



# Emmanuel News Notes

April, 2010

## Pastor Lookingbill ponders. . . . . resurrection

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn . . . the whole world changed! It was the report of St. Luke’s Gospel that brought the good news to generations of Christians around the world, Jews and gentiles, that God has done something new, something very exciting and very provocative.

Yet, the report from a recent poll in the United States indicates that less than half the population connects Easter with the Resurrection of Jesus! It’s become another holiday, another spring break from schools and perhaps a spring trip to some fantasy park? Even in Churches the day of Resurrection is almost overwhelmed with flowers, egg baskets and special music! Where’s the risen Lord of the universe?

There were two men in “dazzling” clothes at the tomb of Jesus that Sunday morning when the women went to take spices they had prepared. The appearance of the two men caused the women a great deal of discomfort, even terror, but the men said, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember what he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered.

Apparently, we all need to be reminded about this “Son of Man,” Jesus!

Easter in our time seems to have become just another family day in America, a day to send the children outside (weather permitting) to find eggs filled with candy or perhaps money and dress in their spring clothes and “parade” for the grandparents. The family will sit down for a feast of the “traditional” family recipe and family stories. If there is a Church celebration, there could be a few moments to talk about what happened at the Church. Who did you see? Who did you miss seeing? How about the music? How about the sermon? How long did it take? Was it confusing? Has the congregation taken away a deep understanding of this provocative event on the First Day of the Week?

When the women at the tomb came back to where the apostles were staying on the First Day of the Week, they told them all about their morning encounter. “But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.” It’s really rather hard to take in a resurrection from the dead, especially when it’s someone you’ve lived with. Is it still rather hard to make sense of this risen Christ, and what does God have in mind for us in light of this event?

Easter is an amazing time for Christians. It is at the heart of our faith, our worship and our living. We are called to believe in Jesus as the Messiah through the Holy Spirit which has caused the Gospel to not only be written but more importantly to be proclaimed. Christians have a reason to worship a living God, a living presence in our lives. It’s not just Easter that invites us to come to the Church for praise and thanksgiving; it’s every Resurrection Sunday that we’re invited to join in the celebration of God’s great gift to Jesus, Resurrected, and to those who have faith in his Holy name. Then we are sent into the world to live lives that exude the holy presence of our Lord, to commit ourselves to acts of kindness and charity, to listen to one another and comfort one another. Where we are able and willing, by God’s mercy, we are sent into the world to make a difference. It’s not just Easter, it’s the new life of Christ in each of us as we clearly express the difference that Christ has made in this busy world.

Inspired by the story of the Resurrection of Christ, great music has been written and shared in the Church and Concert Halls for centuries. Inspired by the story of the Resurrection of Christ, missionaries have been sent into far lands to share the good news of God’s forgiveness and welcome. Inspired by the story of the Resurrection of Christ, whole nations have committed

## DATES OF NOTE

- April 1 Maundy Thursday (page 6)
- April 2 Good Friday (page 6)
- April 3 Easter Vigil (page 6)
- April 4 Easter (page 6)
- April 9-10 Midnight run (page 8)
- April 18 Guest speaker at forum (page 3)
- April 18 Ultimate Frisbee (page 8)
- April 19 Fun Bunch Lunch
- April 20 Endowment meeting
- April 22 Study at Har Shalom (page 2)
- April 25 Airsoft Rally (page 8)
- May 2 Congregational meeting

## WORSHIP

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

themselves to send aid in times of national tragedies like Haiti and Chile. Inspired by the Resurrection of Christ, people have found the strength to transform their lives from tempting addictions and careless living to the devotion of the living God revealed in Jesus. From these corrupting addictions there is only loneliness. Living in devotion to our Lord brings us to the true identity we have as Christian disciples: We belong through Baptism to a living Lord who keeps us in community with all the saints. He is Risen indeed! We are not alone anymore. We are free to practice lives that are selfless and generous. Our families have more to celebrate than Easter eggs and family feasts, even though they are great fun and very worthwhile. We have the Risen Christ to celebrate within and beyond our families.

These are the Christian people that I'm delighted to have in the community, with whom I want to celebrate our faith in a living and risen Christ – "on the first day of the week, at early dawn" they came!

