



November

News Notes

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTIETH YEAR OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN BETHESDA

DATES OF NOTE

- Nov 5 Scavenger Hunt (page 10)
- Nov 6 Dr. Reichard preaches
- Nov 6 Gathering Crew lunch After 11 a.m. service (page 10)
- Nov 11 and 12 Norwegian Bazaar
- Nov 12 NLH Autumn Festival
- Nov 14 OWLs luncheon
- Nov 18-20 Confirmation Retreat (page 10)
- Nov 20 Soup & Sannich
- Nov 27 Advent Wreath Workshop (page 1)
- Dec 2 Chrysalis Retreat (page 10)
- Dec 4 Sneakers & Squeakers Make Christmas Cookies
- Dec 11 50th anniversary service, Sankta Lucia, and Luncheon
- Dec 18 Sunday School pageant

National Lutheran Home auxiliary's Fall Festival

On **Saturday, November 12**, join in the annual fall festival at the National Lutheran Home, 9701 Veirs Drive, Rockville. From 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., there will be opportunities to shop in the silent auction, Christmas room, Grandma's Attic, plants, jewelry, baked goods, candy, handwork, and all sorts of interesting stuff.

Lunch will be served from 11 until 1. Cottage tours are available. At 2:30, the Home Chorus will present a program in the chapel. For further information call 301-424-9560.

Sunday School Doing well

Sunday School classes for 2-year-olds through High School have been going very well. The teachers are doing a great job teaching the new lectionary curriculum using each Sunday's Bible readings to classes through 6th grade. The 7th and 8th graders are studying Bible Ancestors.

On October 30, we will be starting practice on the Christmas Program during openings and early in November we will make ornaments for the Giving Tree. Classes will be combined on Sunday, November 27 for a lesson and craft project.

Phyllis Axtell
SS Superintendent



Norwegian Congregation to hold Christmas Bazaar November 11 & 12 At Emmanuel

Friday, Nov. 11: 3 pm - 8 pm — Saturday, Nov. 12: 10 am - 6 pm

Norwegian Food, Norwegian chocolate, Norwegian Christmas Gifts, Scandinavian Sweaters, Rosemaling products, Jewelry and ornaments, and much more

Come enjoy fresh Norwegians waffles, open sandwiches and much more - bring your family to a great day and do your Christmas shopping. The Bazaar is arranged by the Norwegian Seamen's Church, NY in cooperation with Emanuel Lutheran Church and Sons of Norway

How we stand financially

As of September 30:

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	498,300.05	415,150.67
Expenses	<u>498,300.05</u>	<u>471,287.01</u>
Excess (deficit)	0.00	(56,136.33)

Whereas expenses have been kept as low as possible, they are outpacing income. We are now in the fourth quarter which is usually one with the highest income.

Advent Wreath Workshop

On Sunday, November 27th at 4:30pm we will make Advent wreaths along with a potluck dinner. Come and make your own tabletop decoration. Please sign up for this wonderful family tradition in the Narthex starting November 6th and choose a menu item to share with other families. A \$15 donation is requested to cover the cost of materials.

Questions: call Sheila Murtland at 301 983-2683 or email at lakenheathway@aol.com.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Regular Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Chapel Service at 10 a.m.
- Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Lookingbill ponders happiness



What makes you happy? There are days that we can all identify as “Happy Days,” those when the world feels right, you’re with people you love and admire, the sun is shining and warm and dinner is served with style. I can remember days like that at the beach, swimming in the ocean and feeling that I am part of God’s grand creation. I can also remember days like that when I’m meeting people in Church.

The days that don’t measure up as well, when the clouds seem to hover just over your head, you’re forced to spend time with people you don’t like and who don’t like you and the whole world is just a little “off.” I’ve been in meetings like that. I also think of the recent earthquake along the east coast when even teachers were sent screaming out of school buildings, uncertain that God’s world was going to survive. The Cathedral, as part of this world and also a sacred place, did not survive intact that day.

