



Emmanuel News Notes

April, 2009

Pastor Lookingbill ponders.enigmas

No one knew what to expect that Sunday after Passover when the three women went to the tomb where Jesus had been hurriedly buried on Friday afternoon. They brought spices for the anointment of the dead body, but they worried about the stone that would need to be moved to get into the tomb. "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" There was another obstacle to getting to Jesus, to getting to the body of the one they loved, to getting to do the right thing for the community of faith.

Jesus had always been an enigma to the disciples and the crowd who followed him. Who is this man from Nazareth, and can anything good come out of Nazareth anyway? How does he do the things that he does? Some of the scribes from Jerusalem thought "he was Beelzebul," the Lord of the flies, that explains his magical power! Mostly the crowd was simply amazed at the things he taught and accomplished.

The early Church knew that Malachi, which means "My Messenger," the last book of the Christian canon, summarized the coming "day of the Lord" as one recognized when Elijah would appear. The sign that this Elijah would give is turning "the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents." (Malachi 4) From this prophecy we learn that the 1st century Jews were anticipating a figure like Elijah, one who would be a reconciler, bringing parents and children back together! Was this the significance of that word from the Cross that Jesus spoke to his mother Mary, "Here is your son," and to John, "Here is your mother?" Was this the fulfillment and completion of the prophecy of Malachi that hearts would be turned, that parents and children would embrace one another again in love?

The stone was rolled away that Sunday morning when the women arrived at the tomb. When they went inside, there was a young man sitting on the right side and assuring them that the Jesus they are looking for has been raised. "He is not here." Moreover, they were told to tell Peter and his disciples that he will go ahead of them to Galilee. There they will see him. Not only was the stone rolled away, but their fear has been turned into awe, that God had granted them to witness such a vision of the messianic age! Not only had the hearts of the childlike disciples been turned to Jesus in this life, but now the childlike apostles would be able to share a witness and a lasting love with this Jesus now risen and on the move!

The women were amazed again, as we are amazed every Easter that this fantastic story is the heart of Christian promise, the heart of Christian belief. That the women were afraid speaks honestly to our fears too, that this fantastic story of Resurrection can form our spiritual lives, take away our fear of abandonment and death and can raise up generation after generation of parents and children who turn their hearts again to one another.

What does it mean when the scripture says this turning of hearts of parents to children and children to their parents? Is this not the most dynamic description of a reconciliation of God's people who have both love and anger with those living close by? Do we not know such a feeling of love for our parents and yet competition and perhaps envy? When the messiah comes, in that great and awesome day of the Lord, then we will be reconciled to one another, dismissing the envy and competition as an incomplete emotion compared with the love that Christ has shared so that we can also share?

We in the church sing, "Jesus Christ is risen today!" The prophecy of Malachi about the "day of the Lord" has been witnessed when we see one another in a new light, with our hearts turned from irrational fear to something eternal, a gift we cannot buy, a gift that cannot be contained in a tomb, a gift that lives and breathes in our spirit. The obstacles we find in this life have been blown away by the Lord who lives and reconciles the parents and children of God's world!

We live today in a world that is seized by an Easter Sunday morning!

In Christ's Service, Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

DATES OF NOTE

- Apr 5 Cantata at 11 a.m. service
- Apr 5-12 Holy Week and Easter (page 3)
- Apr 15 Wed. evening study begins (page 2)
- Apr 19 Clothing drive (page 3)
- Apr 19 Shema (page 8)
- Apr 24-25 Famine lock-in (page 2)
- Apr 26 Clothing drive continues
- Apr 29 Pie cook-off (page 5)
- May 2 WELCA workshop (page 4)
- May 3 Congregational meeting
- May 7 Study with Har Shalom (page 2)

**Holy Week
Schedule
Page 4**

WORSHIP

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER IN LENT

Pr. Lookingbill will continue a new study of the Gospel of Mark though the Easter season this year. As read from a political point of view, Mark is a dynamic story of Jesus at work in a world that needs healing, vision and God's power breaking in! Jesus is the Son of God, teaching about the Kingdom of God among the people of God. Join us on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Education room; bring a lunch and enjoy a favorite dessert by one of the members of the group.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING EASTER BEGINNING ON 15 APRIL

