for the 10 o'clock service.

The 2025 schedule and sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in Buck Hall. Thank you to the 2024 groups. - Linda Gearheart

INTERFAITH FOOD MINISTRY UPDATE



Thank you, Emmanuel, for your continued support of IFM. Please continue to support this very important and hands-on ministry.

You can best do so by:

- Giving money, which is the most efficient way to help. IFM's buying power is stronger than our personal buying power.
- Please continue to donate paper and plastic grocery bags.

There is always room for one more volunteer. Questions? Contact Carol Fegte at 530-432-0659.

WEEKLY MEN'S 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.



EMMANUEL'S HEALING SERVICE

Emmanuel offers a wonderful Healing Service each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. Please join us.

BIBLE STUDIES

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

SPONSOR THE ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar Flowers

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 and made visible with flowers on the Altar, the sign-up sheet is on the wall in Buck Hall. The suggested donation is \$35, but you are welcome to offer more if you like, although the additional money does not make a larger bouquet but goes to fill unsponsored days. Contact the church office (530-273-7876) with any questions or to sign up remotely. Thank you!

PILGRIMAGE: Missionary Journeys of

St. Paul - Registration is open for Missionary Journeys of St. Paul Pilgrimage. We will be following the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys in Greece May 12-23, 2025. We will visit Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Patmos, Berea, Thessalonica, and Meteora. Part of the pilgrimage will be a 3 to 4-day cruise on the Aegean Sea and then the rest will be travel by bus to the



various sites. We hope that you will join us for this amazing opportunity to see the spread of the Gospel in the 1st century. If you have any questions please contact Fr. Seth. He can be reached at (530) 273-7876.



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 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 was 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 tradition 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.

Legend has it that the cakes were made in the shape of a ring and colorfully decorated to resemble a bejeweled 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. Whoever found the hidden trinket would get to wear the crown and choose a consort.

The Epiphany Cake is unforgettable to children and an opportunity to underscore the meaning of Epiphany. A cake studded with candy jewels like a crown, and/or topped by a golden paper crown can help young children understand the Epiphany as the recognition, by the Magi, of the Infant Jesus as Christ the King.



OLD FATHER TIME AND BABY NEW YEAR



Father Time is the anthropomorphized (to give a nonhuman thing a human form or human characteristics) of time. He is usually depicted as an elderly bearded man dressed in a robe and carrying a scythe and an hourglass or other timekeeping device, which represents time's constant one-way movement, and more generally an abstractly, entropy (a measure of the disorder that exists in a system). This image derives from several sources, including the Grim Reaper and Chronos, the Greek Titan of human time, reaping, and calendars, or the Lord of Time.

Around New Year' Eve many editorial cartoons use the convenient trope of Father Time as the personification of the previous year, of "the Old Year" who typically "hands over" the duties of time to the equally allegorical Baby New Year, or "the New Year", or who otherwise characterizes the preceding year.

The Baby New Year is a personification of the start of the New Year, also commonly seen in editorial cartoons. He symbolized the "birth" of the next year and the "passing" of the prior year; in other words, a "rebirth." Baby New Year's purpose varies by myth, but he generally performs some sort of ceremonial duty over the course of his year, such as chronicling the year's events or presiding over the year as a symbol.

The stereotypical representation of Baby New Year is as a baby boy wearing nothing more than a diaper, a top hat and a sash across his torso that shows the year he is representing. He is sometimes depicted holding or associated with an hourglass, a noisemaker, or other item either pertaining to time or New Year's Day festivities. Often, he is not a complete newborn but instead more closely resembles a toddler, because he is frequently shown standing on his own, crawling, or barely walking. He traditionally has blond hair.



FROM THE RECTOR

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. 2 Corinthians 4:8-12

On Saturday, a few of us from the ski team were up in the mountains braving blizzard conditions to seize an opportunity to ski in deep and fresh powder snow. The coming of snow like this is rare and when it arrives a person must go after it immediately before it is skied out or settles. The challenge of this snow is that it is a rare thing and it takes considerable skill to be able to enjoy it. When one is not prepared for it or not trained on how to navigate it, skiing in deep powder can be an exercise in futility and frustration. Frequent falls, extreme difficulty in getting up again as there is nothing to push on to stand up, even the danger of suffocation under the snow, these factors make skiing powder a unique opportunity.

In our passage for today we are confronted with one of the more complicated elements of being a Christian. Paul, writing to the fledgling church in Corinth, expresses to them the difficulties of following Jesus. Living in a time of religious persecution, Paul and his fellow believers experienced much hardship. Yet he was able to express that even during that hardship they were protected by God. "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." Paul reveals a truth about following Jesus in this quote: to trust God does not free a person from difficulty, but it transforms that difficulty through faith. For Paul, to experience persecution for Jesus allowed the light and hope of Jesus to shine forth from him. "We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." Life was not made easy for Paul when he began to follow Jesus, actually life became much harder, but that difficulty was full of purpose and hope because Paul was following a God who had entered suffering to save us. This gave meaning and significance to all that Paul experienced, both good and bad.

On Saturday, up on the Donner Summit, the conditions were hard but we were filled with joy. The snow was dumping and the wind was whipping, leading to moments of total whiteout. If you were a person who did not have warm enough gear, or were trying to drive your tractor trailer over the Summit, it was a bad day. But for those of us who were prepared, it was amazing. On the Summit, those who were miserable and those who were filled with joy (the whole ski team) experienced the same conditions, yet it was a vastly different experience for the two groups. The same is true for us as Christians. We, through the work of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, can experience the hardships of life and not be crushed but instead shine with the light of Christ. This new year let us be filled with joy for our Savior has come to be with us in the challenges of life.

In Christ, *Seth*



Epiphany is a season of worship because it deals with the Glory of God manifested in Jesus. The season begins with the Wise Men coming to worship the newborn King. The season ends with the worship experience on the mount of Transfiguration. When people see Jesus as God's Son, they instinctively fall down to worship him as Lord.

The name "Epiphany" means "Manifestation." The light manifests itself in the darkness, God reveals himself in Jesus, and the glory of God is seen in Jesus. The Epiphany season extends from six to nine Sundays. The number of weeks observed depends upon the date of Easter and the beginning date of Lent.

Epiphany is a season of light, the light that shines and reveals. The symbol is the Epiphany Star. The light burns so that all may see truth and the way to God.

Epiphany is the time for emphasis upon evangelism, the telling of the Good News, the spreading of the light of Christ in a dark world. Christ is the light and Christians need to reflect that light in the world. We are light-bearers.