



Emmanuel News Notes

October, 2009

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. . . .a busy journey

Back to full form at Emmanuel! That's what October brings to our community, and I'm looking forward to the challenges and the events! When the summer slowly yields to the darker evenings and the cooler temperatures, it's time to return to the programs that shape our lives. Summer is great, and the travel and vacations are events the whole family can enjoy together. In summer vacations we can remember the stories of our family roots and tell the children about formative days in the past. Sharing a house with the children and grandchildren during summer vacation at the beach brings all sorts of wonderful pictures that we can keep for future family celebrations. The fall brings us new and fresh opportunities to learn, to continue our journeys in faith and witness and to meet new challenges. Emmanuel is bursting with a full program of fall events.

To me it's like Jesus making the journeys to Jerusalem for the principal festivals of his time: Jewish New Year, Day of Atonement, Sukkot, Passover and Pentecost. He led his disciples down the rift valley along the Jordan River and shared parables, psalms and prayers. We too are on a journey, a spiritual journey, not along the rift valley, although there are days when the rift between our spirit and our stressful daily lives seem to deplete us of energy. We are on a journey to renew and restore our spiritual lives, to hear the Word from the Gospel and encourage one another in living as Christ's followers.

We will begin Confirmation classes again this October with our 7th and 8th graders learning about Luther's Small Catechism, which features the Ten Commandments of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed, Baptism instruction and Holy Communion. Since the number of confirmands in our class this fall has dropped, we will have one class to study, worship and play together. I am especially interested in having a Mentor for each of our confirmands, to meet together and encourage the youth in their faith journey. I am hopeful that members will volunteer to become a Mentor this year. On the first day of Confirmation this fall the class will prepare and serve a meal to the Shelter for homeless folks in Rockville, enlivening our study with the practice of concern for the poor. The whole congregation with many volunteers will prepare and serve meals to the Community Based Shelter in Rockville for the entire week!

Youth Sunday on 11 Oct.. brings our youth to lead worship and share their ideas as they grow in faith. Listening to their prayers and hearing their words of inspiration and concern bring us all closer together across the generations. The First Communion Classes will also bring our younger children to a deeper understanding of the mystery of the Sacraments, and a fuller participation in the life of the community.

Oktoberfest is a festival of the fall – and we all need to have a party to remember the goodness of God's creation from season to season. Along with the delicious food and drinks comes the music that brings our feet to the dance floor, in celebration of the life filled with pleasant gifts from the harvest and from our Lord. Bring a family or a friend along with you to enjoy this evening of October "Omm pah!"

Reformation Sunday at Emmanuel is a time to remember our roots in the Lutheran Church, Martin Luther and his hard won emphasis on "Justification by Grace (alone!)." At Emmanuel we will celebrate Reformation by giving Bibles to our children, by introducing the Confirmands and Mentors to the congregation, and with special music. Luther loved music in the Church and promoted the singing of hymns by the whole congregation, not just the choirs. This year is the 10th Anniversary of the joint declaration between the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches on agreement with "Justification by Faith" as an adequate statement of the Christian faith. There will be a celebration at the Pope John Paul II Center on 31 October at 3 p.m. to remember how much we share in the worldwide Christian Church.

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DATES OF NOTE

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- Oct 4 Confirmation luncheon (page 10)
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- Oct 4 Adventure Club (p 5)
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- Oct 9 Family Movie night (page 5)
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- Oct 11 Youth Sunday
- Oct 12 Fun Bunch lunch (page 10)
- Oct 18 Oktoberfest (page 4)
- Oct 26 Haunted Forest (page 10)
- Nov 1 Confirmation event (page 5)

WORSHIP

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

Our regular Wednesday morning Bible Encounter this fall focuses on First Corinthians and our evening study on "The Case for God" will give us more opportunity to discuss and deepen our understanding of faith and the controversy of science and religion. When we read and study together, we challenge and are challenged in our deepest faith: Are we the people of God that Christ has called and are we living according to that example of humility and Grace?

It is a journey that we are all taking in this life. Emmanuel is full of places to visit, rest and consider who we truly are in God's creation.

