



May
2011

News Notes

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTIETH YEAR OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN BETHESDA

DATES OF NOTE

- May 1 Congregational Meeting for programs and elections
- May 6 Leadership Simulcast
- May 6-7 Synod Assembly
- May 8 Youth Sunday (page 10)
- May 15 Storage room clean-up
- May 22 Sneakers and Squeakers games (page 10)
- June 5 Joyful Praise cantata "David and the Giants" (page 3)
- June 5 Church picnic (page 5)

SOUP AND SAMMICH AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR PROGRAMS AND ELECTIONS May 1

The Congregational Meeting for programs and elections will take place on 1 May after the 11 a.m. service. Concurrently, there will be a soup and sandwich lunch available. All confirmed members are eligible to vote at this meeting. Patti Leppert and Pam Schuettler will stand for re-election and Ed White will stand for election to three-year terms. One additional nominee will be presented at the meeting.

May 1 to be observed as Christian Education Day

The Christian Education Committee plans to observe Christian Education Day on Sunday, May 1. During the Sunday School hour, each of the classes will share what they have been studying during this year. Come, be enlightened.

Our finances: Not bad, Could be better.

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	166,100.04	159,210.39
Expenditures	<u>166,100.70</u>	<u>147,184.30</u>
Difference	(0.66)	12,026.09

These figures reflect income and expenditures through March 31.

Observing our Fiftieth year continues

On April 10, an exchange of pulpits brought Rev. Anne Benefield, pastor of neighboring Geneva Presbyterian Church, to Emmanuel. She preached at both services, took part in the Adult Forum, and presided at communion at the second service. Meanwhile Pr. Lookingbill was similarly occupied at her congregation. He reports that he "was warmly greeted at Geneva."



The Rev. Anne Benefield, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church on Seven Locks Road, has served in that call since 1999. She is married to John Hein and has two high school aged children, Olya and Johnny Hein.

Delegates to represent us at the Synod Assembly

Emmanuel is entitled to five representatives at the 2011 Synod Assembly in addition to the pastor. Jim and Donna McGee, Pam and Fred Schuettler, Brad Fackler, and Pr Lookingbill have been selected as delegates. The Synod meets for two days in May (6 and 7) in Lansdowne, Virginia (part 1) and for a third day in September. Last year part 2 met at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Pastor Lookingbill ponders living locally



With Easter over, May begins our Easter season leading up to Pentecost and Confirmation this June. Easter is the high point in the Christian yearly calendar, celebrating the great hope and promise of the Resurrection. Yes, Christian story begins with Christmas, but the nativity by itself would not be mentioned if it were not for Christ's Resurrection. The Gospels were first written to reveal the risen Jesus; then the birth narrative was included for the final analysis. If Christ has died and been raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, then we too can have new life. We can live without fear of death, without anxiety of what God's intentions are for our life.

Just as some say that marriages may be made in heaven, but the maintenance is done locally, so it is with Easter. We know that God's plan includes us through the faith we have been given in Jesus, but the maintenance is done locally. Each of us must continue to search and then be found by our forgiving and loving Lord. And not only each of us individually, but also the Church community must come together to work on the practices of Christian living and make our plans.

That's the reason that both our Annual Meeting on 1 May and our Synod Assembly on 6-7 May is important. This is where much of the work of the Church locally is envisioned and empowered. At our Congregational Meeting we will elect new members to the Council, review some of the programs of the Church, especially Christian Education, and thank those who have served so faithfully. Jim McGee, Council President for these past several years, will be completing his term on Council. We thank Jim for his leadership and enthusiasm for the work of the Church. Tim Hando will be completing his term as Treasurer, where he has worked diligently for the past several years. David Hastings is also completing his term on Council and we thank him for his readiness to serve the needs of the Church.

At the Synod Assembly this spring our delegates will hear reports from the ELCA and from our Synod task forces as to their work and challenges. The ELCA has reduced its budget and its workforce again this year to reflect the lower level of benevolence available to the national office. The Synod will be working with the theme "As others see us" to contemplate who we are as Lutherans and what others think of our Christian witness.

