



Emmanuel News Notes

November, 2009

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. health

Health seems to be on the minds of everyone this fall. "Have you gotten your flu shot?" Are the college students taking care of themselves, eating and sleeping well, to keep their immune systems strong enough to stay healthy? I was told by one of our college students who was sick at school that she could keep her immune system strong enough if only she could get eight (8) hours of sleep at least three nights each week! That advice came from her doctor as she was recovering from illness. We all know that college doesn't allow too much sleep every night! This is one suggestion that can help the immune system, along with a healthy diet and regular exercise.

Keeping Emmanuel healthy is also on my mind this fall. I always remember that St. Paul had as one of his companions on his journeys, St. Luke, the physician! It is a blessing to have a physician along on any trip, but especially when St. Paul was under such stress, sometimes needing to flee the "authorities" because of his teaching. St. Luke has also become a blessing to the whole Church because of his precise writing in both the Gospel that bears his name and his historical/theological Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Emmanuel is healthy when we read the Holy Gospels together, as we do at worship each Sunday. Emmanuel is also healthy when we study together, as we can during the week with Confirmation classes, Bible Studies and group discussions. Emmanuel is healthy when we let our Bible Encounters lead to compassionate care for others, both members and those in need in the community. The October week at the Community Based Shelter in Rockville is a wonderful example of our members sharing food and encouragement with folks in need of support. Our diligent Outreach Committee is exceptionally good at focusing on places and people we can help. We are healthy when we reach out to others with Christian charity.

That's one of the exciting things about our Installation of a Parish Nurse this month. Anna Roberts will be "installed" as Emmanuel's Parish Nurse on 8 November at both services. She is already an active member of the Church, teaching Sunday School and serving as one of our Church Council members; but now she is preparing to become specifically active in the field of health care for us. There will be notices to the whole congregation about healthy practices and there will be visits to our members who need support. This is all as a volunteer on Anna's part, but the Church will support her with adequate resources.

Providing adequate resources for our ministry at Emmanuel is especially important this year, not only for the Parish Nurse, but for all our challenges. The Finance Committee of the Council has explained to members the condition of our current budget shortfall and how we need to consider our gifts to the Lord for use in the Church. The response of our members and friends this last quarter of the year will largely influence the creation of the 2010 budget proposal. The Stewardship Committee of the Council is preparing for our annual fall emphasis on sharing our gifts in the year ahead. When members of the congregation commit themselves to a plan of giving for the following year, the Finance Committee and Council have greater confidence in creating a budget plan for ministry.

A healthy Church is one that worships together, works together, shares insights and challenges, pays attention to our youth and their questions, and reaches out to others in the community. Emmanuel is beginning to plan a celebration of our 50 years of ministry in Bethesda, which comes in Advent of 2011, just two years away. With 48 years of experience and the healthy attitude of our members and leaders, we have been able to make a Lutheran presence known in our community. By extension, our members travel around the world, live and work in many places and with many different cultures, and carry our word of Christ's compassion to a needy world's ears. Even today we have members who are living, studying, soldiering, and experiencing God's Grace far from Emmanuel, but with the Spirit of Emmanuel in their memories and hearts.

Each of us is important to the health of all of us.

In Christ's Service,

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

DATES OF NOTE

- Nov 1 Confirmation event (page 10)
- Nov 1 First Communion (page 5)
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- Nov 29 Advent Wreath work shop (page 4)

WORSHIP

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

INSTALLATION OF EMMANUEL'S PARISH NURSE

At both Church Services on 8 November, Emmanuel will celebrate the Installation of our first Parish Nurse, Anna Roberts. Anna, a trained nurse, has been a member of Emmanuel and is prepared to share her expertise with our community of faith in a variety of ways. She is preparing a survey for the congregation to find out what specific needs might be addressed in her new capacity. This is a volunteer position, but one that is filled with opportunity for members to learn and share vital information about their health issues, about how to find resources in the community and how to keep up with new developments in the field of healthcare.

WELCOME OUR NEW PARISH NURSE, ANNA ROBERTS,
ON 8 NOVEMBER.

