



Emmanuel News Notes

December, 2009

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. Advent

Whether we remember that Advent, the first season of the Church year, begins after Thanksgiving, or whether we are looking forward to Christmas itself because we're already thinking about presents, we all know this is a season of preparation. In the context of the Church, the four weeks before Christmas are called Advent and celebrated as a time to contemplate the fantastic gift that our Lord has given us in the birth of Jesus. In the arena of the secular world, these weeks before Christmas are called "make it or break it" time for the retail industry. In either case, it's a time for planning and searching.

During Advent aren't we planning the best way to celebrate the arrival of God's promised Messiah, the anointed one who is bringing hope and fulfillment to a world reeling with doubt and pain? In the time of Jesus, the doubts and pain were palpable for the population of Jerusalem and Bethlehem; there was an oppressive Roman government taxing the people along with a cult of the Temple that was controlling all the aspects of religious life. Between the Roman armies and the religious leaders there was little room in daily life for freedom of expression, and little opportunity for improvement of life. The Zealots wanted a war with Rome, and when the legions came, they destroyed even that fanatic expression. The pressing question of rabbis like Jesus was, "is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?" Some of the people withdrew from city life and lived apart in the caves by the Dead Sea so that they could practice a deeper piety than those in the cities, and perhaps avoid some of the oppression of the Romans. They too were overrun by the legions and found little help from the religious leaders. Some even suspected that the High Priests were supporting Herod and those that were leaning on Roman favors! Roman furniture and dishes have been found in the houses of the High Priests!

In our own times, doubts and fears abound too. The Temple cult of Jerusalem is gone, but there are large questions about what part religion is to play in our society. The Roman Catholic Church in Washington D.C. is sparring with the D.C. government about same sex legislation and threatening to pull out of contracts to serve the poor! The Lutheran Church is suffering with doubts about how to implement recent actions of the Annual Assembly to include gay members on the roster of clergy and how to recognize same sex couples. The Lutheran Church is not alone in this new debate. There are some Churches in the ELCA who have already left the denomination because of their fear of these and other issues.

In our own times, doubts and pain are evident in the economy and its effects on our work force. Not only in other states, but also among us in Maryland there are those who have lost their jobs, have been laid off or whose companies have been sold and who now find themselves without work. It's a painful time in life when there's no work to validate a person's energy and integrity. It's not just "I am because I work," but it is difficult to know exactly who you are when there's nothing you can do to support your family. Depression is evident in our communities where the work force is without hope.

It's precisely at times like these that the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem in a desperate time, that we recognize God's promise and that it can fill the world with Hope. When all the bills are paid, when all the presents are opened and put away, after all the children have gone to bed with their newest doll, there is still that need we have to know what it means to celebrate life! By ourselves we are merely trying to survive. What can we expect from the One who has created life and sustains us day after day? In Jesus the answer has been given for all generations: We have seen the promise of our Lord fulfilled to send a Son, a Savior, one who gives us the glimpse we need of the eternal, the permanent, the truly loving and merciful God. It is this life that we prepare to celebrate again this Advent.

Prepare wisely. Our Lord is sending us more than a text message. Jesus is born!

In Christ's Service,

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor



Schedule of Events During Advent and Christmas

- Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent
- Nov. 29 Advent wreath workshop
- Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent
Sankta Lucia fest at 9:45
Sr. Choir Cantata at 11 a.m.
- Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent. Children's pageant at second service
- Dec. 20 Caroling at the National Lutheran Home
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Luminaria Lighting
5 p.m. Family Service
9 p.m. Festival Service
11 p.m. Midnight Service
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
10 a.m. Christ Mass
- Dec. 27 First Sunday of Christmas — Carols
- Jan. 3 Presentation of Our Lord

WORSHIP

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

INTERFAITH STUDY CONTINUES AT EMMANUEL 10 DECEMBER AT 7 P.M.