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

## INTERFAITH STUDY AT HAR SHALOM, 22 APRIL AT 7 P.M.

Our first four sessions of the Interfaith Study this year brought about 20 people together each evening to study the intriguing Book of Deuteronomy. The original fourth session was slammed with a snow blizzard and was rescheduled for 18 March. As Rabbi Cahan said, "our material is just too good to be lost in a storm!" I am delighted to be a part of such an exciting and unique program as we have with Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan and Har Shalom congregation.

This year's study began with an overview of the Book of Deuteronomy as a "unique" testimony in the Hebrew Scriptures. Since it was "discovered" by Josiah's priests in 621 B.C. and formed the basis of the sweeping reforms of his kingship, it has shaped the way Judaism and eventually Christianity has viewed God as "One!" Our study of the significance for Deuteronomy brought us to an in-depth look at the "Shema," the ancient call to worship and basic "identifying" creed of the Jewish community. Jesus uses and some theologians say he "expands" the impact of the Shema in his teaching in the New Testament. We are continuing our study this spring with another look at the concept of Covenants, of which there are four in the Old Testament, and the New Testament of Jesus Christ is seen by Christians as the fifth! We will also be examining the character of "holiness" in both Jewish and Christian traditions.

Join Rabbi Cahan and Pr. Lookingbill for the next Thursday evening meeting of this study and bring along a friend or two to share in our "unique" study of Christian/Jewish thought. If you need transportation to the evening programs, please let the Church office or Pr. Lookingbill know.

## EASTER WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY

In Lent the Wednesday evening study group began a Lenten Study of Roy Enquist's new book, *The Courage to Believe: How human life may flourish*. This is a 2009 publication from Dr. Enquist, a professor Emeritus of Gettysburg Seminary and the former Canon Ecumenist at the Washington National Cathedral. Dr. Enquist joined the group two weeks of our study in March to field questions and clarify his views of the state of religion in our modern world. Dr. Enquist says the intent of the book is to "reconnect power to moral responsibility." It's clear that moral life is the next great debate among all Christians. The essential idea of this book is that faith is an adventure, not simply a system of beliefs. Therefore, having faith means consciously living in a "web of connectedness." Among the topics included in the chapters is a conversation about science and religion, arguing that this really is no conflict between the two.

We will continue the study after Easter. We meet for supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 and then move to study in the Christian Education room beginning at 7:30. You need not have supper with us to engage in the study. Please let the Church office and the Pastor know you are planning to attend.

## Other Events of Note

**April 4—Easter Sunday** Parish Life will be providing Easter Breakfast from 7:30am-10:30am.

**April 10—Saturday** Pastor Lookingbill will preside at the high altar as he celebrates the noon Eucharist at the National Cathedral. All are welcome.

**April 20—Tuesday** The Endowment Committee will meet on 20 April and solicits prospective agencies and proposals for 2010 distributions. (see page 5)

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

## Adult Forum to host guest speaker on April 18

Melanie Folstad is on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA). Before joining the board, she was a foster and adoptive parent with LSS. She will be joining our Adult Forum on April 18 to provide an update on the programs and happenings at LSS/NCA. For nearly a century, LSS/NCA has embraced the principles of compassion, community & collaboration. Founded in 1917 when a number of local Lutheran congregations joined together to provide food, clothing, and shelter to families in need, LSS/NCA continually evolves while remaining focused on our commitment to protecting our most vulnerable neighbors.

From the beginning, LSS/NCA has tailored programs to respond to emerging challenges in our neighborhoods. Whether sheltering a family during the Great Depression, welcoming a displaced Vietnamese refugee to America in the 1970s, or most recently providing a safe space for a child with HIV to connect with other affected children at our Youth Haven Camps, the services of LSS stem directly from the needs of the community. Melanie is looking forward to sharing current programs with you and also wants to hear about the needs of the community and thoughts from forum attendees.