This all has to do with the challenges of being the Church in our modern world. There are still some Trappist monks who cloister themselves behind closed doors to pray quietly and sing Gregorian chants. Lutherans are not of that mind. We are among those who engage the world with caring agencies, relief efforts and concern for those less fortunate. We are still among the Christian groups that honor education and Biblical knowledge. How is the Lutheran Church viewed by young people and young families in a fast paced world that is filled with violence and confusion? How do we portray the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that seems continually in cycles of disruption? Even within the Church there is considerable dissension. This past year there have been several

hundred congregations who have left the ELCA over misunderstandings related to sexuality and criterion for ordination. What are the issues that can truly divide the Church? When Jesus prayed that all would be One, what are we doing to live into the realization of that prayer?

Easter is the high point of the Christian calendar and the Christian life. We live as God's people because Christ is alive among us. But the maintenance of this way of life is done locally. I thank our Lord daily for all the members and friends of Emmanuel who seek truth and live faithfully, with generosity and kindness, in the world that is constantly trying to distract us from the true wealth: God's enduring mercy and justice.

He is risen indeed!

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

10 A.M. SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL

Chapel Worship at 10 a.m. Sundays is designed for the Sunday School students, families, teachers and folks wanting a more relaxed and informal worship experience. The opening of the worship gathers the entire group of Sunday School and teachers to begin their day together. 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 those remaining read a Psalm and one of the lessons for the day. Questions and discussion are encouraged in this Chapel experience. The Worship is completed by 10:40 so that families can reunite after Sunday School. Reports from those who have been attending say that they enjoy engaging in one of the lessons for the day with the opportunity to ask questions and offer personal insights.

We are hoping to add some musicians 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. Come to the Chapel on those days when 10 a.m. fits your schedule more conveniently than the Sanctuary worship.

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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 MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER: GENESIS, THE STORIES OF JOSEPH

We will conclude our Wednesday morning Bible Encounter this spring and the cycle of stories about Joseph. As the cycle comes to an end, we see Joseph, now the Egyptian ruler, reveal himself to his brothers and cry for joy on his father's shoulder. Like his father before him, he has a preference among his brothers for Benjamin. As Joseph considers the experience that God has guided the family through, he can say with certainty that "even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good." This is the revelation of our Lord in Genesis: No matter what evil intentions are planned, God's plan is for the benefit of the whole of humankind.

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 father's and mother's faith that point us along the pilgrimage we're on today. Again this May we will conclude our study with a lunch together at Bethesda Country Club on 25 May.

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY: *MERE CHRISTIANITY*

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. Our May study will be based on C.S. Lewis' classic book, *Mere Christianity*. First published in 1943, this short book has been an inspiration for many who have been confused about the Christian faith and are searching for an intelligent approach to understanding Christian values.

What C.S. Lewis intended to do with his original presentation, given on the air first, is to introduce a "common belief" of Christianity so that hearers and readers would more fully understand the "meaning of the universe." I especially like his conclusion in the preface: "When you have reached your own room, be kind to those who have chosen different doors and to those who are still in the hall. If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them. That is one of the rules common to the whole house."

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.

INTERFAITH STUDY CONTINUES IN MAY

Pastor Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan will conclude their study of the Book of Deuteronomy 26 May, meeting at Emmanuel at 7 p.m. This study has brought to life the unique nature of this last book of the Torah, revolutionizing Jewish practices before the time of Jesus and greatly influencing the ministry of Jesus.

As we conclude this joint study, we have been inspired with the genius of the writers of Deuteronomy in the ways they reinterpreted holiness codes and changed earlier practices for the Hebrews that have become normal today for modern Jews. Charity and compassion for the needs of others have been raised to a new level through these writings. We learn about the history and meaning of the tithe, now so simply remembered as 10%. In the history of Deuteronomy we learn that this practice was to take care of the poor through the benevolence of the rulers. These are themes that were developed in the reformation of the traditions by the Book of Deuteronomy in the time of King Josiah.

As we complete our study this spring, we thank Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan for his diligent study and generous sharing of his deep religious knowledge. I am always learning and deepening my understanding of Holy Scripture as we continue this unique opportunity at Interfaith study. Bring a guest along with you who will be delighted with this unique Interfaith Study.



