

Emmaus Lutheran Church Celebrates 100 Years of Faith

Emmaus Lutheran Church celebrated its 100th anniversary with a combined worship service that united its English and Chinese congregations in a joyous celebration of faith, community, and history. The commemorative event included kindergarten through eighth-grade students and their families, creating an atmosphere of togetherness and reflection.

The worship service, held in the sanctuary built in 1952, featured a unique collaboration with two former pastors who returned to lend their leadership alongside the church's two current pastors, Pastor Carl Kaye and Pastor Patrick Jow. The young voices of the school's students filled the sanctuary as they sang songs and played handbells, adding a youthful energy to the service.

A captivating puppet show took attendees on a journey down memory lane, recounting the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon Emmaus over the last century. It also looked ahead to a bright future filled with hope and faith. The sermon, delivered by former Emmaus pastor Reverend Bill Brunold, centered around the Easter story of the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. It emphasized how Jesus, through the Scriptures, ignited a burning fire within their hearts. Congregation members left inspired, understanding that Emmaus members have been walking with the Lord for a remarkable 100 years and are committed to continuing to ignite the fire of Jesus in the hearts of the community.

After the beautiful worship service, attendees gathered in the gymnasium for a lunch reception and program. The gym's walls were adorned with over 200 photographs, chronicling the remarkable journey of Emmaus Lutheran Church, its development of a school, and the addition of a Chinese congregation. This visual timeline provided a captivating insight into the church's evolution over the decades.

The program included heartfelt speeches from former pastors, including former District President Rev. Larry Stoterau, Pastor Ken Frese, and Pastor Bill Norton, congregation members, current pastors, and the school principal, as well as a charming skit performed by the elementary school faculty. The skit portrayed the evolution of education from 1950 to the present day, highlighting the church's commitment to nurturing both faith and Christian education.

Members from the past and present, along with current families attending the school, relished the opportunity to learn about Emmaus's rich history and its aspirations to continue shining as a beacon of faith and love in the Alhambra community. The celebration marked a century of dedication and a promise to build a brighter and faith-filled future for all. Emmaus Lutheran Church remains deeply intertwined with its community, embodying the love of Jesus and the unity that has guided its journey over the past century.



Emmaus Then — Dedication of Church Sanctuary



100th Anniversary Worship Service on October 29, 2023



Placing the steeple of the church sanctuary in Alhambra Timeline of photos at the anniversary event in Alhambra

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The Alhambra Kicked Off the Holiday Season with Santa Night

The Alhambra was transformed into an outdoor Winter Wonderland for Santa Night on December 7. Tenants and their families were treated to a stroll through whimsical holiday displays lighting up the Oval Mall, highlighted by a majestic illuminated Christmas tree.

Some of the evening's fun included free photos with Santa, outdoor animated

films, a visit with Santa's reindeer, and live ice carving. Attendees were serenaded by holiday carolers while enjoying hot chocolate, apple cider, popcorn, and cookies.

Kids had a chance to write letters to Santa and drop them off in a special Post Box. In all, 122 letters were collected and mailed straight to the North Pole free of charge!