

class of
2019

- *The Edge* -

E m m a n u e l B i b l e C h u r c h

change?

I am graduating from college in a few weeks. This is very exciting. Much has changed in my life since I started pursuing my degree in 2015. I got married; I changed jobs twice; my wife and I welcomed our daughter; we have planned a move to another state. But there is something more than context that makes up a person's life.

It's easy when someone asks you, "How are you doing?" to respond with, "Good!" and to fill up the space with information about your situation. "My job is good." "I'm working a lot these days." "I'm spending a lot of time at the soccer field with my kids..." Whatever that information is, it's easy to talk about. Graduation makes that even easier. There is a lot to talk about. You are moving on from one season to another. You are changing situations. A big part of your life is changing.

But in conversations with many of my peers who are graduating alongside me, I have heard a common refrain, "I don't feel that much different...I'm still me...I expected to feel different." Many people (myself included) believe that change should come faster.

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We believe change should be more dramatic and noticeable.

I think this is the reality for most of us. We often feel that the main thing holding us back is something outside of us. We blame our job or we lament our health limitations or we wish for a simpler time with family dynamics. All of those things are important in our lives, all of those things are worth crying in prayer over, and all of those things are

“ We must be honest with ourselves and acknowledge that Jesus and Jesus alone has the power to change our lives. Jesus can change you; graduation can't. ”

worth putting effort into and working to improve, but I believe that we put our hope for growth and change into areas of our lives that do not have the power to grow us or change us. Often, when those things do improve or change, our lives do seem better for a

little while, they do improve our day to day life – for a little while. But then the dreaded feeling, "I'm still me."

Graduation is like that. No more late nights doing homework, no more passing on time with friends to read a few more pages of a text book, no more multi-tasking during movie nights, but I know that deep down – I'm still me. This season of graduation doesn't have the power to change me. It doesn't have the power to fix me. It doesn't have the power to transform my marriage. Only Jesus has that kind of power. Dependence on Jesus, intimate relationship with Jesus, time spent with Jesus is the only true source of life-transforming power.

That is why an old, sick, and imprisoned Paul can say that he has learned the secret to being content in all circumstances. He knows that getting out of prison wouldn't change who he is or the source of his joy. He knows that Jesus is the only constant, the only transforming power, the only person you can build your life on. We must be honest with ourselves and acknowledge that Jesus and Jesus alone has the power to change our lives.

Jesus can change you; graduation can't.

THE CLASS OF *Alyssa Khieu* 2019

BY: *Patty Wallace* Edge Writer

Alyssa is graduating from Silverton High and has attended EBC all her life.

Although she loves to ski, tennis is one of Alyssa's favorite pastimes. She was part of the high school team all four years. Her involvement in tennis and ASB (Associated Student Body) was the best part of her high school experience. Being in ASB leadership was a growing experience that opened many doors for her, while tennis was a great way to spend time with family and make new friends! Math held a special interest for her as well. She completed calculus her junior year and took a class at Chemeketa last term.

Alyssa learned in the last four years that you can always learn something new! She says "Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone because some of the best things are unexpected."

During her years in high school, God put on Alyssa's heart how important service is and gave her many opportunities to give back to her community. She hopes to one day be a pharmacist with an organization like Doctors Without Borders or Medical Teams International in order to serve a global community. In preparation for her dream, she plans to attend college at the University of Pittsburg, eventually enrolling in their pharmacy school. She is excited about what college has in store! Moving across the country this August will be a major change for Alyssa and she is relying on God to help her through the transition to find her place.

Her advice to upcoming seniors is to get involved early on. There are numerous opportunities both at school and church to serve others, and being involved helps you to connect and help you find where your passions are.

Van and Lydia, Alyssa's parents, add "Alyssa has always made a commitment to work hard and do her best. We are excited about what she has already accomplished over the last four years, and are so thankful for family and friends who encourage and inspire her in so many ways."



THE CLASS OF *Abigail Koch* 2019

Abigail has interests in many of the arts such as music, theatre, and art. She is also interested in space, enjoys drinking tea, and loves to travel. The best part of her years at Silverton High was discovering more about where her passions lie and getting involved in the things she loves such as choir and theatre. She also has made many close friends and high school has taught her perseverance and the importance of taking the time to listen to others. Somewhere in the mix, she learned the quadratic formula as well!

Abigail is looking forward to traveling to Scotland, a country she loves, to attend the University of Dundee to work toward getting her art degree. She hopes to someday have a career in the arts where she could pursue her love of travel as well!

As Abigail has been growing in her faith and trust in the Lord, He has been revealing to her His plans for her that will bring Him glory. She is realizing that everything that happens is for His design and purpose. For the upcoming seniors, her advice is to give yourself room to grow, always strive to do your best, and keep your eyes on Jesus!