Our first session for this year's continuing Interfaith Study with Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan and Pr. Lookingbill (on Thursday, 12 November at Har Shalom Synagogue) brought 23 people together to study the intriguing Book of Deuteronomy. We will continue, as we have for the past 10 years, alternating between the two congregations as we study and share our distinct traditions. **The second session will be at Emmanuel on 10 December.**

This year's study began with an overview of the Book of Deuteronomy as a "unique" testimony of 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, can it possibly be viewed as a "reformation" within Hebrew worship? We will continue our study of the significance for Deuteronomy historically and theologically, with a view toward what difference this book's direction has meant to both Jewish and Christian theologians. It could be seen as an early demonstration of how a "reformation" works in the life of a faith community.

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY

Pr. Lookingbill is continuing the Wednesday evening study with supper at 6:30 and a study that begins at 7:30 of Karen Armstrong's newest book, *The Case for God*. This book is her newest of 19 publications and presents an intelligent historical review of religion in the civilizations of humankind as well as a challenge to those atheists in our time who contest the importance of religion. The contest between "faith" and "reason" is hotly debatable, but Karen Armstrong focuses on the "practice" of religion as a means to glimpse the divine, which some call "God." Even if members and friends haven't been able to join the group up to now, you are welcome to come when you are able. We will not meet the Wednesdays before or after Christmas, December 23 and December 30.

THE WEDNESDAY BIBLE ENCOUNTER

Pr. Lookingbill will continue the fall Bible Encounter in Advent on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Education Room (the final session will be December 16). The study examines St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, a letter filled with information about St. Paul's theology and its application to the local congregation. This view of one early Church and its issues provides a teaching opportunity for all our congregations. We meet each week to study together and share a brown bag lunch with desserts provided by members of the group for all to enjoy. If you would like to join the group but need transportation, please contact the Church office or Pr. Lookingbill.

INSTALLATION OF EMMANUEL'S PARISH NURSE

At both Church Services on 8 November, Emmanuel celebrated the Installation of our first Parish Nurse, Anna Roberts. As a special guest that day, Ruth Manchester, the Parish Nurse for St. Luke in Silver Spring for the past eight years, brought greetings to Emmanuel and congratulations to Anna. Anna has been a member of Emmanuel and a trained nurse and is prepared to share her expertise with our community of faith in a variety of ways. She has prepared a survey for the congregation to find out what specific needs might be addressed in her new capacity. This is a volunteer position, but one that is filled with opportunity for members to learn and share vital information about their health issues, about how to find resources in the community and how to keep up with new developments in the field of healthcare.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to all those who set aside time during this busy season to write for Emmanuel's Advent Devotional. Your efforts are appreciated, and help the rest of us prepare our hearts for the Savior.

Let's Go Caroling!

Caroling at the National Lutheran Home and Potluck Dinner
December 20, Sunday, 4 p.m.

Everyone of all ages is invited to join us as we go out to the National Lutheran Home to do some caroling. We will meet in the lobby at 4 p.m. and then go to visit and sing carols. Afterwards we will head over to the Beardalls' for our traditional post-caroling potluck dinner.

The Beardalls' home is located at 10033 Weatherwood Court in Potomac. Directions will be available after we finish caroling.

Emmanuel News Notes is published eleven times a year by Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, Maryland 20817,
Telephone: (301) 365-5733; Fax: (301) 365-9236
Email: info@elcbethesda.org
website: www.elcbethesda.org

Pastor:
Youth & Family Ministry
Council President
Parish Administrator
Director of Music
Joyful Praise (Children's) Choir

Rev. Jan P. Lookingbill
Rev. Robert L. Lewis
James McGee
Katherine Burrell
Dingwall Fleary
Susan Drumm

From the Council President:

The season of Advent is upon us.

It is a time when people return to the church. It is a time when we bring others to worship.

It is a time of rebirth for all Christians. It is a time when we hear stories of John the Baptist living in the desert wearing camel's hair and eating locusts and honey.

One has to assume John was not wearing a camel hair sports coat.

The theme of John the Baptist and sacrifice appears to conflict with the theme of giving that is so much a part of Christmas.

But does it really?

For most of us, we truly do enjoy the act of giving far more than we enjoy the gifts we receive. And for most of us, those gifts require sacrifice.

