



February  
2011

# News Notes

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTIETH YEAR OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN BETHESDA

Notice a new opportunity to worship.  
See Pastor Lookingbill's letter on page 2.



The youth of Emmanuel will be joining thousands of youth from churches across the country to "Tackle Hunger" on Super Bowl Sunday, February 6, 2011. In 2010, youth generated \$10 million for local charities through the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 2011, we hope to raise even more.

The youth will have soup pots after each worship service that day for you to drop your donation in. We will have three different soup pots: One for each of the two teams in the Super Bowl, and one for those who don't watch football.

Proceeds go to help those who are still in need in New Orleans.

## December Contributions Bring Emmanuel To Solvency

Brad Fackler, finance chairman of the Council spoke to the congregation on 9 January to report that the congregation had exceeded itself in December by contributing approximately \$130,000 and thereby not only met the budget for 2010, but exceeded it by about \$20,000. Now, of course, the process has started all over again as the Council assembles a budget for 2011. Following two information sessions in January, the congregation will have met on 30 January to adopt a budget.

## Identity Theft— How to Avoid It

On Sunday, February 27, the Montgomery County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will conduct a free, 45 minute workshop on **How to Avoid Identity Theft** led by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Representatives. Come to the social hall during the Sunday School hour, join Floyd Swanson and Mae Scanlan and the Adult Forum as they host this important workshop.

## Manna Needs Food

During February Emmanuel will collect food for distribution to the needy.

## Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 13, 4:30 p.m.

Come out to taste some Chili (including a vegetarian chili), have some dessert, and enjoy great fellowship. We will also have some other food fare for those who prefer something besides chili (Especially children). Last year we had twelve (12) entries and it would be great if we could add a few more this year. Contact Pastor Lewis about your entry into the cook-off.

Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex two weeks before, but you can always get tickets at the door. You can also contact Pastor Lewis in the church office for tickets during the week. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3- 12 with a \$25 maximum cap for families. Proceeds benefit youth programs. Bring the whole family. Bring a friend (or two).

## DATES OF NOTE

- Feb 6 New Worship schedule at 10 a.m.
- Feb 6 Souper Bowl
- Feb 13 Chili Cook-Off
- Feb 14 Fun Bunch Lunch (p 5)
- Feb 19 Family Ski Trip ( p 5)
- Feb 24 Interfaith study meets at Har Shalom ( p 3)
- Feb 27 Sneakers & Squeakers Magic show (p 5)
- Mar 8 Shrove Tuesday
- Mar 9 Ash Wednesday
- Mar 13 Scout Sunday

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
Sunday School and  
Family worship at 10:00 a.m.

## Pastor Lookingbill ponders worship



Dear Friends,

The Lutheran Church has defined itself since the time of Luther as a Church that believes in bringing Word and Sacrament to God's people. That means that we gather together on regular occasions, most notably on Sundays – the day of Resurrection of Jesus Christ – to read Holy Scripture and to hear the Word of God expressed by the Pastors of the Church and to share in Holy Communion. Pastors understand that they have been called, and they have responded to that “call” to ministry, so that the Gospel of Jesus will be heard and lived out in community and Baptism and Holy Communion “rightly” administered.

The Church Council has noted with concern the declining worship attendance at Emmanuel over the past several years. In 2010 our average Sunday worship attendance was 130, down from 144 in the previous year. Some of the concern that members and the Council have had is about those members who have children in Sunday School and who find it difficult to worship on Sundays and have their children participate in our Sunday School programs.

Therefore, the Worship Committee has recommended and the Church Council has decided to add a new “family” worship service at Emmanuel during the Sunday School hour – at 10 a.m. – in the Chapel. While this service will be held at the same time as the Sunday School and is meant to include the children in Sunday School and their parents, it is not exclusive to the Sunday School families. If the time is more convenient for other members to join in this simple and informal service, they are always welcome at Emmanuel.

**We will begin this new 10 a.m. Family Worship Service in the Chapel in February.** The Service will begin promptly at 10 a.m. with the children and their parents as well as the teachers of the Sunday School and others who choose to come. The liturgy will be spoken and simply adapted for those attending. After brief opening prayers and perhaps a small introduction to the Sunday School lessons for the day, the children and their teachers will move to their respective classes. Those remaining in the Chapel will continue worship with the reading of the Bible lessons and study of the meaning of the texts. The Service will conclude before the Sunday School children are dismissed so that there can be some time for some fellowship among those attending.

