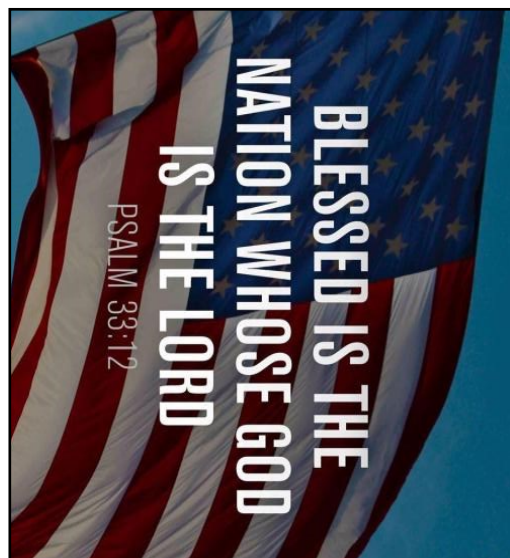




What a great week! All of our students had a wonderful time in Vacation Bible School. Thank you so much to Mrs. Christina and all of the VBS teachers and workers who spent their week pouring Bible truths in the lives of these children God sent to us. Philippians 1:6 says, *"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ."* How exciting it is that every day we get to be a small part of God's perfect plan for His children.

This summer has certainly not been a typical summer for us. We are still receiving children in our parking lot drive through, taking their temperatures and washing hands before they are allowed to enter classrooms; our parents are still not allowed to enter our building. It looks like this might go on for a while longer. Staying connected and maintaining those important relationships throughout this crisis is crucial. Through our **REMIND APP** we have been making every effort to stay in touch with the families we serve. **REMIND** has been very helpful to our parents, providing them with current changes and pictures of activities their child is involved in throughout the day. Many of my parents told me they enjoyed the VBS songs and activities we were able to provide online. We are made to crave a relationship first with our Heavenly Father and then with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope though we are going through this time of crisis you are finding ways to stay close to Him and connected to the ones you care about.

For the next few weeks I will be working on Fall roles and teacher assignments. Please pray with me for the students and families God will send our way for the '20-21 school year and for the Godly teachers who will love and care for them throughout the new school year. I remind our teachers each year that no one is here by mistake, there are no accidents with God. I pray that we do not miss even one opportunity to show the love of Jesus Christ to each person who walks through our doors.



Emmanuel Baptist Church
1200 Farmerville Hwy.
Ruston, LA 71270

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Christ the Center

"Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him— if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard." Colossians 1:21-23a, CSB

What would you be without Christ? Without Christ I would be spiritually dead, physically bound and directed by my selfish desires (Ephesians 2:1-3), emotionally battered and shaped by worldly relationships (1 John 4:18-21), and utterly without hope of deliverance from sin or its consequences (Ephesians 2:11-13, Romans 6:23). I would be doing my best to enjoy the passing pleasures in this life because all that would await me at death is the fearful expectation of judgment and eternal punishment (Revelation 20:11-15). If a person is truly saved, Jesus Christ cannot be less than central. He has saved us from the wrath to come by absorbing God's wrath our sin justly deserves. He has made it possible for us to be redeemed from the kingdom of darkness and transferred in to the Kingdom of the Son. This means Christ is our Lord. The Kingdom of God is not a Kingdom that will ever be toppled. It is eternal and the rule of Christ will one day be total. All that exists will be under His perfect dominion, and we will rule and reign with Him. If these things are true, how can our Lord Jesus Christ be anywhere other than enthroned at the very center of our life?

Disciples of Christ must follow Him, Kingdom Citizens obey their King, and faithful children listen and obey their heavenly Father. Whichever biblical metaphor we employ points us to the same conclusion. Christ is the center of the Christian's life, Christian marriage, Christian home and certainly the Christian church. The hope of the gospel is not for a better earthly life. The hope of the gospel is right standing with God and eternal life in Christ. Are you grounded and steadfast in your faith like Colossians 1:23 states? If you are, Christ will be central in your life and the promise of verse 22 above applies to you. If you are not, give me a call and let's get together so we can talk about biblical salvation and the hope offered exclusively through Christ alone!

Join us for worship...

Sundays

9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship
A-L (last name)

10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship
M-Z (last name)

Note: See inside
for updated schedule
to begin July 12!

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.
Bible Study &
Prayer Service

Family Bible Study Plan

June 28-July 4

Question: How is God’s faithfulness revealed through our Lord Jesus Christ?
Answer: The Lord’s faithfulness is revealed through Christ’s willingness to suffer unto death and in His faithfulness to save and keep those justified through faith in Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Resources: His Faithfulness

Memory Verse: “God is not a man, that He might lie, or a son of man, that He might change His mind. Does He speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill?” Numbers 23:19

Family Bible Readings: **Monday:** John 6:32-40 **Tuesday:** John 10:22-30 **Wednesday:** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
Thursday: 2 Timothy 2:3-13 **Friday:** John 14:1-7

July 5-11

Question: How has God made peace available to His people?
Answer: God is completely trustworthy and dependable, therefore those who trust in Him can experience peace in every situation through faith in Him.

