



Emmanuel News Notes

February, 2009

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. participation

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals, yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ . . . You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2)

When the early Church read these words from the letter of Peter, they were living in difficult times! The gentile converts to Christianity in Asia Minor were poor, often exploited slaves of the system of which they were a small part. The letter encourages them to do what's right, because you have returned "to the shepherd and guardian of your souls."

We too are living in difficult times, perhaps not because we are poor like those early Christians living in Asia Minor, yet most of us are poorer than we were a year ago! We are living in times of transition; not just political, but also financial and employment changes are abundant. It is well to remember in these days that we all need to continue to do what's right, because we are those who proclaim the mighty acts of God in the world so that the whole world can know who is the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

The Annual Meeting of Emmanuel this February is a time to reflect on our past year as well as look to the future of our mission, especially since in our Mission Statement we declare that we "share enthusiastically the love and grace of God. We will minister in the name of Jesus Christ to all God's people. To do this, we shall actively practice inclusive worship, care and concern for all members and families of the congregation and the wider community. Our care and concern shall be expressed by Christian Education and witness through fellowship and service. Amen."

With the totals of Sunday worship attendance for 2008 now known, it is clear that fewer of our members have made Sunday worship a priority for the first day of their week compared with earlier years. Of course we are a busy congregation, and, of course, we have many other things to do on weekends (most Pastors don't know what "weekends" are until after their retirement – ask Jesse Hangen?). But when there is a significant decline in the average worship service over the year as compared with other years, it's time to ask ourselves what's been happening at Emmanuel?

It's not only that Sunday worship averages are lower, it's also noted that the Sunday School attendance is limited. The youth Sunday School class is often a very small portion of the 37 youth listed in the Youth Directory! The Confirmation Sunday class is usually only a few of the 14 in the Confirmation program that meets with the Pastors regularly every Monday afternoon. Christian education doesn't depend only on coming to the 10 a.m. Sunday meeting, but also being part of the worshipping life of the Church at 8:30 or 11!

I know it's difficult to get the family moving on a Sunday when every day of the week is a 6:30 a.m. morning wake up! And I know that another study class on religion isn't the only thing to look forward to on Sundays! There's also football! I also know that the ELCA is right when it's reported that general knowledge of the Holy Bible is a priority among Lutherans, yet that general knowledge suffers when members are not reading or studying together. It's pretty much only at Church that the Bible is read and regularly discovered.

So, Emmanuel is certainly not a dying Church, nor are we members only active Christians when we come to worship together. We are a busy group of folks with many talents and much to offer the world and our children. Among those things that we can offer our families is the opportunity to learn and grow together in Christ's Church. Does it take a concerted effort to discipline a Christian to live in a community of faith? It does, and it's worthwhile! So much more of our lives depend upon knowing who is "the shepherd and guardian of our souls" that time spent in the Christian circle of love becomes the best place to pray, to study, to meditate and to share our treasures. We are all "precious in God's sight" and proclaim that news by where we find our Christian friends and support one another with knowledge and generosity.

In Christ's Service,

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

DATES OF NOTE

- Feb 1 MANNA food collection
- Feb 1 Souper Bowl Sunday (page 2)
- Feb 1 Congregational meeting (page 2)
- Feb 4 Evening study of Bonhoeffer's book (page 2)
- Feb 5 Study with Har Shalom (page 2)
- Feb 8 MANNA food collection
- Feb 13 Family Film (page 5)
- Feb 23 Fun Bunch Lunch, noon
- Feb 24 Pancake supper (page 5)
- Feb 25 Ash Wednesday (page 2)
- Feb 28 Treasures of Emmanuel Concert (page 11)
- March 8 Chili cook-off (page 9)

WORSHIP

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER IN LENT

Beginning this Lent, Pr. Lookingbill will begin a new study of the Gospel of Mark. Although this is the shortest of the four Gospels, Mark is a dynamic story of Jesus at work in a world that needs healing, vision and God's power breaking in! Jesus is the Son of God, teaching about the Kingdom of God among the people. Join us on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Education room; bring a lunch and enjoy a favorite dessert by one of the members of the group.

