



September  
2011

# News Notes

CELEBRATING OUR FIFTIETH YEAR OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN BETHESDA

## CHAPEL WORSHIP BEGINS 18 SEPTEMBER AT 10 A.M.

The 10 a.m. Chapel Worship that began last winter and continued through May will resume on 18 September. The Sunday School will no longer be starting in the Chapel this fall; instead they are planning their own opening in the Atrium each week. Parents of those attending Sunday School and others planning to worship in the Chapel during the Sunday School hour should go directly to the Chapel at 10 a.m. We will continue to use a more casual format for the 10 a.m. Worship and plan to include music from talented members.

## Dinner Club to Resume

September is signup month for another year of Dinner Club, with dinners starting in October. Kevin Adams will be in the narthex between and after services for a couple of Sundays in September with signup sheets for the dinner club, ready to answer any questions. If you've ever spent a dull Saturday night at home or want to meet new people or get to really know people with whom you've only had a nodding acquaintance at Emmanuel, then Dinner Club is for you. Forty-six people were members last year, and we've grown since then.

An adjunct of Dinner Club is being planned as well. A Brunch Club is to be formed. This Brunch Club would work in the same fashion as Dinner Club – dining at a brunch after church or on another day; depending on the members' preferences, it may be in their homes or at a restaurant.

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES WITH PR. LOOKINGBILL

Beginning on Sunday, 2 October, and continuing for three weeks, Pr. Lookingbill will lead a class for those children and youth who want to prepare for their first Communion. The class will meet in Pr. Lookingbill's office at 10 a.m. for three Sundays. Students and Parents are invited to come and will need to have a Bible for the first session, so bring along one from home or let Pr. Lookingbill know that you'll need one from the Sunday School.

The Church Council of Emmanuel has agreed that children who are considered mature enough by their parents and the Pastor to understand what Communion means in the Lutheran Church are welcome to join the Pastor's First Communion class. First Communion this year will be celebrated on Sunday, 23 October.

## What a Friend we have in Jesus!

Emmanuel's Christian Education year begins on September 11, with our Rally Day starting at 9:45 a.m. Children up to Grade 6 will meet in the Atrium for an opening program and then move to their classrooms to meet their teachers and one another. After time in the classroom, they will then come out in the atrium again to participate in group activities based on our theme, "What a Friend we have in Jesus!" where we will learn some about Jesus' life.

During Sunday School we would like parents to register your children so we can make sure we have up to date information and put together a class roll-sheet.

We are also encouraging all families to bring a friend this day since we are focusing on our friend Jesus during the Sunday School hour.

## DATES OF NOTE

- Sep 4 Blessing of backpacks (p 10)
- Sep 6 Joyful Praise begins 6:30 pm
- Sep 7 Morning Study resumes 10:30 a.m. (p 3)
- Sep 7 Evening Study resumes (p 3)
- Sep 11 Regular service schedule resumes
- Sep 11 Pool party (p 10)
- Sep 17 Art Show opening with reception 4-6 p.m. (page 5)
- Sep 18 Youth Gathering meeting (page 10)
- Sep 24 Worldwide Day of Play
- Sep 25 Congregational Picnic (p10)
- Oct 2 Confirmation luncheon (page 3)
- Oct 2 Youth Gathering meeting (page 11)

## 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 .... prayers



Dear Friends,

It's not possible to write down "September 2011" without remembering 9/11, the use of commercial airplanes to attack the twin towers in lower Manhattan as well as the Pentagon and another unachieved target. Four simultaneous assaults in the United States intended to strike fear into the American people from a radical foreign group of vindictive and committed nihilists sent our country into a 10 year cycle of heightened security and increased vigilance. Remember the security officers at every corner of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., many so young that you thought they should be home studying for high school the next day? Then there was the introduction of those machines at the airports to detect anything that might be carried on a person that could be used to harm passengers and crew. I've had to give up shampoo to be able to board a plane, and so have many others.

You probably know exactly where you were on 9/11 and how you found out about the attacks. I happened to be in the Montgomery County Council Chambers preparing to give the opening prayer for their fall meeting, thinking of the vast resources of our county and how the Council could best use these to improve the lives of our neighbors. One of the Council members approached me and asked if I would please include the people in New York who had been attacked in one of the twin towers just minutes before the Council convened. I was not the only one in the United States to pray that morning for those who were about to die. Emmanuel had members and friends who were personally in harm's way that day in the Pentagon and in New York.