THE WEDNESDAY FALL BIBLE ENCOUNTER

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

THE FALL WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY

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

We meet for supper that is prepared by members of the group in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 and then move to study in the Christian Education room beginning at 7:30. You need not have supper with us to engage in the later study. Please let the Church office know you are planning to attend and if you need a book.

OUR FIRST INTERFAITH STUDY AT HAR SHALOM 12 NOVEMBER AT 7 P.M.

Our first session for this year's continuing Interfaith Study with Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan and Pr. Lookingbill will be on Thursday, 12 November at Har Shalom Synagogue on Falls Road. We will continue, as we have for the past 10 years, alternating between the two congregations as we study and share our distinct traditions. The second session will be at Emmanuel on 10 December.

This year's study will concentrate on the Book of Deuteronomy as a "unique" testimony of the Hebrew Scriptures and possibly viewed as a "reformation" within early religious development among the Hebrews. We will study the significance for Deuteronomy historically and theologically, with a view toward what difference this book's direction has meant to both Jewish and Christian theologians. I think it could be seen as an early demonstration of how a "reformation" works in the life of a faith community.

Join Rabbi Cahan and Pr. Lookingbill on the six Thursday evenings of this study and bring along a friend or two to share in our "unique" study of Christian/Jewish thought.

If you need transportation to the evening programs, please let the Church office or Pr. Lookingbill know.

THANK YOU FROM COMMUNITY- BASED SHELTER

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to all who contributed to the October Community-Based Shelter project. Around 70 of you donated supplies, prepared sumptuous meals and served at the homeless shelter during the first week of October. Our guests at the shelter were very grateful for Emmanuel's generosity. As one guest said, "Your church sets the gold standard for serving us!" What is really amazing is that almost every person responded "yes" when they were called to ask for assistance! That is truly a testament to you folks. From our guests at the shelter and from the Outreach Committee... a huge THANK YOU!!!!!!!

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From the Council President:

Last month I wrote about the grease trap.

This month, I write about something equally ugly – the budget.

Those of you who attended services at the beginning of October heard us say that offerings were down about 4% from last year, and about 15% below budget.

You also heard us say a few other things.

Compared to other non-profits that's really not that bad.

Compared to a nearly 25% drop in church attendance over last year, maybe it isn't even that bad.

Maybe it is not just the trend in giving that needs to change. It is the trend in church attendance. We learned at the September meeting of the Metro DC Synod that what is happening at Emmanuel is not unique. Churches across the theological spectrum are experiencing a downturn in attendance – even those mega churches that had been humbling the rest of us with their numbers.

Last month, I wrote that the Council met with Pastor Phil Hirsch at its annual Council retreat. Pastor Hirsch is Director for Evangelical Mission for the Metro DC Synod and is a resource provided to the Synod by the ELCA.

He is charged with helping congregations grow their membership. He has accepted an invitation to preach to the Emmanuel congregation on Sunday, November 22nd. Stewardship Sunday. Please, mark that date on your calendars.

Back to the budget. Over the past several years, we have struggled to balance income and expenses. We cut two part time positions. We have reduced office expenses, raised our tenants' rent. Reduced salary increases to below market rates. Property maintenance has been deferred.

The money for parish programs reflects a few weeks of offerings. Another month and half of offerings is devoted to benevolence. The balance is split fairly evenly between salaries and property.

There is little wiggle room with property expenses. And we have been fortunate that we have not had a major breakdown in mechanical equipment that is more than 25 years old.

That leaves only salaries.

And the options there are very limited.

We will be looking for your thoughts and input.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Christian Education Notes

Sundays

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

November 1 - Extended opening (extra 10 minutes) about All Saints Day and then classes

November 8 - Regular Sunday School

November 15 - Regular Sunday School

November 22 - Regular Sunday School

November 29 - Group Sunday School

We will also begin practicing our songs for the Christmas Pageant in November, so please be on time so the openings are not extended more than a few minutes.

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

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

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

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study invites you to join them in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. They will study prayer in the Bible by looking at ten different prayers that are taught in the Bible. They will use the *Daring to Draw Near: Prayers that Help Us Know Who God Is* (by John White) as a study guide. Bring your Bibles, or pick one up from the shelves in the Parlor and come join in. Ginger Boone will lead the group. Further information may be obtained by calling the church office at 301-365-5733.