The Joyful Praise Choir is ready for battle!

On June 5th at the 11:00 service, the choir will present a musical based on the story of David and Goliath. We all know the story of how young David beat the giant Goliath and helped to save Israel, but the young singers of Joyful Praise want you to know that no matter your size or age, we are all capable of facing insurmountable odds and winning. So please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for "David and the Giants" on June 4th. You will honor us with your presence.

From the Council President:

Greetings

In another week, Emmanuel will have its fiftieth Congregational meeting for Programs and Elections. It will be my last as your Council President. But I will come back to that.

Last month I reported to you that we faced a great deal of uncertainty with regard to our tenant, the Walden Montessori School. The good news is that the uncertainty has been resolved for at least the 2011-12 school year. The bad news is that our budget will take about a 5% hit for the remainder of this year and an even bigger hit next year.

Our small scale market research shows that private school enrollment is down throughout the region. Without some rent relief, Walden School would not have been able to open for the 2012 school year at current enrollment levels.

The agreement reached means that rent is scaled to enrollment with a floor based on 50% enrollment. The fall enrollment has not reached the 50% level yet. So I am asking for your help in two ways:

First, you can help to promote the Walden School. Any increase in the school's enrollment will benefit Emmanuel.

Second, we need to find a tenant for the 2012-13 school year and quickly. That arrangement should be in place by October.

Any ideas that members have about leads on potential tenants or how to advertise, please let me or Gene Boone know.

Walden School has been a good tenant for close to 20 years. They will be missed and the congregation wishes its principal, Linda Grodin, well in the next phase of her life.

Did I mention that my term as Council President is coming to an end? I want to thank Kurt Einwaechter and Sue Waldrop for convincing me to accept this calling. It has been a wonderful learning experience. I thank all of those who have offered their support and encouragement during the past four years. I especially want to thank my fellow Council members for their dedication and support. And of course, deserving special thanks are the two pastors whose guidance and support not only make the work possible, but especially rewarding.

Celebrating 50 years of worship and fellowship

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee
1920Jimmy@gmail.com

MOTHER'S DAY WOMEN'S WELLNESS COLLECTION BENEFICIARY – N STREET VILLAGE NIGHT SHELTER AND WELLNESS CENTER

In honor of Mother's Day, Emmanuel will be aiding the women served by the N Street Village Night Shelter and the Wellness Center. The Night Shelter provides women 6 to 12 months of housing, dinners, and educational and supportive services; the Wellness Center provides women health and mental health services, including dental care and vision services.

We'll be collecting supplies needed for the women in those facilities. Please consider the Wish List below and bring an item or two to church with you on May 8 or 15. We'll be receiving the supplies in the narthex. Thanks in advance for your donations.

WISH LIST - the Night Shelter and Wellness Center particularly needs:

- **Travel size lotion – especially needed**
- **Travel size shower gel – especially needed**
- **Toilet Paper**
- **Paper Towels**
- **Healthy snack items for daily afternoon snack**

Manna Food Collection a Great Success

Emmanuel has generously brought well over 500 pounds of food to help feed the hungry during February and March. Many thanks to all who donated. The Sunday School alone brought 50 items to help celebrate our fiftieth year. Well done!

Flour, Yeast, and Fellowship High School Youth Service Project

On April 3, 2011 a handful of high school youth met at the Hesslers' home to make and bake 25 loaves of bread that were taken to DC Central Kitchen to be part of a home-made meal for 100 people. Many thanks to those who helped and to the Hesslers for their gracious hospitality.

Hints and Helps from the Parish Nurse

May is National Trauma Awareness Month

Make Auto Safety a Priority -- This includes having properly attached car seats for children (many states require car seats for passengers 8 years old or younger), regularly maintaining your car, and absolutely no using cell phones while driving.

Keep a Well-Stocked First Aid Kit in your Home and Car -- Not every injury qualifies as a traumatic one, of course, but unchecked bleeding can make a moderate injury much worse. A well-stocked first aid kit will help you address anything from everyday cuts to more severe injuries.

