



March
2011

News Notes

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTIETH YEAR OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN BETHESDA

Shrove Tuesday leads into Lent with pancakes

The Youth-sponsored pancake supper on **Tuesday, March 8**, will lead into Lent. Traditionally such a supper was a way to use up fat which would be off folks' diets during the penitential season of Lent. Traditions die hard and the pancakes will continue even if the fasting does not.

Everyone is invited to our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Mardi Gras Style - 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 a person with a \$30 cap for families. Tickets can be purchased on Sundays in the Narthex or at the door the night of supper. We will have activities for the children.

Guest preacher in March: Mark Huffman

As part of our observance of our fiftieth year in Bethesda, Rev. Mark Huffman, a son of the congregation will preach on **March 20**. He serves a congregation in Lutherville, MD. A "soup and sammich" luncheon will follow the 11 a.m. service

Soup and Sammiches Sunday, March 20

Everyone is invited to join the congregation as we gather for lunch and fellowship. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after the second worship service (about 12:30 p.m.). For questions, please contact Patti Leppert at (301) 977-5632 or by e-mail at apricotpl@verizon.net.

Mark your calendars for the next "Soup and Sammiches" Lunch: April 10 and May 1.

Chef Quicker Scores

The Sixth Annual Chili Cook-off was held on February 13. Attendees tasted the various chili preparations and voted for their favorite. For the second year in a row, Dennis Quicker's chili was acclaimed to be the best in the competition. Well done!

DATES OF NOTE

- Mar 8 Shrove Tuesday
pancake supper 6-8 p.m.
- Mar 9 Ash Wednesday, services
noon and 7:30 p.m.
- Mar 12 Treasures of Emmanuel
program 7:30 p.m. (p 11)
- Mar 13 Scout Sunday (p 9)
- Mar 13 Laser tag (p 9)
- Mar 18-20 Shekinah retreat (p 9)
- Mar 20 Mark Huffman, preacher
Soup and Sammiches
- Mar 27 Sneakers & Squeakers
family swimming (p 9)

ASH WEDNESDAY: TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

There will be a noonday worship service in the chapel on Wednesday, March 9. Another service will be in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Imposition of ashes and communion will be available at both services. If driving at night is a concern, plan to attend the service at noon.

Treasures of Emmanuel In concert Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Once again the talents of the congregation will be on display and in action as the umpteenth production of the Treasures of Emmanuel is presented in the Fellowship Hall. The variety of skills that are represented in the congregation will amaze you, entertain you, and leave you wondering, "What next?"

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Pastor Lookingbill ponders pilgrimage



From ancient times, religious people have made pilgrimages. Jesus traveled with his family and the village, later with his disciples to Jerusalem for the major festivals in the religious life of his times. Christians have made pilgrimages throughout Europe, with regular Chapels established along pilgrim routes to host those traveling, and to sell them food and religious objects. The Crusaders in the middle ages went to Jerusalem on a "holy" crusade, ostensibly for religious purposes, at the urging of the Pope in Rome. Moslems are required to make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in their lifetime, filling the square around the black stone and saying prayers and singing songs.

Usually these pilgrimages are for a single group of like minded folks. When the Jews were ascending to the Temple Mount, they could all sing the pilgrim Psalms that were memorized for that purpose. You can still hear their voices when we encounter Psalm 122, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord! Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.'" Only Moslems are allowed within the gates and religious ground of Mecca. Mostly Christians are visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, although it's a Moslem family that holds the keys to the Church and locks and unlocks it every day! That's another amazing story of how Christians can't always agree on things.

But this year Rabbi Leonard Cahan and I are planning a trip to Israel, an Interfaith Israel Adventure, with both Jews and Lutherans invited to go along. We will be leaving on 24 October for a two week visit to religious sites in Israel, basing our tours from Jerusalem, Tiberias, and Tel Aviv. Our trips each day will include both Jewish and Christian sites, as well as some commentary and prayers along the way. To have the experience and insight of a Rabbi who is very familiar with the history of both the land and the Book along with us is a great privilege. I am hopeful that the Jews coming along will think something similar about having a Lutheran Pastor along!

