



Emmanuel's Lutheran Church

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Emmanuel... God With Us!

An important note from Pastors Barry and Elizabeth Mitchell

Dear Members and Friends of Emmanuel,

We are excited about our next year of ministry together. We have so much to do as we reach out and grow in Christ's love. We build on a strong foundation and look forward to a bright future centered in the love and grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

This next year is particularly important to us because it will be our last year together in ministry with you, God's wonderful family in Christ here in Emmanuelsville.

In December 2018, Pastor Barry will turn 66, the current golden age of full Social Security. Pastor Elizabeth will turn 65 in March 2019. We are looking forward to the opportunity to travel, enjoy our grandchildren, sleep late on Sundays and take advantage of the blessings of good health.

We want to spend one last glorious and joyful Easter with you, our beloved family at Emmanuel's. Easter 2019 is April 21. We have chosen April 28 to be our final Sunday with you, and we will officially retire on May 1, 2019.

Times of change can often be our best times of growth. During this next year, we are hoping to mentor many of you to do some of the tasks we have been doing. We are looking forward to preparing some to be hospital visitors, homebound communion servers, prayer partners, worship leaders and much more.

We need to pass along some tasks to those who are far better equipped to do them than we are. Surely there are some who enjoy rising early, taking care to make sure the church buildings are ready for worship and using gifts of hospitality to make coffee. It seems simple, but these things do make a difference in the Spiritual lives of many.

We also hope to challenge you to reach out beyond our walls to continue our ministries locally and globally. This is what being the church is all about. We make Jesus known when we love and serve our neighbors in need.

This last year will be a time for us to work and learn together, to share Jesus' love through our lives and our gifts and to get ready for a wonderful time of growth and change as Jesus brings new life and new excitement to Emmanuel's church.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Barry and Pastor Elizabeth