Pr. Lookingbill will begin a spring study on 15 April based on Karen Armstrong's book, *The Bible: A Biography (Books that changed the world)*. In this 2007 publication, the historical Bible is surveyed as it developed from oral history to canon for one third of the people on the planet. From obscure and mysterious beginning, the Bible has become the best selling and best known of the books of civilizations. Join us on Wednesday evenings this spring at 6:30 for supper and 7:30 for a study of this intriguing Book that most of us have in our homes and yet hope to understand better through shared study. Both members and friends of Emmanuel are welcome to join us. Please let the Church office know that you are planning to come so that we can order sufficient books.



Thank you to everyone who joined the NLH Auxiliary during our February membership drive. It's not too late to make a contribution. Simply write a check, payable to the "NLH Auxiliary" and mail it to Jean Abel, 9815 Veirs Drive, Unit 1, Rockville, MD 20850, or leave it in her church mailbox.

Mark your calendar for the Home's **Spring Festival** on Saturday, **May 2**, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You'll find some great bargains in Grandma's Attic and the Jewelry Room. Make a bid at the Silent Auction, buy some homemade baked goods, and enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch.

If you have items to donate or can bake for the festival, call Jean Abel at 301-294-5808.

INTERFAITH STUDY WITH HAR SHALOM CONCLUDES ON 7 MAY

Rabbi Leonard Cahan and Pr. Lookingbill will conclude their Interfaith Study on Elijah and Elisha at Emmanuel on 7 May at 7 p.m. in the Christian Education room. At the last meeting, echoes of these two prophets were traced into the Gospels of the New Testament. In Malachi, the final prophet of the Christian Old Testament, the "Messenger" points to a future in which Elijah, the reconciler, will bring parents together with their children once again! Join us in May for our next session as we deepen our understanding of the impact of these two visionary prophets and their influence on Judaism and

30-Hour Famine Lock-In April 24 - 25, 2009

The Lutheran Youth from Emmanuel (L.Y.F.E.) will be fasting for 30 hours as the focus on those who go hungry everyday. They will begin their fast after lunch at school on Friday, April 24 and end it with supper on Saturday, April 25. We will also have a Lock-In from 6 pm on Friday to 6:30 pm on Saturday. This is not going to be one of our regular fun and fellowship lock-ins. We will be doing work for the church and the community, watching a documentary, and studying hunger and poverty issues. We will end our fast with supper at 6 p.m.

But there is more to the 30-Hour Famine than simply not eating. One of the many reasons groups do the 30-Hour Famine is to grow closer together and to create camaraderie by working side-by-side toward a common goal.

Another tangible result of the Famine comes through the simple act of going without food on behalf of children half a world away, drawing participants closer to Christ. They develop compassion, feeling the hunger of children who do not have a choice about their own circumstances.

Please pray for the youth in our congregation as they prepare to participate and during the 30 Hour Famine. And consider how you can support their efforts by donating to the food drive.

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Youth & Family Ministry	Rev. Robert L. Lewis
Council President	James McGee
Parish Administrator	Katherine Burrell
Director of Music	Dingwall Fleary
Joyful Praise (Children's) Choir	Susan Drumm

SPRING-CLEANING CLOTHING DRIVE – APRIL 19 AND 26

April is a GREAT time for spring cleaning, and Emmanuel is seeking donations of gently used or new clothes to benefit the Interfaith Clothing Center in Rockville. The Center is a program operated by Interfaith Works, a coalition composed of more than 140 congregations.

The Center provides a link between members of the Emmanuel community who have things they no longer need or want and people in our community who are in desperate need of the same items. Coming from every corner of Montgomery County, clients are young and old, male and female, single and married, and span all races. They are working poor, homeless, disabled, recent immigrants, parolees, welfare recipients, and seniors living on fixed incomes who need work clothes, casual clothes, and even special occasion clothes.

On any given day, 1,500 residents of Montgomery County are homeless – one-third of whom are children. Over the course of a year, 4,500 people in our community experience homelessness. While many County residents are affluent, others struggle economically because our cost of living is one of the highest in the Nation and workers in low-wage jobs cannot easily support their families. Our County school system educates 140,000 students each year. But one in four of these students – over 30,000 children – qualify for Free and Reduced Meals through the Federal government program for low income children.