Keep Fire Extinguishers in the House -- There should be one in or near the kitchen and the master bedroom. If you have a multi-story house, there should be one for each floor. Review Your Fire Escape Plan -- Talk to your family about what to do in case of a fire, and know what escape routes you can take out of your house.

Keep Cell Phone Chargers in Your Car, House and Office -- In case of a serious injury, getting qualified first responders to the scene can literally be the difference between life and death, and a properly-charged cell phone can be a lifeline.

Know Where the Closest Trauma Center is -- Only certain hospitals around the country have the resources to be designated as trauma centers, and patients who suffer catastrophic injuries are typically brought to trauma centers by first responders. Use these resources to locate a trauma center near you.

National Women's Health Week, May 8-14 2011 see <http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/> for information and activities in our area.

New Youth Lounge

Have you seen the new youth area? Take a look in the "Christian Education Room" area. When the "new" Christian Education wing was built, that area was originally set aside to be an area for the youth and the pool table that was donated was placed there. But thanks to the church council, we have now turned the area into a real youth lounge with sofas and other comfortable furniture. Others are invited to use it as well when the youth are not there.

Where did the pool table go? The area off of the Fellowship Hall downstairs that the youth were using as the youth room is now the activity room. The pool table and a foosball table are there, along with a TV and a game console.

Vacation Bible Camp *Jesus Chooses Us!* June 20-24, 2011

It's time to start making summer plans for the children and Vacation Bible Camp at Emmanuel.

Our full-day Camp will be June 20-24, 2011. This year's theme is "**Jesus Chooses Us!**"

Most of the day is spent playing games, arts & crafts, singing, dancing and having a great time with kids of their own age. Through these activities, we will teach that everyone, no matter what age, is called to follow Jesus, each is loved by God, and what that means for us.

Our Vacation Bible Camp is a full-day camp ran by trained camp leaders from Mar-Lu-Ridge. Last year, the leaders from Mar-Lu-Ridge did a great job and we are looking forward to having them here again. The cost is \$100 for each child.

Registration forms will be available on the table in the Narthex or by contacting Pastor Lewis at the church office or via email — rllewis@elcbethesda.org.

CHURCH PICNIC June 5, Sunday, Noon Come Celebrate With Us

This is our annual Spring Picnic and we are making it part of Emmanuel's celebration of fifty years of ministry together. We ask each family to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks and the entrée will be provided. We will have a moon bounce for the children. We will also have a "video booth" set up so people can record their favorite memories of their years at Emmanuel as part of our celebration.

REMINDER: Storage Room to be Cleaned out May 15

Interested individuals and committees who have material stored in the large storage room off the Social Hall must identify material that should be retained, otherwise it will be discarded on May 15. The cleaners will be ruthless.

Parish Vital Records

Birth

The son born to Kjell and Nicole on 2 March 2011 is *Aksel Jay Knutsen*. Proud grandfather is Richard Knutsen.

Deaths

Richard John Goodman, died 21 March 2011

Pat Bradley, friend of Carol Vorosmarti

Virginia Kemp, died 7 April 2011, aunt of Cynthia Keith

Clarence L. Conrad, died 17 April 2011, uncle of Glenda Oakley

Betty Allen, died 18 April 2011

Opportunities for fellowship

Some years ago, a group of men in the congregation decided to meet for a bite and a glass of beer. The convivial group grew and now, more or less regularly, meets at various brew pubs in the area. They have adopted the name “**Martin Luther Beer and Marching Society**” and have a logo which may be seen on their shirts or caps. In the fall of 2010, several of the women in the parish decided that they could use a bit of enjoyable fellowship as well and they have begun meeting monthly at various members’ homes as “**The Katarina Luther Wine and Darning Society**.” (The Katies said that since the Marching Society didn’t march, they weren’t going to darn, either.) So now we have two bibulous groups whose sole function is fellowship. Attendance at either group is open to all and prospective joiners are urged to watch for announcements in the narthex concerning the next spate of conviviality.



This photo shows some of the members of the Katies who met in April at the home of Jan Phillips.