The same is true in worship.

In the Old Testament, the "offering" was a "sacrifice". The gifts of the congregation were burnt. And they were not meaningless gifts. Animals taken from the herd were to be "without blemish".

Imagine if Pastor Lookingbill took our collection plate offerings and dropped a match into it. OK, so the collection plate is filled with checks and you think that is a great idea. But you get my drift.

The offering is part of our worship. It is our effort to return to God some of that which he has graciously allowed us to accumulate.

I say this because once again, this congregation is headed into the last months of the year facing yet another deficit.

Through the end of October, we are \$65,000 under budget. When you add in the \$8,000 unbudgeted tax bill we received this year, we are actually \$73,000 under budget.

We are 4% below last year's offering level. That means that we are trying to budget for 2010, with an income level equal to 2007.

As I explained last month, the options for reducing our expenditures are extremely limited.

So I ask you to join us this Christmas season.

Bring your friends and family and bring your gifts of worship.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee 1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Christian Education Notes

Sundays

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

December 6 - Regular Sunday School
 December 13 - Regular Sunday School
 December 20 - Preparations for Christmas Pageant
 December 27 - Large Group with Pastor Lewis
 January 3 - No Sunday School

We will also begin practicing our songs for the Christmas Pageant the first two Sundays of December, so please be on time so that the openings are not extended more than a few minutes.

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. They will study prayer in the Bible by looking at ten different prayers that are taught in the Bible. They will use the *Daring to Draw Near: Prayers that Help Us Know Who God Is* (by John White) as a study guide. Bring your Bibles, or pick one up from the shelves in the Parlor and come join in. Ginger Boone will lead the group. Further information may be obtained by calling the church office at 301-365-5733.

Mondays

Confirmation

During December we will continue to study the Ten Commandments along with Bible connections to the Commandment we are focusing on that day.

December 7 - Regular Confirmation Class
 December 11 to 13 - Confirmation Retreat at West River Retreat Center
 December 14 - Regular Confirmation Class
 December 21 - Regular Confirmation Class followed by Christmas Party
 December 28 - No Confirmation Class
 January 4 - Regular Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

Wednesday Morning Bible Encounter with Pastor Lookingbill 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy a lively discussion on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

THE GIVING TREE – IT IS HERE!!!

The awaited time has come! It is Advent time and with the Christmas season comes Christmas compassion, a time when we remember people far less fortunate. At Emmanuel, we once again remember a group of people who live in Anacostia with families to support. Christmas, rather than being a happy time, just adds another burden to their lives.

Fortunately for our Southeast DC neighbors, they live near an organization called Southeast Ministry (SEM). SEM provides several challenging GED and job readiness programs to help Anacostia residents back onto their feet. Many of their graduates find new employment, despite formidable odds. This year the program at SEM is larger than ever and the need for the Giving Tree is larger than ever.

Emmanuel assists SEM through a Giving Tree project (as well as through Gifts of Hope and other contributions). Through this project, we buy Christmas presents for the children of the folks participating in SEM's programs. In so doing, we are supporting the participants' self-help efforts. We're also showing compassion for their children - who have been living for years with the poverty imposed by having underemployed parents.

Yes, it means a little more shopping. That's a nice problem to have, compared with the issues faced by the families we're helping. Won't you buy a few presents for an Anacostia family this Christmas? Note that there are MANY more ornaments on the tree from which to choose.

So... how do I help?

Please **select an ornament and sign your name and phone number to the sign up sheet near the tree.** The ornament has gift suggestions and sizes on the back. Then **return the gift (wrapped and with the ornament attached) to the church by December 13.** We'll take the gifts to Southeast Ministry in time for them to "appear" under the family Christmas trees. Happy shopping!

SANKTA LUCIA PAGEANT

December 13th, immediately following early worship service

Please join us for this annual tradition in the sanctuary, then follow Lucia to the Scandinavian coffee hour, complete with homemade baked goods and Swedish folk music!