A pilgrimage of this sort is very special and, honestly, has been in the minds of several of us for many years. To be able to do this trip in 2011 is a great fulfillment of our hopes for the Interfaith Study that Rabbi Cahan and I have shared for over ten years. Of course, the Interfaith group, those who have attended over the years, are a core group for this trip. They know one another from our joint studies and shared stories. You need not have been part of the Interfaith Study to go along, and we want to have a nearly even number of Jews and Lutherans share this adventure.

Shortly a brochure will be available for consideration and to set out the details of the trip. I am looking forward to meeting with those who might be interested so that we can formulate our plan for this ecumenical Israel Adventure.

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

INTERFAITH STUDY CONTINUES IN MARCH

Pastor Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan are continuing their study of the Book of Deuteronomy this spring, meeting again at Emmanuel for the next session on 17 March at 7 p.m. The December and January scheduled sessions were both postponed because of the weather, and we are now planning the series to continue into 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 as he criticized the lack of compassion and caring among those who called themselves "religious."

As we continue our study of Deuteronomy this year, we are extending our understanding of both the Jewish tradition of justice, caring and worship as well as our appreciation for the practice of these virtues by Jesus in the New Testament stories. Christians are not required to carry on all the traditions of the Jews, but Jesus calls us to carry forth the intention of Holy Scripture to bring blessings to all God's people.

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 8th 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 17 March at 7 p.m. at Emmanuel to continue our dialogue. Bring a guest along with you who will be delighted with this unique Interfaith Study.

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Joyful Praise (Children's) Choir
Parish Nurse

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

10 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL

We began a new worship experience on Sunday mornings in February after the Annual Meeting. We now offer worship at 8:30 and 11 in the Sanctuary, and at 10 a.m. in the Chapel the Sunday School students, families, teachers and folks wanting a more relaxed and informal worship experience gather. The opening of the worship is with the entire group; after opening with a song, an introduction to the Sunday School theme for the day and a prayer, the Sunday School is dismissed to classes. Then the remaining group enter into a study of one of the lessons for the day, along with questions and discussion. The Worship is over by 10:40 so that families can reunite after Sunday School is over.

We are looking for some volunteers to prepare and share their musical talents for this new worship experience. Please let the Pastors know you are interested and ready to prepare some music to enhance the Chapel worship hour.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER: BOOK OF GENESIS, THE STORIES OF JOSEPH

For our Wednesday morning Bible Encounter this spring, we are continuing to study the book of Genesis, specifically the cycle of stories about Joseph. We have already studied the most ancient texts, the pre-history section of the book. In March we will be looking at the deeds of the sons of Jacob and what this meant for the whole people. It does seem that Genesis is filled with stories of dysfunctional families that God still loves and supports. As Joseph will conclude at the end of the book, "even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good." This is the intention of our Lord: To preserve a whole people!

All these stories about Joseph begin when he is just 17 years old, a shepherd for his father's flocks. There is jealousy, anger, deception, dreams and seduction involved in his life of faithful trust in God. All this points us toward that trust that is the foundation of our lives.

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 read again these formative stories of our faith and the pilgrimage we're on today.

THE FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES!!!

... AND Why is that? Because, as we have been hearing in the lessons this year, we are to do justice and act with kindness. Feeding our neighbors is exactly that – acting with justice and kindness. Please... will you share with our neighbors at MANNA Food Center?

Bring a SIGNIFICANT contribution for MANNA when you come to church in February and March. Donations will be accepted in the narthex. This month, let us surpass the 500+ pounds we donated to MANNA this summer. Let's show them Emmanuel's generosity!!!!

Your MANNA Shopping List

MANNA especially requests: **peanut butter, tuna, soup, small fruit cans/cups, Easy Mac, individual milk boxes, oatmeal packets, tuna fish, especially in vacuum packages or 3oz cans, pudding cups, crackers packaged in a sleeve like Ritz, cereal bars that contain at least a few vitamins and protein, individual raisin boxes, microwavable containers of soup, pouches of mashed potatoes or rice that require only water.**

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY: "READING JESUS"

The Wednesday evening study group meets for weekly supper together and for study of topics that are both imaginative and theological, that relate to our lives as we live in today's world. Beginning in March we are beginning a new book by Mary Gordon titled "Reading Jesus." Mary Gordon is a professor of literature at Barnard College in New York, a Roman Catholic and a well respected author of six novels.