Now we have come ten years later through a period of mistrust and misdeeds. There have been many conferences held to rectify the notion that entire religious groups are evil and dangerous. Of course we have to recognize that there are evil and dangerous individuals in all religious groups, even among us Christians. We cannot paste over the history of the Crusades when Christian men were sent out to kill and destroy, even attacking other Christians along the way to the Holy Land. None of that history—old and, now, 10 years ago—means that entire groups of religious people are intent on harming and attacking the United States.

Are there real dangers in the world today? Indeed, there are. We see the violence every day on our televisions and computers. We have "been there" in Egypt in Tahrir Square and we now see Syrian forces assaulting protesters in Hama, during the Holy Month of Ramadan! There is the experience of an American military psychiatrist willing to kill in a Texas military base. There are American Christian leaders who are

ready to sacrifice others by burning books that are considered sacred by Islam. Real dangers.

And still we Christians come to worship and pray for Peace. At the Washington National Cathedral where I serve as a Chaplain one day a month, the Chaplain offers a prayer for peace once every hour over the loudspeaker system. Everyone in the Cathedral is invited to pause for a moment in silence and join in the prayer.

The prayers are simple, fervent and well received. What strikes me the most on those days when I'm the one praying for peace for the world is the number of prayer requests the Cathedral Chaplain gets for individual petitions, for deaths, for illnesses, for depression, to find a job, to find happiness. So many people coming through the aisles of this Washington Cathedral are in need of spiritual strength, to get through the days and weeks of pain and worry, of doubt and fear. It isn't the airport or the foreigner they are concerned about; it's their own uncertainty in life, their loved ones and that they are not alone.

They are not alone. The prayers that are raised up in the Cathedral and in our church are evidence that we are all connected. The really good news is that we are connected through Jesus Christ with the Holy One who brings Peace, true peace, that peace that the world cannot give. We have adequate evidence that the world in which we live day by day is not the source of the Peace that soothes the soul of humankind. It is the faith we have been given through our Lord Jesus that is the source of the deep and abiding Peace that we seek.

We are not alone. The living Christ is with us, guiding and strengthening our faithful lives. We will never be alone for Christ has promised, I am with you always, even to the end of time.

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

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## EMMANUEL RETURNS TO THREE SERVICES ON 11 SEPTEMBER 8:30, 10, & 11 a.m. Worship on Rally Day

After our summer Worship at 10 a.m. ends on Labor Day weekend, we return to two Worship Services in the Sanctuary on September 11. We will celebrate Communion at both Services that day, the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 in the US. We will also welcome the new and returning teachers for our Sunday School as Rally Day begins a new year of Christian Education at Emmanuel.

After the late Service on Rally Day, everyone is invited to lunch as "Soup & Sammich" is prepared in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to visit with other members and share the news from summer vacations and family celebrations along with sharing a very pleasant lunch together. Please look for those who might be visiting with us and invite them to join you.

## CONFIRMATION AT EMMANUEL

Confirmation Classes at Emmanuel Lutheran Church are intended for youth who have reached at least the seventh grade in school and are interested in learning about the Bible and the basic teaching of the Christian Church. It is a two year program meeting weekly on Monday afternoons with Pr. Lookingbill and Pr. Lewis that leads to a Celebration of Confirmation normally on Pentecost Sunday. Included in the two year program is regular responsibility as an Acolyte at worship services. One of the two years is spent in Bible Study, both the Old and New Testaments. The second year is devoted to Martin Luther's Small Catechism which includes study of and explanation of the 10 Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed and Baptism and Communion.

This year we are scheduling a meeting of all youth, parents and godparents for a luncheon on 2 October after the late service. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and introduce the plan for study for the year. One of the decisions that needs to be made for 2012 is whether we celebrate Confirmation on Memorial Day weekend? Classes will begin on 3 October, Monday afternoon at 4:30.

Please let Pr. Lookingbill know that you are planning to join the Confirmation Class this year and plan to have lunch with the group on 2 October.