**Please bring your Sunday School children directly to the Chapel on 6 February promptly at 10 a.m. so that we can begin the Service on time. There will be an announcement in the Fellowship Hall at 9:55 so that folks coming to the Coffee hour can move in a timely fashion to the Chapel. Coming late**

**to this new Service will make the transition more difficult for the Sunday School faculty.**

Since there will be no music planned for this new worship Service by the Worship Committee, children and their families who could bring their own talents are eagerly encouraged to speak with the Pastors. Wouldn't it be great if our children provided some Prelude preparation for our worship together?

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

---

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER: THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The Book of Genesis is the continuing topic for our Wednesday morning Bible Encounter this winter. We have already studied the most ancient texts, the pre-history section of the book. In February we will be looking at the death of Abraham and how his son and grandsons fared with their lives. It does seem that Genesis is filled with stories of dysfunctional families that God still loves and supports. There's much comfort for our families as well when we see how gracious our God has been.

This First Book of Moses, an ancient book that reflects not only the Hebrew marvel at God's creation but also the interaction of early cultures with whom the Hebrews lived, brings us today to questions about the realm of human behavior and religious scrutiny. Why do brothers argue, deceive and perhaps forgive? Why do families move and what do dreams really mean? What has God to do with all this human drama?

Pr. Lookingbill gathers the Wednesday morning Bible Encounter group to share insight and enrich our understanding of Holy Scripture. We meet at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday and conclude with a brown bag lunch about noon. Members and friends of Emmanuel are always invited to join our study as we review our ancient “origins” and share our Christian view about how God continues to interact in our lives today.

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](mailto:info@elcbethesda.org)  
website: [www.elcbethesda.org](http://www.elcbethesda.org)

Pastor:	Rev. Jan P. Lookingbill
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
Parish Nurse	Anna Roberts

## WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY “GOD IN AMERICA”

The Wednesday evening study group is meeting for weekly supper together and for study of a recent PBS series titled, “God in America,” which portrays “how religious liberty shaped America.” We view a DVD that can be described as a sweeping history of religious faith in America and how it has influenced public life. Through documentary footage and historical drama, interviews with historians and review of stories, this series will open for discussion the religious lives of major figures in our history and how they were influenced in their public decisions. It also challenges us to consider carefully where America and religious life is heading today.

We are viewing portions of the DVD each Wednesday evening and then spend time in reflection and discussion on the topics introduced in history. For those of us who have not had a chance to think about our religious heritage, this will be a delightful winter opportunity with a group of well informed friends at Emmanuel.

Join Pr. Lookingbill and the group each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall for supper at 6:30 and in the Christian Education room at 7:30 for the study. Supper is provided by members of the group each week and shared with generosity. You need not come to supper to participate in the study.

## Parish Vital Records

### Births

*Zachary Evan Colby*, born 6 January 2011, son of Heather and Ricky Colby and grandparents Susie and John Omran

*Allyssa Eileen Lookingbill*, born 9 January 2011 to Megan and Jon Lookingbill and proud grandparents Pr. Jan and Judy Lookingbill

### Deaths

*Naomi Jones*, died 15 December 2010, mother of Pr. Doug Jones

*Charles Frank Jones*, died 19 December 2010, husband of Lois Jones

*Doris Darilek*, died 22 December 2010, mother of Richard Darilek

### New Members

*Emily Grace Wall Feldmann*, daughter of Kathryn and Lee Feldmann, by infant baptism, 26 December 2010

## INTERFAITH STUDY CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY

Pastor Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan are continuing their study of the Book of Deuteronomy this year, meeting again at Har Shalom for the next session on 24 February at 7 p.m. The December scheduled session was postponed because of the weather, and we are now planning the series to continue through May.

In this joint study, we are extending our knowledge of one of the most fascinating books of the Hebrew Scripture, one that changed the course of Jewish identity and influenced Jesus in his teaching and ministry. Jesus as a Rabbi developed Deuteronomic traditions and criticized worship in the Temple to reflect acts of compassion and caring as what our God truly wants us to practice.

In our continuing study of Deuteronomy this year, we are extending our understanding of a part of Torah that has often been overlooked by the Christian Church. As Walter Brueggemann has noted in his Introduction of the Old Testament: The Deuteronomists’s “theological intentionality” is marked by an “immense interpretative imagination.” What he means is that Deuteronomy represents a separate, distinct and imaginative reflection of values that have influenced Judaism and by extension Jesus and Christianity throughout the ages. Deuteronomy makes clear that “deeds and not creeds” are the living witness of our religious life.