## Financial Status As of 28 February 2010

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$109,433	\$113,656
Expenditure	109,434	<u>98,557</u>
Surplus		15,099

## Creative Endeavors Committee Plans two exhibitions

Coming in May

### Youth Art Show

Gather your best artwork (framed if possible) and have it ready to display in the Fellowship Hall for all to enjoy. Exact dates and details will be in the next issue of News Notes.

### Photographers of Emmanuel

Plan to show your photos **in September 2010**. Get your cameras ready. Exact dates will be published later.

## Christian Education Notes

### SUNDAYS

#### Children and Youth Sunday School - 10 a.m. in the Atrium and Classrooms

April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts

April 11 - Regular Sunday School

April 19 - Extended Opening about Clothing Drive - Regular Sunday School

April 25 - Regular Sunday School

#### Adult Forum - 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The Adult Forum is an opportunity to have a Christian discussion on the issues of the day. All are invited.

#### Adult Bible Study - 10 a.m. in the Parlor

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study invites you to join them in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. Ginger Boone and others are leading the group. Further information may be obtained by calling the church office at 301-365-5733.

### CONFIRMATION

April 5 - No Classes

April 12 - Regular Confirmation Class (Snacks - Heather L.)

April 19 - Regular Confirmation Class (Snacks - Matthew W.)

April 26 - Regular Confirmation Class (Snacks - Brendan C.)

### WEDNESDAYS

#### Wednesday Morning Bible Encounter with Pastor

Lookingbill 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring a lunch and join the discussion on Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

## What is the TRIDUUM?

The *Paschal* Triduum, often simply the *Triduum*, begins during Holy Week and consists of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, which is considered the high point of the Triduum. The word Triduum comes from the Latin word meaning "three days." The Triduum technically is not part of Lent (at least liturgically), but Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are still counted as part of the traditional forty day Lenten fast. The Triduum celebrates the heart of our faith, salvation, and redemption: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus, the Triduum commemorates the Institution of the Eucharist (Maundy Thursday), the passion, crucifixion, death of the Lord (Good Friday), his descent to the dead, and finally his glorious resurrection (Easter Vigil). The centuries old tradition of the Easter Vigil includes Relighting the Paschal Candle that has not been present during Lenten worship, remembering our baptism and recalling the history of our faith through important readings from Holy Scripture. In the early church, the Easter Vigil was a service that ends with celebrating Eucharist at sunrise. The tradition at Emmanuel has us returning to our homes after the reading with the discovery of the empty tomb. Our first Easter Eucharist celebration is during the sunrise service outside.

We welcome and strongly encourage you to share in the celebration of our faith through the Triduum services.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE:

## Heart Saver CPR

Have you thought about becoming certified in CPR? Attend this session to be trained in CPR right here at Emmanuel. We will meet for a brown bag lunch after the second worship service, followed by this valuable training (which will last 3 to 3 1/2 hours). Suggested age is 12 and older; this is a great opportunity for youth to become certified! Non-members welcome - feel free to have a friend sign up, too.

**Sunday, May 2nd, 12:30**

Cost \$45-50 per person (Covers instructor fee, workbook, and CD/ROM)

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New email for Parish Nurse/Health Ministry issues:  
a roberts@elcbethesda.org

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## National Public Health Week April 5-11, 2010

Take Action! (Adapted from www.nphw.org)

### Start Small...

- Choose fruits and vegetables instead of sugary sweets at the grocery store
- Plant a fruit tree in your neighborhood or backyard
- Quit smoking or using tobacco products
- Watch the A Healthier America video  
<http://www.generationpublichealth.org/>
- Submit a letter to the editor of your local paper that stresses the importance of public health

### Think Big...

- Create clean and safe parks in your neighborhood with ball courts and exercise trails
- Invite local policymakers and other experts to a community roundtable to discuss the role of public health in our nation's health reform discussions

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## GREETERS SOUGHT FOR NEW PROGRAM

First impressions are important and we hope that members and visitors to Emmanuel will find their first impression of the congregation a friendly and inviting one.

We are starting a new **Greeter Program** here at Emmanuel. Please contact Diane Swenson if you are interested in serving as a greeter in welcoming members and *potential members* to our services. Put a note in her church box or send her an e-mail at [dswenson@mncbia.org](mailto:dswenson@mncbia.org) if you are interested in serving in this way.