Christian Education Opportunities

Sunday School Classes at 10 a.m.

PK-K	Marla Davis, Nina Price
Grades 1/2	Laura Pritchard, Liz King
Grades 3/4/5	Patti Leppert, Diane Swenson
Grades 6/7/8	Adam and Maria Green Cowles
Grades 9-12	Laura Hessler, Kurt Moss

Confirmation Classes, Monday afternoon

Grades 7/8 Pastors Lookingbill and Lewis

Adult Programs, Sunday 10 a.m.:

Sunday Lectionary Class	Ginger Boone, Carl Seils
Sunday Morning Forum	Floyd Swanson, Mae Scanlan

Wednesday studies

Morning Bible Study Class	Pastor Lookingbill
Evening Study	Pastor Lookingbill

Intermittent studies

Interfaith Study with Har Shalom	Pastor Lookingbill and Rabbi Cahan
Women’s Evening Bible Study – Meets 3rd Tuesday in the Parlor	

Christian Education Committee

Kim Groves, Julie Lewis, Sherry Peske, Pr Robert Lewis, Kristi Johnson, Chair

If you don’t see what you’re looking for in this collection, speak to members of the Christian Education Committee. Your needs might be met.



Pastor Lewis Considers..... being still



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write this letter to you on April 17, 2011, it has been a little over a month since the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. It has only been a few days since the latest large aftershock in Japan. Last night, strong storms went through parts of Virginia, causing tornadoes and hail. In the small town of Deltaville, Virginia many buildings were destroyed, including Zoar Baptist Church, by a tornado that looked like a wall of water going through the middle of it. I happened to have a connection to that church. Their pastor, John Snow, is a family friend and was the pastor who buried my mom.

Thinking about all of this as I sit down to write, Psalm 46 is heavy on my mind. We have graphic images of what it looks like when the “mountains shake in the heart of the sea.” We see the destruction wrought by waters that “roar and foam.” So, when we read “God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved,” what does this mean in cities and towns that have been all but completely destroyed? Where, in fact, is God in the midst of all this destruction? How do the people hear these words in places where everywhere they look God seems to be absent? And what of the command to “Be still?” How can the people there be still when there is so much to do – searching for the lost, caring for the injured, burying the dead, cleaning up the destruction and eventually rebuilding? Psalm 46 is a psalm of trust, giving assurance that God is in the midst of the raging seas and shaking mountains. But do these words have any meaning to a people who are still surrounded by destruction everywhere they look?

I say YES, because the trust expressed in Psalm 46 is based not on some dream or unrealistic hope, but on the lived reality that God has been faithful in the past. The psalmist can pray or sing these words because he has been in the midst of the disaster and come out on the other side. God has indeed proven to be faithful. The psalmist knows that God is the God of renewal, reconciliation, and new life.

We live in a world that is broken by sin. Psalm 46 testifies to that brokenness – both in creation and among the nations. So earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, and nuclear threats are all signs of the way both creation and the nations have rebelled against God. The psalmist does not try to sugarcoat the ways of the world. There is indeed much to fear.

And yet, we are told NOT to fear because “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*” We are told not to fear because “*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.*” The God of Jacob is the God who led the people out of slavery, nourished them in the wilderness and led them into the Promised Land. The God of Jacob is the God who sustained the people in exile and led them home. The God

of Jacob is the God who sent his Son to die so that we might have life. The God of Jacob is the God whose Spirit continues to blow through the world, giving hope, bringing about new life, and redeeming that which seems dead. And the God of Jacob is the God who brought the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki through atomic bombings and the people of Tokyo and Kobe through earlier earthquakes. The God of Jacob is the God who is present in the midst of earthquakes and tsunamis and nuclear disasters.

To believe this is to live out the words *Be Still, and know that I am God.* Being still is not simply about being quiet. It is about letting go of the questions, the reservations, the despair, and the belief that things seem impossible. Being still is knowing – really knowing and trusting that God is already working out new possibilities that we can’t even dream of. To know God is not to simply understand who God is in our heads, or even in our hearts. To know God is to trust God with every fiber of our being – to let go of our own limited understanding of the world and give it over to God, even when -- especially when -- we cannot see how God is at work.