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

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN IN OCTOBER

Pr. Lookingbill will meet in October with those children and parents of the congregation who want to learn about Communion in the Lutheran Church. We will have three sessions in Pr. Lookingbill's office on 4 October, 11 October and 25 October. The three sessions are focused on the Biblical origins of Communion, the Lutheran practice of Communion and the local tradition here at Emmanuel for our celebrations. Parents and children are all invited to participate in the sessions in the Pastors' Office each Sunday.

It is the policy of the Church Council that parents, children and the Pastor together will decide when children are ready to receive Holy Communion. For those children who have already received Communion in other congregations, they should continue to receive our Lord's Supper at Emmanuel. They too are welcome to join Pr. Lookingbill for the First Communion Classes. First Communion for those properly prepared will be celebrated on All Saints Sunday, November 1st.

WEDNESDAY MORNING 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. Can you imagine that there were divisions in the early Church? 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.

FALL WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY BEGINS ON 7 OCTOBER

This fall Pr. Lookingbill is planning to gather a group of folks together on Wednesday evenings for supper at 6:30 and a study of Karen Armstrong's newest book, "The Case for God." This book is just being released this September and is intended to contend with those atheists who argue that religion is faulty and irrational, that it has led to many abuses over the history of the Church. 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." We will look at her book and consider the implications for faith, especially noting the intellectual history of religion, which is a special gift that the author brings to the table.

CONFIRMATION AT EMMANUEL

Confirmation Classes will start in October for those youth who have reached at least the 7th grade in school. Pr. Lookingbill and Pr. Lewis teach Confirmation each Monday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:45. Confirmation at Emmanuel is a two year program featuring weekly classes, regular worship with confirmands participating as acolytes, retreats, trips and Sunday School. The Classes use primary sources of information, especially the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism and the history of the Reformation that Martin Luther started in Germany in 1517. The purpose of this Lutheran tradition of instruction is to prepare our young people to enter adult membership in the Church informed about the Biblical witness to Jesus Christ and the basic doctrines of the historical Church.

Please let the Church office know that you are planning to join the class this fall. There will be a Confirmation luncheon on 4 October for youth, parents and godparents to prepare for the fall classes. The first class will meet on 5 October and will prepare and share a meal that day with the Community Based Shelter in Rockville.

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	
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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

From the Council President:

Perhaps the grease trap says it all.

A few weeks ago, Bob Zeller informed me that he had regularly cleaned the grease trap under the sink in the fellowship hall kitchen. He would no longer be able to keep that commitment.

Such is congregational life. Someone takes a responsibility for a chore that the rest of us didn't even know existed. But when he stops doing it, we notice. And Sunday we noticed.

Sunday, the 13th was Rally Day. Approximately 90 people were here to eat, to talk, to bounce on the moon (sort of), to share fellowship. We were gathered outside in the parking lot. That's when the water spread across the floor of the kitchen instead of down the drain.

That's when we discovered why the grease trap needs to be cleaned and when we discovered where the grease trap is.

Wayne Hunley was the hero. As chair of the Finance Committee he is used to ugly jobs. He is the one who has to deliver the bad news about our financial condition. He braved the stink, and cleaned the mess.

All of this is long way of saying thank you to those who take on the stinky jobs at Emmanuel. Some of them, like Finance Committee Chair, get noticed. Others, like cleaning the grease trap, don't – until they don't get done.

Speaking of bad news on the financial front. We learned recently that the church will need to pay \$8500 in property taxes to the county because the parsonage is no longer being used as a parsonage.

Through August we are less than \$10,000 or 3% behind last year. We are about \$40,000 under budget and with this added unbudgeted item, we are actually \$50,000 behind.

On a more positive note, at the Council retreat this year we heard from Pastor Phil Hirsch. Everyone was excited about the ideas and approaches he presented for rejuvenating the congregation. You should be hearing more about that in the future.

We also discussed the congregation's 50th anniversary, which will be December 11, 2009. We brain-stormed about a year long theme of celebratory activities that would begin the preceding year – artwork, pastor exchanges, a history of the congregation, and many more.

You will be hearing more on this theme as we approach next year.

We also brainstormed about raising money to reduce or eliminate the mortgage.