Please bring your donations in small bags on Sunday, April 19 or Sunday, April 26. The Youth and Family Ministry Committee will see that they are delivered to the Center in Rockville. Bags can be neatly left in the vestibule between the Sanctuary outside doors and the Narthex.

Our donations enable the County's most needy residents to use their scarce financial resources for rent, food, transportation, and healthcare. Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the County is \$1,200 per month. That is the entire paycheck of someone working full-time at minimum wage.

What's in the back of your closets? A jacket a friend gave you that you were too busy to return? A pair of jeans you ordered off the Internet and will never fit? A party dress you only keep for sentimental reasons? A few shirts in last year's styles? Some shoes that went with an outfit you never wear? Children's clothes that are too small? These items are a godsend and can do a world of good for residents who come to the Center as they work to achieve stable, independent lives. **LARGE SIZE NEW OR GENTLY USED MENS AND WOMENS CLOTHING ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED.**

For more information about Interfaith Works, visit their website at <http://www.iworksmc.org>. There is also a link from our website, <http://www.elcbethesda.org/links.shtml>, to Interfaith Works.

HOLY WEEK AT EMMANUEL

PALM SUNDAY, 5 APRIL

8:30 a.m.-Holy Communion in the Chapel

11:00 a.m.- Holy Communion

Lenten/Easter Cantata

Journey to the Cross,

Remembering Christ's Sacrifice of Love

Music by Pepper Chopin, Mark Hayes,

Lloyd Larson and Ruth Elaine Schram

3:00 p.m.

Czechoslovakian Easter Service,

in the Chapel



MAUNDY THURSDAY, 9 APRIL

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Holy Communion,

(continuously in the Atrium)



GOOD FRIDAY, 10 APRIL

Noon to 3 p.m.

The Words from the Cross

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

7:30 p.m.

Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary



EASTER SATURDAY, 11 APRIL

7:30 p.m.

Vigil of Easter with Holy Baptism

in the Chapel



EASTER SUNDAY, 12 APRIL

7:00 a.m.

Sunrise Communion Service

in the Memorial Garden

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Festival Communion Services

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Crafts

and Easter Egg Hunt

7:30-11:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

3:00 p.m.

Norwegian Easter Service,

in the Sanctuary



Thanks To Donors: New Hymnals in the Pews

The Worship and Music Committee expresses its thanks to all who have contributed to the purchase of the new "Cranberry" worship book and hymnal. The donation makes possible the use of the books in worship and the dedication book plate in the volumes helps us to know something of what prompted the donation.

Parish Life to serve Easter Breakfast

Parish Life, the committee that is always active, plans to serve a continental breakfast on Easter morning from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. Come, mingle with friends, eat, and worship. It seems to be all one could wish for.

WELCA Conference, May 2

A synodical conference sponsored by the Women of the ELCA, *Come to the Waters*, will have workshops exploring issues of global stewardship of water (service project supporting issue in Africa); baptism; women's heart health and anti-racism. All are welcome at St. Luke's in Silver Spring. May 2. A link for information is provided on our website.

Annual Congregational Meeting For Programs and Elections May 3

Reports are due in the church office no later than **April 15**. Please send them by e-mail to Katherine at kburrell@elbethesda.org

College Mission/Learning Trip

A few college students have expressed an interest in a mission/learning trip at the beginning of June. This is an invitation to all college and graduate students who would like to go on a short trip down the east coast June 8 to June 13. We would need at least a handful to be able to make this trip feasible. Please contact Pastor Lewis by April 13, 2009 if you are interested.

Christian Education Notes

Sundays

Sunday school for Pre-K through adults begins at 10 a.m.

Children

Pre-K to sixth graders begin with an opening in the Atrium.

April 5 Group Lesson – Palm Sunday

April 12 Easter Egg Hunt

April 19 Group Opening on Interfaith Clothing Drive; Regular Sunday School Lesson

April 26 Regular Sunday School Lesson

May 3 Regular Sunday School Lesson *during Annual Congregational Meeting*

Youth

The seventh and eighth graders will meet in room 11 and have a discussion on the scriptures assigned for the day and how they relate to the 21st century using film clips, videos and other media.. The high school youth will meet in the Youth Room downstairs.