Mondays

Confirmation

During November, the confirmation class will be studying the Ten Commandments along with Bible connections to the Commandment we are focusing on that day.

November 1 - 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Event at St. Luke Silver Spring, MD

November 2 - No Confirmation Class

November 6 - 8, Confirmation Retreat at West River Retreat Center

November 9 - Regular Confirmation Class

November 16 - Regular Confirmation Class

November 23 - Regular Confirmation Class

November 30 - Regular Confirmation Class

Wednesdays

Wednesday Morning Bible Encounter with Pastor

Lookingbill 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy a discussion on Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians.

From Emmanuel's Parish Nurse:

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

Alzheimer's disease is fast becoming one of the greatest medical challenges facing Americans today. Memory loss that disrupts daily life is not a typical part of aging. It may be a symptom of Alzheimer's, a fatal brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. Every individual may experience one or more of these signs in different degrees. If you notice any of them, please see a doctor.

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, work, or leisure
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgment
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality

Alzheimer's Association – 24 hour help line at 1.800.272.3900; information on a timely basis at 1-877.474.8259; info@alz.org, or at their website, <http://www.alz.org/nca/index.asp>

Advent Wreath Workshop

On Sunday, 29 November at 4:30 pm, we will make Advent wreaths and have a potluck supper. Come and make your own tabletop decoration. You may want to bring gloves and hand-held clippers for cutting the greens. A sign-up sheet for the wreath making and the potluck supper will be on the Narthex table by 9 November, along with a sample of an Advent wreath. \$15.00 is requested to cover the cost of materials. Questions: call Sheila Murtland at 301-983-2683

Synod Assembly Report:

Five representatives from Emmanuel attended part two of the DC Metro Synod Assembly on Saturday, September 26th: Pastor Robert Lewis, Jim & Donna McGee, Patti Leppert, and Kevin Adams. The main item of business was approval of the \$2.2 million budget.

The featured speaker of the day was reverend Mark Powell who spoke to the gathering about Stewardship. His main message is that Stewardship is an important part of the worship. When we attend worship we receive the word and we receive the Sacrament. We only have two opportunities to give to God. We give Praise in song and we give in our Offering.

The Offering is an important part of the worship service. He reminded us that in the Old Testament, the faithful brought forward the best part of their work effort and it was burnt as an offering to God. He wondered how people would respond today, if the minister tossed a match into the offering plate. He quickly added, "Imagine it were real money, not just checks." He told the story to illustrate the role of sacrifice in our worship.

The day had several workshops and your representatives attended workshops on congregational life, youth ministry, outreach, stewardship, and becoming an open and welcoming congregation.

All who attended from Emmanuel were reminded of the value of belonging to a larger church to which we both give and receive.

Jim McGee

National Lutheran Home Auxiliary announces annual Fall Festival

The annual Fall Festival will be held at the Home on Saturday, November 14. All proceeds are used by the Auxiliary to directly benefit the residents.

Shop for the best bargains and help the Auxiliary raise funds.
Shop early for Christmas!
Don't miss the Gift Shop Sale

Saturday, November 14
9:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

THE GIVING TREE

It is not too soon to think about Christmas and with the Christmas season comes Christmas compassion, a time when we remember people far less fortunate. At Emmanuel, we once again remember a group of people who live in Anacostia with families to support. Christmas, rather than being a happy time, just adds another burden to their lives.

Fortunately for our Southeast DC neighbors, they live near an organization called Southeast Ministry (SEM). Southeast Ministry provides several challenging GED and job readiness programs to help Anacostia residents back onto their feet. Many of their graduates find new employment, despite formidable odds.

Emmanuel assists SEM through a Giving Tree project (as well as through Gifts of Hope and other contributions). Through this project, we buy Christmas presents for the children of the folks participating in SEM's programs. In so doing, we are supporting the participants' self-help efforts. We're also showing compassion for their children - who have been living for years with the poverty imposed by having underemployed parents. To keep consistency, recommend a maximum of \$40 per gift.