"Our Abigail was truly born with a smile on her face and she brings joy with her wherever she goes. She is full of grace and wisdom, kindness and humility. We are so honored to be her parents and are overjoyed to see her heart grow in the faith, hope, and love of Christ. Abigail will be taking our hearts with her to Scotland, and we will miss her very much, but she belongs to Jesus and we can't wait to see the adventures He has in store for her beautiful life. -Micah 6:8-"
Aaron and Jennifer Koch (Parents)



THE CLASS OF Elizabeth Rogers

2019

Elizabeth, who has called EBC her home all her life, has enjoyed being homeschooled because of the freedom of being able to do her schooling at her own pace. Some of her best high school experiences have been to be a part of EBC's youth group, during which she learned how to ski and ice skate! She also enjoyed helping with the EBC / Mt Angel Bible Church outdoor VBS.

Taking walks or hikes is enjoyable to Elizabeth because they provide time to think. However, she also loves to hang out with her many siblings!

After graduation, Elizabeth looks forward to being done with studies and having more free time to explore other interests, as well as to find a job. One of her dreams is to one day complete and publish a story. Elizabeth is currently working on writing stories set in the post-civil war era.

Elizabeth's mom, Tiffany, shares "Elizabeth is quiet and kind, yet very competitive and a hard worker. She's focused and detail-oriented when working on a task. She is easy-going and likes to laugh, even at Dad's corny jokes."



THE CLASS OF Chloe Seefeldt

2019

Chloe began attending EBC about two years ago. Though she goes to West Salem High, the best part of her high school experience has been to attend EBC's youth group. She's very grateful for all of the wonderful friends she's made and the people she's met at EBC. She says "I love you all!" She is looking forward to joining YAM (Young Adult Ministries) after she graduates.

Running hurdles in track, playing soccer with friends, and training and cuddling her pup, Willow, are a few of Chloe's favorite activities. She also loves artistic things, as well as cooking and baking healthy food. She is very passionate about making healthy, affordable, ethically-produced food accessible to everyone. She's especially interested in nutritional psychiatry and urban agriculture.

Following her interests, Chloe plans to study at Chemeketa before she hopes to transfer to Oregon State for their dietetics program. Her goal is to become a Registered Dietician.

Chloe is honest about how she's struggled with her faith throughout high school. She is learning to bring all her doubts, frustrations, fears, and imperfections to Jesus, and then to rest in His love. One thing that she learned during high school is that life doesn't have to be perfect to be beautiful. She encourages upcoming seniors to enjoy your last year of youth group. She also stresses the importance of staying on top of your schoolwork and college preparation, yet remembering to have fun and to take care of yourself.

"Chloe is a passionate, compassionate, thoughtful, determined, disciplined, and sweet person. She loves to learn and is a wealth of information. Whatever she does, she gives it her all; that has been true her whole life. Chloe cares deeply about things, whether that is people, animals, or causes, and is sensitive to the needs of others. She is a lovely sister, friend, daughter, and shows the love and kindness of Christ. I may be older, but I look up to her in a lot of ways. We are super proud of Chloe and look forward to what God does through her!" Kendra Seefeldt (Sister)



THE CLASS OF *Sarah Steffen* 2019

Sarah has seen how God has been a key part of her life as He has led her to grow in her faith. Through being a part of the EBC family all of her life, and having the opportunity to attend Salem Academy, God has taught her about His mercy and graciousness.

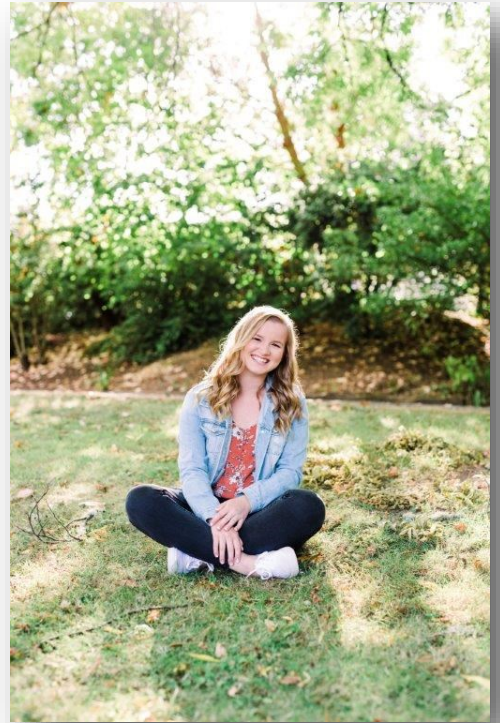
She has helped in AWANA with the k-2nd age group. Some of the things Sarah enjoys are quilting and running, and her enthusiasm for running has led her to volunteer as a middle school track coach.

Sarah plans to pursue a nursing degree at Simpson University in Redding, CA. As she gets ready to begin this new season of life, she is looking forward to developing a faith that is truly her own. Pursuing education in a new place, she is confident that God will allow her to gain a knowledge of how He is in control.

Her encouragement for upcoming seniors is to be excited for what God has in store for you! Never put down any ideas and listen to God.