Adults

Bible Study in the Parlor

Kristi Johnson and Diane Swenson continue to lead the Adult Bible Study of the Gospel of John. Everyone is welcome to join them anytime. Grab your cup of coffee and bring a Bible.

Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall

The Adult Forum is an opportunity to have a Christian dialogue on the issues of the day. All are invited to drop in any time.

Confirmation

The Confirmation classes will not meet on April 6 or April 13 due to Holy Week and the Easter Monday holiday. We will have our regular classes on April 20 and April 27 starting at 4:30 p.m.

Other Christian Education Opportunities

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Lookingbill from 10:30 - 12:30 in the Christian Education Room. Bring your lunch.

The regular Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Lookingbill continues examining Dietrich Bonhoeffer's essay, "Life Together." Join them for dinner at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship hall or come at 7 pm for the study in the Christian Education Room.

Rent-A-Teen

Need help with yard work? Have some simple jobs around the house that have not found time in your busy schedule to do yourself? Could you use an extra set of hands with your to do list around the house? **Have no fear, Rent-a-Teen is Here!** The youth who are attending the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering are raising funds for the trip by "renting" themselves out to help you with your odd-jobs. The youth will work in pairs for \$12 an hour. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex after Easter and through the month of May. You can also contact Pastor Lewis to make arrangements to Rent-a-Teen.

From the Council President:

Greetings

March is a time of celebration in our family. Donna and I met at a St. Patrick's Day event. We were married two years later on March 20th. And three years after that, Danny was born on St. Patrick's Day.

After two months of the new year, the financial picture of Emmanuel has been brightened a wee bit with some positive news. A generous donor boosted our February offerings enough to put us slightly ahead of 2009 after 2 months.

Considering that we were 20% down after the first month, that is one huge sigh of relief.

The other bit of good news is that we have rented the Parsonage for three years. With every new tenant, the rental agency earns a fee equal to one month's rental. So a three-year lease means a steady income over the next couple of years.

Three years should give us enough time to make some decisions about keeping or selling the parsonage. We will be looking for guidance from the congregation on this important topic.

I want to express a special thank you to Steve Thronson for acting as our liaison with the rental agency. While the rental agency deals directly with the tenant, Steve is our face as landlord and has done a wonderful job. He will be stepping down with the new tenant and Jim Audas will take over his role. We wish Jim well.

The spring congregational meeting is coming up soon, May 3rd. At the spring congregational meeting we review the programs and activities of the congregation and present our plans for the upcoming year. We also nominate and elect members to Council. I remind everyone to put this important date on your calendars and to participate in this important discussion.

The following week, Emmanuel's Evangelism Committee will host a one day simulcast of a line up of inspirational speakers from the business community that will deliver wisdom and insight about the character qualities that activate and empower leadership.

The event is open to the public and I hope that members of Emmanuel will attend and invite their business colleagues to attend as well.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Youth Challenge the Church Council to a Wii Contest

The Lutheran Youth From Emmanuel (LYFE) issue a challenge to the members of the church council, and other adults, to a Wii Contest. We wish to challenge them in several of the Wii Sports, Mario Carts and Guitar Hero. This challenge will take place during the Pie Cook-off on April 26, 2009. All are invited to cheer on the youth or the adults.

On behalf of the youth,

Cece Sullivan, Youth Representative to the Council
Greg Hunley, Youth Representative to the YFMT

Pie Cook-off and Youth vs. Adult Wii Contest Sunday, April 29 12:30 - 3 p.m.

This is a two-layered event (if you can use the word "layer" when you are taking about pies.) First, we are inviting everyone to bring a pie in for a tasting contest. Second, the youth have issued a challenge to the church council (and other adults) to a "Wii" competition where they will play different Wii sports against one-another. There will be hotdogs and other light lunch fare available as well.

Bring the Whole Family. Bring Friends. Invite a Friend to enter a pie.

Tickets are \$5 each.