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY ON BONHOEFFER'S "LIFE TOGETHER"

Beginning on **4 February** Pr. Lookingbill will lead a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's discussion of Christian Fellowship in his 1938 essay "Life Together." Shortly after publishing this book in Germany, the Gestapo closed the "underground" seminary that Dietrich was directing and he was forbidden to publish or write in the country. It's a dangerous idea that Dietrich offers: What it means to live with Christ. How does a Christian live in the secular world of competition and special interests?

In these days when there seems to be little ground that isn't shaken by national and international events, what does it mean to live in the Christian community? Is there any special benefit to the life of a Christian today? There is rhythm to life in a community, a liturgy of thoughts, prayers and songs that bring us together as God's people in Christ. In these chapters we will explore the possibilities of living as courageous witnesses of Christ's enduring love.

In addition to reading together, we will also have opportunity to see film about Bonhoeffer's life and witness in a time of turmoil and national tragedy. Join us on Wednesdays in February in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 for supper and 7:30 in the Christian Education room for study. Books are available through the web and through the Church office. Please let the

Souper Bowl of Caring February 1, 2009

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Souper Bowl of Caring. During this time the Lutheran Youth From Emmanuel (LYFE) have participated and been a part of collecting over \$50 million to help those in need. In the past our collections have gone toward the Manna Food Bank and to assist in housing repair during our summer work camp mission trip. This year's proceeds will go toward the mission project the youth will be involved with down in New Orleans during the Youth Gathering.

If you miss the opportunity to give to on Sunday, February 1, 2009, you can always help by donating throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your gift.

THE INTERFAITH STUDY WITH HAR SHALOM CONTINUES ON 5 FEBRUARY

Rabbi Leonard Cahan and Pr. Lookingbill will continue their Interfaith Study on Elijah and Elisha at Emmanuel in the Fellowship Hall on **5 February** at 7 p.m. At the last meeting, the stories of Elijah were studied in detail, noting that he chose Elisha as his successor, a personality very different from his! Now we'll take up the stories of Elisha, a prophet at the same time comfortable with kings and the common folks, able to visit the great cities as well as the small villages. What kind of influence does Elisha have on the New Testament, especially in the area of miracles? Join us in February for our next session as we deepen our understanding of the impact of these two visionary prophets.

ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINS LENT WITH TWO SERVICES: NOON AND 7:30 P.M.

On **February 25**, Emmanuel will observe the beginning of the season of Lent with two services, one at noon in the chapel and a second at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. There will be an imposition of ashes available at either service.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR BUDGET AND FINANCE SET FOR 1 FEBRUARY 2009

Members of the Congregation are urged to attend the annual meeting for budget and finance which has been set for 11 a.m. on the first Sunday in February (**1 February 2009**). **There will be a breakfast served by the Parish Life Committee at 8:30 a.m., a single worship service at 10 a.m., followed immediately by the congregational meeting at approximately**

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

Rev. Jan P. Lookingbill
Rev. Robert L. Lewis
James McGee
Katherine Burrell
Dingwall Fleary
Susan Drumm



Be a pal, a friend, to a resident at the National Lutheran Home

The Pal program is a one-to-one visitation program sponsored by the Auxiliary of the National Lutheran Home. This program offers an opportunity to become a special friend, a Pal, to an elderly resident. A visitor is very special to a lonely and infirm person. A visit by a Pal assures an elderly resident that someone cares, and reinforces his or her sense of self-worth.

Basic requirements of the program are minimal. A Pal is asked to bring a gift of love, and share the gift in an individual way with a resident. Visits may be made as frequently as desired, but a minimum of one visit a month would be ideal. Visits may be made at anytime which is mutually convenient for both the Pal and the resident being visited.

At this time, both male and female Pals are needed. If you are interested or want further information, call Jean Abel at 301-294-5808 (9 am to 9 pm).

National Lutheran Home Auxiliary

The Auxiliary provides many “extras” to residents of the Home to brighten their lives: parties with gifts for birthdays and Christmas—trips to Kent Island for crab cakes—a foliage tour to Martinsburg WV for a country ham dinner hosted by St. John’s Lutheran Church—in-house entertainment such a Chinese New Year Party complete with dragon dancers. In past years, the Auxiliary purchased a bus and a mini-van for the Home to take residents to medical appointments free of charge and are halfway through paying for a \$105,000 bus that can accommodate up to 5 wheelchairs, plus ambulatory passengers for their trips.