This is another fashion in which you can serve the congregation in a meaningful way and yet in one that does not take a great deal of time or require much effort except being friendly and welcoming.

## People-4-People establish Employment Assistance Program

People-4-People, an organization sponsored by a consortium of six congregations in Montgomery County, is offering help to those whose jobs may have evaporated in these strange economic times. They offer employment related workshops, job announcements, job banks, technical support, consultancy, and other resources. Workshops remaining in the series are: *Social networking, how to boost your career search* on April 24, and *Navigating the Web to conduct a job search* on May 22. In addition a career fair will be held on April 17.

For more information, visit their website at [immanuelchurch.org](http://immanuelchurch.org) and click on People-4-People or telephone 301-989-4673

Sponsoring partner congregations include: Immanuel's Church, Mount Jezreel Baptist Church, The People's Community Baptist Church, The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Saint Paul Catholic Church.

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## BUILD

Young Adult Mission Trip  
June 6 - 12, 2010

Pastor Lewis is looking for college students for a mission trip/work camp in Neon, Kentucky where we will help in one of the poorest counties in the United States. For those who have gone to Chi Rho in high school, this is the same place. We go expecting to do anything and come away gaining what we did not expect.

The Registration Date has been extended to April 15, 2010. This trip is open to all college and grad school students. Please contact Pastor Lewis for an application or more information.

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## Volunteers sought

We are in search of volunteers for caring ministry related activities:

### Sewing/Handwork

Do you have a sewing machine which can embroider/stitch words and/or logos? Or, are you skilled at hand needlework? I am looking for some volunteers to help personalize receiving blankets, small sachet pillows, and possible other items to be given to newborn members, members in hospitals/nursing homes, or in treatment at home.

### Cooking/Baking

I am putting together a list of volunteers who would be willing to make meals for members in time of need.

Please contact me via my new email [a roberts@elcbethesda.org](mailto:a roberts@elcbethesda.org) or 301-765-0285 if you are able to assist.

Thank you.

Anna Roberts

## TIRED OF PEOPLE ASKING YOU TO GIVE MONEY? HOW ABOUT HELPING US SPEND SOME!

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee welcomes ideas from the congregation for helping to fund worthy projects consistent with our outreach ministry. We can provide grants from \$100 or less to thousands of dollars, depending on the need.

Your Mission Endowment Fund was set up years ago to provide the means to enhance the mission of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in the community, the nation and the world. The principal is never spent, but the income from the fund can be used for any purpose consistent with our ministry. In the past, we have contributed to Katrina Relief, Haiti Relief, helping to fund a new congregation in the area and many smaller contributions to various groups and causes. Locally, we have contributed to the National Lutheran Home, Youth Works Programs and Mar-Lu-Ridge. A portion of our income is dedicated to for the needs of our church, such as capital improvements and building projects.

If you know of any projects or missions that need financial help from our church, please contact the church office or any member of our committee: Tom Botsford (Chairman), Matt Beardall, Walt Waldrop, Dave Roberts or Karen Grimm.

## Joyful Praise Choir to present *Cool in the Furnace*

Mark your calendars now to join the Joyful Praise Choir on **Sunday, June 13th** as they present "Cool in the Furnace". This is the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, not the most famous characters in the Old Testament, but ones with a great message for all of us. In the face of great adversity, these three young men relied on their faith in God to sustain them. Joyful Praise will be singing ballads, jazz, and blues as they tell the story of "Cool in the Furnace," and they play instruments too! So plan on being in church at the **11:00 service** to be entertained, inspired, and amazed at what these young people can accomplish. It's going to be HOT!

## Chili Cook-Off produces hot stuff

From reports on the scene, there was lively competition at the Chili Cook-off in late February. Dennis Quicker was declared the chef with the best chili. No reports were received about hot pepper overload, so we must assume that most participants survived with minimal damage. Congratulations to Dennis!

## From the Council President:

Greetings

The snow is melting, the Potomac is rising.

The snow and rains have been a reminder of property issues that we have not fully addressed due only in part to budget constraints. They include HVAC concerns, energy efficiency concerns, drainage issues and, of course, snow removal.

