



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

11:00am Service
Sunday, May 17, 2026

“Why Bother Being Good?”



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www.emmanuelutheran.info

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OUR VISION: FULLY ENGAGED, BIBLICALLY PASSIONATE, DRIVEN TO SERVE

May 17, 2026 11:00 am Service

AS WE GATHER

It is not over. Easter is not over. Christ's mission is not over. Peace and pardon are not over. Even as we gather to commemorate the ascension of our Lord, nothing ends today. It is not as if Christ ascends to heaven and takes all His blessings with Him! This world remains forever marked by His grace and love. And now, reigning over all things, our ascended Lord intercedes for us at His Father's right hand. Christ remains present for us in His Word and Sacraments, and Christ's Body, the church, continues the joyful proclamation that Christ is risen, and indeed, He is coming again!

CALL TO WORSHIP "Let Your Light Shine" Preschoolers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

VERSE 1

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

VERSE 2

Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root, which mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

VERSE 3

Crown Him the Lord of love,
Behold His hands and side
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified:

No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends their wondering eyes
At mysteries so bright.

VERSE 4

Crown Him the Lord of Life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

VERSE 5

Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love
Crown Him with many crowns,
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is King of all

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!

People: **Give ear to my voice when I call to You!**

Pastor: Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,

People: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed Lord God, King of the universe, You rule and reign over all things.

People: **And yet, we arrogantly elevate ourselves above others and above You.**

Pastor: You sent Your Son, Jesus, as a model of humility, as a servant of all.

People: **And yet, we neglect the needs of others and prioritize our interests above Yours.**

People: Jesus became human like us in all respects.

People: **And yet, we refuse to see others' struggles, withholding our affection and sympathy.**

Pastor: Christ offered Himself as our substitute, giving His very life for us.

People: **And yet, we stubbornly and selfishly hoard our gifts from others and from You.**

Pastor: Now exalted above all things, it is at the name of Jesus that every knee should bow.

People: **And yet, it's our heart's sinful condition to seek its own glory.**

Pause for silent reflection

Pastor: We confess our sins:

People: **Forgive our sins, O Lord. Make our ambitions model those of our Savior, Jesus, that our words and deeds might confess that He is Lord, to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, having all authority in heaven and on earth, has given Himself for you. Bearing the marks of His sacrifice in His own body, He has made a place for you in eternal glory, declaring your sins forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE "A Thousand Hallelujahs"

VERSE 1

Who else would rocks cry out to worship
Whose glory taught the stars to shine
Perhaps creation longs to have the words
to sing but this joy is mine

CHORUS

With a thousand hallelujahs
We magnify Your name
You alone deserve the glory
The honor and the praise
Lord Jesus this song is forever Yours
A thousand hallelujahs
And a thousand more

VERSE 2

Who else would die for our redemption
Whose resurrection means I'll rise
There isn't time enough to sing of
all You've done but I have eternity to try

CHORUS

BRIDGE 2X

Praise to the Lord to the Lamb
To the King of heaven
Praise for He rose
Now He reigns
We will sing forever

CHORUS

BRIDGE

CHORUS

ENDING

A Thousand hallelujahs
And a thousand more

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 1:1–11

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 24:44–53

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG “Believe in Jesus” Preschoolers

SERMON "Why Bother Being Good?"

APOSTLES’ CREED

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD’S PRAYER

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG “Jesus Came For Me (Praise the Lord)”

VERSE 1

There's a fount I know
where blessings overflow
Where Living Water runs free
from the Mercy Seat
There's a joy I know
deep inside my bones
A never-ending well
where I thirst no more

PRE-CHORUS

**Rejoice, rejoice my soul
Come on rejoice, rejoice my soul**

CHORUS 1

**Singin' praise the Lord, Jesus came for me
Set me on my feet and now I'm singin'
Praise the Lord, by the power of His name
I'm free and unashamed, so I'll keep singin'
Praise the Lord**

VERSE 2

There's a love I know
washed me white as snow
Healed this broken heart
when He made me whole
There's no pow'r in hell that could separate
I'm forever held by His amazing grace

SING PRE CHORUS

CHORUS 1

CHORUS 2

**Jesus came for me
Set me on my feet and now I'm singing
Praise the Lord, by the power of His name
I'm free and unashamed,
so I'll keep singin'
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord**

Verse 3

There's a Man I know,
hung upon a tree
Gave His life that day on Calvary
But the grave couldn't hold Him
and it can't hold me
I'm alive in Christ, He's alive in me
I'm alive in Christ, He's alive in me

CHORUS 1

ENDING

**Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord**

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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!