The “psychology of happiness” speaks to two aspects of our lives that are essential to a healthy sense of identity and well being. To understand the psychology of happiness we need to address “belonging” and “purpose.” The really good news for us who belong to Emmanuel is that we fit very nicely into both categories. That’s not to say other people can’t find happiness without becoming members of Emmanuel. It is that we recognize that we are blessed in this community of faith.

We belong to a group that has a particular identity, the Christian Church, disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. As members of the Christian Church, we have been baptized and blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. That we have a special tradition in the Lutheran Church is an added benefit and reason for thanksgiving; in our confessions we stress the love of God in the Grace that forgives sins and comes to us in the authority of Holy Scripture. To be happy in the Lutheran Church is to know that Christ has called us into a Holy community that is nurtured by the knowledge of the Bible. We are not alone, and never were. We belong to Christ.

At this stage in my parents’ lives, aged 94, living in their own home for over 55 years, going to Church almost every Sunday that it doesn’t snow and they’re not sick, it’s part of their identity to be sitting in the pew at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. They “belong” there, even though my mother has no idea what’s going on in the sermon. I guess some of us Pastors are actually grateful that folks can’t remember the feeble sermons we sometimes preach! Nonetheless, people like my parents are clearly happy to belong to the Church of our Lord, whom they both admire and on whom they depend. They are not alone and they know the community of faith will always support them.

Part of my prayer as the Pastor of Emmanuel is that our members continue to know that this community of faith is always ready to support them as well. We regularly keep members and friends in our Prayers of the Church on Sundays, asking God to bless and heal them. Even if they’ve moved away from Bethesda, for school or work, they are still part of our community and belong to our faith assembly. As we draw closer to our 50th Anniversary in Advent, I hope that we can invite former members and those not as active in our

worship services and study groups to the memory of our common faith. God is faithful, and in that faithfulness we find our truest identity.

To have “purpose” in life is the second essential aspect of a happy life. We need to know that we are serving a “higher” purpose than just getting up from a bed in the morning and grabbing a cup of tea. That’s the main reason that most of us identify with our occupations: “I’m a teacher,” or “I’m a manager,” or “I’m a doctor,” or “I’m a lawyer.” It’s also the reason that some of us have such a hard time when we retire and can no longer say what we “do.” The purpose that we have as members of the body of Christ gives us the sense of happiness since we bring this purpose to our daily lives: We are the hands of God in a world that is filled with uncertainty and confusion. As those hands, we can bring food to the hungry at the shelters, we can bring clothing for children and youth at Christmas who would otherwise be cold, we can bring hope to the sick and depressed and we can bring light into a child’s world where the way forward seems dark and filled with shadows.

The psychology of happiness is available for those in the Church who can understand that we are called together, therefore we belong together, and that we have a great purpose in this life. It’s a purpose that is lived out every day a Christian is alive and aware of the people of God nearby. God’s work depends on our knowledge of the ministry of our Lord Jesus and the resources we have been given by the Holy Spirit. They are considerable, and at Emmanuel, our members here have shared their resources very generously over these 50 years of living as people who know “God with us.” (Emmanuel)

As you receive the invitation to join us for our 50th Anniversary celebration on 11 December, call to your memory the gifts of God that have come to you through the Church and that you have been able to share through faithful living. Then plan to join us for another day of happiness as we celebrate the presence of God at Emmanuel.

In Christ’s Service,

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor



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

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

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE ENCOUNTER STUDIES MATTHEW

The fall Wednesday morning Bible Encounter continues at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Education room with Pr. Lookingbill. While Pr. Lookingbill is away in Israel, Katherine Burrell will lead the group. This fall we are working our way through the Gospel of Matthew, the first and most Jewish of the Gospels in the New Testament.

The Gospels are the core witness to Jesus and his ministry. Matthew is the first of the synoptic (similar) Gospels in the Bible New Testament as an indication of its importance in the development of the Christian Church. In many ways, Matthew and Luke resemble Mark, which is considered the first written Gospel. Matthew is a five part account of the story of the life and death of Jesus along with many of his parables and teachings. Famous among the parts of Matthew is the Sermon on the Mount, including the beatitudes and the Lord's prayer.