Yes, it means a little more shopping. That's a nice problem to have, compared with the issues faced by the families we're helping. Won't you buy a present for an Anacostia family this Christmas?

So... how do I help?

The Giving Tree will be set up by **November 22**. Please **select an ornament and sign your name and phone number to the sign up sheet near the tree**. The ornament has gift suggestions and sizes on the back. Then return the gift (wrapped and with the ornament attached) to the church by December 13. We'll take the gifts to Southeast Ministry in time for them to "appear" under the family Christmas trees. Happy shopping!

Emmanuel Garage Sale!!

Please come support Emmanuel's Garage Sale!!
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009
 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Parish Hall/Lower Parking Lot (Weather permitting)

Come browse the tables, savor goodies from the bake sale, enjoy fellowship with members and community residents. **Proceeds to benefit the kitchen upgrade (grease trap remediation) efforts** Thrivent will match funds raised by this sale.

THE GIFTS OF THE SEASON

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

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

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

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

Oktoberfest is a great success

Many tables of diners and lots of enthusiastic dancers were in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 18. There was much laughter, lots of food, sufficient beer and wine as members enjoyed a fine evening. Many thanks to Sheila Murtland assisted by Bob and Jean Abel, Emma Fettig, and Pauline Squier for setting up the beautiful Fellowship Hall and Roz Hopkins for all of her lovely table decorations. Doug Hackett and Oliver Moss for being our own twin Biermeisters! Parish Life couldn't have had done it without all of you!

FIRST COMMUNION FOR NINE CHILDREN ON 1 NOVEMBER, ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Pr. Lookingbill has been meeting with nine of our young people and their parents to learn about Communion in the Lutheran Church. After meeting for three sessions in October, the children will be receiving their First Communion on All Saints Sunday, 1 November. The three sessions focused on the Biblical origins of Communion, the Lutheran practice of Communion and the local tradition here at Emmanuel for our celebrations.

The nine young persons who are preparing for their First Communion are: Sarah Bray, Christopher Brown, Kathleen Cannon, Clare Cawley, Merete Cowles, Carolyn King, Palma Price, Charlotte Roberts and Matthew Weinstein. We welcome them into the Communion we share with all the Saints!

Parish Vital Records

Birth

Carson Robert Beardall, born 9 October 2009 to Marianne and Matt Beardall

New Members

Caitlin Christine Groves, daughter of Kim and Cameron Groves, October 11, 2009, by infant baptism

Wedding

Jennifer Axtell and Jeffrey Fontaine, 3 October 2009 on Kent Island

Chad Menge and Linda Oravec, 17 October 2009

Deaths

Chris Godwin, 18 September 2009, nephew of Max and Gail Keeney

Ken Gramza, 21 September 2009

Nancy Frederick, 8 October 2009

Christians and Peace in the Middle East

A couple of weeks ago Jim and Donna McGee attended a two-day conference on Middle East Peace. Sabeel, an organization of Christian Palestinians, sponsored the event.

While there is much in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians to support pessimism, this group was determined to hold out hope for a just peace.

The story of Palestinian Christians is not one most of us are familiar with. Some of us heard Daoud Nasser when he came to Emmanuel. Daoud is a Palestinian Lutheran whose is struggling to hold on to his land a few miles south of Bethlehem. It is being completely encircled by Israeli settlements.

For 700 years after Christ, the Middle East was overwhelmingly Christian. Even after Mohammed founded the Muslim faith, 35% remained as Christians. From the time of the Crusades until the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, the Christian population diminished to approximately 25%. Today it is close to two percent (2%).

The Sabeel conference underlined the important role that we as Christians can play in pushing the two sides toward a just peace.

A few days later, 58 of the 65 Lutheran bishops signed a letter asking the Obama Administration to "remain firm" in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian impasse. In the Oct. 13 letter, the synod bishops and the presiding bishop of the ELCA expressed concern over the stalemate and the "fading hopes" for a two-state solution.

Those who were at Emmanuel to hear Daoud Nasser may also remember Mark Braverman. Mark is a Jew from Bethesda who coordinated Daoud's US trip. At the Sabeel conference Mark had the first book signing for his new book, *Fatal Embrace*.