Maybe we can replace the grease trap.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

Christian Education Notes

Sundays

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

- October 4 Extended opening and then crafts for the Community-Based Shelter in the classes.
- October 10 Regular Sunday School
- October 18 Regular Sunday School
- October 25 Regular Sunday School - Bibles given to 3rd graders in worship services
- November 1 Extended opening (extra 10 minutes) about All Saints Day and then classes

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

- October 5 - 4:30 - 8:00 p.m. Confirmation begins with an Acolyte training session, preparing food and serving at the Community-Based Shelter.
- October 12 - 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Regular Confirmation Classes
- October 19 - 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Regular Confirmation Classes
- October 26 - 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. Regular Confirmation Classes
- November 1 - 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Event at St. Luke Silver Spring, MD
- November 2 - No 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. See page 2 for more information.

From Emmanuel's Parish Nurse:

Put Your Hands Together!

In addition to putting our hands together for prayer, it is especially important to practice proper handwashing as we approach flu season.

Scientists estimate that people are not washing their hands often or well enough and may transmit up to 80% of all infections by their hands. From doorknobs to animals to food, harmful germs can live on almost everything. Handwashing may be your single most important act to help stop the spread of infection and stay healthy. Wash often and rub vigorously for 20 seconds! If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based wipe or hand gel!

(www.cdc.gov/CDCTV/HandsTogether/index.html)

Anna Roberts

[Although she has yet to be formally installed as our Parish Nurse, Anna has agreed to provide useful health tips and assistance as needed. This is her first contribution..]

ART EXHIBIT MOUNTED: WILLIAM MOSER COLLECTION

A long-time member of Emmanuel, William Moser, is also a painter of long standing. Bill has filled the fellowship hall with his vibrant works of art that emphasize his love of children and sports. He has won numerous awards for his artwork and is represented in the permanent collections of several Federal agencies (Departments of the Air Force, Navy, and several others). Bill's current works will be on exhibition through October.

Bill invites all to come to a reception in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, October 3rd, from 3 to 6 p.m.** to meet the artist and view the 21 acrylic and watercolor paintings.

Dinner Club

The Dinner Club will start up again this fall. Either sign-up in the Narthex or contact Pastor Lewis at the church office if you are interested.

National Lutheran Home Auxiliary plans annual Fall Festival—Donations needed

The annual Fall Festival will be held at the Home on Saturday, November 14. You can help by donating items to be sold:

- Jewelry tables need unwanted jewelry which will be cleaned before sale
- Grandma's Attic needs collectibles, linens, kitchen ware and small appliances (clean and in working order)
- Book Room will accept your used books (except Reader's Digest Condensed Books)
- Christmas Room wants decorations, etc.
- Stamp Room request foreign and commemorative stamps (no "forever" stamps)

All proceeds are used by the Auxiliary to directly benefit the residents.

If you have items to donate, call Jean Abel at 301-297-5808.

Plan to attend the festival to find great bargains and enjoy home-baked cakes and cookies.

Oktoberfest

October 18th, 2009 in the Fellowship Hall from 6-9 p.m..
The band is the same Heidi and Heimat Echo Band
Old Europe is catering and the menu is:

Tafelspitz-boiled beef brisket w/light horseradish cream sauce
Bratwurst, bauernwurst, & weisswurst
Handmade spaetzle, apple red cabbage,
Old Europe sauerkraut & Potato puree
Apple strudel with vanilla sauce

Ticket price: \$28 for adults, \$14 children 4 to 11 years

Tickets will be on sale starting Sept. 27 and again on Oct. 4th and 11th in the Narthex. Reservations can also be emailed to Sheila Murtland at lakenheathway@aol.com or (301) 983-2683.

Baptized and Called - Now What?

Synod-wide Event for Confirmands

November 1, Sunday

2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

St. Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring , MD

Every one of us is baptized and called by God, but then what happens? As we gather for this afternoon event, we will explore that question. During this time, we will also have a live band, games, fellowship, pizza dinner, and worship. There are also activities for the adults.

We will meet in the church parking lot and leave at 2:30 p.m. and plan on returning to the church around 6:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Lewis for registration forms.

Come and Cheer

for the

Participants in the

Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure

October 10, Saturday, 8 - 10:30 a.m.

The 3 Day Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure will be using Emmanuel's parking lot as their first "pit stop" for their second day of walking. Pastor Lewis is inviting everyone to come out and cheer on these walkers and give them encouragement.