In this book, Mary Gordon takes a careful look at the Gospels with a literary mind, searching for ways to understand and apply the stories there. Newsweek says "Gordon, from her perch at the nexus of the intellectual and religious worlds, makes a convincing argument for the importance of the Gospels . . . Like the best fiction, the truth of the Gospels story is bigger than the sum of its parts."

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.

LENT: BUILD FAITH

Lent is a time to explore our Christian faith and build from where we are to where we would like to be with God's help. The following guide is from the January issue of *The Lutheran* magazine. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th this year! Begin your 5 week journey when you would like with an exciting celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 24!

- Week 1 The temptation of Jesus - Matthew 4:1-11.
 What gets in the way of trusting God and God's promises?
 What becomes more important than God?
 How does the Bible remind us to put God first?
- Week 2 Nicodemus and Jesus -- John 3:1-17
 Talk about how Jesus is a gift to humanity.
 What does God's gift of salvation give you that nothing else can?
- Week 3 The Samaritan woman at the well - John 4:5-42
 Discuss how God knows everything about us, including our failings and faults.
 How does Jesus meet us in those places and give us hope?
 How are you reminded that Christ's living water is ever-flowing?
- Week 4 The healing of a man born blind -- John 9:1-41
 What do you see clearly about God and what do you not see clearly about God?
 In your life, where does Christ bring healing and restoration?
- Week 5 The death and raising of Lazarus - John 11:1-45
 Where have you seen or experienced life and hope when all seemed lost?
 How is Jesus bringing life out of death in your life?

CHI RHO

High School Youth Work Camp
 July 10 - 16, 2011

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.



LEADERCAST

VOICES OF CHANGE 05.06.2011
 one person you influence.

The leadership voices characterized by Voices of Change and embraced by the Chick-fil-A Leadercast are influence, innovation, service, purpose and hope and will feature:

- Robin Roberts**, Anchor of Emmy-winning show, "Good Morning America"
Suzy Welch, Best-selling author, commentator and business journalist
Mack Brown, Head Coach of the 2005 National Champion Texas Longhorns
John C. Maxwell, Leadership expert, best-selling author
Sir Ken Robinson, Best selling author & leader in creativity and innovation
Dave Ramsey, Best selling author and nationally syndicated radio personality
Dan Cathy, President & CEO of Chick-fil-A, Inc.
Erin Gruwell, Founder of Freedom Writers Foundation & subject of the film, "Freedom Writers"
Seth Godin, World renowned blogger & marketing expert, author of *Linchpin*
Muhtar Kent, Chairman of the Board & CEO of The Coca-Cola Company
Frans Johansson, Best-selling author of *The Medici Effect*

This will be the third year Emmanuel has hosted this event via satellite feed from Atlanta and the speakers and their messages are guaranteed to inspire. We are limited to 50 tickets and prices for this day long event offered at \$99 per person which includes a continental breakfast, catered lunch and Leadercast workbook. The fee for those individuals or organizations purchasing 5 or more tickets will be \$79 per ticket. **All net proceeds from the event will support Emmanuel Lutheran Church.** Please contact Katherine in the church office or Kurt Einwaechter to purchase tickets. Visit www.chick-fil-a-leadercast.com for more info and reserve a spot for yourself and a friend today!

Hints and Helps from the Parish Nurse

March is National Nutrition Month

Health Ministry Casserole Fundraiser!

During the month of March we will be taking orders for homemade, healthy casseroles.

Buy savory, homemade meals (three choices offered) and support fundraising for the kitchen improvement project.

March 6th - Taste delicious samples of the casseroles being offered

March 6th and 13th - Place your order(s)

March 27th - Delivery of homemade, frozen casseroles to Emmanuel

Casseroles will be offered in varying sizes to meet your needs. Don't think you need to stock up? Purchase a "Casserole of Caring" to bring to a friend and/or fellow Emmanuel member who would appreciate a delicious, easy go-to meal!

Keep Health in Mind When You Dine

You are what you eat! Eating Healthy can have a positive impact on brain function and power. Registered dietitian Samantha Heller, author of "Get Smart: Samantha Heller's Nutrition Prescription for Boosting Brain Power and Optimizing Total Body Health" will share her tips to healthy eating that will not only satisfy your appetite but show how food can improve memory, mood, energy levels, and more.