## Retreats scheduled at Mar-Lu-Ridge

Mar-Lu-Ridge has scheduled a series of individual retreats from September through May. Each retreat costs \$30. For more information, email: [MLR@Mar-Lu-Ridge.org](mailto:MLR@Mar-Lu-Ridge.org).

For September, the retreat is:

**"For the Beginner: a First Spiritual Retreat"**

Presenter: Dr. Connie Devilbiss, college professor, author, and retreat leader.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE ENCOUNTER BEGINS 7 SEPTEMBER

The fall Wednesday morning Bible Encounter will begin on 7 Sept. at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Education room with Pr. Lookingbill. This fall we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew, the first and most important of the Gospels in the New Testament.

Although not the first of the writings of the New Testament, the Gospels are the core witness to Jesus and his ministry. Matthew is the first Gospel listed in the Bible New Testament as an indication of its importance in the development of the Christian Church. In many ways, it is a catechism for those hoping to become part of the Christian faith, outlining the story of the life and death of Jesus along with many of his parables and teachings. Since Matthew is supposed to be the author of the Gospel, and he a disciple of Jesus, this Gospel is considered one of the most authentic of the records of the life of our Lord.

Join us on Wednesdays this year at 10:30 a.m. for the study and plan to stay for lunch together at noon. Desserts are provided by the members of the group along with the lunch you bring along for yourself. Friends of the congregation are also invited to join us for our study and fellowship.

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## WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY TO BEGIN A STUDY OF ABRAHAM HESCHEL'S PHILOSOPHY ON 7 SEPTEMBER

Abraham Heschel is often considered one of the most influential of the 20th century religious leaders and teachers in the United States. He taught at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York for most of his professional life. His insights and scholarly work have brought new respect for Christian/Jewish dialogues and for a deeper understanding of our common heritage. [Abraham Joshua Heschel, Essential Writings](#) (Modern Spiritual Masters) is the book that we will be using for our fall series of discussions. Written by his daughter, Susannah, a religion professor in her own right, this book is a summary of her father's critical writings and a springboard for our discussions. The book is easily available through any of the book stores or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

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

## From the Council President:

Summer time at Emmanuel is normally a slower, less active time for the events of the Church Council. The summer of 2011 however, has been somewhat of an anomaly in terms of actions required. The agenda for the council's annual retreat meeting is normally dedicated to addressing longer-term considerations. While a significant portion of our agenda dealt with some of the bigger-picture issues facing our church, the council had to tackle some important immediate action items. Most notably among these concerns was to approve the use of space within the church for a new school.

As you are aware, the Walden Montessori Academy has been experiencing low enrollment for the past several years. As a result of the lower student population, Walden had requested and we granted a lower rent for the 2011 – 2012 school year; and it was becoming more likely that the school would close in June of 2012. Previous articles have discussed the potential negative impact on the financial situation at Emmanuel, a relatively minor impact in the 2011 fiscal year, but a potentially major impact in 2012 and beyond.

I am pleased to report that in late June Emmanuel was approached by the Feynman School requesting to lease space in our Church. Even better news is that while most of our previous internal discussion had focused on finding a replacement tenant for the 2012 school year, Feynman is interested in co-occupying the space with Walden beginning during the upcoming school year and in becoming the sole tenant for the 2012 school year. Needless to say, this expedited timing initiated a flurry of activity. Not only did Council need to approve the request, but we needed to facilitate an agreement with Walden Montessori Academy to share the space (tentative terms have been reached), all approvals and licenses must be obtained and a new lease finalized. These last two items are in progress as of this writing.

The Feynman School was founded by Susan and Robert Gold with a focus on gifted education for children aged 3 to 6. The school's curriculum emphasizes science, math, language arts, foreign languages, music, drama and art. Feynman began operation in 2010 in Darnestown. They are very excited about moving their school to Emmanuel because of our facilities and because our location is central to their student population. For more information on the Feynman School, I encourage you to visit their web site: [www.feynmanschool.org](http://www.feynmanschool.org). I will continue to keep you informed of progress as we move forward.

Now we are moving from an event-filled time in what are usually the tranquil summer months to the fall, traditionally a time with increased activities at Emmanuel. This year promises to be more exciting than most. Beyond the normal events of Rally Day, the beginning of our new Sunday School year, the church picnic and restarting our multiple Sunday service schedule, we have a number of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and activities planned, culminating with the special cantata and our Congregational luncheon on December 11. Please see Doug Murland's article to get a look at the calendar of all the

anniversary events planned throughout the fall of 2011.