THE GIFTS OF THE SEASON

The wise men brought gifts with significance. We too can celebrate Christ's birth in a significant way with meaningful gifts for those Christ left in our care. The Gifts of Hope program gives us a way to make presents through Lutheran churches and charities in Maryland, across America, and around the world. We can help them serve poverty-stricken and vulnerable people by buying the gifts they need.

Through Gifts of Hope, you can celebrate Christmas by sending a present to downtown DC (food for a needy family). The present can be something that's needed immediately (hearing aids) or that helps someone prepare for the future (supplies for a GED student). All the gifts are meaningful, and badly needed.

Here's how: From November 29 - December 20, Gifts of Hope lists will be available in the bulletin and at tables in the narthex. You can select a good or service requested by a Lutheran synod or service organization, and make a donation to buy the item. You'll receive a gift card and an insert describing the present you have given. On Christmas, you can give the card to the person in whose name you've purchased the gift, and tell them about the good work being done in their name.

In the tradition of giving, let's celebrate Christ's birthday with gifts of significance and hope!

See the order form on page 9.

From the desk of Anna Roberts, RN, Parish Nurse:

Parish Nurse - *A professional nurse who functions as a member of the ministerial team within a church and, as such, incorporates wholism (body, mind, and spirit) into primary nursing services across the life span of the community, assisting persons to achieve optimal wellness.*

Thank you for the welcome reception you have given me as I begin volunteering as Emmanuel's Parish Nurse; I look forward to serving the congregation in this new role. I have received many surveys, and will continue to collect them over the next few weeks. These surveys will be used to plan health ministry activities for 2010. If you did not receive a survey, copies are available on the table in the narthex. Please leave them in my mailbox if you are unable to return them in person. I can be reached at 301.765.0285 or annakcc@verizon.net with any concerns and/or questions.

Psalm 138:4,7 *When I called, you answered me; You increased my strength within me. Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly.*



Repeat, repeat the
sounding joy!
– Isaac Watts

With the seasons of Advent and Christmas approaching, Emmanuel Ringers, Joyful Praise and the Adult Choir are making preparations for special presentations to enhance the worship experience for our congregation.

To properly enter into this time preparation for the birth of our Savior, service on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, will begin with the strains of the wonderful and familiar hymn, “Once in Royal David’s City”, music by Henry Gauntlett and text by Cecil Francis Alexander. Also planned for this service will be a church-family favorite – a Hymn Sing! Come prepared to call out your favorite. It might be a good idea to have an arsenal of two or three in the event someone picks it before you do!

As has been the tradition at Emmanuel, for each of the four Sundays of Advent the choir and congregation will sing a different verse from the 15th century French hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*Veni Emmanuel*). Worshipers can expect to hear a variety of seasonal selections from the organ, piano, singers and bell ringers.

On Sunday morning, December 13 at the 11:00, *Nativity Suites – A Cantata for Christmas* by Benjamin Harlan will be the centerpiece of the service. It will be performed by the Choir and chamber orchestra, with narrations. After a simple, but moving Prologue, four musical sections, or Suites, will follow. Each will contain both familiar and original music illuminated with readings. If you know of singers who might enjoy learning this celebratory experience, please have them contact me through the church office, or directly.

As has been the case quite frequently, I must again make a plea to current members and friends of our church family to seriously consider lending your God-given talent to continuing and strengthening the music of Emmanuel. I’ve stated this before, but it must be repeated: the music ministry is in critical need of *new participants*. Even with the best of intentions, from time to time it becomes necessary for current members of both the bell choir and the adult singers to divide their time between the duties of the church with the demands of their families and their personal lives. It is a vital necessity that new individuals and fresh faces come and add new vigor to Emmanuel’s music programs. Please consider getting involved. Not only will you feel good about giving to others through your service – you’ll have a fun and socially satisfying experience!