Join us on Wednesdays this fall at 10:30 a.m. for the study and plan to stay for lunch at noon. Desserts are provided by the members of the group to accompany the lunch you bring along for yourself. Friends of the congregation are also invited to join us for our study and fellowship. We will not meet the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

INTERFAITH STUDY BEGINS IN DECEMBER

On Thursday, 8 December, at Har Shalom Congregation, Rabbi Emeritus Cahan and Pastor Lookingbill will again convene members and friends of both congregations for the Interfaith study that we have been sharing for almost 15 years. Especially since we are just returning from our Israel Adventure, this series of discussions will be even more meaningful to our group. We will be sharing our traditional views of our religious life and reflecting on the great themes of the Torah, the "law" in the Old Testament.

Plan to join us at 7 p.m. at Har Shalom for this first meeting for the current year. Bring along friends who are curious about our shared traditions and our separate development. If you've not been able to join us for our earlier meetings, do not hesitate to join us. This is a new year and a new topic for our religious journeys.

Calendar of Fiftieth Anniversary Events

November 6 — Rev. Dr. Richard Reichard, preacher at 8:30 and 11 a.m.. He is a member of Emmanuel.

December 11 — Anniversary Celebration Sunday with inaugural presentation of a special choral work composed by David Tiller, commissioned by Dingwall Fleary for the musicians of Emmanuel.

December 11 — Anniversary luncheon at **Bethesda Country Club** (invitations will be mailed and RSVPs are required)

November 20, 2011 Sunday, 12:30 p.m. "Soup and Sammiches" Lunch

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. Bring a friend!

Although there will be no **Soup and Sammiches Lunch** in December, please mark your **2012 calendar** for Soup and Sammiches Lunch: January 29; February 26; March 25; and May 6. Please note the **Sneakers and Squeakers** events will coincide with Soup and Sammiches Lunch on February 26 (Ice Skating) and March 25 (Bowling). Be part of our unique and talented chefs by contacting Patti Leppert at (301) 977-5632, at apricot3pl@verizon.net, or place a note in her mailbox.

VISIT TO THE FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER AT 2:30 P.M. MANIFOLD GREATNESS

The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible

Pr. Lookingbill and the Wednesday evening study group are planning a visit to the Folger Shakespeare Library on Sunday afternoon, 20 November, at 2:30 p.m. for a guided tour of the exhibit and related projects developed by the Folger staff and the Bodleian Library, Oxford University as well as the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, Austin. As the exhibit explains, the King James Bible of 1611 has had a far reaching impact on family lives, with Baptisms and Weddings included in priceless editions, and on western civilization in general. This unique exhibit traces the story behind this Bible, including earlier translators and their influence on the scholars called together by King James and the risks they took to bring the Bible to English readers.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after the late worship service for "Soup & Sammich" and go together to the Library at 201 East Capital Street for the tour. Please let Pr. Lookingbill know if you would like to join the group.

FIRST COMMUNION WITH PR. LOOKINGBILL

Beginning on Sunday, 2 October, and continuing for three weeks, Pr. Lookingbill led a class for those children and youth who want to prepare for their first Communion, on 23 October. Those attending the class were:

Abigail Cannon	Eilis Cawley
Nancy Davis	Aliana Espinoza
Rowan Gjersvold	David King
Tessa Nyquist	Cecelia Price
Kai Svenson	

We studied the Bible accounts of celebrations with bread and wine, the Last Supper and the early practice of Communion in the Church in Corinth. We also looked at Martin Luther's Small Catechism and the current liturgy of Holy Communion in the Lutheran Church. What a joy to welcome these fine young people to our Altar Fellowship.

From the Council President:

My column this month will be a little different than those of past months. This one will address a topic of a longer-term nature. During 2011 we have been celebrating Emmanuel's first 50-years of ministry here in Bethesda. This has been a tremendous opportunity to look back at the many wonderful accomplishments of the past, commemorated by a series of 50th Anniversary events throughout the year. We began with a visit from Bishop Graham last December and it will culminate with our special services and all-congregational banquet on December 11, 2011. We truly do have many things of which to be proud and thankful for.