We rely on the generosity of Joe Abosso to get our parking lots plowed. We rely on volunteers to clear the sidewalks, an especially challenging job when it is hard to see where they are.

Thanks to all.

I frequently comment on our finances in this space. For the first two months of the year, we are tracking only slightly behind budget – not a bad place to be considering how the snow has disrupted worship.

On the first Sunday in May we will have our congregational meeting on Programs. I look forward to seeing everyone there, unimpeded by snow or any other bad weather.

This June the Christian Education Committee is embarking on a bold new venture. It is the kind of fresh thinking that is needed to attract new members to Emmanuel. Staff from Mar Lu Ridge will conduct an all day vacation bible camp and we will charge families a nominal fee for the week long program. The fees will just offset our costs for the week. We hope that members of the Congregation will assist the Christian Education Committee in actively promoting the VBS in their own families (invite grandchildren?) and among neighbors and members of other congregations.

I am excited about the prospects of establishing a more visible presence in our community.

Another project – not as new but just as exciting – is the Maximum Impact Simulcast. This event was held at Emmanuel last year and drew rave reviews from attendees. Many members of the congregation were able to get their companies to sponsor tickets for several attendees and parents brought their older teens and young adults who reported being inspired by the speakers.

The date is May 7<sup>th</sup> so buy your tickets early to guarantee a spot. The number of tickets is limited.

Further down the road is the beginning of our Jubilee year. December 2010 will mark the beginning of our fiftieth year as a Lutheran center of congregational life in West Bethesda and Potomac. As this year unfolds you will hear more about plans for that celebration. Fresh ideas are encouraged.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee 1920Jimmy@gmail.com

## Parish Vital Records

### Deaths

*Pam Wallgren*, 26 February 2010, friend of Martha Lundberg

*Larry Schneider*, 6 March 2010

## CHI RHO

High School Youth Work Camp  
July 11 - 17, 2010

CHI RHO is an annual week-long servant event trip to Neon, KY for High School Students in the Metro DC Synod Area. It is an opportunity for Teens to serve as God's hands in the midst of a community in need. We will enjoy the fellowship of working toward a common goal while discovering that faith demands action beyond the confines of our immediate experience. CHI RHO is designed to benefit the youth and those we serve. For an application or more information contact Pastor Lewis.



### AT EMMANUEL

- March 28 **Palm Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. *Holy Communion* in the Chapel  
11:00 a.m. Lenter/Easter Cantata *Walk Worthy*  
3:00 p.m. Czechoslovakian Easter Service in the Chapel
- April 1 **Maundy Thursday**  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m. *Holy Communion* (continuously in the Atrium)
- April 2 **Good Friday**  
Noon to 2:30 p.m. *The Words from the Cross*  
Crusader Lutheran Church  
7:30 p.m. *Tenebrae* Service in the Sanctuary
- April 3 **Saturday of Holy Week**  
7:30 p.m. *Vigil of Easter*
- April 4 **Easter Sunday**  
7:00 a.m. *Sunrise Communion Service*  
in the Memorial Garden  
8:30 and 11:00 a.m. *Festival Communion Service*  
10:00 a.m. Sunday School Crafts and Easter Egg Hunt  
7:30-10:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast



**Saturday, June 5, 2010**  
**National Mall, Washington, DC**

We all are touched or have been touched, in some way by the debilitating disease of Cancer. The Susan G. Komen, Walk-Race for the Cure is a way that we as individuals can come together to make a difference, to remember those we love who are suffering with or have died from Cancer. Cancer affects all genders and age group and this event is opened to everyone, men, women and children. By having a team from Emmanuel we can show our support and love to those in our community who have or are fighting Cancer.

Emmanuel is registered for the Walk; our team's name is **Emmanuel Lutheran Church Walkers**. All you have to do is go online (or a committee member will do it for you) [www.globalrace.info-komen.org](http://www.globalrace.info-komen.org) 'Join a Team' or call 703-416-7223 to register. Early Bird Registration fee is \$35.00 a person. Children registration is \$20 each and Runners' registration is \$40. Runners will receive a timing chip. Your Event packet, which you will receive by mail, will contain a Komen Global Race T-Shirt and their official runner's bib. Volunteers to help you sign up will be available after each service from April 4 through 18.