The book jacket states, "Author Mark Braverman shows how the Jewish quest for safety and empowerment and the Christian effort to atone for centuries of anti-Semitism have combined to suppress the conversations urgently needed to bring about peace."

Included in the acknowledgments is our own Bishop Richard Graham.



Pastor Lewis considers....gifts

My kids are finally past the age when going to traditional birthday parties is a big deal. There were times when every weekend for months at a time we were heading off to the local "Stuff-Mart" to find a present for a preteen friend or a marginal school acquaintance. My son got an invitation once from a child that he was not even sure he knew. (It turned out that it was someone in his grade that was only known by his nickname) Apparently, this kid convinced his parents to throw a party for 30 eleven-year-olds thinking that the more who showed up, the bigger the gift haul would be (at least that was the rumor on the playground). To his credit, my son declined the invitation.

The one thing that I dreaded was knowing that he was going to be coming home with a "goody bag" full of candy and trinkets: In other words, a gift thanking them for bringing a gift. If you have the fateful task of planning your own child's party, then *woe be to thee, O parent*, if you do not provide an adequate goody bag to every child who leaves the house that day.

To me it is all just another symptom of the hyper-consumerism of our culture - the idea being that when you give a gift, you are supposed to get something in return. This seems to pretty much do away with the whole definition of "gift." Things do not seem to change for us as we get older, either, especially at Christmas time when we find ourselves trolling the aisles at the mall or clicking through Web sites trying to find a gift for a distant cousin whom you have not talked to all year but you know will send you a variation on the same stale cheese sampler every December. There is a whole bunch of giving and getting going on, all apparently in honor of the birth of Jesus. "We give gifts to each other because the wise men gave gifts to baby Jesus," is what I over heard one mom tell her Pre-Kindergartner daughters in line at the "Buy-It-by-the-Case Club." So, if that is the case, then Jesus should be the one getting the gift, right?

Yes, it is November and I am talking about Christmas, but we should think about these things before we get into "the Holidays." I thought of this as I was recalling a pastor friend of mine up in Boston who would tell her congregation every Christmas that to remember it is Jesus' birthday and not theirs (yes, I realize that we all know someone whose birthday is on or near December 25th, but that is not what I am talking about). A few years ago, she started challenging her congregation to take whatever amount they spent on Christmas presents for friends and family and give an equal amount to the church or a church-wide mission project.

I really like this idea. I think this year our family will challenge ourselves to do just that. And it is not like it is a hard thing to do. Every year here at Emmanuel we have the "Gifts of Hope." The ELCA puts out a "Good Gifts" catalog which lists many projects they are involved with around the word. Or, instead of money, give an hour of your time for every \$5 you spend or receive.

Advent begins at the end of November and it is a great time to challenge the spending patterns that have invaded a sacred holy day (instead of a big holiday). Remember it is not our birthday we are celebrating - it is Jesus' birthday we are celebrating. At the risk of sounding a little evangelical, find an organization or project that would make Jesus smile - one that you can really get behind. Give yourself a goal. After all, when you give Jesus a gift, it is a gift for all the world.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr. +

Enigmas, puzzles, conundrums

One of the great mysteries of life is the migration of a sock. It is not one addressed in holy writ, no great treatises have been written about it, few pause long enough to do more than wonder, but it remains one of the puzzles of everyday life.

How is it that the careful placing of a pair of socks in the laundry can result in the mysterious disappearance of one of the pair? Inspection of the washer shows that no stray garment remains hidden there. Similar investigation of the dryer shows that no sock is in there, either. Where has it gone? Experience has shown, however, that in time the sock may reappear. There is no sign that the sock has been anywhere—no extra lint, no signs of uneven wear, no sheepish expression of unseemly activity on the part of the sock. Nothing!

The disappearance, alone, is a mystery, but the puzzling reappearance makes one wonder. Perhaps the explanation lies in the nature of a sock. It's purpose is to shield the foot while the foot is in a shoe. Or, if the foot is out of the shoe, perhaps to protect the foot from drafts. But a sock does this task mostly out of sight and almost certainly out of mind. Is the disappearance a flight from duty? Is it a sign of pairal disunity from its mate? Is it merely in need of a vacation? It is possible to construct a case for each of these possibilities. But what about its strange reappearance? Has its conscience recalled it to duty? Has yearning for its mate called it home? Is it especially rested? We may never know.