When we are still and place our trust in God, we are able to see God’s activity in the world much more clearly. We see God’s presence in the face of a rescue worker or Red Cross volunteer searching for the lost. We see God’s presence in the faces of doctors, nurses, surgeons and aides healing the sick. We see God’s presence in the faces of scientists and engineers who risk their own safety to ward off an even worse nuclear disaster. We see God’s presence in the face of a neighbor who picks through the rubble with us.

And sometimes we see God’s presence in our own faces – as we stand together with our brothers and sisters in Japan, Virginia, Alabama and in all places throughout the world that need to know that they are not alone – that God is indeed in their cities, too – and as we pray together the psalms of trust and assurance that God will bring them safely through to the other side.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr.



Youth and Family Calendar

May 1, Sunday, 12 p.m.

Congregational Annual Meeting for Programs

All confirmed youth are voting members of the congregation and should attend the meeting. All youth in confirmation should attend to see this part of being a member of a congregation as part of their confirmation education.

May 1, Sunday, Sunday

High School Youth Service Project

The high school youth will meet at the church during the Sunday School Hour and begin to plant the vegetable garden. We will finish after the congregational meeting. The veggies we grow will be delivered to the food bank after we harvest them. Make sure you bring work clothes to change into after the congregational meeting – and a pair of work gloves.

May 7, Saturday, Noon

Rehearsal for Youth Sunday

All youth should be at this one-hour rehearsal.

May 8, Sunday

Youth Sunday

The youth will lead the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services.

May 15, Sunday, 10 am

Information Meeting about 2012 Youth Gathering

This meeting is for all youth and their parents who are thinking about attending the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Those youth who are currently in 8th to 11th grade are invited to this information session.

May 15, Sunday, Noon

Youth Service Project

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 worship service for a service project. Remember to bring work clothes and work gloves so you can change after church.



May 22, 2011, Sunday, Noon

Children's Lunch and Games

All children Pre-K to 6th grade are invited to lunch and then active indoor and outdoor games. Bring play clothes to change into after church. This is our May Sneakers and Squeakers event.

June 5, Sunday, Noon

Church Picnic

This is our annual Spring Picnic. We ask each family to bring either a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Drinks and the entrée will be provided. We will have a moon bounce for the children.

The youth leadership team is working on an end of the school year celebration on either the last day of school (June 16, 2011) or on the Friday or Saturday of that following weekend (June 17 or 18, 2011). Please let Pastor Lewis know which date you prefer.

Mark your calendars

June 20-24 – Vacation Bible Camp (Youth volunteers needed)



Youth to plant a garden

Weeds have been the bane of gardeners and farmers since time began. Why, when we plant lettuce or beets or squash do we also get a fine crop of grass, chickweed, and dandelions? Are they hiding in the soil, just waiting for us to stir them into action? Or is it the innate perversity of nature to bedevil us with weeds as a test of our fortitude? The answer, of course, is yes. But that doesn't make it any easier on the small of our back as we bend over plucking out the unwanted intruder.

It is probable that the youth, who are beginning a parish garden this spring, will discover that vigilance makes for a better garden in the long run. What they may also discover is that the rabbits and raccoons will develop a taste for their tender plants. And if those predations aren't enough, the deer may decide that the produce of Emmanuel is preferable to that of the neighbors' yards.

So, encourage the youth in their horticultural endeavors and sympathize with them as they fret over their yields. We all will benefit from such encouragement—givers and receivers alike. If the youth are persistent and fortunate, the yield of their efforts will go toward providing fresh vegetables to the tables of the hungry and that may be counted toward them as righteousness.



In the old days, all female parts were sung by castrati. We don't know exactly what they looked or sounded like because there are no known descendants. – author unknown

[This was an actual answer given on a college music exam]

Post Easter-Day Greetings!

For the presentation of the cantata, *Come, Touch the Robe*, on Palm Sunday, for the anthems heard on Good Friday and Easter morning, no castrati were used, and none of our female sopranos were harmed in the process.