Until next time, I am

Faithfully yours,
Dingwall Fleary
dingwallfleary@verizon.net

NOTE: For those of you who follow Maestro Fleary’s orchestral activities, please note that The McLean Symphony will have its winter concert on Sunday, December 20. There will be performances at 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM in the Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center. Pianist CARLOS ALBERTO IBAY will join the orchestra for the afternoon concert with his own transcriptions of selections by Tchaikovsky which are being called “Nutcracker Sweets”. (Mr. Ibay has won internationally awards for his playing, a remarkable feat for one who is totally blind). The evening performance will feature Ukrainian pianist ELENA ULYANOVA playing the romantic Piano Concerto No. 2 by Rachmaninoff. Both programs will include delightful and familiar selections for chorus. Several members of Emmanuel’s Adult Choir will be participating. An audience sing-along will round out the concerts



The Christmas Tree is an important element of bringing the season into the home. Whether we get it from a lot, from the attic, or cut it fresh in the woods, it symbolizes the specialness of the season. And the season *is* special, often in more ways than we first acknowledge. It is the celebration of the incarnation of our Lord, it is the sum of all our experiences of joy and anticipation in family celebrations, it is the reminder of all the disappointments and sorrows that may be called to mind near Christmas, it is the scents of the evergreens plus all the aromas that we remember from years past that help to trigger an aura of continued blessing. It is all of these and more, it is the acknowledgement to ourselves that we are part of a continued and continuing life in which the birth of Jesus is more than the arrival of a babe, but is the embodiment of love more profound than we will ever understand. And it is ours.



Holly rich with red berries, ivy, boughs of evergreens, poinsettia plants with their colorful bracts— all of these are used to decorate for the holiday season. Sometimes, plants by themselves are enough to adorn a room. What else is necessary if you have an amaryllis with its bold and colorful trumpet flowers? Or a cyclamen putting forth its many flowers on stems that rise above the leaves like butterflies caught in a moment of time? Wonders to behold and to be treasured. But, what of the colored paper chains made to be placed on a tree with youthful enthusiasm and ineffable charm? Crayon drawings executed with love and energy and presented with pride and more love, can anything be more precious? Few things are more treasured.

Parish Vital Records

Deaths

John Bigelow, 10 November 2009, friend of Julie and Moe Lewis

Susanna Langman 14 November 2009, of a fall while climbing, granddaughter of Renata Reif

MEMBER MOVES AND HAS A NEW ADDRESS

Sometimes it is necessary and now Ann Sandberg has found that she needs to be closer to her family. She has asked that her address and telephone number be available. Remember her in your prayers and in your correspondence.

Ann Sandberg
Highgate Senior Living
Rm 224
2219 West Oak St.
Bozeman, MT 59718

Tel: 406 587 0655

Bibles presented on Reformation Sunday

Following long-standing tradition, Emmanuel Congregation presented personal copies of the Bible to youngsters now in third grade. The recipients were:

Sarah Marlene Bray
Kathleen Canady Cannon
Merete Anderson Cowles
Lauren Elizabeth Hando
Lindsay Marie Nyquist
Madeline Matson

Current Confirmands and their Sponsors introduced

The current class of confirmands and their sponsors were introduced to the congregation on October 25, Reformation Sunday.

Confirmand	Sponsor
<i>Annika Cowles</i>	<i>Sue Hunley</i>
<i>Heather Lundberg</i>	<i>Anna Roberts</i>
<i>Matthew Weinstein</i>	<i>Kristi Johnson</i>
<i>Kerkko Rautsola</i>	<i>Robert Lewis</i>
<i>William Szamosszegi</i>	<i>Doug Murtland</i>
<i>Max Vogel</i>	<i>Kurt Moss</i>

SPECTACULAR YOUTH SKI RETREAT

January 22 - 24 2010
Seven Springs Ski Resort

All youth (and some adult volunteers) are invited to come on the SPECTACULAR Youth Ski Retreat on the weekend of January 22-24, 2010 at Seven Springs Ski Resort, Somerset, PA. We will depart from Emmanuel at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22 and stop at McDonald's in Breezewood, PA for supper (bring money.) We will sleep Friday and Saturday nights at Trinity Lutheran Church in Somerset, PA, ski all day Saturday and Sunday, and return to Emmanuel around 7 p.m. on Sunday, January 24.

