

I am writing this letter to you on the last day of 2019, thankful for all that God has done this year! Thank YOU! Because of your "yes" to Jesus and your teamwork in the local church this year, the love of Christ transformed lives locally and in some of the darkest places in the world!

As we turn the corner and think about a fresh start in 2020, as your pastor I want to encourage you to lean in and hear what the Spirit is saying to his church. As disciples of Jesus, we are responsible to follow the leadership of the Spirit BEFORE we launch into new adventures. "Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. (Psalm 127:1). As I've been praying, I've sensed a strong need for us to intentionally listen for the gentle whisper of the Lord.

To help the church family be on the same page, we are taking two strategic steps that will help us more clearly hear the Spirit:

1. Challenging everyone to read (or listen) to the Bible every day. God has already spoken through his Word and it is living! We'll use the Bible in One Year (2020) with Nicky Gumbel [BibleInONEyear](#), the founder of Alpha. Find it in the app store for your phone, or through the Bible app.
2. We begin 21 days of Prayer and Fasting as a church on Sunday January 5, 2020. There are a bunch of resources available on our Emmanuel MN App, or on our website: [21 Days resources](#). On the last day of the 21 days, on Sunday night January 26, 2020, we will celebrate [Vision Night](#), where I will share our vision for 2020 and church members will affirm our Board of Elders.

Together, as a church family, we have seen thousands of lives transformed by the simple grace of Jesus every time we've gathered, hundreds have joined our church family, our children are finding and growing in faith through Emmanuel Kids and Emmanuel Youth, true redwood faith is increasing as people grow together in groups, and very simply the presence of God is among us! Thank you for praying, serving, giving and persevering together as a church family!

Together in the harvest,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Nate & Jodi".

Pastor Nate and Jodi Ruch
Lead Pastor