So, hang on to your hats, the fall of 2011 promises to be an exciting one!

In His service,

Brad E. Fackler  
Council President

## INTERFAITH ADVENTURE IN ISRAEL 24 OCTOBER – 8 NOVEMBER

Pr. Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan are making arrangements for the October 24 departure for an Interfaith tour of Israel. We leave the United States after the Jewish High Holy Days when it is cooler and spend 16 days in the Holy Land. The special nature of this trip is that both a Rabbi well acquainted with the Land of Israel and a Lutheran Pastor will guide the group to both Christian and Jewish religious sites, associating them to Biblical events and Biblical passages. 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 meet with several groups of people who are living and working in Israel to find out what life is like there today, as well as learn some of the rich history of those who have lived there before.

When I have spoken with friends who have visited the Holy Land, they report that this has been the visit of their lives when the Bible comes alive. There is a Roman road where Jesus and his disciples walked in Jerusalem which we will also walk down. We will visit the foundation of the house where Peter and his family welcomed Jesus in Capernaum. We will walk through the Garden where Jesus and his disciples slept and where Judas arrived by torch light.

This is a unique opportunity to visit a country that has both historical and present day fascinations. 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 overlooking the Mediterranean Sea in Caesarea Maritima. The Dead Sea Scrolls revealed new insight into religious practices and conflicts when they were discovered in caves. Herod built his defense fortifications as well as the Temple which became the largest place of worship in the ancient world.

You are still invited to request or pick up a brochure at Emmanuel that details the whole trip. The intention that Rabbi Cahan and I have is that the group will continue the dialogue we have as people of the Book throughout the trip. If you have questions and have friends and family interested in joining us, please let Pr. Lookingbill know.

## Hints and Helps from the Parish Nurse

September can be a time of new beginnings; summer days are drawing to a close, children return to school, summer vacations come to an end. Take this opportunity to think of some autumnal resolutions...look at your health maintenance habits like diet, exercise, sleep, stress reduction, prayer life. Is there any room for improvement? If you are feeling good about your own habits, perhaps there is some way you can help others in these areas?

Fall Classes for the Community on Chronic Disease Management. Coping: A Journey to Living Well. A six-week program to improve overall health for those living with chronic disease. Please see the Health Ministry bulletin board for detailed information and dates or contact Anna Roberts at church office or aroberts@elcbethesda.org

### WORLDWIDE DAY OF PLAY - Some ideas for activity

Worldwide Day of Play will be held right here in Washington, D.C, on September 24th. The Day of Play is an annual event to encourage kids to turn off the television and to be active, especially outdoors. First Lady Michelle Obama will participate in the D.C. event, but you can hold a Day of Play in your own town! Compete in a dance-off, plan a field day, turn a PE class into a games day, organize a bike-a-thon, or even go rock-climbing.

## SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES !

The first ever joint gathering of the ELC Men's group, the **Martin Luther Beer & Marching Society**, and the ELC Women's group, the **Katherina Luther Wine and Darning Society** (aka Katie Ladies) will meet for fellowship, conversation and fun 5:30 - 8 pm on Sunday 18 September at the home of Kit and Oliver Moss (4804 Enfield Rd, Bethesda, MD). In that the MLB&MS meets for beer and burgers at local brew pubs, and the Katie Ladies meeting in private homes for wine and light snacks, this will be an interesting cross cultural event, to say the least. The Katie Ladies will provide wine and light snacks as is their custom, and the MLB&MS will provide beer and brats/hamburgers. Donations will be accepted to defer the costs of the wine, beer and food, and to add to the ELC kitchen restoration fund. All men and women at Emmanuel are invited to attend to enjoy the fellowship and fun that these groups have been having on a monthly basis. Further details will be in the weekly bulletins.