You do not have to know how to ski to come on this trip. We will teach you. In fact, it's a great way to learn how to ski, and many of our youth have learned to ski on previous years' trips. The cost is \$180 per person, which includes transportation, lodging, food Saturday and Sunday, and lift tickets. Adult volunteers are needed to help with driving and to assist as mentors. A large van is needed to transport the skis, boots, and poles.

Sign-up packets will be available in the Narthex in December. If you have any questions, contact the trip leader, Jim Audas or Pastor Lewis.

Dinner Club News

If you have not yet signed up to be a part of the Dinner Club and would like to participate, please do so by December 13, 2009 so we can put the groups together and meet after the New Year. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the church office.



Pastor Lewis considers.....pigs

Dear Fellow Saints and Sinners,

December is an interesting month. It is the time of year that many magazines and media outlets are putting together year-end retrospectives and I figured that I would also provide a short look back at 2009. It was the year when the first African-American president took office. It was also the year when pop-culture icons near and dear to my heart died, such as: Farrah Fawcett (she was on the first poster I ever bought); Michael Jackson (Jackson 5 was the first MoTown album I ever bought); Dan Seals of Seals & Crofts (he sang the song during my first slow dance); John Updike (wrote the first real fiction series I read); Eddie Bo (the first New Orleans jazz musician I heard live); and, Ed McMahon (the first voice I hear when I stayed up late watching TV). 2009 was the year when "Tweeting" entered our vocabulary. It was also another year of big news stories, as sabers rattled and revolutionaries rallied in Iran. There were also spectacular media events that ended up being much ado about nothing such as the "Balloon Boy" incident.

But what has struck me most this year is the number of magazine covers and Internet stories that feature pictures of busted piggy banks. At this point, it is a no-brainer to see the economy as the year's big (maybe biggest) story. We have heard all about the corruption and CEOs pigging out on big money while their companies go bankrupt. The government's still trying to solve the problem, but many are concerned about too many pork-barrel projects getting thrown into the mix.

We have the swine flu panic that closed schools and even churches. Experts say the flu will probably only get worse before we are out of the flu season (I am writing this on my first day back in the church office after being home with it for a week). For the Chinese, 2008 was the Year of the Pig. But because this is my retrospective and it seems more appropriate, I'm giving that label to 2009.

Perhaps it's our culture's distant Judeo-Christian memory that so easily makes the pig a scapegoat. A quick tour through the Scriptures reveals that your average Israelite would not touch a pig with a 10-foot tent pole. The Prodigal Son parable tells us that slopping with the sows is about as low as it gets in that world, so it follows that we would identify the pig with our own fears for health and home.

But as Christians it is our job to spread around some good news, right? And if you want to end the year by giving your family and friends some encouragement, it is all right there in the Christmas story we read in the second chapter of Luke's gospel. The featured animals are not pigs but sheep, and fear is replaced with hope.

Lord willing, I will be involved in leading worship for the thirteenth straight Christmas Eve this year using the same text, looking for another angle. This year, though, I think the angle is quite easy. Read through Luke's first and second chapters

carefully, and one thing you will notice is that some form of the word "fear" (*phobos*) appears seven times. This is an anxiety-producing story, and I think sometimes we downplay that in favor of the "little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay." There was the fear of people caught in the grip of a piggish empire, the fear of poverty and bringing a child into the world and even the fear of God's glory and, in some sense, God's wrath represented by the angels. As I look through the text this year, though, what leaps out at me is the repeated first phrase that the angel says to Zechariah, to Mary and to the shepherds out in the fields: "Do not be afraid."

In the midst of pig phobia, this story calls us to turn our attention to the Lamb of God, the one who takes away the sins and fears of the world. It is a reminder to us that the pigs do not win in the end; the little Lamb does. It is a message of good news that we need to be proclaiming now more than ever, especially on that one night of the year when lots of anxiety-driven, fear-focused and pigged-out people are geared-up in "last minute" mode.

The good news is that the year always goes out with a Lamb, and that is good news you can take to the bank!