Wed March 9, 2011
Suburban Hospital Auditorium
6-8 p.m.
Registration required 301-896-3939



January 13, 2011

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Psalm 46:1-3

One year ago yesterday, a catastrophic earthquake struck the nation of Haiti, killing nearly 250,000 people and leaving more than one million homeless.

Many of us remember hearing the news and seeing images of the devastation for the first time. We lifted up the people of Haiti in our prayers. We gave generously.

More than 40,000 ELCA members and leaders like you contributed \$12.6 million to support the work of ELCA Disaster Response in Haiti. Because of our long-standing relationships with the Lutheran Church in Haiti and many partners there, the ELCA was and continues to be uniquely positioned to respond quickly and effectively.

Your gifts have:

- * Provided food and shelter to approximately 57,700 people living in camps coordinated by The Lutheran World Federation and more than 6,000 people who gathered on the grounds of the Lutheran Church in Haiti.

- * Delivered more than 14,000 quilts and 13,000 health kits.

- * Distributed 3,200 gallons of safe, clean drinking water to approximately 2,000 families.

- * Shipped four convoys of medical supplies, hygiene and baby kits, tents, food packages and other necessities.

- * Funded housing placement and crisis counseling to Haitian refugees and medical evacuees seeking asylum in Florida and Georgia.

And yet our work is far from over. Our long-term goal in Haiti is to help renew hope and rebuild lives and livelihoods, seeking to end the cycle of poverty and injustice.

Thank you for your continued generosity and your prayers for the people of Haiti. Together we will continue to do God's life-giving work with our hands for as long as it takes.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Parish Vital Records

Deaths

Adeline Paige, died 15 January 2011, mother of Sue Olson

Phyllis Kirscht, died 16 January 2011, aunt of Rose Quicker

Wendy Wade, died 26 January 2011, aunt of Pr. Lewis

Dale Snyder, 3 February 2011, wife Susan, long-time official at the National Lutheran Home

Frances S. Camp, died 5 February 2011, mother of Charles Camp

New Members

Zachary Evan Colby, son of Heather and Ricky Colby, by infant baptism 23 January 2011



From the Finance Chairman: 2011 Budget Approved

We ended 2010 on a financial high-note. The congregational response in December resulted in our finishing the year with total income that was nearly \$20,000 over expenditures, thus allowing us to fund the reserves for the first time in several years. In light of this positive data, the 2011 budget for Emmanuel, approved at the Annual congregational Meeting on January 30 contains modest increases in staff salaries (after no increase in 2010) and property and maintenance. In addition, we have increased spending for parish programs to support our 50th Anniversary celebration this year.

This year's budget is not without some risk however. Faced with a declining enrollment, the Montessori School has requested a reduction in its rent in order to facilitate a possible sale. If no suitable buyer is found, the school could close; thus negatively impacting a key component of our income. Additionally, our declining worship attendance, which in recent years has been correlated to decreased giving, also poses some degree of danger to our income projection. The Church Council is continuing to monitor these two areas and will keep the congregation updated as we go through 2011.

I want to thank all who helped in the preparation and approval of this year's budget.

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

The Finance Committee is looking for a few volunteers to serve Emmanuel for the coming year. This could be the opportunity of a lifetime; a chance to serve on a committee that has no meetings. The key function of the Finance Committee is to enter the weekly contributions into the Church data base. My aim is to enlist two or three volunteers. In that way, your “turn” would come around only about once a month.

The job requires only a minimum of computer skills. If you can send an email, you have more than enough background to easily handle this assignment. We will work out a flexible schedule so as to facilitate service in times when we all have busy schedules.

The reason for my plea at this time is that Bruce Grimm, who has served the Finance Committee faithfully for several years, will be leaving the committee. I want to thank Bruce for his dedication and for his help in showing me the ropes as I transitioned into the Financial Chairman role.

If you are interested in serving on the Finance Committee, or at least finding out more about it, please contact me. I can be reached by email at brad@emmanuel.org or by phone at 301-922-6962.