We’re asking you to help support these projects by contributing a minimum of \$5.00 per person as annual membership dues. Dues will be collected in the Narthex between services on February 15th and February 22nd. If you are away on those dates, please write a check, payable to “The Auxiliary NLH” and put it in my mail box or mail it to me at 9815-1 Veirs Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

Jean Abel
Auxiliary Key Person

Christian Education Notes

We started the New Year with a big “Camp Jesus” party where everyone had a lot of fun with games, Bible Camp songs, crafts, and making our own trail mix. Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers and Christian Education Committee members that helped with the planning and participated in the activities.

SUNDAYS

Children and Youth

Pre-K to 6th grade Sunday School starts in the Atrium at 10 am
Seventh and eighth graders meet in Classroom #10 at 10 am
High school youth meet in the Youth room at 10 am

February 1 - Regular Sunday School Lesson during the Annual Meeting

February 8 - Regular Sunday School Lesson, Group opening on Lutheran World Relief

February 15 - Group Lesson, Presidents’ Day Weekend

February 22 - Regular Sunday School Lesson

March 1 - Regular Sunday School Lesson

Adults

Bible Study in the Parlor beginning at 10 am

Kristi Johnson and Diane Swenson are continuing to lead the Adult Bible Study as they study the Gospel of John. Everyone is welcome to join them anytime. Grab your cup of coffee and bring a Bible.

Adult Forum in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10 am

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

CONFIRMATION

February 2 beginning at 4:30 pm - Miller Family has snacks

February 9 beginning at 4:30 pm - Rautsola Family has snacks

February 16 - No Classes due to Presidents’ Day

February 23 beginning at 4:30 pm - Benz Family has snacks

March 2 beginning at 4:30 pm - Lundberg Family has snacks

OTHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Lookingbill from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Christian Education Room. Bring your lunch and enjoy a discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

The regular Wednesday Evening Study with Pastor Lookingbill continues in February with a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s essay, “Life Together.” Join them for dinner at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall or come at 7 pm for the study in the Christian Education Room

New Year's Resolution: *Get Involved in Campus Ministry*

by Pastor Tom Knoll,
Metro DC Synod Higher Education Division Chair

I remember very vividly my first few weeks as a freshman at the University of Wisconsin. This was a very uncertain time in my life. At seventeen I entered a large university campus where I knew no one, a roommate who was a complete stranger to me, and my first extended time of living away from home. It was a scary time and an exciting time all rolled into one. It was also the time in my life when I was most vulnerable.

Not for all, but for many college students this is the time when boys and girls mature into men and women. It is also a time when these men and women discover their calling in life and begin to sow the seeds for their life's future. During these four very impressionable years of campus living enters the support and encouragement of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Kelly Bowers one of our students from Washington DC said this about Campus Ministry, "I remember the heady joy of debating all the issues we face as Lutheran Christians: peace and war, human sexuality, the role of money, and what it means to have a calling. It made me take myself seriously in the church. It made me expect to have the church take me seriously."

Campus Ministry here in the Metro Washington DC Synod is vibrant and healthy. The support received from the Metro Washington DC Synod is 21% of the entire Synod Division's budget. That is significant! Our Synod supports campus ministry because the Synod realizes that our local universities bring a large opportunity for ministry and service. Currently we have five campus ministry locations. Pastor Tom Omholt serves at American University, Pastor Philip Gaines serves at Georgetown University, Pastor Beth Platz serves at University of Maryland College Park, Pastor Robyn Franklin-Vaughn serves at Howard University and Ben Buss serves at George Mason University. This group of faithful Lutheran Campus Ministers pull together approximately 256 student for worship each week, about 70 students participate in weekly Bible study, and approximately 127 participate in at least one service project per semester. This is just a few of weekly activities that our campus ministers do with the students in this five universities.

But there is so much more we could be doing. We have more than twenty colleges and universities on the territory of the Synod numbering over 350,000 students. Upon graduation 60% of these students stay to live and work in the Metro Washington DC area. Think if just 1% of these student got involved with one of our Congregations in the Synod after graduation. That would be 2,100 new people involved in our churches! It is my hope that every church in our synod get involved in some form of Campus Ministry, and there is plenty to go around. Fifteen local colleges and universities are not currently served by our Synod because we lack the resources to reach them. Just imagine how the ministry at your congregation could be enhanced by reaching out to the college campus closest to church. If you are interested in exploring such a possibility please call Pastor Tom Knoll, at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 202-737-4859.