I believe that it is also important during this time to begin looking forward to what the next 50 years will bring for Emmanuel. Therefore, along with addressing regular Church and financial issues, Church Council has also begun an initiative to define the future vision of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. This is crucial to ensure that the wonderful experiences, the tremendous ministries and the good works that we have enjoyed during our first 50 years may continue, and even strengthen over the next 50 years.

Beginning at our council Retreat in July, we have embarked on a two-step process. Prior to being able to clarify a vision of where we at Emmanuel are going, we must first develop an accurate and consensus view of where we are today. As a reference for this step, Council is using the book, Pathway to Renewal by Daniel Smith and Mary Sellon. In it the authors describe the various stages that churches, and in reality many organizations go through during their lifetimes. By comparing the situations and events at Emmanuel to the descriptors of the various stages along the continuum, we are trying to determine where we are along our organizational life-cycle.

We have much work still ahead of us in this area. Among the many tasks we have is finding ways to obtain congregational input and insight into this endeavor. Council is considering a number of methods that will be commencing after the first of the year. You will hear more on this as we get closer to that time. In the meantime, if you have any thoughts or ideas on the overall process, I would like to hear from you.

As we now prepare to close the door on our first 50 years at Emmanuel, we look to open a new gateway to an exciting and robust future.

In His service,

Brad E. Fackler
Council President

WANTED

The Communications committee is looking for several talented individuals who might be willing to help us with a few activities:

Calligrapher needed who is willing to help with infrequent tasks in the church office;

“Communications” talented professionals ... writers, editors, publicists who can help us with various tasks associated with our 50th anniversary and beyond. Ever wonder what's going to happen in the NEXT 50 years? Be part of the magic!

Contact Jane Rosenquist or any member of the communications committee for more information: elcbethesda@gmail.com or 301-365-5733.

Communications Committee: Katherine Burrell, Robert Lewis, Mike Poston, Jane Rosenquist and Sue Waldrop

A note from the Treasurer, Cameron Groves:

I hope this note finds everyone healthy and gearing up for the forthcoming Holiday season.

The financial picture for Emmanuel is fair, and our monthly bills are being paid and continue unabated. As of September 30th, the church expenses are operating under budget by ~\$27,000, which is great news. On the flip side, our income stream continues to be in decline due to a hangover from the summer months where attendance is lower due to no Sunday School and family vacations. We are presently seeing offering levels below budget by ~\$60,000, as well as we continue to be impacted by the Montessori school as a source of income. We anticipate the impact by the Montessori school will change for the better as the Feynman School comes on-line.

As a friendly reminder, our primary source of income is from membership offerings. Heading into the Holiday season, the church council asks that you consider giving to Emmanuel to the extent you are able so we can come back in budget. We will continue to track Emmanuel's financial picture, and will be providing an update during a series of temple talks heading into the months of November and December. In the meantime, do not hesitate to let either me or a member of the church council know if you have any questions or concerns.

In his service,

Cameron

Hints and Helps from the Parish Nurse

For we are what He has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life - Ephesians 2:10

November is American Diabetes Month:

This is a time to raise awareness of diabetes prevention and control. In the United States, 24 million people are living with diabetes and 57 million more are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Over time, if it's not controlled, type 2 diabetes can cause serious health problems like heart disease, stroke, and blindness. You may be at risk for type 2 diabetes if you:

- Are overweight
- Exercise less than 3 times a week
- Are over 45 years old
- Have high blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Are African American, Latino, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American or Pacific Islander
- Have a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes

You can do a lot to lower your chances of getting type 2 diabetes by:

- Eating healthy.
- Watching your weight.
- Being active.

Diabetic Education classes offered by Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (301)315-3030 and Suburban Hospital (301)896-3939.