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr.



Youth and Family Calendar

December 4 - 6, Friday - Sunday

Chrysalis Retreat

This is the Synod-wide High School retreat at the 4H center in Front Royal. We will be leaving the church parking lot around 4 p.m. on Friday and return around 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

December 11 - 13, Friday - Sunday

Confirmation Retreat

This is our West River Confirmation Retreat weekend. All confirmands should plan on attending. We will meet at the church at 4 p.m. and leave from there. We will return on Sunday around noon.

December 13, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Sankta Lucia

At the end of our first worship service, we will have our Sankta Lucia celebration. As Lucia and the star-children leave we will follow them to partake in the goodies during Fellowship hour.

December 13, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.

Youth Christmas Party

All youth (7th to 12th grade) are invited to the Hunleys' home for a Christmas party. The Hunleys' house is located at 8206 Kenfield Court in Bethesda.

December 14, Monday, Noon

Fun Bunch

The Fun Bunch will meet this month at the home of Lois Jones. Lois will play some seasonal music again this year and then lead us as we sing carols. The Jones' home is located at 4615 DeRussey Parkway in Chevy Chase not far from the corner of Bradley Blvd. and Wisconsin Ave. There will be directions by the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

December 20, Sunday, 11 a.m.

Christmas Pageant

The children and youth of Emmanuel will present their Christmas Pageant as an important part of the second worship service on that day. We will have a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service to thank the children and youth.

December 20, Sunday, 4 p.m.

Caroling at the National Lutheran Home and Potluck Dinner

Everyone of all ages are invited to join us as we go out to the National Lutheran Home to do some caroling. We will meet in the lobby at 4 p.m. and then go to visit and sing carols. Afterwards we will head over to the Beardalls' for our traditional post-caroling potluck dinner.

The Beardalls' home is located at 10033 Weatherwood Court in Potomac. We will have directions available after we finish caroling.

December 24, Thursday, 5 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Everyone is invited to come celebrate the birth of our Lord at this family Christmas Eve Service. Come hear the good news, sing Christmas carols, and listen to the Joyful Noise children's choir as we worship and remember the reason for the season.

December 24, Thursday, 9 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us for a more traditional Christmas Eve Worship service at either 9 or 11 p.m.

December 25, Friday, 10 a.m.

Christmas Day Service

All are welcome to our "Christ-mass" Christmas Day worship service.

Mark Your Calendars Now:

January 8 - 9, 2010 High School Lock-in

January 10, 2010 Adventure Club for 4th to 6th graders

January 17 - 18, 2010 Confirmation Retreat at Hallowood

January 22 - 24, 2010 Ski Retreat

January 30, 2010 Chili Cook-off

February 12-13, 2010 Midnight Run in Downtown Washington, D.C. to help the homeless. This is a retreat for High School youth.



Gifts of Hope

2009 GIFTS OF HOPE ORDER FORM

Step 1: Complete box to the right
 Step 2: Complete table below
 Step 3: Please make your check or money order payable to your congregation
 Step 4: Write 'Gifts of Hope' on the memo line on the check

P	Name: _____
L	Phone: _____
E	Email: _____
A	Address: _____
S	_____
E	_____
P	_____
R	_____
I	_____
N	_____
T	Envelope # _____