Deuteronomy may very well have been a counter-cultural book. As one of the main commentators has indicated in the Anchor Bible Series, “the very purpose of the Book of Deuteronomy was to curtail and circumvent the cult and not to extend or enhance it.” This idea seems to have come from the Prophet Hosea who lived in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. That it has continued to inform and inspire the life and times of Jesus is a tribute to its depth.

We meet again on 24 February at 7 p.m. at Har Shalom to continue our dialogue. Bring a guest along with you who will be delighted with this unique Interfaith Study.

## Scout Sunday

March 13, 2011  
11 a.m. Worship Service

All scouts and scout leaders are invited to this special Scout Sunday Worship. This includes Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, all levels of Girl Scouts, Campfire USA, 4H, Venturing, and Frontier Girls. All scouts and leaders will earn a special pocket patch for attending.

Participants are asked to attend in their uniforms or vests. You are also encouraged to invite your scout friends as well.

## Hints and Helps from the Parish Nurse

### Safety

A little extra attention and some preparation can help reduce the risk of a fire at home. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers these suggestions:

- \* When cooking, never leave food on the stove without someone watching.
- \* Also when cooking, don't wear loose clothing that may catch fire.
- \* Avoid smoking at home, and quit smoking if you can.
- \* Keep a space heater at least three feet from any flammable object or material.
- \* Make sure your home has smoke alarms on each floor.
- \* Develop an escape plan to get out of the home if there's a fire, and have everyone in the home practice it.

### Bullying

Bullying is when a person or group repeatedly tries to harm someone who is weaker or who they think is weaker. Sometimes it involves direct attacks such as hitting, name calling, teasing or taunting. Sometimes it is indirect, such as spreading rumors or trying to make others reject someone. Often people dismiss bullying among kids as a normal part of growing up. But bullying is harmful. It can lead children and teenagers to feel tense and afraid. It may lead them to avoid school. In severe cases, teens who are bullied may feel they need to take drastic measures or react violently. Others even consider suicide. For some, the effects of bullying last a lifetime.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### Caregiver support

If you, or someone you know, is caring for a loved one with dementia please read on. Caregiver stress and fatigue is common in those taking care of individual(s) with Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias. The Alzheimer's Association offers a number of support groups, provides written materials, and one-on-one telephone assistance. Perhaps there are a number of members at Emmanuel who would like to get together and discuss this or other issues related to dementia. Please let Anna know if you are interested in learning more about this topic.

There are meetings at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd 1st & 3rd Wednesday 11:45 AM (led by Lynn Meltzer and Marlies Buhler) and at Sunrise of Rockville, 8 Baltimore Road 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM (led by Terri Binder).

### Beating the Winter Blues

Learn how Seasonal Affective Disorder differs from other forms of depression. Various treatment options, such as light therapy, will be discussed. To register call 301-896-3939. Feb 24, 2011 1-2 pm, Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., Rockville.

## From the Council President:

### Greetings

Once again we turn the corner on a new year. By the time you read this, the Congregation will have approved a budget for 2011. It is a balanced budget, a budget that, thanks to your generosity during the month of December, spared us from making unpleasant and difficult budget decisions.

As we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, we have much to be thankful for and much that bodes well for our future. Your supportive giving during December is proof that our community of faith means much to you.

When Bishop Graham spoke to the congregation at the service on the third Sunday in Advent to commence our fiftieth anniversary celebration, he reminded us to see ourselves with a glass half full perspective. When he met with the Council afterwards he remarked on several very positive impressions that he had observed. Council had asked him in advance to address several questions related to how we can grow and re-energize our congregation. He noted that we did not need to RE-energize the congregation because he observed a lot of energy. He observed lots of young people, always a sign of energy.

He observed people of all ages – another sign of energy.

He was impressed with our temple talks that Sunday, something we were frankly a bit concerned about doing when the bishop was here. Too often, he said congregations are unwilling to confront their financial situation until it is too big to ignore and to resolve easily.

He observed a very welcoming congregation, one of the most essential factors needed to grow a congregation. He observed a willingness to try new things.

He wasn't here to observe your response to our fund raising appeal in December. But I am sure he noticed the extra checks that flowed to the synod when we exceeded our offering budget for 2010.