Indoor Walking Program

Would you like to begin or supplement an exercise regimen? Do you decrease your routine when the weather gets cold? Try this. Registered participants receive free blood pressure screening and health information provided by Suburban Hospital.

Stepping Out | Tuesdays & Thursdays | 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Westfield Montgomery Mall | 7101 Democracy Boulevard |
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Please contact Bob Jones or Anna Roberts with questions.

THE WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP ABRAHAM HESCHEL'S ESSENTIAL WRITINGS

Pr. Lookingbill has invited Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan and his wife Elizabeth to join the Wednesday evening study in November to reflect on Abraham Joshua Heschel and his writing and life. Both Rabbi Cahan and Elizabeth studied with Professor Heschel when he taught at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, across the street from Union Theological Seminary and Teacher's College of Columbia University. To bring more insight into the scholarly work of Rabbi Heschel, it will be great to have a first-hand account of his teaching. The encouragement he gave for Christian/Jewish dialogues and for a deeper understanding of our common heritage is evidenced in our Intefait study with Har Shalom today. Abraham Joshua Heschel, Essential Writings (Modern Spiritual Masters) is the book that we are using for our fall discussions.

Rabbi Heschel emphasized that "awe" is the beginning of the religious life. We are, or should be, "embarrassed" by our weakness and inability to admit our weaknesses and failures. Rabbi Heschel declared, "I am afraid of people who are never embarrassed at their own pettiness, prejudices, envy, and conceit, never embarrassed at the profanation of life." There's lots to discuss around this issue of what should embarrass our society today and what it means for deeper religious life.

Please join Pr. Lookingbill and the group for supper at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall and for our stimulating discussion in the Christian Education room of the Church beginning at 7:30. Bring along friends who will add to our insightful and challenging evenings.

Save The Date 50th Anniversary Luncheon

Mark your calendar for a special 50th Anniversary meal at Bethesda Country Club on **Sunday, December 11**. Invitations will be mailed next month with RSVP cards to be returned to the church office. The meal will follow the special choral work celebrating **Great Tradition, Great Faith, Great Future**. This work will feature the Senior Choir, Joyful Praise Choir, the Emmanuel Ringers bell choir, organ, and instrumentalists. Seating at the luncheon is limited and will be by reservation only. Save the date!

Parish Vital Records

Deaths

Evelyn Brunken, age 100, 9 October 2011, cousin of Jacquie Salive.

Dick Jason, 11 October 2011, former organist at Emmanuel

Sharon Elizabeth Christenson, 16 October 2011

Wilhelm Dursthoff, died 17 October 2011, brother of Anne-Marie Doppman

New Members

Noah Drew Offutt, 16 October 2011, son of Jennifer and Drew Offutt, by infant baptism

Wedding

Ashley Slack and *Daniel Leighton*, 22 October 2011

50TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

The Charter Members of Emmanuel asked in the early 1960s to “*Teach Me, O God, to Rearrange My Living So That I may Rearrange My Giving.*” That same prayer is relevant today. The 50th Anniversary Fund that Council has established would look to the future of Emmanuel. Contributions to the Fund can be made through multiple weekly contributions using marked weekly offering envelopes, or one-time gifts out of savings or investments.

These contributions to the fund would first cover the cost of the renovation of the kitchen on the lower level, a project complicated by the current building codes and the moisture issues on the back side of the building. Like our second priority, the sanctuary sound system, the kitchen has served us well for 21 years. A second priority is replacement of the Sanctuary sound system, a needed improvement since the original was installed in 1990. It was difficult to adjust, but more recently it became important to replace because of the interference from the phone system in the church office, and the fact that the old analog system was difficult to repair. The fund is also intended to cover the costs of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Banquet on December 11th. Last, but certainly not least, is our interest in continuing Emmanuel’s strong commitment to benevolence.

As the Fund grows, we hope to meet all these commitments for the next fifty years as well as Emmanuel has met its commitments for the first fifty years. The kitchen and the sound system are emblematic of the fellowship and the strong music program that has made this community one that continues to draw both new and longtime members and friends as we celebrate these new milestones in the life of Emmanuel. Please prayerfully consider what amounts you may be able to contribute to this fund when you receive the letter asking for your support of this initiative.