God’s Resources: His Peace

Memory Verse: “You will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace, for it is trusting in you”. Isaiah 26:3
Family Bible Readings: **Monday:** Psalm 34:8-14 **Tuesday:** Psalm 85:8-13 **Wednesday:** Proverbs 12:17-20
Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-4 **Friday:** Isaiah 48:17-22

July 12-18

Question: How does the Holy Spirit bring peace to the follower of Jesus Christ?
Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts the believer of peace purchased through Christ’s atonement and gives peace to their hearts as they walk by faith in this relationship.

God’s Resources: His Peace

Memory Verse: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7

Family Bible Readings: **Monday:** John 14:25-31 **Tuesday:** Romans 5:1-5 **Wednesday:** Ephesians 2:12-18
Thursday: Philippians 4:4-9 **Friday:** James 3:13-18

July 19-25

Question: How does God provide for His people?
Answer: God’s physical provision is enjoyed by all of His creation, but His life-giving, ongoing spiritual provision is enjoyed by those who have been redeemed in Christ through the Holy Spirit.

God’s Resources: His Provision

Memory Verse: “He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything?” Romans 8:32

Family Bible Readings: **Monday:** Genesis 2:1-17 **Tuesday:** Genesis 2:18-25 **Wednesday:** Genesis 3:17-24
Thursday: Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-10 **Friday:** Genesis 9:1-17

July 26-August 1

Question: How should God’s people respond to God’s provision?
Answer: God’s people should continually thank God for His gracious salvation and prayerfully live by faith in His faithful care and provision.

God’s Resources: His Provision

Memory Verse: “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19
Family Bible Readings: **Monday:** Matthew 6:25-34 **Tuesday:** Matthew 14:13-21 **Wednesday:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-19
Thursday: Philippians 4:10-20 **Friday:** Revelation 21:22-22:5



Well, our unusual times continue, but I have to say that June has been a good month. I look forward to what July will bring. Our **Vacation Bible School** was a hit! A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all the volunteers that gave their time to serve. A **REALLY BIG THANK YOU** to Christina Watts for directing VBS. She did a great job. Please continue to pray for the children that attended. Pray that the lessons they learned will take root in their hearts. The children did a great job with the mission offering which was collecting canned goods for Christian Community Action. In fact, they were so motivated to bring in cans that Pastor Paul got a pie in the face! It was a fun week, and I am grateful that we were able to invest in these children.

Now you may be asking, what about Sunday School? I’m glad you asked! The *tentative date* of **July 12, 2020** has been set to resume Sunday School classes. Due to the capacity and space requirements we are still following, we will continue with two worship services. In addition, we will have two groups of Sunday School classes that meet during the same time as worship. For example, if you attend the Adult 5 Sunday School then you would attend the 9am worship service and go to Sunday School at 10:15am. Please see the schedule and location details below. You will notice that the Sunday School and worship start times are staggered to help with social distancing.

9am Worship	9:15am Sunday School
Adult 5	Preschool
Adult 6	Children
Adult 7	Youth
	College
	Adult 2, 4
	Preschool Rooms
	Children Rooms
	Youth Rooms
	Coffee Table Room
	Regular Rooms

10:15am Sunday School	10:30am Worship
Adult 5	Children
Adult 6	Youth
Adult 7	College
	Adult 2
	Adult 4

As a reminder, there are several ways you can give your tithes and offering. There are giving boxes around the building, online giving is available via our church website, you can give through your bank’s online bill pay system or you can mail your offering to 1200 Farmerville Highway, Ruston, LA 71270. We certainly want to remain faithful in all areas of our Christian walk during this time and giving is just one of those areas.

Church Business Meeting
Wednesday, July 8

Our quarterly scheduled business meeting that was to be held in June will now be held on **Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Worship Center. One of the items being presented will be a recommendation from the Personnel Committee that Chris Campbell be called as the new Minister to College Students. Chris is a long-time member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and has served as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, RA leader and has served on several ministry teams. He has a heart to see young adults grow in Christ. The Personnel Committee feels he is the right person at this time to lead this ministry.



Hello from your student ministry! We have been so excited to hang out, fellowship and study the Bible on Wednesday nights as a youth group!

As many of you know, summer camps across the nation were canceled as a result of government regulations. Thankfully one of the student conferences we have attended in the past, agreed to live stream all of their speakers and classes. So we are able to have our own mini camp weekend right here at Emmanuel this week. I’m so excited for this new chapter in ministry and pray that it can be a blessing to the students, parents and to God!

On Saturday, July 25th we will have **BLACKLIGHT DODGEBALL** from 6-9 pm in the gym. We will have a time of devotion, food and fellowship as part of the night. All 7th-12th grade students are invited and can invite every student they want to come.

On a personal note I would like to congratulate my ministry partner, Brad Kimbell on being nominated as a deacon for the Lords service! The youth and myself are proud to call you our brother and friend!



Over the past several weeks our church has learned to rely a lot more on technology than ever before. Sunday School lessons are being taught through zoom. Worship services are being streamed on facebook. It seemed like each week we were trying something new and trying to improve our delivery of lessons and services. Each week now we are still learning new and better ways of getting our message out and reaching people.

We just installed a new digital soundboard in the worship center. Soon we will begin using some new software for projecting our lyrics. Both of these improvements have been planned for months. They just happen to be occurring about the same time. As we adjust to this new technology, there may be some hiccups along the way as we try to “flatten the learning curve”. As the current audio/visual team learns this new technology, we also want to give you the opportunity to join our team as well. Be on the lookout for upcoming training times for you to learn to run our sound and video equipment. This could be your place of service in our church.