There is a TV program that shows up around Christmas extolling the "Island of Lost Toys" (its hero is an elf who aspires to be a dentist). Perhaps there is an island of lost socks. Can we look forward to a visit from Rudolf, Santa, and the rest as an explanation for this cosmic conundrum: the lost sock? Who says TV is a vast wasteland?



Youth and Family Calendar

November 1, Sunday, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Event at St. Luke in Silver Spring, MD

All Confirmands and their parents are invited to the "Called and Baptized: Now What?" Event at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD. There will be activities, a live band, games and fellowship. There are also activities planned for the adults. We will meet in Emmanuel's parking lot to carpool over to St. Luke.

November 6-8, Friday to Sunday

Confirmation Retreat at West River Retreat Center

All Confirmands should attend this retreat, which is the first of three yearly retreats for confirmation. We will leave the church parking lot at 4 p.m. and return on Sunday around 2:30 p.m.

November 9, Monday, noon

Fun Bunch Lunch

We will meet for lunch and fellowship. Afterwards, we will have a presentation about famous (or almost famous) stained-glass windows. Lunch is catered and we ask for a free-will offering to help with the cost of the meal.

November 13, Friday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Family Movie and Potluck Dinner

The Sword in the Stone

Come join us for our monthly movie night. This month we are going to watch the Disney Classic animation movie, *The Sword in the Stone*. Bring the whole family, bring a couple of friends, bring your pillow to lie on the floor - everyone of all ages is invited. Also, please bring a dish to share during the potluck dinner. See this page for more information.

November 15, Sunday, 3 - 4 p.m.

Adventure Club

The Adventure Club is new at Emmanuel and is for all children grades 4 through 6. We are exploring King Arthur's Court and will have some duels of might and honor. Bring a friend and have some fun.

November 15, Sunday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Ice Skating at the Cabin John Ice Rink

All youth, 7th - 12th grades, are invited to come out for an afternoon of fun on the ice. Skating is \$6.25 each and if you need to rent skates, they have them there for \$3.25. Come have fun skating and watching Pastor Lewis attempt a triple (three times around the rink without falling).

The Ice rink is located in Cabin John Park located at **10610 Westlake Drive** near the Montgomery Mall.

November 22, Sunday 1 - 4 p.m.

Football Party

Are you ready for some Football? All youth, 7th - 12th grades, are invited to the Sullivans' home to watch that classic match-up between long-time rivals, the Washington Redskins versus the Dallas Cowboys. Wear your gear, be ready to cheer, and most of all come to have fun. The Sullivans' home is located at 11437 Beechgrove Lane in Potomac.

November 29, Sunday

Advent Wreath Workshop and Dinner

Come join us as we prepare for the Advent season by making Advent Wreaths for the home. We will also have a Soup Dinner while we work on our wreaths. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up so we know the amount of supplies we will need.

December 4 - 6, Friday - Sunday

Chrysalis Retreat

This is the Synod-wide High School retreat at the 4H center in Front Royal. We will be leaving the church parking lot around 4 pm on Friday and return around 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Lewis before 6 November.

Mark Your Calendars Now

February 12-13, 2010

Midnight Run to help the homeless for High School youth.

Adventure Club

4th, 5th and 6th Graders

November 15, 2009

3 - 4 p.m.

All children in grades 4 through 6 are invited to adventure, fun and food as we visit "King Arthur's Court." Everyone will have a chance to "become" a knight or a scholar as we explore what it means to be defenders of good against the darkness. Parents are welcomed to stay. Bring your sense for adventure. You can also bring a friend or two.

Family Movie and Potluck Dinner

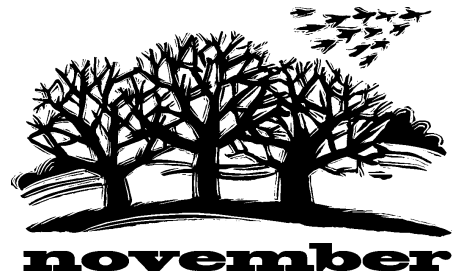
November 13, Friday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Sword in the Stone

Come join us for our monthly movie night. This month we are going to watch the Disney Classic animated movie, *The Sword in the Stone*.