"Sarah is a generous, loving, and kind young lady. She loves the Lord. She has a servant heart, helping in AWANA and coaching middle school track. She is a hard worker and gets good grades in high level classes. We are very proud of the young woman she is becoming."

Becky Steffen (Mom)



THE CLASS OF *Malia Wenger* 2019

Malia has been a part of our EBC family all of her 18 years. She knows Jesus as her friend and comforter. As she looks forward to the new journey of studying Biology at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID, Malia knows that she will need to trust Him and look to Him for guidance along the way.

During her years at Salem Academy, she has especially loved being able to spend time with and have fun with friends. Malia has also learned to be in the moment. Focusing on her own life rather than wasting her time watching the lives of other people has been another lesson learned.

Some of Malia's interests include golf, baking, playing piano, and crafting. She especially loves to bake and hopes to one day own her own bakery.

Her advice to upcoming seniors would be to say "yes" to crazy adventures!

"Malia is our youngest of four children. She has a gentle spirit, is a great helper, and master of many talents. Malia is goal-driven and manages to get the most out of each day. We thank the Lord for her and look forward to what He has in store for her in the years ahead!"

Craig and Mary Wenger (Parents)



OUR *missionaries*

EVENT PAGE

THE HAPPENINGS AT EBC

JUNE EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

02 & 09 - Newcomers Class

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: South Building, Conference Room

Contact: Church Office - 503.364.6179

Join us for our newcomers class! The second week builds on the first, but we welcome you to either Sunday if you cannot attend both.

05 - Bridal Shower for Emily Zhu

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: South Building, Foundations Room

Registered: Amazon, Ikea, Target

All ladies are welcome to join us in celebration of the marriage of Emily Zhu to Josh Steffen!

16 - Child Dedication Service

Time: 8:00 & 10:45 AM

Location: Sanctuary

Contact: Church Office - 503.364.6179

Please contact the church office if you would like to dedicate your child on Father's Day!

25 - Gathering with Debbie Sardo

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: South Building, Youth Room

Contact: Church Office - 503.364.6179

Ladies, join us for an evening with Debbie Sardo and hearing about her ministry! Dessert refreshments and fellowship will follow.

JULY EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Give a Teacher a Break Month!

04 - Office Closed in observance of Independence Day

Elder on call: Greg Hoffman

12 to 14 - YAM Retreat (young adults)

Contact: Scott & Heather Shetler

LIBRARY CORNER

Destination: MOON; The Spiritual and Scientific Voyage of the Eighth Man to Walk on the Moon
by James Irwin

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, and TV specials, movies, and articles are currently appearing to recall that major event. You may want to read this book with your children to bring to life this piece of American history. Easy-to-read and with many pictures included, the book by James Irwin describes his journey to become a pilot and an astronaut—and, of course, his journey to the moon. It was written prior to his death in 1991 and reprinted in 2004.

In his prologue, James Irwin wrote, "It seems plain to me that the hand of God has been in my life as far back as I am able to remember. I think Providence has been a factor in every important thing that has ever happened to me. As strange as it sounds, my flight on Apollo 15 was the fulfillment of a dream I had all my life. I have talked of wanting to go to the moon since I was a young boy.....I probably said this, but I don't know how much confidence I had that I would be able to do it. Reverses along the way made it seem unlikely that I was headed in this direction. When it happened, I felt that I was doing something I had always wanted to do. But the most startling thing to me now is not that I have made the flight but what the flight has done to me. God has changed my life."

The book is a part of the library's youth science section, where you can find many other fascinating volumes for aspiring explorers and scientists.

BY: *Pat Campbell* Library Committee Member

Emmanuel Bible Church

8512 Sunnyview Rd | Salem, OR | 97305

www.ebcsalem.com

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 AM

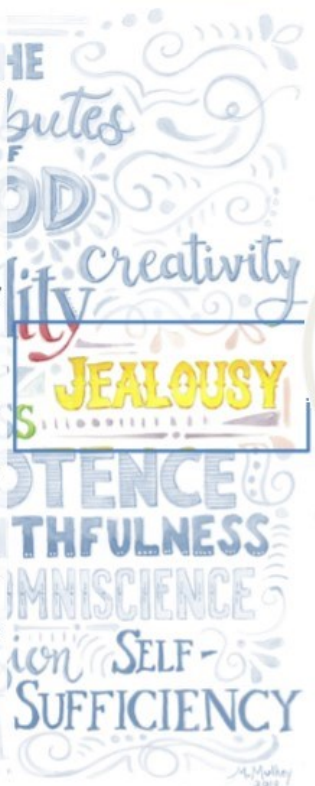
Sunday Morning Worship Services 8:00 & 10:45 AM

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June 11, 2019, 7:00
PM

Mindy Myers
will be teaching on God's
jealousy.

All women (high school
and older) are invited to
join us in the South
Building! Doors open at
6:45 PM, and the event
begins at 7:00 PM.



S.O.S.
SEEKING OUR SAVIOR