And one of those new things we will be trying is a new worship service at 10:00 AM. As this goes to press, many of the details have not been worked out, but you will be hearing more in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

We are starting this year and this half-century on an incredible up beat. There will always be bad news, but we show the energy and the optimism to overcome our obstacles.

Best wishes for 2011

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

1920Jimmy@gmail.com

## Pastor Lewis Considers..... Retirement



Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Church statistics show that there is going to be a significant shift in church membership in the next few years. This is because the first baby boomers will be reaching official retirement age.

While not as many boomers will retire in their mid-sixties as the previous generation, the ability to retire at an age when one can still be rather active is new. For thousands of years, the retirement plan for most senior citizens consisted of working the crops or herding sheep.

Data for 2011 says that life expectancy has climbed to just shy of 80 years, up from 59.2 in 1930. Many of the first baby boomers (those born in 1946) who are beginning their retirement this year may have as much as 20 years or more of living still ahead. If, as some spry retirees claim, 65 is the new 55, then the old paradigm of retirement meaning a move to Florida and eating dinner at 4 p.m. is being blown up by an emerging generation of super seniors who would seem to prefer starting a second career to playing shuffleboard. Retiring boomers will embrace the philosophy about which boomer icon Neil Young once sang — “it’s better to burn out than it is to rust out.”

With all these changes in life expectancy, not just the quantity but also the quality of life, perhaps the whole retirement thing needs to be rethought once again. After all, there are some vocations from which you can never really take a permanent vacation. Take parenting, for example. Sure, you raise your kids to be independent, but even when they are adults; you are still Mom or Dad for life. Perhaps the most permanent lifelong vocation, however, is being a disciple of Jesus: a vocation from which you never really retire.

The problem is that the call of Jesus to follow him has no expiration date — and no gold watch as a reward for doing one’s time. The work of the kingdom is ours to do whether we’re 7 or 70. Living life with an eternal perspective means we see our whole lives as belonging to Christ from beginning to end.

I invite those newly retiring baby boomers to reverse the trend of seeing retirement as an end and, instead, teach us how to see it as an opportunity to use newly found free time for kingdom purposes.

Rather than retire, renew.

Pax

Robert Lewis +

## Youth and Family Ministry Calendar

February 6, Sunday, both worship services

### Souper Bowl of Caring

Youth will be collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring after each service. We need youth volunteers to hold soup pots for the collection. See elsewhere in this issue for more information

February 13, Sunday, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

### Chili Cook-Off

#### 6th Annual Chili Cook Off

Come on out to taste some Chili (including a vegetarian chili), have some dessert, and enjoy great fellowship. We will also have some other food fare for those who prefer something besides chili. Tickets are \$10 an adult and \$5 for children 3- 12, with a \$25 cap for families.

February 14, Monday, Noon

### Fun Bunch Lunch

In anticipation of Mardi Gras our program will be on the history and culture of New Orleans (this is not a repeat of the session we had on the churches of New Orleans). We ask for a donation to help with the cost of a catered lunch. Let Pastor Lewis know if you plan to attend.

February 19, Saturday

### Youth and Family Ski Trip

All youth and families are invited to join us for a day of skiing at Liberty Ski Resort. For those who would like to carpool or head up together, we will meet in the church parking lot at 7 a.m. The cost for an 8 hour lift pass is \$53 for children age 12 and under and \$60 for all others. There are also 4 hour and extend tickets available as well. Ski rentals are \$40 and \$46 for snow board. Helmets are also available for rent. There are also lesson packages available. For those in fourth and fifth grades, there is a special “ski free” promotion. You must go to a special Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association website and preregister for the promotion. The link is found on Emmanuel’s Youth and Family webpage, [youth.elcbethesda.org](http://youth.elcbethesda.org).



February 27, Sunday, 1 p.m.

### Magic Show for Sneakers and Squeakers

All Children and their families are invited to our “Sneakers and Squeakers” event – a MAGIC SHOW. Peter Wood, professional magician, will perform a show in the atrium. The show will include Peter teaching the kids a magic trick and giving them the materials they need to perform it for their family and friends. Bring a friend or more.

Mark your calendars:

**March 6** – Youth Service Project, **March 8** -Shrove Tuesday

**March 13** – Scout Sunday

**March 18-20** – Shekinah Confirmation Retreat

**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  
Anna Roberts, Parish Nurse

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

Current Resident or

---

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
**WWW.ELCBETHESDA.ORG**

---

**FEBRUARY, 2011**