THE FOOD DRIVE IS BACK!!!

... AND Why is that? With the economy as it is many local workers still face a daunting task in providing essential items – food, housing, utilities, etc. - for their families. Those items are substantially more than many families make, and a vast majority goes to cover the cost of food.

That's why working class families need food from places like the MANNA Food Center. MANNA provides groceries - several days' worth each month- for over 2000 county residents each month. In February, Emmanuel will honor this need and once again do our food drive for MANNA. Please be as generous as you were with your Christmas gifts for the Outreach beneficiaries!!! Bring a SIGNIFICANT contribution for MANNA when you come to church on February 1 and 8. Donations will be accepted in the narthex. This month, let us surpass the 500+ pounds we donated to MANNA this summer. Many thanks from famished families.

MANNA especially requests: **peanut butter, tuna, soup, small fruit cans/cups, Easy Mac, individual milk boxes, oatmeal packets, tuna fish, especially in vacuum packages or 3 oz cans, pudding cups, crackers packaged in a sleeve like Ritz, cereal bars that contain at least a few vitamins and protein, individual raisin boxes, microwavable containers of soup, pouches of mashed potatoes or rice that require only water.**

I Take 'Em and Like 'Em

*I'm fonder of carats than carrots,
And orchids are nicer than beans,
But life in a series of garrets
Has made me receptive to greens.*

Margaret Fishback



From the Council President:

Greetings

I have had better Christmas seasons!

Oh, personally it was delightful. We had all of the kids and grandchildren in on Christmas day. We visited with a sister and brother and their children between Christmas and New Years. And we spent New Years day with a dear friend that we haven't seen in several years.

No it was other stuff!

The slaughter in Gaza weighed on me. It is very lonely seeing an issue in a way that is very different from most of your friends, family and neighbors. But I have taken some inspiration from the movie Milk and am trying to be more open about my views.

But the other issue that weighed on me was our budget situation. All year long we have been very encouraged and encouraging about our budget situation.

At the end of the summer we were 9% ahead of last year. A month later it had dropped off to 7%. When the Council formulated its first draft budget we were projecting a 5% surplus. That was the view you read here last month.

It assumed a "normal" December, but December was not normal. Total offerings for December were down more than 30%. The same was true for Christmas.

It is only the receipt of a generous bequest this fall that allows us to show a 1% growth in offerings.

According to our finance committee, the difference is not contributions by our core membership, but rather a precipitous drop in non-member loose contributions during the month of December. Perhaps we need to bring back that banner.

Your Council is looking at squeezing more out of an already bone dry budget.

Property and people are 90% of our budget. We will defer maintenance and we will not be able to give to our staff the raises they rightfully deserve.

These are difficult times—even here in Bethesda.

The key to our future is bringing friends, family and neighbors to worship with us.

But, it could be worse. At least no one is dropping bombs on us.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Family Movie Night and Pot Luck Dinner

February 13, 2009

Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Horton is an Elephant who has no trouble believing in a world that extends beyond his own; many of the other characters do. As he sees it, "maybe they aren't small, maybe we're big." Maybe there is even someone out there bigger than him and his world, and he and his friends are actually the small ones. And what about the fact that he does not have any more proof than a tiny voice only he can hear? As long as that voice calls out for his help, Horton is not about to tell it that it does not exist. Hmmm, sounds familiar.

This is a wonderful movie for all ages. Bring a dish to share and a friend that will enjoy the movie with you.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Mardi Gras Style

Tuesday, February 24, 6 - 8 p.m.

Come join us as we celebrate the end of the Epiphany season and prepare for Lent with our Mardi Gras-style Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This year we will continue the tradition of "Are You Smarter than a Sunday School Student," as well as provide some entertainment. So come on out for a good time and good food. This is also a great time to bring a friend. Tickets are \$7 a person or a family ticket for \$30. Tickets can be purchased either in advance on Sundays, or at the door. Proceeds will go toward the 2009 Youth Gathering.



Parish Vital Records

Birth

Julia Gabrielle Abel, born 1 January 2009, great granddaughter of Jean and Bob Abel

Deaths

Ursel Kehl, mother of Jessica Kehl, on 31 December 2008

Ode Ottensen, sister of Erna Bettum, on 31 December 2008 in Denmark

Ruth Elleson, 2 January 2009 at the National Lutheran Home

Ayelevi Agnes Amouzou, 8 January 2009 in Togo, mother of Afiwa Kpetigo

Observation

Ash Wednesday, February 25, marks the beginning of Lent. There are those who use this season of fasting and penitence to prepare themselves for Easter. This discipline can take many forms and it is our own nature that determines which form is the most appropriate for us.