INTERFAITH ADVENTURE IN ISRAEL 24 OCTOBER – 8 NOVEMBER

As you read this News Notes issue (if you read the first week of November), Pr. Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan are leading a group of 27 on a remarkable Israel Adventure. We arrive in Israel on 25 October and spend the first week of our two week tour in Jerusalem. One member of Har Shalom has been a volunteer at Hazor archeological site for several years and will be pleased to lead us on a special tour of the site in the Galilee when we visit the second week, including meeting in a Bedouin tent for traditional coffee. There are other special events scheduled, including several home visits with residents of Jerusalem and the Bethlehem area to share a meal and learn what it’s like to live there today.

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 worship Sunday 30 October with the English speaking congregation at the historic St. John’s Chapel at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City. The visit to the Israel Museum will allow us to learn from both ancient and recent discoveries what this ancient geography has witnessed. When we visit Masada near the Dead Sea, we will see the outlines of the Roman legion’s camp while they surrounded the Jewish “rebels” on the top of the mount.

This is a unique opportunity to visit a country that has both historical and present day fascinations and frustrations. The history of Jews, Palestinians, Christians and Moslems is all gathered in this one land. The archeology that continues to unveil this history in Israel is full of surprises, like the Roman Theatre in Beit Shean near the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea Scrolls revealed new insight into religious practices and conflicts when they were discovered in caves near the Dead Sea. Herod built his defense fortifications as well as the Temple which became the largest place of worship in the ancient world.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY-BASED SHELTER

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who contributed to the October Community-Based Shelter project. Over sixty Emmanuel volunteers, both young and old, helped make this year’s week at CBS a big success again. The number of ladies we served at the shelter was higher than before and our Emmanuel cooks were very gracious in adjusting the size of their meals. Every night the ladies at the shelter commented how much they liked and appreciated the meals. Since the shelter has minimal heating facilities, the fact that we bring our own heating system so that the food we serve is hot is a big bonus to them. We are truly blessed at Emmanuel with so many enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers who respond so compassionately each year in helping the neediest among us! A huge thank you to all from our guests at the shelter and from the Outreach Committee.

Pastor Lewis Considers.....

prayer



What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. Psalm 8:4-5

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” asks the Psalmist. Who are we indeed? When we think about praying to the Lord of all creation, just who do we think we are?

You are just one of 7 billion people currently on the planet, and one of 107 billion who have ever been born here on earth. So, does the God who is Lord of the universe really hear our prayer? Can God really pick out our individual voice amidst all the other voices in the world? Does the God who holds all of this in God’s hands – also hold yours?

The answer is a resounding and emphatic Yes! Because the God that we find out in the vastness of the Universe is also the God that we find in the waters of our baptism. The God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, that we confess each week in the Creed, is also the God who was there to hear our morning cry. This is the God who has called each one of us by name and says, “You are mine. Come to me.”

Why? Because first and foremost the God of creation is a God of relationship. This is not a God who is out there somewhere, but right here in the midst of the everyday stuff of life. This is a God who loves you deeply and desires more than anything to be in conversation with you. So when we pray, we can pray with the confidence of a child talking to a trusted parent. And like a loving parent, God may not always give us what we want, but we can be assured that God is always there, ready to listen.

Frederick Buechner wrote, “Everybody prays whether [you think] of it as praying or not. The odd silence you fall into when something very beautiful is happening or something very good or very bad. The ah-h-h-h! that sometimes floats up out of you as out of a Fourth of July crowd when the sky-rocket bursts over the water. The stammer of pain at somebody else’s pain. The stammer of joy at somebody else’s joy. Whatever words or sounds you use for sighing with over your own life. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to yourself but to something even more familiar than yourself and even more strange than the world.”