	Gifts that Bring Joy	Beneficiary	Price	Qty	Total
1	Comfy Feet Slippers	National Lutheran Home (NLH)	\$ 20	X _____	= \$ _____
2	Ice Cream Treats	Community Family Life Services (CFLS)	5	X _____	= \$ _____
3	A Week of Summer Camp for A Child	Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp (CFLC)	250	X _____	= \$ _____
4	Nutritious Snacks after Medication	Lutheran Social Services (LSS)	10	X _____	= \$ _____
5	Summer Enrichment Activities	Good Shepherd Housing (GSH)	35	X _____	= \$ _____
6	Reading Club Books	Transitional Housing Corporation (THC)	20	X _____	= \$ _____
7	Sports Equipment for Campers	Mar Lu Ridge (MLR)	30	X _____	= \$ _____
8	Adventure for a Foster Child	Lutheran Social Services (LSS)	25	X _____	= \$ _____
9	A Basket of Books	Southeast Ministry (SEM)	5	X _____	= \$ _____
Gifts that Provide for Daily Needs					
10	Medical Care for Low Income Families	Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC)	25	X _____	= \$ _____
11	A New Mattress	N Street Village (NSV)	100	X _____	= \$ _____
12	Thermal Underwear	Community Family Life Services (CFLS)	20	X _____	= \$ _____
13	In-Home Assistance	Fellowship Square Foundation (FSF)	15	X _____	= \$ _____
14	Bread and Milk for Children in El Salvador	Lutheran Churches in El Salvador (LCES)	10	X _____	= \$ _____
15	Mentoring and Educating At-Risk Youth	Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC)	35	X _____	= \$ _____
16	Vision Aids for the Elderly	National Lutheran Home (NLH)	15	X _____	= \$ _____
17	Dental Care	Fellowship Square Foundation (FSF)	25	X _____	= \$ _____
18	Kitchen Essentials	Lutheran Social Services (LSS)	65	X _____	= \$ _____
19	Medical Supplies	N Street Village (NSV)	25	X _____	= \$ _____
20	Assist at a Food Bank	Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC)	30	X _____	= \$ _____
21	Funds to Travel to Class	Southeast Ministry (SEM)	15	X _____	= \$ _____
22	Physician Co-Pay	Fellowship Square Foundation (FSF)	15	X _____	= \$ _____
23	Sheets and Pillowcases	N Street Village (NSV)	30	X _____	= \$ _____
24	Breakfast and Other Hot Meals	Community Family Life Services (CFLS)	25	X _____	= \$ _____
25	Bus or Metro Fare Card	N Street Village (NSV)	15	X _____	= \$ _____
26	Winter Coat or Heavy Boots	Community Family Life Services (CFLS)	50	X _____	= \$ _____
27	Nutritious Meals for a Week	Fellowship Square Foundation (FSF)	20	X _____	= \$ _____
Gifts that Build for the Future					
28	School or Exam Fees	Lutheran Churches in Namibia (ELCRN)	60	X _____	= \$ _____
29	Supplies for GED Student	Southeast Ministry (SEM)	20	X _____	= \$ _____
30	Chair for a Chapel	Lutheran Churches in Slovakia (LCS)	20	X _____	= \$ _____
31	School Supplies and Computer Equipment	Lutheran Churches in El Salvador (LCES)	45	X _____	= \$ _____
32	Language Classes for Refugees	Lutheran Social Services (LSS)	40	X _____	= \$ _____
33	Bibles for Namibian Seminary Students	Lutheran Churches in Namibia (ELCIN/ELCRN)	30	X _____	= \$ _____
34	Renovation of the Liptovsky Mikulas School in Slovakia	Lutheran Churches in Slovakia (LCS)	50	X _____	= \$ _____
35	Educational Session for a Slovakian Pastoral Intern	Lutheran Churches in Slovakia (LCS)	20	X _____	= \$ _____
36	Student Stipend	Southeast Ministry (SEM)	25	X _____	= \$ _____
37	Historic Renovation of Finnish Mission	Lutheran Churches in Namibia (ELCIN)	50	X _____	= \$ _____
38	Child/Teen Wellness Program	Transitional Housing Corporation (THC)	50	X _____	= \$ _____
39	Salary Support for a Pastor	Lutheran Churches in El Salvador (LCES)	100	X _____	= \$ _____
40	Congregational Choice			X _____	= \$ _____
Subtotal 1-39					= \$ _____
Total					= \$ _____
(Subtotal + #40)					= \$ _____

GIFTS OF HOPE are tax-deductible charitable contributions.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

7730 Bradley Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Phone: (301) 365-5733
Fax: (301) 365-9236
Email: info@elcbethesda.org

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bethesda, MD 20817
Permit No. 2772

Current Resident or

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.ELCBETHESDA.ORG

DECEMBER, 2009

