



עמנואל!

Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a son, and they
shall call his name **Emmanuel**,
which being interpreted is, **God with
us.**

--- *Matthew 1:23*

Merry Christmas!

--Eric, Helen, Amelia, Benjamin,
Lillian, and Faith Rasmusen

Good Things of 2019 (links and images: <http://rasmusen.org/special/christmas/xmas2019.htm>)

1. [CodeAcademy](#), learning Python in particular. What perfect pedagogy for computer coding!
2. [Six-inch LED portable work light](#) with a hook and a magnet on the back. Short, no heat, well-designed, and cheap.
3. [The Petroleum V. Nasyb Letters](#) by David Locke. The current owners of the Brodie Farm found my great-grandfather's copy in a shed and gave it to me. Hilarious! Humorous letters of a fictional 1860's Ohio Democrat who wants to play the race card so as to become a postmaster and be able to pay his whisky bills.
4. [Nothing Gold Can Stay](#) (那年花开月正圆) (2017). Chinese drama about an 1880's merchant family in a provincial town who take the big leap into western-style cotton spinning. It's really all about corporate finance and government interference with business.
5. [24](#) (2001-2010) an American eight-season TV series about fighting Islamists, Russians, and other bad guys. Lots of game theory involved with threats, warnings, and commitment. The very first episode is too lewd; the next 60 are okay.
6. [Ruyi's Royal Love in the Palace](#) (如懿传) (2018) an 87-episode Chinese historical drama about the Emperor Chien-Lung's harem politics and his most beloved concubine, Ruyi.
7. [The Gourmia Air Fryer](#), an ingenious invention for easy deep frying.
8. [Illustrated Japanese Characters](#) (1989, 191 pp., \$3.59+) This whole Japanese Travel Bureau series of little books is good. Watching Ruyi, I wanted to be able to spot characters. And we want to encourage Lily in her Chinese.
9. [Leppson's Malort](#), a Chicago regional bitter liqueur.
10. [The Restored Chicago Conference](#), (2019) a wondrous one-day event with good speeches about how to recover from a church that you thought was sound but had corrupt and hateful leadership that betrayed you. See [Julie Roy's speech on courage](#), in particular, but they're all good.
11. [Teaching 3-year-old Sunday School](#), with Helen over the summer. It's nice to get to know an entire cohort of kids. And relaxing, despite the constant stimulation. We're eager for grandchildren.
12. [The Annual Article List](#). To try to make the ephemeral into the permanent. A list of a dozen good articles discovered this year, with web links. You need to go to <http://rasmusen.org/special/christmas/2019-articles.htm>.



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