I am most grateful for the hard work and dedication from the members of the Adult Choir, as well as the fine instrumentalists who supported the effort. As a conductor, it is most gratifying to know that each nod of the head, widening of the eyes and the motions from a little white stick is being observed by everyone, and conveying the intended interpretation. From all that I've heard from the choir and the orchestra, as well as those in attendance, the musical message was well conveyed – and received. Again, my thanks to the choir and the orchestra.

Special thanks for the beautiful and angelic singing from the Joyful Praise Children's Choir, under the direction of Susie Drumm, assisted by Sherry Peske, for setting the tone for Palm Sunday with marvelous singing, and involving the congregation in the waving of palm branches.

Although this month is quiet from a musical perspective, rehearsals are continuing as we prepare the special music which will bring us to the summer respite.

It is my sincere hope that others from our church family will soon come forward and get involved with the musical activities offered at Emmanuel. The time is approaching when new faces, new voices and new hands will be needed in order to carry on the church's rich music tradition. For details about any of our scheduled 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
phone: 703.450.4167

National Lutheran Home Auxiliary

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

Mark your calendar for the **Home's Spring Festival** on Saturday, **May 7**, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You'll find some great bargains in Grandma's Attic and the Jewelry Room. Make a bid at the Silet Auction, buy some homemade baked goods, and enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch.

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



The progress of spring is always interesting. It begins with the brave early bulbs putting forth their blossoms, gathers momentum when the cherry trees and forsythias burst forth, and reaches a kaleidoscopic wildness with the arrival of the azaleas and their vivid colors. Birds sing with gusto declaring their territorial claims. As the owl said in Disney's *Bambi*, the whole world is twitterpated. And it is. But, for all its throbbing drive, it is beautiful and pleasant—even for those whose twitterpation is mostly past tense.



Argument

Two stubborn beaks
Of equal strength
Can stretch a worm
To any length.

Margaret Weston

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Susan Drumm, Joyful Praise Choir
Ligia Benjumea, Nursery Attendant
Anna Roberts, Parish Nurse

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MAY, 2011

INTERFAITH ADVENTURE IN ISRAEL 24 OCTOBER – 8 NOVEMBER

Meet Pr. Lookingbill on 1 May at his house

Pr. Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan invite you to join them next October on an Interfaith tour of Israel. We leave the United States after the Jewish High Holy Days when it is cooler and spend 16 days in the Holy Land. The special nature of this trip is that both a Rabbi well acquainted with the Land of Israel and a Lutheran Pastor will guide the group to both Christian and Jewish religious sites. What we share will be unique and awesome as history comes alive and the Bible is illustrated with each day's visits and conversations.

We will be starting in Jerusalem where we will view the walled city, visit the "Teardrop Church" that commemorates Jesus' tears over Jerusalem, walk the Roman Cardo (market street) and visit ancient synagogues. The Garden Tomb and the Hill of Golgotha are a fitting completion of the day.

From Jerusalem we travel to Masada and the place that the Roman Legions surrounded the last of the rebelling Jews in 70 A.D. after the Temple was destroyed. Their story is one of defiance and sadness, and Israeli soldiers are still sworn in at Masada. The Salt Sea is there where Herod built Masada and his fortress escape and summer house, and we'll float the Dead Sea and wash in the "sweet water."

Then we're off to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee and the area in the north, including Nazareth. Coming south from there, we'll visit the newly built multi-media center in Caesaria Maritima and the astounding excavations around that recently discovered Roman city. Another of Herod's palaces is there. Finally we travel to Tel Aviv and see some of modern Israel's life.

There's much more and you are invited to request or pick up a brochure at Emmanuel that details the whole trip. Pr. Lookingbill is inviting everyone from Emmanuel interested in learning more to our house – 7501 Glennon Dr. – on 1 May at 5 p.m. to learn about the trip. The intention that Rabbi Cahan and I have is that the group be roughly equal in Jews and Christians so that our daily travel will continue the dialogue we have as people of the Book. If you have questions and have friends and family interested in joining us, please let Pr. Lookingbill know.

This is a unique experience to travel with knowledgeable and informed friends to a Land that has generated Biblical stories that have formed our lives and culture today.