Don't worry about driving to and parking in Washington, DC. With 25-40 person joining us for the Walk, we will have a bus that will drop us off and pick us up at the Mall area. Transportation fee will be \$15.00 a person.

To prepare us physically for the walk, Annette Poston will be planning a walking and stretching exercise program which we will do during May. More information will be made available by mid April.

Can't make it to the National Mall on Race Day? You can register for "Sleep In for the Cure." You will also receive a Komen Global Race T-shirt.

Breast Cancer Survivors who register as a walker, runner or sleeper and indicate as such on your registration form will receive a pink survivor T-shirt, hat and bib and will be awarded a special medal on Race Day. They will also be invited to participate in a special honorary ceremony the morning of Race Day.

What a great way for Emmanuel to show support to those in our community, who are going through treatment or even those who are Survivors, than to walk with them, in their honor.

Yes! Each participant is asked to raise \$125, through people giving in support of their walk, to donate to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, but it is not necessary. It is an individual choice.

## Pastor Lewis considers... . redemption

As I have mentioned before, I really enjoy watching the Olympics. It does not matter if it is the Winter or Summer Games, I find the spirit of the games to be magnificent. Yes, some times network TV's agenda is not the same as my expectations, but through the extra coverage on the internet I was able to watch everything that I wanted.

There are also always great lessons to learn by watching the Olympics. Watching the snowboarders all high-five and hug each other after each run, no matter which country they are from. I was inspired to see Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong, known as the "Snow Leopard," the only black African on the international skiing circuit and who is set to become Ghana's first athlete to compete in the Winter Olympics, reach his personal goal — to not come in last (he was second to last).

There is also the story of Lindsey Jacobellis. Four years ago she was on her way to the gold medal in the Women's Snowboard Cross. With a commanding lead and one jump to go, she decided to have some fun, grabbed her board in the air — then fell on the landing, eventually skidding across the finish line in second place. For four years Jacobellis answered questions about "showboating." For four years, Jacobellis trained and worked hard for her second shot at the gold. For four years, Jacobellis dreamed about redemption.

On February 16, 2010, Jacobellis had the best shot of winning gold this year as she went into the semi-finals. As she was boarding down mountain, Jacobellis lost control, hit a gate and was disqualified. She ended up in 5th place — not bad, but not at all what she had hoped for. In an instant, her shot at redemption was over.

So it is with redemption when we try to do it on our own. Sure, an athlete may make the occasional comeback. But when it comes to redemption from sin, on our own we will always fall short, always hit a gate, always be disqualified.

Redemption comes at a cost. Jacobellis knows this. It cost her four years of hard work and scrutiny from peers and fans. And in the end, redemption did not come at all.

God also knows this - Redemption cost God a son.

But the result was so much more than a gold medal and a chance to stand on top of a podium. The result was a new relationship with God, the chance to stand before God forgiven and free - redemption earned at great cost. Unlike Jacobellis, we did not do anything to work for our redemption. Christ did it all. "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

And so, as we come to the end of Lent and into the season of Easter, we reflect on how Christ's sacrifice — and God's Redemption came at great cost to them both. But we are the ones who have received the reward. Thanks be to God.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr.

## Stewardship Committee Report

Year	Numbers pledging	Amount pledged	Average pledge	Simply Giving
2010	77	\$249,070	\$3,235	\$18,140 (7 members)
2009	92	302,150	3,284	
2008	106	323,519	3,052	

The response for 2009 was lower than for 2008, both in pledge number and the total amount pledged, possibly because of concerns about both current and future economic conditions may be affecting the pledge response. While some of the pledges have decreased from the previous years, significantly more have increased the amount pledged. Of note, we have received pledges from new members and also from members that have not pledged in recent years. We sincerely thank all those Emmanuel members who have submitted pledges for 2010; these pledges provide important information for Council's ongoing deliberations on the budget for the upcoming year.

The Stewardship committee welcomes any suggestions or thoughts members might have on how to improve the stewardship and pledging process and look forward to serving the congregation.