## 50th Anniversary Exhibit

### *Artists of Emmanuel*



**Opening Reception  
In the social hall  
Saturday, September 17, 2011  
4-6 p.m.**

**Come. Join us and meet the  
Artists. The varied media will  
Include photography, oil,  
watercolor, glass, and fiber.**

## Save The Date 50th Anniversary Meal

*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 meal is limited and will be by reservation only. Save the date!*

## Parish Vital Records

### Deaths

*Charles A. Weston*, died 2 August 2011, brother of Katherine Burrell

*Virginia Moser*, died 6 August 2011, wife of William Moser

*Salvadore DiMiceli*, died 12 August 2011, relative of Jennifer Lewis

*Jeanne Timkin*, died 15 August 2011, wife of Hal Timkin.

## Sunday School News

We are really excited about the start of Sunday School this year. We have made several changes in the children and youth classes as a response to parent's and children's feedback from last year.

**New Curriculum** – We are using a new lectionary-based curriculum from the ELCA's publisher, Augsburg Fortress for ages up to grade 6. Each one of the Sunday School classes will have age appropriate lessons on the same reading and topic as the other classes. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be learning about our Ancestors in faith from the Old Testament. The high schoolers will be using the day's readings in their class as well.

**New Schedule** - This year Sunday School for the children and youth will begin at 9:45 a.m. We will begin with a short opening in the atrium and then head off to class. This enables the parents to have a time for Fellowship before the adult classes and the 10 a.m. worship service begins.

## Joyful Praise Choir seeks new Members

The Joyful Praise Choir invites all the young voices of Emmanuel and their friends also to come sing and make a joyful noise to God. The choir is open to all children age six and up. The choir meets for rehearsal each Tuesday night from 6:30 to 7:30 in the music room, beginning September 6th. We sing during the church services one or two times a month.

Joyful Praise is all about having fun as we learn to sing and lead worship through our music. We also play the handchimes with many of our songs and present an end of the year musical that is always a highlight for Emmanuel. The ability to read music is not necessary as we learn the music together.

I hope you will consider joining us this year. Your voice is needed! If you have any questions, please call Susie Drumm at 301 279 2646.

## Christian Education

The summer has been filled with preparation for our 2011-2012 Sunday School program at Emmanuel. We now have a wonderful teaching staff in place, a new curriculum, as well as a new Sunday School Superintendent, Phyllis Axtell.

Teachers for Sunday School at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

2-3 year olds	Judy Lookingbill and Jennifer Offutt
Pre K-Kindergarten	Marla Davis and Kim Groves
1st and 2nd Grades	Kristen Phillips and Kristi Gjersvold
3rd and 4th Grades	Laura Pritchard
5th and 6th Grades	Jane Rosenquist and Fred Schuettler
7th and 8th Grades	John Van Oudenaren and Anna Roberts
9th-12th Grades	Kurt Moss and Eden Yimam

The curricula for our Sunday School will be a program from the ELCA Augsburg Publishing Company and will be based on the scriptures read in worship services each Sunday. Each lesson will be developed and appropriate for each grade level.

The 7th and 8th grades will use a curriculum entitled, "Ancestors." This series is a character development of 15 Biblical individuals and their importance to a foundational understanding of the Bible.

The High School class will focus on the Lectionary readings also. The class will discuss the passages based on the following questions:

1. **Read** the scripture slowly. What does the text say? What key phrase or word jumps out at you and has special meaning for you?
2. **Reflect** on a word or phrase. What does the special word or phrase say to me today?
3. **Respond** to what you have read. How can I respond to God to what the text has said to me? Form a prayer that expresses your response to the idea, then "pray it back to God."
4. **Rest** in God's word. How can you live out what you have experienced? Listen to God! Let God show you how to live out what you have gained from the passage.

*Each student from 3rd Grade on up will be expected to bring his/her Bible to class each Sunday. The Third Graders will be receiving their Bibles in October.*

Sunday School will begin with an opening at 9:45 each Sunday followed by class time from 10 -10:45. Students are welcome to have refreshments in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School but will be asked to finish eating and drinking before coming upstairs for Sunday School time.

An adult Bible study meets in the parlor with Ginger Boone and Carl Seils. This is a spirited class and welcomes new members on any Sunday. Consider this an opportunity to learn more about the Bible and what it means to us today.

In the Fellowship Hall, there is an adult Forum that meets to discuss current issues and how to acknowledge these issues in a Christian context.