Being in conversation with God is about being open to God’s presence and when we are open to God’s presence then all of life becomes a prayer. God is no longer relegated to the fringes of your life, but conversation with God is woven into the fabric of the day to day. God is as close as your next conversation. Therefore, you should take time each day to be in conversation with the one who created you and continues to walk beside you in all of life.

PAX,

Pastor Robert Lewis +

Youth and Adult Leaders prepare for 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Jesus is our peace. In his life and death on the cross, Jesus broke down the dividing walls so that we are no longer strangers and outsiders, but we are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. The foundation of God’s house was built of apostles and prophets, and Jesus, the cornerstone, holds it all together. (Ephesians 2:14–20, paraphrased).

The Theme of the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans is *citizens with the saints*, which is drawn from the second lesson for Sunday, July 22, 2012 (The Sunday of the Gathering). The theme also blends the rich faith history, diverse cultures and arts of New Orleans with the communion of saints that is present whenever and wherever God’s people gather!

The 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering will invite participants to New Orleans to dwell together as “one new humanity,” remembering who we are in Christ and acting in response by forming faithful, wise and courageous leaders who will: Live among God’s faithful people, Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through words and deed, Serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and Strive for justice and peace in all the earth (*ELW*, page 236).

Our Gathering “Krewe” has already started preparing for their mission in New Orleans. Between now and then we will be learning about Practicing Peacemaking, Discipleship, and Justice. We will also be raising funds for the trip (we need to raise about \$1200 for each person), so please help us when you can.

Emmanuel’s Gathering “Krewe” youth are Heather Lundberg, Rachel Lundberg, Jonna Rautsola (a Krewe member from 2009 Gathering), Catherine Roberts, Kristina Roberts, Alaine Thronson, and William Szamosszegi.

Our youth will be accompanied by two great adult leaders that we call “shepherds.” They are Anna Roberts and Andrew Szamosszegi. Pastor Robert Lewis is the Coordinator.

We still have room for more Youth who would like to join. If you are interested, contact Pastor Lewis.

The Giving Tree



So... how do I help?

The Giving Tree will be set up by **November 20**. 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 18. (Earlier is better!) We’ll take the gifts to Southeast Ministry in time for them to “appear” under the family Christmas trees. Happy shopping!

Youth and Family Activities

November 5, Saturday, 2 – 4 pm

Washington Center Scavenger Hunt

We will meet by the first floor entrance of the Rio Movie Theater to be split into teams. If you need a ride, please contact Pastor Lewis.

November 6, Sunday, Noon

Gathering Crew Meeting and Lunch

All youth and adults who are registered to attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering should be at this meeting. We will provide lunch. The meeting will be in the Youth Room.

November 11-12, Friday and Saturday

Selling Fair Trade Items at the Bazaar

The youth will have a table at the Norwegian Bazaar here at Emmanuel to sell Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and olive oil. We need youth and parent volunteers for the entire time of the Bazaar.

November 14, Monday, Noon

O.W.L.s

Laughter is the best Medicine. Learn how laughter improves our health and brings joy to our souls. A catered lunch is provided.

November 18-20, Friday - Sunday

Confirmation Retreat

This is the first of three confirmation retreats during the school year. The retreat will be at the West River Retreat Center in West River, MD, right on the water. Confirmands should have their forms and fees turned into Pastor Lewis no later than November 7, 2011.

November 27, Sunday, 4 pm

Advent Wreath Workshop and Dinner

Come and make an Advent wreath for the family. Please sign up in the Narthex by November 20 or contact Shelia Murtland.

December 2-4, Friday – Sunday

Chrysalis High School Retreat

This is our annual Synod retreat that takes place at the 4H Center in Front Royal, VA.

December 4, Sunday 12:30 – 2 pm

Sneakers and Squeakers – Making Christmas Cookies

Children in sixth grade and below are invited to the Roberts' home to make Christmas Cookies. Lunch will be provided. We also need some adults to help. The Roberts are located at 9401 Duxford Court in Potomac.