Dinner Club

The Dinner clubs will meet again in April. Since we have to get this ready for publication in the middle of March, we are taking a "leap" of faith as to the scheduling of groups for April. We would also like to remind all the Dinner Club participants that final dinner club before summer will be with all the groups on June 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the church.

We also ask the host for April to contact their groups to coordinate the dinners. The hosts are also encouraged to invite other members of the congregation, or their neighbors, to dinner. This month's hosts are: Doris Moss, Tom and Jessica Botsford, Mike and Annette Poston, and Ed and Sheri White (group with children). If you are in the dinner club, and have not yet been contacted by a host, please contact Sheri White at (301) 530-1959.

Parish Vital Records

Births

Max and Alex Rytokoski, twin sons born 21 February 2009 in California to Mika and Melissa Rytokoski, grandsons of Auli and Charles Peterson

Noah Matthew Phillips, born 27 February 2009, son of Mark and Kristen Phillips and grandson of Jan Phillips

Deaths

Julia Richardson, 4 March 2009, sister-in-law to Chris Twomey

Neola Otto Young, friend of Elaine and Robert Jones

Matthew Asser, 2 February 2009 in South Africa, brother of Tobias Asser

Richard Schock, 3 March 2009, brother of Carol Vorosmarti

Change for Change

Do you have a jar of pennies that you have not had time to wrap? How about car ashtray full of coins? Or a piggy bank full of change and you do not know what to do with? Bring it into the church and dump it into the "Change for Change" bucket. This money will go toward helping change the social and environmental conditions in and around New Orleans, a city that is still trying to recover from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The twelve youth who are traveling to New Orleans this summer will be involved in mission work that will help the environment and social climate of New Orleans and the parishes (counties) that surround the city.

Shema

Sunday, April 19

1 - 5 pm

Oh, The Lessons You'll Learn

Synod-Wide event for 3rd to 6th Graders

Shema is the Synod-wide event for 3 - 6th graders and a wonderful chance for upper elementary youth to join with other Lutheran youth outside of their home congregation for an afternoon of faith-forming activities, fellowship, food and fun. This year the theme is "Oh, The Lessons You'll Learn" and will use some of Dr. Seuss to help us think theologically.

Please let Pastor Lewis know by April 15, 2009 if you would like to attend this event .

2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

Emmanuel is sending 15 missionaries to New Orleans this summer. Although the City of New Orleans has received thousands of volunteers over the past 3 ½ years, many being Lutheran, there will be nothing like 37,000 Lutheran young people serving the city and the surrounding area for three days! In fact, we believe that our 12 youth and 3 adults will be a part of the largest serving community ever in the United States. It is hard to imagine what it will be like in July when busloads of people enter the city with hearts of compassionate justice, serving in New Orleans in the mind and manner of Jesus

There are six areas of ministry during this event. The one our youth chose to participate in is the environment. They chose this interest area because they are passionate about creation, clean water, reducing waste and plastic, want to preserve wetlands, wildlife and the earth! We will be going to New Orleans to learn about the Gulf Coast and Bayous that surround this city and why Katrina's floods were so devastating. We will learn ways we can change our daily lives to impact the future of our world. It is not just about being an environmentalist, joining the green movement or doing good things for the planet, it is about being thankful for and caring of the creation that God has woven us into to sustain and bless us.

Environmental projects the youth will be involved in will include learning about the water levees and flooding, visiting the wetlands, learning about the impact of waste, planting trees, gardening, or removing non-native invasive plants that destroy the wetlands. Our youth will return home having learned leadership skills and a new awareness of our environment and encouragement to advocate for caring for the earth - a gift and blessing from God for all living things.

2009 Youth Gathering Finances

The team that is going to the 2009 Youth Gathering would like to thank you for your financial support. We have reduced the amount that we still need to raise to \$5003. This amount includes our plane tickets, the second part of our registration fees, and other transportation. We will continue to raise funds for this youth leadership and discipleship opportunity for the twelve youth who registered to attend. Please continue to support us by buying Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, purchasing LYFE Assurance (stock in the future of the church), coming to the Pie Cook-off and Car Wash, and hiring a couple of the youth to help you with spring cleaning or yard work. Again, thank you for your continuing support.