Christian Education Committee: Sherry Peske, Julie Lewis, Kim Groves, Pastor Lewis, Kristi Johnson(Chair)

## Pastor Lewis Considers..... weeds



Most of us do not have to worry about being "twitterjacked" because we are not so famous that people by the thousands want to follow us on Twitter. But Tony La Russa, who has four World Series rings, and a future Hall-of-Famer was twitterjacked. Someone other than himself had created a Twitter account in his name and said some really nasty things about some Cardinals players. La Russa was not amused.

Twitterjacking is not hard to do. If you do not have a Twitter account, anyone can use your name and start tweeting anything they like, and those who follow your "name" will think it is you doing the tweeting. The only thing you can do is get on these social networking sites and register, thus claiming your own name before anyone else can.

Minus that sort of effort, we cannot spot the pretenders, contenders and wannabes out there. Or, to put this in the language of Jesus, we are going to have to put up with the weeds among the wheat, the phonies among the pious, the false among the true, the fake among the genuine, the false prophets among the saints.

In the parable of the weeds among the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43) the problem is not that we cannot spot the fakes, the twitterjackers, the phonies. We can. It is just that it's a real problem trying to get rid of them.

Have you ever looked across a field of wheat? You can see the weeds quite clearly. But getting rid of them is another matter. Jesus' remarkable advice when discussing how to deal with the weeds in the field is to let them be. They will be taken care of on harvest, or judgment, day.

Jesus says the "wheat" is the children of God; the "weeds" are the fake children of God, the ones pretending to be wheat, as though by growing up smack in the middle of a wheat field they will be mistaken for wheat.

The good news is that Jesus describes this field, which is the "world," as a field of wheat, not as a field of weeds. That is to say, when Jesus sees the world, he looks out across not a field of weeds in which there is wheat growing, but a field of wheat in which there are weeds growing.

This is encouraging news for us. It is so easy to be discouraged and to believe that evil is all around us, about to overwhelm us. In fact, Jesus reminds us that there are more of the faithful, more of those who have not bowed the knee to evil, more of those whose core values are still Biblical ones, than we sometimes realize. Yes, the "children of evil" exist and they do damage to the crop, but they exist in a field that is predominantly a field of wheat, not weeds.

So what is the difference between wheat and weeds? The first difference between wheat and weeds is that wheat is always in the row that you planted it; whereas, weeds will be scattered all over, especially between the rows. Wheat stays in the high furrows and grows where the farmer has planted it. Weeds, on the other hand, are renegades, exist all over, and grow wherever they want.

Another difference is that wheat multiplies only by planting. The farmer plants the seed and a crop and harvest ensue. Not so with weeds:

\* Some weeds multiply by spreading their seeds through the air on the back of your local wind.

\* Some weeds spread their bounty when wildlife eat the seeds and then travel for miles, expelling the seeds from their mouth or droppings.  
\* Some weeds multiply by having such a deep root system that nothing can eliminate the roots and therefore they always survive.

Just as it was then, it is not hard to see the "weeds" today. Some are easy to spot, but others are harder to detect. They look "religious," but their actions range from misguided to despicable. Our response to the pastor in Florida who wants to burn Islamic holy books, or the pastor who shows up at military funerals to denounce homosexuals, or to people who describe themselves as Christians but do incredibly stupid and sometimes evil things, is understandably anger, or even ridicule. But what does Jesus ask us to do? What can we do about weeds?

There are many ways, but a very natural way of preventing weeds is to have such a strong and thick wheat crop, it will outgrow any weeds. Such a crop will cover the ground with little or no space for weeds to grow. Wheat will also shade the ground, making it too hard for weeds to grow.

However, in this parable, Jesus does not offer a grand plan for getting rid of the weeds that plague the field of wheat. There is no protocol for waging war on weeds. In fact, Jesus says that we should go about our business. Our job is to be wheat, not weeds. We are not called to be the farmer. Rooting up weeds is not part of our job description. Wheat farmers say that at harvest the dry weeds will just blow right through the combine.

Therefore, be the wheat:

- \* Grow tall and strong and crowd out the weeds.
- \* Let your influence shade out or deprive the weeds of sunlight and water they need to survive.
- \* Don't be a stalk of wheat in a field by yourself. Grow with others in a community of wheat (i.e. church).
- \* No stalk of wheat worries about a weed nearby; the farmer's going to take care of that weed.

God has a plan. We can trust the plan.