Fasting. It is a real hardship for some to give up a certain food or a certain amount of food. The hardship is what makes the discipline spiritually helpful in that it makes us remember what the preparation is all about. Some give up meat. Some abstain from sweets. Some remember the less fortunate and reduce their total intake. All of these forms of fasting are helpful if we keep the thought of prayerful preparation in mind. Somehow, giving up broccoli, abstaining from spinach, or foregoing liver makes a mockery of fasting. Better give up something you really love. Six weeks without ice cream or red meat or pizza might register more vividly upon your mind.

Good works. While it is true that faith is a grace granted to us and that grace from God is a gift for which we could not pay, no real faith can ignore those less fortunate than we are. We can use Lent as a time to begin volunteering, to give time or talent to a cause that serves others, to do something that makes life a bit more comfortable or wholesome for others. Good works without faith are valuable, but with faith they are even more valuable because they benefit both the receiver and the worker.

Prayer. Prayer is a sometimes thing for many of us. When we think of it or in times of stress or even crisis. Prayer, of course, is not only asking for things from God, it is also praising God and giving thanks for one's blessings—even the minor one that seem of value to no one but you. Prayer can even be constant in that we try to relate to God in all that we do. Lent is a good time to start regarding life as prayer.

Report on Preparations for the 2009 Youth Gathering

As we have reported earlier, there are seventeen people signed up to attend the 2009 Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. We estimate that the cost for travel, hotel and registration fees will be approximately \$1000 a person. In the past Emmanuel has always been wonderful in its support of those who attend the Youth Gatherings every three years. Therefore, it is with a little trepidation that we report the giving in our fund raising efforts are currently below those from previous Youth Gatherings during the same time period. Currently we have been able to raise just over \$4,500.

As the youth continue their fund raisers, we ask everyone to support their efforts. We have several opportunities for you to support in the month of February. These include: LYFE Assurance, Rubber Duck Sales and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will also continue to sell the Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate

Thank you for your support thus far and we look forward to your continuing support.



Coming Soon

YOUTH ART SHOW SPRING 2009

Help to brighten the spring months by sharing your paintings and drawings with us for a display in the Fellowship Hall.

Deliver the artwork during the week of March 29-April 2. The display will be hung on April 2.

Please label each item with the name and age of the artist, title of the work, and the medium in which it was done. The pictures should be framed if possible.

Any questions? Call Carol Vorosmarti (301) 340-7326

Pastor Lewis——parables

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus uses parables to teach important lessons. Parables work because there is a frame, or present situation, that shows Jesus as a teacher and storyteller. The parable is a story that is inserted into this frame, so that there is a connection between the fictional world of the story and the world of Jesus and his audience. The parable is based on a "comparison" between the world of the story and the world of the storyteller and his audience.

There are modern day parables as well. I would like to share one with you that I recently heard.

A king in a faraway land decided to build a new road that would stretch from one end of his kingdom to the other. It would go over majestic mountains, beside beautiful lakes, through an old forest, and pass many wonderful villages. As the road was being completed, he saw that it was going to be a magnificent road that travelers would always enjoy. Therefore, he decided to have a special contest for those that traveled the road on opening day. The king would award a bag of gold to the person who could travel the road the best.

The word soon got out, and not only were the people in the king's country ready to travel this new road, but there were many, many people from other lands ready to try and travel this road "the best." For weeks before this road opened, people pondered on what it meant to travel the road "the best."

Finally, the day arrived for the road to open. Some traveled it in the best apparel. Others came with horses and chariots. Still, others rode on camels, elephants and grand looking wagons. Each sought to find favor with the king, and win the bag of gold.

As they journeyed, they saw that it was indeed a fantastic road. The view of the mountains, lakes and forest were beyond compare. The people in the villages they passed were very friendly and offered drink and first aid to all that ask. As each person ended their travels on the road, the king would ask, "What did you think of my road?"