Easter Candy Donations

We are still accepting Easter Candy donations until April 5, 2009 for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Morning. Please place your donations in the box located in the Narthex.

Pastor Lewis—poetry of a sort

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After our wonderful confirmation-led worship service on March 15, several people requested that we print the poem that was read in the *News Notes*. I have received permission from the author, Leslie Hunter, Youth Director and Assistant Minister at Holy Family Lutheran Church in Chicago. I hope that you enjoy the message of this poem as much as the confirmation class did performing it.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr. +

Pencil and Pen

Pencil was passive, preferring peaceful pursuits of penmanship. Pen was pushy, plotting to promote his power on paper. Pen picked on pencil, pointing fun at his point. Pencil showed patience and politely said, "Please let me pass."

But Pen gave Pencil a push that broke his poised posture. Pestered by this problem, Pencil prepared to pack a powerful punch to pound and pulverize the pest but decided to pause. And remembered such a practice was prohibited by his personality. He said to himself, I'm a preaching pencil providing positive possibilities for the people. I've been in the hands of many prophets, priests, popes and pastors who parade the pulpit proclaiming the precious promise of peace with power like Peter and Paul. I've helped print passages and paragraphs and pages of proverbs and parables all to promote God's praise. So must be persistent in my pursuit of peace.

So Pencil said to Pen, "Pardon me, what's your purpose? Is this pressure a plan to protect your pride?"

Pen said, "No, my process is progress to propel my popularity to the pinnacle of proud potential. PLUS puncture and plunder all piles of plain paper for my pleasure."

Pencil said, "May I make a proposal?"

Pen said, "Proceed."

"Peep this," said Pencil. Perhaps the path you pave is pretentious. Your presumption is that you prevail in the presence of the public, but in private you ponder your poor perception of prosperity and discover that pride is your prison."

"Punk, Please," said Pen. "I'm pruned to produce peak performance, predestined for the prize. I'm proactive, prolific and profound, bound for prominence partner! Not to mention my past, I was the property of pimps, players, and crooked politicians."

"Modern-day pirates who pick pockets at poker parties. I've signed fake passports, written profanity in playgrounds and helped pupils pass term papers through plagiarism. I've had a rough past - it was pathetic, but I learned to push my way to paradise."

"But there's a penalty in pushing," said Pencil.

"What penalty?, asked Pen.

"When that push pummels your peers to the pavement."

"So?" Said Pen, "I Must provide for my pleasure. My prospect takes precedence when it comes to the pursuit of my pedestal.

"I see," said Pencil. " But when your bold point is through, what then will you pursue?"

Pen was silent. For this was a potential problem he had previously predicted but was paralyzed by a lack of solutions to prevent it.

Pencil continued, "What does it Profit (now Pen just think) to gain the whole paper, but forfeit your ink?

See perseverance has its place when its partner is prudence. It might seem like a peculiar package but it's potent when practiced properly. Maybe you're a bit perplexed by the puzzle but it's positively pure and practical and I've got the proof . . . I ONCE WAS A PEN.

"But you're a Pencil!"

"I know, but I used to be a Pen. My past was pretty pitiful, anything but proper. I was a procrastinating, prejudiced, premature, perverted punk with no principles on a prelude to the pits.

But then I met this Prince who told me of a promise and how He paid the price for my past. He was punished for my penalties, then pulled up to Paradise where He prepares a place for me at this present time."

"He changed me from a pen whose ink was permanent into a pencil whose mistakes could be erased.

So Pen, you don't have to play the part of a pushy pen. You can be a pencil and partake in the precious privileges of His Peace.

"But How?" Asked Pen.

"By simply accepting His Precious gift to make you a pencil."

"That's it?"

"Precisely, a pencil is just Pen with C. I. L at the end."

"That's True," said Pen, "But what's C. I. L.?"

"Christ Is Leading. That's the difference between your past and your future. Christ Is Leading."

This powerful proclamation penetrated the heart of Pen, and pooped by his previous pain, Pen permitted Pencil to point him toward the proper path. So they prayed and began to praise and these two pals played on pieces of purple paper with a Passion.

And then . . .