This is Disney's classic movie about how the boy who would become king learns important lessons from Merlin and others. This film is based on T.H. White's *The Once and Future King*. It was also Pastor Lewis' favorite movie when he was growing up (answers a lot of questions doesn't it).

Bring the whole family, bring a couple of friends, bring your pillow to lay on the floor - everyone of all ages are invited. Also, please, bring a dish to share during the potluck dinner.



MUSICIANS WANTED

Come join us as we make joyful
noise to the Lord

Bells —Thursday evening at 6:30

Choir —Thursday evening at 8:00

Music is a group event

A choir is special. Why? Well, in part, because it exists to make music in church. But that's only the obvious thing about a choir. It is usually a group of people who like to sing or who find singing in harmony with others very satisfying. But harmony isn't all of it either. It is usually a group of people who find that the common effort of making music enhances their lives, often in ways that they cannot express except through more music.

A bell choir is similarly special. In bells, each ringer controls only a few bells and thus cannot play the whole piece of music. A bell choir is one of the few ensembles that require the participation of many in order to make anything musical at all. One or two bells may strike an interesting accent in a musical presentation, but no one would say that hearing an A-flat bell and a E-natural bell by themselves was music. It's only when those notes combine with many others that real music is made. A bell choir is really a maker of music only when all the bells are available to be heard.

So vocal choirs and bell choirs are complementary bodies, each producing music. And why use them? Because music is one of the means of praising God. It has been said that providing music in worship is a way of praying twice, once through the words and tunes of the music and secondly by providing the setting in which other prayers may be offered. The psalmist says that we should make a joyful noise to the Lord. What is more joyful than good music? If you can carry a tune, if you can play an instrument, if you can appreciate music, join with the members of the choir or the Emmanuel Ringers and let the noise begin anew. Being a musician is as much an attitude as it is the exercising of a talent.

We remember those who have died during the year on All Souls day. It's a solemn time and remembering those who are no longer here gives us time to reflect. For many of us, such memories are of pleasant moments, maybe even funny ones. Isn't it strange that sorrow can also have its lighter side? Perhaps that's God's way of helping us deal with loss.



November 10, St. Martin's day, is also the birthday of Martin Luther. An obscure man, whose father wanted him to be a lawyer, became a monk instead. But, because his spiritual torment could not be calmed by accepted religious practice, he was led to insightful study of the scriptures, argumentation, rebellious schism, and the reformation of the church. No one would have guessed the babe born on St. Martin's day would have had such lasting effect on the world.



The long season of Sundays after Pentecost grinds slowly to its close this month. It ends with that wonderful feast of Christ the King on November 22. Appropriately, this religious feast of the Church is followed on Thursday by the national day of Thanksgiving. As we sit down to more turkey, dressing, gravy, sweet potatoes, and cranberries, we must give thanks to God for our blessings. Besides the culinary largesse, those blessings should include the opportunity to worship without hindrance, to serve others, and to recognize the worth of our neighbors. It's only right to give thanks, since all of it is a gift.



If Thanksgiving has come, can Christmas be far behind? No, indeed. Advent begins on November 29 and thus begins the series of prayers that begin, "Stir up, O Lord..." It is as though we were all children calling upon God to shake a leg and let Christmas get here sooner. And, yet, the tantalizing slowness of the season of Advent makes the eventual arrival of the Christchild even more special. Yes, stir up and come...but don't rush it.



The crispness of the early mornings suggests that even more brisk days are coming. Why is it that a crisp morning with sunshine can be uplifting and yet the same set of conditions with the sun behind clouds just makes us hurry all the faster to get the windows scraped free of frost and be off to meet the day? It's probably all tied in to our need to be in the light. We relegate evil to darkness and good to the light, so perhaps gloomy days seem to threaten us with less good than we expect with sunny days. But what does the crispness of the morning relate to? It's hard to guess, but it does add something to the experience.

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