John Deem | Stewardship Committee  
Jonathan Vogel |

## Youth Family Ministry Team Needs You!

The Youth and Family Ministry Team (YFMT) is responsible for planning, developing, implementing and maintaining ministry programs and events for people of all ages. From the Fun Bunch events for our 60+ members to the Adventure Club for elementary age children; from Work Camp and Mission Trips to Family get-togethers such as Ice Skating and Bowling we do it all. And we are need of a few people to help with this important ministry at Emmanuel.

The YFMT meets about once a month to brainstorm about programs and events for our congregation. We are especially looking for parents of elementary age children and those who would like to help with adult programs such as the Dinner Club, Fun Bunch and other events. Please contact Pastor Lewis to let him know you want to be involved with this wonderful and important ministry.

## Youth and Family Calendar

April 1, Thursday, 7 - 9 p.m.

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

All youth and families are encouraged to join us for the last Communion Service before Easter Morning. Tables of 12 will celebrate and remember the Last Supper about every 20 minutes with Pastor Lookingbill. Come anytime during the two hours to the Christian Education Room.

April 2, Friday, Noon - 2:30 p.m.

### **Last Seven Words of Christ**

Pastor Lewis and Pastor Lookingbill will join other local pastors at Crusader Lutheran Church located at 1605 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville for a Good Friday Service. All are welcomed. If you can only come for part of the service, you are most welcome.

April 2, Friday, 7:30 p.m.

### **Tenebrae**

All are welcomed to our annual worship service where we remember the events of Good Friday and prepare in fervent hope for Easter Morning.

April 3, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

### **Easter Vigil**

All are welcomed to our last worship service of the *Triduum* as we recall our journey of faith in the Chapel. For more about the importance of the *Triduum*, see the note on page 3.

April 4, Sunday

### **Easter Morning**

Come celebrate the Risen Christ at either the Sunrise Service (7 a.m.) or one of our Festival Communion Services at 8:30 and 11:00.

April 9 - 10, Friday - Saturday

### **Midnight Run Retreat to Help the Homeless**

The high school youth will join a small group of people from the Coalition for the Homeless and Luther Place to hand out food and clothing to homeless people living on the street. This is an organized event that has been successfully, and safely, done with youth groups in downtown Washington, D.C. for years. Please see elsewhere on this page for more information.

April 18, Sunday, 1:30 - 3 p.m.

### **Ultimate Frisbee**

All Youth are invited to come out to play Ultimate Frisbee. We will meet in the Cabin John Regional Park off of Westfield Drive. Drive past the Ice Rink and go back toward the Tennis Courts.

April 19, Monday, Noon

### **Fun Bunch Lunch**

Everyone is invited to a catered lunch and a presentation. This month's presentation will be by Andrea Ford, R.N., CDE, a Certified Diabetes Educator. All are welcome.

April 25, Sunday, 1:30 - 4 p.m.

### **Airsoft Rally**

All Youth are invited to join us at the Tactical Airsoft Arena located at 20-B Southlawn Court in Rockville. The cost is \$40 a person if you do not have your own equipment, \$20 if you bring your own equipment. You may want to bring money for snacks as well. We will plan to be finished by 4 p.m.

May 2, Sunday, 10 a.m.

### **Annual Meeting**

All youth should plan on attending our Annual Congregational Meeting. Confirmed Youth are voting members of the congregation and have a responsibility of exercising that privilege. Those in confirmation should attend so they can better understand the ministry of the Church as they continue to proceed toward being confirmed.

May 2, Sunday, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

### **CPR Training**

Youth and Parents who would like to become CPR Certified have the opportunity to do so at Emmanuel. Youth must be at least 12 years old. Contact the office for more information

Mark Your Calendars

May 9 - Youth-Led Services

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## Midnight Run Retreat to Help the Homeless

April 9 -10, Friday to Saturday

The high school youth will join a small group of people from the Coalition for the Homeless and Luther Place to hand out food and clothing to homeless people living on the street. This is an organized event that has been successfully, and safely, done with youth groups in downtown Washington, D.C. for years.