Pen produced a puffy pink eraser at his base. "Look Pencil, an eraser is now in its place. But what should I call it?"

And Pencil said, "Grace!"

Then something peculiar popped out of his head.

Pen said "WOOOOOO!!!"

And Pencil Said,

"As a pen you were the leader

As a pen you were the head.

But now that you're a Pencil

It is time to be Led."

Youth and Family Ministry Calendar

This calendar includes all Youth and Family Ministry Events, not only those for youth. Events advertised for "Youth" include those from 7th grade to 12th grade. Family events or "everyone is invited" are appropriate for all ages. Fun Bunch events are for older adults.

April 3, Friday, 6 - 7 p.m.

Meeting for those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for all those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We will be going over our covenant and work on some of the issues regarding the youth leadership aspect. We will meet at the Sullivans' home located at 11437 Beechgrove Lane in Potomac. You are then invited to stay afterward for fun and fellowship

April 5 - 12

Holy Week

See the Holy Week Schedule on page 3 for information on services.

April 10, Noon - 3 p.m.

Good Friday, Last Seven Words Service

This is an opportunity to hear seven different pastors preach on the final hours of Jesus' earthly life. For those in confirmation class, this is a great opportunity to evaluate several sermons.

April 17, Friday, 6 - 7 p.m.

Meeting for those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for all those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We will be going over the April Bible and Issues study for the Gathering. We will meet at the Hunleys' home located at 8206 Kenfield Court in Bethesda. You are then invited to stay afterward for fun and fellowship

April 19, Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Shema Event for 3rd - 6th graders

This is the Synod-wide event for 3 - 6th graders and is a wonderful chance for upper elementary youth to join with other Lutheran youth outside of their home congregation for an afternoon of faith-forming activities, fellowship, food and fun! See elsewhere in this issue for more information.

April 20, Monday 7 p.m.

Parent Meeting

This is an important meeting for parents of youth, 7th to 12th grade. We will be discussing the plans for the summer and next year. One of the issues the Youth and Family Ministry Team (YFMT) would like to consider the ELCA youth ministry's call to discuss adolescent sexual ethics, an important social-justice obligation of the church, and how the YFMT could address the issue. The meeting will be in the Christian Education Room.

April 24, 6 p.m. to April 25, 6:30 p.m.

30-Hour Famine Lock-in

This will be a working lock-in for those participating in the 30-Hour Famine. We will be doing work for and around the

church and community, watching a documentary, and finishing with a meal at 6 p.m. More information on the 30-hour famine is found on page 2 in this issue.

April 26, 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Pie Cook-off Event and Wii Challenge

This is a two-for-one. First, we are inviting everyone to bring a pie in for a tasting contest. Second, the youth have issued a challenge to the church council (and other adults) to a "Wii" competition where they will play different Wii sports against one-another. There will be hotdogs available as well. Tickets are \$5 each. See page 5 in this issue for more information.

May 1, 6 - 7 p.m.

Meeting for those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for all those going to the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We will be going over information about *the environment*, our focus issue while we are in New Orleans. We will meet at the Hunleys' home located at 8206 Kenfield Court in Bethesda. You are then invited to stay afterward for fun and fellowship

May 3

Congregational Meeting

All youth and families should attend the annual meeting. Youth who have been confirmed are voting members of the congregation.

May 10, Both Services

Youth Led Worship

The youth will lead both worship services.

Fun Bunch News

The Fun Bunch is the group of those over 60 who get together for lunch, fellowship and learning. In the past we have had presentations on genealogy, wood-turning, medical issues, and the culture of New Orleans. We also had a great a music program and Christmas carol sing.

The Fun Bunch has decided not to meet in April since their regular meeting will fall during Holy Week. We are making plans for a visit to the National Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. in late May. We are still trying to decide on a date when the most people can make it, either Monday, May 18, 2009 or Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Please contact the office before April 13, 2009 to let us know which date(s) you can attend.



Take a music bath once or twice a week for a few seasons, and you will find that it is to the soul what the water bath is to the body.

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Greetings!