For those who are participating in the Walk for the Cure, a few words of encouragement will go a long way as they start their second day of a 60 mile walk. The organization will take care of all of the physical needs of the walkers during the "pit stop." It would be wonderful for Emmanuel to help lift their spirits with shouts of encouragement and signs of well wishes as the walkers express their hope in their efforts.

Please contact Pastor Lewis for more information.



Adventure Club

4th, 5th and 6th Graders

October 4, Sunday

5 - 6:30 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.

This will be our first gathering which will include supper and activities. We will continue to meet the first Sunday of each month. Parents are encouraged to stay for dinner and hear about this new ministry program and offer suggestions for further events.

Bring your sense for adventure. You can also bring a friend or two.

Family Movie and Potluck Night

Friday, October 9, 2009

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Our movie this month is another great Pixar animated film, *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Everyone is invited to this family-friendly movie with something for all ages. Bring the whole family. Bring friends. Bring a dish to share.

In *Monsters vs. Aliens*, poor Susan Murphy gets hit by a meteorite on her wedding day and proceeds to grow to almost 50 feet tall (49 feet, 11 inches) in the middle of the ceremony. But that's not the worst part for poor Susan. After she literally outgrows the wedding chapel, she is wrangled by the military and shipped off to live a life of solitude amongst other "monsters," away from civilization. That isolation, more than her newfound size is what makes her the most miserable. But it is not long until Susan and her friends are needed by the society that isolated them.

How do we treat those who are different from us? Do we embrace them as one of our own, or do we marginalize and isolate them?

And if we ourselves are treated as monsters by others, how do we respond? Do we react with anger and vengeance, or do we love and give ourselves to others despite how they treat us?

No matter what side we find ourselves on, Christ calls on us to love unconditionally and respond without hatred. In fact, Christ sees no sides - instead he views us all as one, even if our society has created labels and divisions. "I call you all my friends," he told the disciples at the Last Supper, despite their differences (cf. John 15:15).

Parish Vital Records

New Members

Leah Dae Offutt, daughter of Jennifer and Drew Offutt, by infant baptism 20 September 2009

Drew Offutt, 20 September 2009, by affirmation of baptism

Deaths

Roy Miller, 21 August 2009

SERVICE AT THE COMMUNITY-BASED SHELTER

It is October and that can only mean one thing for Emmanuel and the Outreach program. It is when we serve the homeless by spending a week contributing to and serving the Community-Based Shelter (CBS) in Rockville. CBS is an intermediate-level facility where residents are working to overcome their issues (alcoholism, abuse, mental illness, and the like) that made them homeless.

From October 4-10, Emmanuel members will make and serve dinners at CBS. We will also provide food for breakfasts, prepare bag lunches, and purchase supplies for the facility. It takes everyone's help to make all this happen.

We are in the process of calling Emmanuel members to prepare or serve portions of meals. If you would like to participate, please call Marijke Asser at 301-983-8996 to volunteer.

Service is a simple reflection of Christ's love for us. Please join us in service at CBS.

THANK YOU FROM MANNA FOOD CENTER

Thank you to all who contributed to the MANNA food drive all summer. This summer Emmanuel donated over 600 pounds of food to help feed the needy in Montgomery County. What a great gift for us to have given this food to our neighbors. We thank you as do the workers at MANNA and the families of Montgomery County.

How many Lutherans does it take To change a light bulb?

The Internet is a funny thing, sometimes quite literally hilarious, but often just amusing. A joke swam into the inbox the other day that compared various religious organizations by posing that question about how many Episcopalians, Methodists, etc. it would take to change a light bulb. Each group was distinguished by some stereotypical response similar to the one for the Unitarian/Universalists which was approximately, "One, but we recognize that not everyone needs to change a bulb and for those that do not, we support them in their condition and offer them the opportunity to demonstrate that in music, art, and dance." That for the Amish was, "Electric light bulb? What's electricity?" So, the list finally ended with Lutherans. "Lutherans don't change."

Come now! Of all groups that yearn to remain the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the Lutherans may seem like complete sticks-in-the-mud to outsiders, but look at what has happened to Lutherans in the last fifty years. The rush of mergers that began about the time of the first World War culminated in the mergers of 1958 when the synods of Norwegian, Danish, German, and Swedish origins merged to form the ALC, and the Germans of Pennsylvania and the Swedes (among others) formed the LCA. This was followed thirty years later by the merger of the Lutherans who originated with the Seminex movement (ex-LCMS), the LCA, and the ALC to form our current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). That's change.