Mark your calendar:

December 18 – Children's Christmas Pageant

December 18 – Caroling at the National Lutheran Home (everyone is invited)

December 27 —Youth Service Project

December 28—Sneakers and Squeakers at Adventure Theater

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Olive Oil

November 11 & 12, 2011

At the Norwegian Bazaar

The youth will be selling Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Olive Oil from the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project at the Norwegian Bazaar at Emmanuel on November 11 and 12 (Friday and Saturday). The proceeds will go toward LWR and Emmanuel's youth programs.

The LWR Coffee Project ensures that more of the money you spend on coffee reaches the farmers who actually grow it. Fair Trade coffee is a simple solution that means the difference—quite literally—between surviving and not surviving for small-scale coffee farmers. Micah 6:8 calls us, as Christians, to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. The LWR Coffee Project helps Lutherans answer that call by improving the lives of small-scale farmers around the world.

Why is Fair Trade important? Proverbs 13:23 says, "A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away." Lutherans enjoy coffee as a regular part of their fellowship, unaware that the farmers who grew that coffee are probably struggling to make ends meet.



Music can act upon our senses to produce or induce feelings of reverence, humility, fervor, assurance, or other feelings attuned to the spirit of worship."
— SPENCER KIMBALL

Greetings!

It has been quite wonderful to witness the enthusiasm and the hustle and bustle surrounding the thoughts and preparations for Emmanuel's 50th Anniversary celebration from my little corner of the church.

As has been reported, I have accepted the task of "designing" the special service for that morning, December 11. Some of the excitement about this service has led to some misinterpretations about what the music for it will entail. Among other things, I've repeatedly heard the term "Cantata" used to describe what the choirs will be presenting. Let me make it clear, hopefully without deflating the hopes of anyone, that what you'll experience this year is not a cantata!

Instead, everyone worshipping with us that day will be involved. As I started my part of the planning, with the encouragement of the Music and Worship Committee and many individuals, I thought it would be most meaningful if we were to have a hymn that would be remembered and used for years to come.

With that in mind, I called upon my good friend, composer and fellow church musician, David Tiller of Reston, to create such a selection. In my directions to him, I reminded him (even though it wasn't necessary because of his church work) that the date of our ELC celebration would fall on the third Sunday of Advent, a time when the church is in anticipation of the Lord's coming. Although a strong, singable hymn was first and foremost, I hinted that if his creativity would allow it, an additional wish would be that the words and music he writes reflect that. After sitting among our congregation several times, he went away and set about his assignment.

Tiller composed the melody and several verses of text which bring all my wishes together, and manages to capture the spirit of this 50 year-old Christian community which is Emmanuel Lutheran Church. I believe his hymn tune is destined to become a staple, quite likely beyond the walls and grounds of the Church at the Grubby Thicket. Throughout the service the musical theme will be heard in various forms, alternately presented by the voices of children, the choir, bells, organ, brass instruments, and most importantly, the congregation! All this will serve to enrich portions of the regular liturgy. The basic structure of the service will draw from the format of the 1990 dedication.

I am very confident that everyone who participates in the celebration will be pleased and strengthened by the overall experience.

Until next time, I am
Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary
dingwallfleary@verizon.net
PHONE: 703.450.4167

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 27 - December 18, 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!



Fun Bunch
Now Known as

OWLS
(Older Wiser Lutherans)

November 14, 2011
Noon

Laughter is the best medicine and it brings joy to our souls.

As children we did not need to practice laughing we just laughed for no apparent reason. As we grow older our conditioning prevents us from laughing un-inhibitedly. Because of this, we often overlook the beauty in life and others. Being able to laugh at ourselves and laugh with others gives us joy and happiness.

"Let everyone seriously take this to heart . . . For to you it is a question either of eternal blessing, happiness, and salvation, or of eternal wrath, misery, and woe. What more would you have or desire than God's kindly promises to be yours with every blessing, happiness, and to protect and help you in all need?"

Martin Luther

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

7730 Bradley Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

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

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

Robert Lewis, Pastor
Youth & Family Ministry

Brad Fackler, 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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NOVEMBER, 2011