With cantatas being the lead item in this month's column, I want to urge each of you to mark your calendars for 11:00 on Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009, when the Adult choir will present this year's Lent/Easter cantata, *Journey to the Cross*. Consisting primarily of newly written anthems and songs, this work recalls the final days of Christ's earthly life, as the writers have said, "... spanning the spectrum of human emotion from joyous hosannas . . . to painful rejections by his closest friends . . . moments of agony . . . to euphoric resurrections alleluias before a borrowed tomb." The presentation will again be enhanced by the accompaniment of a chamber orchestra. Kristi Johnson will assist with "bench duties" that morning, for which I am very grateful.

On Easter Sunday morning, hymns and other music during the three services will be supported by trumpeter Dennis Sackman, barring any unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Sackman is a musician with whom I have worked in many of my musical involvements, and, for the past several years he has enhanced the festive atmosphere of that special day in our church year. I eagerly welcome his return.

As always, the music ministry is in search of *new participants*. Even with the best of intentions, from time to time it becomes necessary for current members of both Emmanuel Ringers and the Adult Choir to divide their time between the duties of the church with the demands of their families and their personal lives. As a result, because the numbers are small to begin with, when such occasions arise, it often becomes difficult to provide music in the way Emmanuel has become accustomed or, frankly, as I would like. Another factor which concerns all of us is the reality that because significant numbers of our singers are reaching ages which forecast possible retirement from additional activities, new individuals must step up and join the efforts we put forth.

The rewards of singing and/or ringing the praises of God can't be measured against such terms as *convenience*. The current ELC musicians have schedules as complicated as anyone else's. Yet, they rehearse, sing and play every week. They do so with thanks to the God who gave them the tools to share the love they have for Him --- with you! Now it's time, as the old spiritual says, for you to "get on board, Little Chil'ren, get on board!" Call me.

Until next time, I am Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary dingwallfleary@verizon.net

Maestro Fleary will conduct a family concert with The McLean Symphony on the day before Easter. Featuring selections guaranteed to appeal to audiences of all ages, the guest soloist will be Carlos Alberto Ibay, a truly phenomenal pianist who, since birth, is blind. He has garnered accolades for his performances all over the world. A special treat for children

will be the appearance of nationally-known juggler, magician, comedian, Jonathan Austin, of Richmond.

Date: Saturday, April 11, 2009

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean.



Now comes April. T.S. Eliot called it the cruelest month. He was a bit of a Gloomy Gus and probably had it wrong. Traditionally, it is a wet month with its showers bringing forth flowers in May. However, in Washington, April is often a wondrous time. It is brought in on the tails of the forsythia and crocuses and then come the cherry blossoms, tourists, azaleas, dogwoods, traffic jams, and tulips. What a combination! On top of that, the birds have returned from their southern climes and are busy proclaiming their territory, singing songs of ardor, and procreating. It doesn't sound like a waste land, does it?



Easter and all its joy are the gifts of April, as well. The colored eggs, the candy, and the surprise of the search are fun for the little ones and those who can observe them. But the deep-seated symbolism of these treats is even better. And it gives us the chance, once again, to hear the amazing stories: the agony of Friday, the stunned lack of understanding of early Sunday morning that gives way to joy, the skeptical approach of Thomas, and the comfort of the stroll to Emmaus. Enjoy.

Youth Gathering Team Meetings

Those who are going to the 2009 Youth Gathering will have several mandatory meetings as we get ourselves spiritually and mentally ready. We will also have some team building exercises.

The dates and locations that are scheduled for us to meet at this time are:

April 3, Friday, 6 p.m. at the Sullivans' home

April 17, Friday, 6 p.m. at the Hunleys' home

May 1, Friday, 6 p.m. at the Hunleys' home

May 17, Sunday, 10 a.m. in the Church Youth Room

June 5, Friday, 6 p.m. at the Hunleys' home

June 16, Tuesday, 6 p.m. at the Hunleys' home

The meetings at the Sullivans' and the Hunleys' will be 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. You are invited to stay after the meeting for fun and games. The Sullivans' home is located at 11437 Beechgrove Lane in Potomac. The Hunleys' home is located at 8206 Kenfield Court in Bethesda.

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Susan Drumm, Joyful Praise Choir
Ligia Benjumea, Nursery Attendant

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