In 1958, the LCA and the ALC and others published the old red book hymnal (*Service Book and Hymnal*). In 1978, there was another commission which gave birth to the green hymnal (*Lutheran Book of Worship*). Now, some thirty years later, yet another new hymnal has come into being, the cranberry hymnal (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*). And, in between, we had such supplements as the Blue Book (*With One Voice*) and others. It takes congregations a while, some a very long while, to get used to a liturgy and since each of these books had more than one setting, congregations tended to switch around between the various settings at longer intervals, by season, or by some other manner. But congregations, Lutheran congregations, adopted and came to like many different settings of the liturgy. That's change.

One of the articles of our faith is the Apostle's Creed. It was first known in Latin, then in translation into the vernacular tongues. The English version used in the old red hymnal seems to have been in use since the mass was first translated into English. By the time the green hymnal came along, the phrase no longer was "the quick and the dead" but was "the living and the dead." That's change, but not so much. In fact, the creed really hasn't changed, just the wording has been modernized. Maybe Lutherans don't really change so much after all. Nonetheless, if we need to change a light bulb, let's do it.

Pastor Lewis considers....Sabbath

I have a confession: I am a chronic commandment-breaker. I do it every week. In fact, my job as a pastor demands it. Every Sunday, I go to work and violate the Fourth Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). I'm sure that most of you do the very same.

Now it is true that those of us who lead worship have long been excused from the Sabbath obligation because of our work, but the irony of Sabbath-enforcers being Sabbath-breakers is not lost on me. Neither is the fact that our Sabbath habits are shared by ever growing numbers of people, who work, shop or play organized sports on Sundays. We have lost our day of rest, and this concerns me, because I am convinced that nonstop physical activity harms people. It threatens our health as individuals and as a society.

So what can we do to reclaim the Fourth Commandment, as Fall begins and we ramp up our stressful workday and school-year schedules?

The place to begin is to see that a day of reflection and relaxation is a performance-enhancer, not a productivity-robber. My friend Kevin Duggan, a Roman Catholic priest and long-distance runner, reports that an almost religiously recognized training principle is that a runner becomes faster by taking a day off from training each week. Kevin states that this Sabbath time is built into our physical bodies. I have also heard one of the members of our Creative Endeavors group that meets on Thursdays to paint say that you must know when to stop painting - because if you do not, you will make one stroke too many and ruin the painting. Overworking can have the same disastrous results as over-painting.

The next step is to assert that we are children of God, not slaves to a particular shop, school, team, office, firm or corporation. The Sabbath reminds us of this fundamentally important identity. We need to share this idea with our children because young people may be thinking that they are slaves to school and sports and so many other time-consuming activities. Better Sabbath-keeping, I am beginning to discover, could actually make me a better father. The Sabbath is a reminder to me, that we are more than beasts of burden, more than cogs in a wheel, more than students or workers who are valued for our contributions. On our day of rest from the activities we are engaged in during the other six days, we discover we are valuable simply because we exist. On our Sabbath we should be doing those things which enrich our spirits, our friendships, our faith.

We would all be well served, I believe, by beginning each week with a Sabbath, a day of peace, and using the serenity of that day as the spiritual foundation for our ongoing activities. Call me counter-cultural, even subversive, but I am convinced that better Sabbath-keeping is a key to rediscovering our God-given identity and enhancing our Monday-through-Friday performance.

So go ahead: Reclaim a day of rest. Embrace the Sabbath as it was meant to be. You will be amazed by how much better you feel.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr. +

2009 Churchwide Assembly

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met in its triennial churchwide assembly in Minneapolis August 17-23. Two major decisions were reached. The first was the adoption of the social statement on sexuality that among many other things, acknowledges same-gender relationships. They adopted a resolution opening the door to ministerial positions for gays and lesbians in committed relationships, while not forcing congregations to accept such candidates. This apparently was a difficult and long debate and was ended by a 676 to 338 vote (precisely the number required for adoption of the social statement) and a 559 to 451 vote for the rostering measure which only required a simple majority.

The second decision that resonates with many is the adoption of a full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church.