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BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Rich Bair (Chair Rep.), Rojeanous Rush (V-Chair/Music & Worship)
Neil Pursley (Outreach & Family), Ed Lopez (Secretary & Youth)
Steve Ude (Parish), Deb DeBerry (School)
Peter Renner (EMT), Eugene Edwards

Weekly Calendar

Monday, May 18:
Tuesday, May 19:
9:30am Linus Blankets (Narthex)
5:30pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study (Nathex)
Wednesday, May 20:
12:00pm Midweek Worship Service (Narthex)
1:30pm Women's Bible Study (TBD)
Thursday, May 21:
Friday, May 22:
6:00pm Pickleball (Gym)
Saturday, May 23:
4:00pm Saturday Small Group (Pursleys)
Sunday, May 24:
8:30am Traditional Worship Service in gym
10:00am Children's Sunday School (rm off cafeteria)
11:00am Blended Worship Service in gym
Post Service Prayer Ministry Support (Altar)
The Food Pantry is OPEN
5:00pm High School Youth Group (ACE)

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak
Parish Administrator: Dirk Wilmoth
Business Administrator: Gail Thomas
Finance Asst.: Leigh Horsley
ECE Asst. & ELCS Benefits Mgr: Amy Skopak
Admin. Asst.: Anitta Charlson
ELC Music and Sound Director/ECE Music: Heather Meulenberg
Organist: Lula Meulenberg
Digital Media : Peter Linton
Hospitality Ministry: Shirley Parker
Facilities Mgmt: Neil Seidler and Corey Lipe

CHURCH ELDERS:

John Jennejahn (Head), Marni Jennejahn, Susan Roby,
Kevin Lorenz, Rich Baldwin, Lisa Baldwin, Joel Helms,
Doug Piercy, Heather Renner, Wayne Samuel

SCHOOL K-8:

Principal/STEAM: Mark Edmiston
Admin. Assistant: Shari Reaves
Asst. Principal/MS English: Denise Ball
Director of Admissions: Emily Leatherwood
Kindergarten: Kim Noel & Jamie Wertham
First Grade: Kerry Stead & Mackenzie Knapp
Second Grade: Leigh Weaver & Annie Jacobsen
Third Grade/Curriculum Coordinator: Kiara Studer
Fourth Grade: Chelsey Towery
Fifth Grade: Emily Lundquist
MS Science: Leigh Conner
MS Math: Jenelle Lanham
MS Social Studies: Mindy Stackhouse
PE/Athletic Director: Jennifer Jenkins "Coach J"
Art: Tammy Reilly
Music & Spanish: A.L. Brown

Upcoming Member Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

5/19 Elaine Zurofsky
5/22 Eileen Brehm
5/22 Bryan Parker
5/22 Alan Tarrant

ANNIVERSARIES

5/17 James & Colleen Leyva
5/20 Matthew & Kaitlyn Johnson
5/21 Hannah & Bastian Gonzalez
5/22 Steve & Terry Taylor
5/23 Don & June Groh
5/24 Mark & Melissa Edmiston
5/24 Bill & Mary Hufnagle

Last Sunday's Attendance & Stats

In-person Services: 8:30am - 71 11:00am - 71
Online: Website: 27 FB: 20

Wednesday:
Noon: 15

ELC Grab-N-Go Food Pantry

April 26, 2026
162 Households, 657 Individuals served
God Provided!

Previous Week's Offerings

General Offering Received: \$ 8405.65
Building Funds Received: \$ 0
*Weekly Offering Budget: \$ (13173.00)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

Director: Nicole Loria
Younger Infants: Paula Jones and Rachel Bishop
Older Infants: Becky Swatzell & Hydeia Beck
Toddlers 1: Lindsey Smathers & Kayla Greene
Toddler2: Neesie Castillo & Heather Hensley
PS2: Veronica Milner & Melissa Kucin
PS-2/3: Amy Bair & Jules Chambers
PS3: Maranda Rice & Lea Par Wise
PS3/4: Robin Rutherford
PreK-1: Madison Peach & Cleo Green
PreK-2: Faith Noell & Crystal McCormick
Floating Aid: Felicia Norton
Cafeteria: Kristen Warren and Mikaela Bennett