Thank you,

Brad Fackler
Finance Chairman

Pastor Lewis Considers..... Residue



March is a time when we start looking forward to warmer days and more sunlight and, because of this, we often put Lent on the back burner. Or maybe it's because of all the aural and visual stimulation that bombards us, we find it hard to focus on something that is not full of bright colors or ear catching music - especially when Lent begins with a pile of ashes.

This traditional image that shows up on people's foreheads on Wednesday, those little black crosses of ash smudged above the brow signal the beginning of Lent. "Remember, from dust you came, and to dust you shall return." Ashes are the residue of burned-out fires. Cold and lifeless, ashes make it clear that something is not right, that human beings have settled in the dust and settled for the worst when they might have taken wing into the heavens.

So, before we think of Lent as just the season of ashes -- a 40-day "moan and groan" and "woe-is-me" session, look at the next image the church offers to people at this time of year:

On Wednesday the leaves from last year's Palm Sunday palms were reduced to cold gray ashes.

On Sunday Jesus proclaims the Good News.

On Wednesday we are marked with the ashes of our finitude and mortality.

On Sunday we see the promise of eternal life as Jesus rises up out of the baptismal waters.

The Holy Spirit descends as a dove at the moment of Jesus' baptism.

In order to celebrate and fully understand God's blessing, Christ's presence in our lives, Easter morning, we must be able to acknowledge the curses that also accompany life. There are ashes, there are wild beasts, there is evil. Without black and white, everything is gray -- and all the gray images in the world will not show up against an equally gray background.

It is Lent. It is a time of ashes, for acknowledging the bad smell of a corrupted humanity in the air. But without that smell in our nostrils, we might fail to notice when the wings of the Holy Spirit start beating the sweet, fresh air of Christ's redeeming love into our lungs.

PAX,

Pastor Robert Lewis

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.

Youth and Family Calendar

March 6, Sunday, 10 a.m.

High School Youth Service Project

The High School Youth will meet in the youth room downstairs to work on a service project.

March 8, Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

All youth are expected to help with our annual pancake supper. Ticket information is found elsewhere in this issue.

March 13, Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Laser Tag

Meet Pastor Lewis at Cici's Pizza at the Quince Orchard Shopping Center where he will treat for lunch, and then it's off to Shadow Land Laser Tag also located in the Shopping Center. Bring \$15 for two games of laser tag and some extra if you want to get a snack or drink between games. Cici's Pizza is located at 642 Quince Orchard Road.

March 18-20, Friday to Sunday

Shekinah Confirmation Retreat

We will leave the church at 4 p.m. on Friday and return around 2:30 pm on Sunday.



March 27, Sunday, 2 – 4 p.m.

Family Swim – Sneakers and Squeakers Event

We will meet at the Montgomery Aquatic Center (5900 Executive Blvd, Bethesda) to go SWIMMING. They have a kiddie pool/leisure pool area and a giant slide. Admission for County Residents is \$4 for children, \$6 for adults and \$4.50 for seniors (55 and over with an ID)



Emmanuel Youth Art Show

Attention all Sunday School Students, Pre-K to High School. Help us brighten the spring months by sharing your paintings and drawings with us to display in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring your artwork during the week of April 10. Cannot make a choice? Bring in more than one!

The official hanging will be on Thursday, April 14

Please label each piece:

Name
Age
Title (if any)
Medium (acrylic, crayon, etc.)

It would be helpful to have artwork framed, if possible.

Any questions, call Carol Vorosmarti, 301-340-7326



Photo by Jacquie Salive

Emmanuel contributes to this Year's Souper Bowl

As parishioners left services on Super Bowl Sunday they were met by youth holding large kettles. The object was to collect contributions in aid of feeding the needy. Above can be seen Carol Vorosmarti contributing to a Steelers kettle held by Mark Hunley while Jim McGee contributes to a Packers kettle held by Kyle Einwaechter. When it was all over the Packers kettle held \$60, the Steelers kettle held \$120, and the Phooey-on-Football bucket held \$100. Although the event seems not to have been an accurate predictor of the outcome of the Super Bowl game, raising \$280 for charity certainly is a winner.