In addition to these decisions, the assembly adopted initiatives on stamping out HIV/AIDS and malaria, trimmed down the budget for the churchwide organization, and re-elected Carlos E. Peña of Galveston, Texas as vice-president of the ELCA. Also announced was the approval of development of a social statement on justice for women to be received by the 2015 Churchwide Assembly. Other social statements to be expected are one on genetics in 2011 and on criminal justice in 2013.

A social statement on human disability may be received in 2017, but there is activity to have this presented as a message from the ELCA instead (a message takes less time than a formal social statement which comes from the highest governing authority).



Youth and Family Calendar

October 4, Sunday, 10 a.m.

Youth Sunday Preparation

All youth, 7th to 12th grade, will meet in the Christian Education room as we finalize plans for the Youth Sunday the following week.

October 4, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Confirmation Luncheon

All parents and youth who will be in the Confirmation program in 2009-2010 are invited to this important luncheon and information meeting. Please RSVP to the church office.

October 4, Sunday, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Adventure Club for 4th, 5th and 6th Graders

We are starting a new ministry for children in grades 4 through 6 called the *Adventure Club*. This will be our first gathering and will include supper and activities. The theme will be "King Arthur's Court." See page 5 in this issue for more information.

October 5, Monday, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class and serve at CBS

This is the first meeting of the Confirmation Class. In addition to beginning classes, we will also be preparing food to bring to and serve at the Community Based Shelter in Rockville.

October 9, Friday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Family Movie and Potluck Night

Everyone is invited to join us for a movie on a big screen in the Fellowship Hall and a potluck dinner. This month's movie is the Pixar animated film, *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Bring the whole family, bring friends and bring a dish to share. See page 5 in this issue for more information.

October 10, Saturday, 8 - 10:30 a.m.

Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure

The 3 Day Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure will be using Emmanuel's parking lot as their first "pit stop" for their second day of walking. Pastor Lewis is inviting everyone to come out and cheer on these walkers and give them encouragement. See page 5 in this issue for more information.

October 11, Sunday, Both Worship Services

Youth Sunday

Youth will lead and share their message at both services on this Sunday.

October 11, Sunday, 2 p.m.

Blessing of the Animals

We will have our Blessing of the Animals in the church yard behind the Chapel. Everyone (including all types of animals) is invited.

October 12, Monday, Noon

Fun Bunch

Come join us for a catered meal and fellowship as we gather for lunch and a presentation about the on-going efforts in New Orleans.

October 18, Sunday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Oktoberfest

Everyone is invited to our Annual Oktoberfest event. Tickets are on sale. See page 4 in this issue for more information.

October 23, Friday, 6 p.m.

Markoff's Haunted Forest

Everyone of all ages is invited to join us to be scared silly at Markoff's Haunted Forest (19120 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson, MD) which is only 35 minutes from the church. We will meet at the front gates and go through the line at the same time so we can enter the forest as one group. The cost is \$25 a person. They DO NOT accept credit cards. See below on this page for more information.

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

Confirmation Event at St. Luke, Silver Spring

We will meet at 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot and head to St. Luke Lutheran Church together. Youth are invited to explore living one's call as a child of God through games, fellowship, worship, pizza, a band and more at "Called and Baptized, Now What?" Activities also are planned for parents and adult leaders. It will take place from 3-6:00 p.m.

November 6 - 8, 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 October 29, 2009

Join Us as we get

SCARED SILLY

at

Markoff's Haunted Forest

October 23 at 6 PM.

Everyone is invited to join us as we venture out to the Markoff's Haunted Forest again this year located at 19120 Martinsburg Road in Dickerson, MD (only 35 minutes from the church). We will meet at the front gate at 6 PM (look for Pastor Lewis, he will be wearing his yellow Mar-Lu-Ridge hat) so we can enter the forest at the same time because its more fun being scared together - plus you might get to see how Pastor Lewis really reacts when he is scared (which is really funny).

The cost is \$25 a person to enter. They DO NOT take credit cards since they are out in the middle of the woods. You may also want to bring some extra money for hot drinks and snacks (it was chilly the last two years) There are also extras you can do such as the "Bat-line" (a Zip-line in the dark) and the haunted bus.

This is a family event and all ages are welcomed. However, the trail can be scary for some. Last year we saw adults get really scared and a bunch of kids laughing and pointing. You know your family members best when it comes to wondering about whether you or your children are up for the trail. Think of it as a time to bring your family closer together (as you hold on to each other). It can be a bonding moment. If you have any questions or need directions, feel free to contact Pastor Lewis.