### Report on Chi Rho 2011

Emmanuel sent six youth along with Pastor Lewis to Neon, Kentucky for our Chi Rho work camp and mission trip. This year's theme was taken from Amos 5:24, "Let Justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream." We learned about being advocates for causes we believe in using the mountain-top removal mining as an example.

There were a total of twenty of us from the Metro D.C. Synod and we were split into three teams. We were involved in many projects this year such as: framing a house, removing and replacing a shingle roof, building a platform for a storage building, tearing down an old house, and painting a large stairway. We all gathered the last day on the same worksite to start framing interior rooms and put on a new roof.

Despite the very hot days (120 degrees Monday on the roof) we worked hard. Throughout the week we saw Christ in the faces of those we were working with and those we were working for. It is an experience all of us will treasure.

We are planning to have a video report during the Youth Led Worship Services in October.

Your sisters and brothers in Christ,

Alaine Thronson, Rachel Lundberg, Kristina Roberts, Catherine Roberts, Alex Lewis, Olivia Stanhoe, & Pastor Robert Lewis

## Youth and Family Calendar

September 4, Sunday 10 am

### **Blessing of the Backpacks and lunch boxes**

All children, youth, college students and even adults are invited to bring their backpacks, lunch boxes, brief cases, etc. to be blessed during the church service.

September 11, Sunday 9:45 am

### **Rally Day**

Our first day of Sunday School will be full of fun and friends. We will have soup and sandwiches after the 11 am worship service as well.

September 11, Sunday 1 pm

### **Pool Party**

We will have a pool party for kids in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger and their families. See write-up elsewhere in this issue for more information.

September 18, Sunday, 10 am

### **ELCA Gathering Meeting**

All youth and their parents who plan on attending the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans should be at this meeting.

September 19, Monday, 6:30 pm

### **ELCA Gathering Meeting**

All youth and their parents who plan on attending the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans should be at this meeting. This meeting is the same as the one on September 18 in case you were not able to attend.

September 18, Sunday 1:30 pm

### **Youth Event – Mini Golf**

We will meet at the mini golf course in Gaithersburg's Bohrer Park. The Park's main entrance is at 506 S Frederick Ave (Rt 355). The mini golf course is behind the pool and skate park. Cost is \$8 for as many games as you wish to play. Pastor Lewis will buy ice cream for everyone. Other snacks will be on your own. [In case of Rain we will meet at Shadowland Laser Tag instead. That information will be announced at the church services on September 18 and emailed].

September 25, Sunday, Noon

### **Church Picnic**

Everyone is invited to our Fall Picnic. We will provide the entrée and drinks and we ask each family to bring a salad, side-dish or dessert to share. More information can be elsewhere on this page.

September 25, Sunday, Noon

### **Sneakers and Squeakers**

Our kick-off event for Sneakers and Squeakers will be during the Church Picnic where we will have games, a moon-bounce and arts & crafts.

October 2, Sunday, 10 am

### **Youth Gathering Meeting**

All youth who are planning to attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans should at this meeting with their forms and a check for the deposit.

October 2, Sunday, Noon

### **Confirmation Luncheon**

All confirmands, their families and mentors should attend in order to receive important information about this year's confirmation classes.

October 3, Monday, 6:30 pm

### **Youth Gathering Meeting**

All youth who are planning to attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans should be at this meeting with their forms and a check for the deposit. This meeting is the same as the one on October 2 in case you were not able to attend.

October 9, Sunday, Noon

### **Youth Gathering Meeting**

All youth who are planning to attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering should be here for the official sign-up event.

Mark your calendars

October 16 – Youth Event

October 23 – Sneakers and Squeakers event

## Pool Party

Children Grades 6 and younger

Sunday, September 11, 2011

We will gather at the Handos' home for a pool party in the afternoon after church. We will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks and in-ground pool. We ask you to bring a salad, side-dish or dessert to share. We will have dry spots for the adults to gather and have fellowship pool-side as well. The Handos' home is located at 9614 Weathered Oak Court in Bethesda. The plan is for the party to begin at 1 p.m. However, we may need to change the start time to later in the afternoon due to sports schedules which are not yet posted. We will get the word out via church bulletins, email, and Facebook once we have a definite start time.