Confirmation Students Discuss The Liturgy

Sunday after Sunday we are privileged to worship in a pleasant, attractive sanctuary often adorned with flowers and banners. We are often granted the chance to hear interesting music, sometimes strikingly beautiful music. One of the beauties of the weekly worship service is the use of familiar liturgies. The forms vary as the seasons of the church year progress, but the basic pattern and much of the familiar canticles, psalms, and prayers are made more easily cherished by their repetition. Thus it has been deemed appropriate that a portion of the education of the youth as they work towards Confirmation should be the study of the elements of the Lutheran service. February 27 was the day this year when the confirmation students led the service and explained their understanding of the various parts. In part, it was a demonstration of their education and in part it was a review for the worshipers, telling them again what liturgy means. Liturgy has been called the "work of the people" and sometimes the people have to endure remedial education in order to carry out their worshipful work.



"He who hears music, hears his solitude peopled at once."
– Robert Browning

Greetings Everyone!

By the time you read this many members of the church will be in the final days of honing their talents and sharpening their acts for the annual counterpart to America's Got Talent, known to us as Treasures of Emmanuel! That's right, and, as you've already seen on the calendar and heard in the buzz, it will take place Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 in the church Fellowship Hall.

The kids who share their gifts on Sundays as the Joyful Praise Choir, under the guidance of director Susie Drumm, accompanist Sherry Peske and cheerleader and occasional guitarist, John Drumm, will be singing music from the Broadway hit, "Aladdin," and likely a few surprises I've not been told about. In addition, there will be pianists, both young and younger, instrumentalists of various kinds, and the return of one of Treasures' favorite entertainments, the Emmanuel Ringers. If all the rumors hold true, you can also expect to see and hear jugglers, song stylists, stand-up comics and more!

Last year, among the several unexpected great moments, was a sing-along of popular (dare I say it?) drinking songs led by MLB&MS – the gentlemen(?) of the Martin Luther Beer and Marching Society – of which the two pastors and I are proud members, by the way! Whether or not there will be participation by newly-formed women's contingency, KLW&DS (the Katrina Luther Wine and Darning Society) is still an unknown. One can only hope. (Who said Lutherans don't know how to have fun? These groups, and the fellowship they engender, may become a model for other churches to follow.

It isn't too late to sign up. Know any good stories or jokes? I'd encourage baton twirlers, but I'm afraid the ceiling may be too low. However, tumblers, hula-hoopists and unicyclists would be great to watch, don't you think? Don't be shy. If you can do anything, come join the show!

The next major musical event will be the Lenten/Easter cantata to be performed by the Adult choir and chamber ensemble. That will take place on Palm Sunday, April 17. More on that in my column next month.

For those who particularly enjoy hearing our children sing, Joyful Praise can be heard at 8:30 on March 20, and at 11:00 on March 27. The adult choir will continue to enhance our worship as usual, along with the handbell ringers. I am especially pleased to announce the addition of the newest ringer into the group, Candy Heinlein, who has recently become a member of the church.

For details about any of our scheduled music activities, please call the church office, or contact me directly. As always,

I welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have toward the enrichment of our musical efforts. I want to hear from you!

Until next time, I am

Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary

dingwallfleary@verizon.net



March is supposed to come in as a lion and depart as a lamb. Some years, however, it seems to have its roles mixed up. We've had some potent winds during this winter and if March would rather be mild and gentle for the whole month, no one will object.



In the days when every child had a kite, at least half the fun of watching them was figuring out what had been appropriated for use in the tail. Sometimes it was general robbery of Mom's ragbag, sometimes it seemed to be matching pieces of cloth. One year, the tail seemed to consist of mismatched mittens. Perhaps a trip to the Smithsonian Kite festival will be necessary to see what folks use nowadays.



Days are lengthening—ever so slightly. When you are scraping your windshield of a morning, have you noticed the song birds are beginning to sing for their territory. One day soon, the first crocus will be seen. Spring is coming, but there may be a mighty cold spell first.



Winter has its pleasures. It is true that the cold and the snow are often tedious and hard to bear, but remember the look on the faces of small children that have had fun building a snowman or sliding down a hill. They come inside, so bundled that it is hard for them to move, their cheeks are ruddy, their noses are running a bit from the cold wind that bites their faces, and they almost glow. They shed coats, mittens, scarves, snowsuits, galoshes, and all (remember how long it took to suit them up?) and eagerly embrace the hot chocolate that warms their hearts. Love is hot chocolate on a cold day served up by a grownup who has a marshmallow up a sleeve.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

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