Without music life would be a
mistake. ~

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

Greetings!

It is a joy for me to report that all of the music activities at the church are now in full swing with weekly rehearsals. Joyful Praise, our chorus of fresh, youthful voices, under Susan Drumm's direction, meets on Tuesdays at 6:30. The Adult Choir and Emmanuel Ringers both meet on Thursday – the bell choir at 6:30 and the choir at 8:00. The numbers for each group are quite small so far, but I'm hoping that will change significantly in the days, weeks and months to come.

Over summer, while the choirs were on recess, I was pleased to welcome the assistance of guest organist Robin Roys, and several instrumentalists, including flutist Cynthia Keith, whom I accompanied on our Spherhake-Passau German harpsichord, and fellow organist Kristi Johnson, who played on "Cecila", her Swedish fiddle known as a Nyckleharpe. My sincerest thanks to each of them.

The schedule of music activities will be posted soon in this column and on the church website. Please refer to both frequently.

In the meantime, I must again make a plea to current members of our church family to seriously consider lending your God-given talent to continuing and strengthening the music of Emmanuel. I've stated this before, but it must be repeated: the music ministry is in critical need of *new participants*. Even with the best of intentions, from time to time it becomes necessary for current members of both the bell choir and the adult singers to divide their time between the duties of the church with the demands of their families and their personal lives. It is now more necessary than ever that new individuals and fresh faces come and inject new vigor into these programs. Please consider getting involved with the music of Emmanuel. Not only will you feel good about giving to others through your service – you'll have a fun, socially satisfying experience!

Until next time, I am

Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary

dingwallfleary@verizon.net

NOTE: For those of you who follow Maestro Fleary's orchestral activities, please note that The McLean Symphony will have its opening concert of the 2009-2010 season on Saturday, October 24, 7:00 PM in the Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center. The program, titled "Russian Romantics", will feature the amazing pianist, Carlos Alberto Ibay, performing the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1, the same concerto that launched Van Cliburn to fame. Mr. Ibay, an equally accomplished singer, has won awards for his playing internationally. This is all the more remarkable because he is totally blind. The program also includes the Symphony No. 1 by Kalinnikov.



James Whitcomb Riley's ode to autumn includes the lines
*When the frost is on the pumpkin
and the fodder's in the shock...*

which evoke the season for many of us even though we rarely see frost on the pumpkins and almost never see fodder in the shock. But, all it takes is a phrase or two and we are transported back to childhood's recitations. Can anyone not think of Abraham Lincoln when the words, "Four score," are heard? Or hear "We hold these truths..." and not think of Jefferson? And the ditty, "*In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue,*" must go through many heads when the question arises of when some exploration occurred. Do we remember the event because of the ditty or the ditty because of the event? Which came first, chicken or egg?



"Rude bridge that arched the flood...", "I shot an arrow...", "Shoot if you must this old gray head...", "On the eighteenth of April in seventy-five...", "I think that I shall never see..." All of these lines might bring forth more of the poems to mind and all of them are romantic in the extreme. The nineteenth century seemed to breed romanticism that lasted well into the twentieth. Some poets avoided the seduction of meter and rhyme, yet not many of their lines spring immediately to mind. Perhaps it is exactly the combination of meter and rhyme that lodges these old war horses in our memory.



A family was traveling along a highway where they'd often gone before. As they rounded a bend, a hillside was revealed in all its autumnal glory—yellows, reds, and green. A squeal was heard from the three-year-old in the back seat: "Ooh! Look what God did!"



Already, the trees are preparing for winter, some leaves are falling, many are soon to turn. Acorns are plentiful this year and soon the last of the fall blossoms will be here. It seems only moments ago that it was spring and it all began.



A squirrel clings, all aflutter, to the side of a tree and song birds have vanished from the yard. A hawk has perched in a neighboring tree and squirrels and birds fear that they may become a hawk's dinner. It doesn't take much to terrify them. The hawk, however, is just hungry and the rabbit sampling the lettuce in an adjacent garden suddenly falls victim. Scarcely without a beat, the squirrel advances on an acorn and the songbirds return to the feeder. Nature, red in tooth and claw, is also willing to let momentary panic subside in the interests of nutrition.

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