In order to help out our neighbors in need living in the street, we need your help. No later than April 8, 2010, we will have a box in the narthex to collect items which we will give out to those living on the streets. Below is a list of items we need:

Food and Bottled-Water, Granola Bars, cheese&crackers, peanut butter&crackers, apples, bananas and other packaged foods that do not need to be cooked.

#### Clothing

New Socks, New or Like New gloves or mittens, stocking caps

#### Toiletries

Soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, lotion  
Other Items

Backpacks and small duffle bags

Blankets

NOTE: We cannot accept coats this year.



*Bach gave us God's word.  
Mozart gave us God's  
laughter. Beethoven gave us  
God's fire. God gave us Music  
that we might pray without  
words. — Anonymous*



Greetings Everyone.

As I prepare this column, I'm looking at the brightness of the sunshine and rejoicing, as you probably are, with the fact that there are no more dirty mounds of snow. Anywhere. That is one of many things for which we can all be thankful.

On the subject of post-Easter events, I am happy to announce that the long-postponed traditional talent presentation, Treasures of Emmanuel, is now scheduled for Saturday evening, May 15, at 7:30 PM. I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to participate, either as a performer or by being in the audience to support the event. In the weeks and months to come, as we close in on Mother's Day, graduations and the like, all signs that summer (can you believe it?), is only a breath away, those of us involved in providing music for worship at Emmanuel are moving toward that very goal.

Although you will see several reminders between now and then, please plan to be present for, and support the wonderful young people who are Joyful Praise. Their annual cantata will take place Sunday morning, June 13, at the 11 a.m. service. You will be seeing and hearing more specifics, but please save the date!

By mid-June all the choirs – Joyful Praise, Emmanuel Ringers and the Adult Choir – will take a well-deserved break from the regimen of weekly rehearsals. To fill the void created during this part of the year, various guests, instrumentalists and vocalists, and perhaps even small groups of singers from our choirs, will be engaged to enhance our worship experience.

In closing, I want to thank the entire church family for its out-pouring of well wishes with regard to my recently completed shoulder surgery. By all indications it was a complete success, and the healing has begun. I also express my gratitude to Kristi Johnson for taking on organ bench duties for the month of March. She has agreed to continue beyond that date if necessary, as her schedule permits.

Happily, I can report that, as I continue my convalescence, I'm doing very well.

Until next time, I am  
Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary  
dingwallfleary@verizon.net

## Vacation Bible Day Camp

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
June 21 - 25, 2010  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Emmanuel is partnering with Mar-Lu-Ridge in offering this week-long full-day Vacation Bible Camp program for those who are completing Kindergarten to Sixth Grade this year. The year-round ministry of Mar-lu-Ridge offers a mountaintop experience that partners with congregations to change lives, make disciples, and build friendships and Christian community.

Emmanuel's Vacation Bible School Camp is a unique blend of outdoor ministry and traditional Vacation Bible School with trained and certified staff from Mar-Lu-Ridge (Our local Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Camp). There will also be staff members from Emmanuel Lutheran Church supporting the Mar-Lu-Ridge leaders.

The Vacation Bible School Camp model is intended to offer quality Christian experiences for young people by providing a Christ-centered day program in their own community. By partnering with Mar-Lu-Ridge, we hope young people become enthusiastic and excited about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Bible Camp activities begin at 8:30 a.m., but children can be dropped off after 8:00 a.m.

Note: Aftercare is available from 4:30-6:30. Please note your interest on the appropriate form.

Registration forms are located in the Narthex and online at our website, [www.elcbethesda.org](http://www.elcbethesda.org). You can also call the church office. Cost for the camp is \$100 per child; families with more than one child should contact the church office.

Registration forms along with a \$50 deposit are due by May 15th, and the balance is due by June 13th. Registrations after May 15th can be made if space is available.

Please direct any questions or comments to Pastor Lewis.

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

Robert Lewis, Pastor  
Youth & Family Ministry

James McGee, Council President  
Katherine Burrell, Parish Administrator  
Dingwall Fleary, Director of Music  
Susan Drumm, Joyful Praise Choir  
Ligia Benjumea, Nursery Attendant

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**APRIL, 2010**