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## 50th Anniversary Church Picnic

Sunday, September 25 at Noon

Our Church Picnic this year will be separate from Rally Day so we can make it even bigger and better. We will still have fried chicken and drinks provide. We are still asking you to bring a salad, side-dish or dessert to share. But we will have a bigger Moon-bounce, games for the kids (and the child in all of us), and Arts & Crafts. Come out and join us. Bring a friend (or two). A sheet will be posted in the narthex to allow members to sign up for food contributions.

## COMMUNITY-BASED SHELTER

### SERVICE AT CBS

It is Back-to-School time, so it must be Community Based Shelter and our opportunity to serve the homeless. Each year we spend a week contributing to and serving the Community-Based Shelter (CBS) in Rockville. It 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 2-8, 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.

### “SUPPLIES” MINISTRY

The residents at the Community-Based Shelter (CBS) have clean, safe places to shower. However, they do not have all the supplies they need, and it is expensive for CBS to supply them. So, Emmanuel supplies toiletries and home supplies, as a part of the preparations for our shelter week.

On September 25 and October 2, we will collect these supplies in a box in the narthex. Won't you please select a few items from the list below and join our CBS ministry? They have lots of small hotel toiletries, but these larger items seldom get donated. Many thanks.

#### 🕒 SHOPPING LIST:

- Laundry detergent
- Dishwashing/ hand soap
- Hand/body lotion
- Bath towels and wash cloths
- Sanitary napkins
- Razors
- Shower curtains
- Linens for twin beds

## CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF FAITH THROUGH GENEROSITY.

September begins the countdown to Emmanuel's 50th Anniversary and the opportunity for God to stir in every member the Spirit of generosity and sacrifice. Fiftieth Anniversary giving is a means to recognize this important milestone. Our Anniversary theme, **GREAT TRADITION, GREAT FAITH, GREAT FUTURE** captures the message behind a program of giving.

By celebrating the 50th Anniversary through generosity, we do so knowing that when we were young and attended Sunday School, or when we were an adult and had a child to be baptized, folks who may have not known us had a vision and built Emmanuel for us. Now as we look to the future, it is our turn to meet our obligation to ensure a healthy, safe, energy-efficient infrastructure for ourselves and our community and an even stronger evangelism mission, not only for the youth and adults we know, but for children yet unborn and for people who have yet to join Emmanuel.

The program, with a goal of raising \$100,000, allows members to participate within their budget and interest, through multiple weekly contributions (using noted weekly offering envelopes) or one-time gifts. Fiftieth Anniversary giving will be over and above the operating budget of the Church. Gifts of celebratory generosity will be invested in Sanctuary and kitchen improvements and contributed to local, national, and international benevolence. Sanctuary improvements involve the replacement of the audio system and kitchen improvements involve rehabilitation to meet nutritional, food safety, and environmental rules using energy-efficient appliances. Benevolence will help establish new churches and foster evangelism throughout the world.

Making a generous sacrifice and decreasing indebtedness to other generations are the keys to this program's success. Generations and generosity share a common Latin root. Offering envelopes provide one means of giving by noting the amount of the contribution on the envelope front. They can be used for multiple weekly contributions or one time gifts, which can also be given in offerings or sent to the Church Office with the notation of the 50th Anniversary Fund. *By Doug Murtland*

## 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

Important information for those planning to attend

We will have two important meetings for youth, and their parents, who plan to attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA on July 18–22, 2012. You should be at both meetings. The first is on Sunday, September 18 during the Sunday School hour to get up to date information about the registration process. We will repeat that meeting on Monday, September 19 at 6:30 pm for those not able to make the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

A second meeting will be on October 2 during the Sunday School hour for youth and their parents who are planning to attend the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. You should bring your registration forms a check for the deposit to this meeting. We will repeat that meeting on Monday, October 3 at 6:30 pm for those not able to make the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On October 9 we will have a registration party with lunch after the 11 am worship service. We will watch some videos about New Orleans and officially register for the Gathering.

Pastor Lewis will be sending out more information via email after school begins to youth and parents. If you want to ensure that you receive the information, please make sure that Pastor Lewis has your current email addresses. You can sent them to [rllewis@elcbethesda.org](mailto:rllewis@elcbethesda.org) Only those who will be in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade this school year (2011-2012) are eligible to attend the Gathering.

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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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**SEPTEMBER, 2011**