The travelers would reply, "Oh, King, it is a most beautiful road. There is none to compare." But each one of them would add, "But King, the road is not quite complete, for at one point in the road, there is still a large pile of rocks right in the middle of the road. We had to go around it.

At that point the king would thank the traveler and talk to the next traveler coming down the road. Many of the travelers would ask the king who had traveled the road the best, but he would always answer, "It's too early to tell. I cannot give an answer at this time."

The day wore on, and the scene continued to repeat itself. The king would ask each traveler what he or she thought of the road and each one would tell of its beauty. They would also add that it was unfinished due to the pile of rocks in the middle of the road. The king would thank them and move on to the next person.

Toward evening, the line travelers coming down the road was starting to thin out. Many of those who had traveled the road had given up waiting and gone home. However, the more demanding travelers were still waiting for the king to make his decisions and award the prize.

At sunset the king saw a lone traveler coming, and he was carrying a large heavy bag. As the man approached, the king asked him what he thought of the road. The man responded that it was a most beautiful journey. He then added, "at a certain point there was a pile of rocks right in the middle of the road, and I thought to myself that this road would be perfect if that pile of rocks was removed from the road. So I started to remove them myself. As I was completing my task, I found this bag of gold at the bottom of the pile of rocks. Oh, King, the road is yours and therefore this bag of gold is yours. I have come to return it to you."

At this point the king said, "No, my friend, it is yours." The king turned to all who were still waiting and said, "This man has traveled my road the best because he made it easier for others to travel. He was won the gold I promised as the prize."

The Gospel according to St. Luke says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (6:38).

The one who travels the road the best is the one who makes the road easier for those who follow afterward.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr. +

Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, March 8, 5:30 p.m.

Come on out to taste some Chili (including a vegetarian chili), have some dessert, and enjoy great fellowship. We will also have some other food fare for those who prefer something besides chili.

Last year we had fourteen (14) entries and it would be great if we could add a few more this year. Contact Pastor Lewis about your entry into the cook-off.

Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex two weeks before, but you can always get tickets at the door. You can also contact Pastor Lewis in the church office for tickets during the week.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3- 12 with a \$25 maximum cap for families. Proceeds benefit youth programs. Bring the whole family. Bring a friend (or two).

Youth and Family Ministry Calendar

This calendar includes all Youth and Family Ministry Events, not only those for youth. Events advertised for "Youth" include those from 7th grade to 12th grade. Family events or "everyone is invited" are appropriate for all ages. Fun Bunch events are for older adults.

February 1, Sunday, After Worship Service and the Annual Meeting

Souper Bowl Sunday

The youth are collecting for "Souper Bowl" on Super Bowl Sunday. We need youth volunteers before and after each service (SSL Hours). See write-up on page 2 for more information.

February 8, Sunday, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Gathering Meeting

All youth and adults going to the 2009 Gathering in New Orleans should attend this mandatory meeting. There is also material you should view before the meeting found online at elcgathering.blogspot.com.

February 13, Friday, 6:30 pm

Family Movie Night and Pot Luck Dinner

This month's movie is *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!* Everyone is invited to come out to watch a great movie and bring a potluck dish to share. See page 5 in this issue for more information.

February 15, Sunday 12:30 p.m.

Youth "Get Together" at the Hunleys'

All youth are invited to the Hunleys' after the second service for a "Get Together" and fellowship. The Hunleys' home is located at 8206 Kenfield Court in Bethesda.

February 20 - 21, Friday 4:30 pm - Saturday 6:30 pm

J.A.M.- IN, Lock-in at Mar-Lu-Ridge

This is great Lock-In up at Mar-Lu-Ridge for youth ages 13-15. The cost is \$40 a person. We will leave the church at 4:30 p.m. and arrive in time for Supper and stay until after supper on Saturday, returning to the church around 6:30 p.m. Please let Pastor Lewis know you are going by February 16, 2009. Also, remember to bring warm clothes and waterproof footwear, especially if there is snow on the ground and we go tubing down the sled-run.

February 23, Monday, Noon

Fun Bunch lunch.

In anticipation of Mardi Gras and the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, our program will be on the culture and churches of New Orleans. We ask for a donation to help with the cost of a catered lunch. Let Pastor Lewis know if you plan to attend.

February 24, Tuesday 6 - 8 pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Mardi Gras Style

Everyone is invited to come out for a Pancake Supper and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. All youth are needed to help with this event. SSL hours can be earned. More information is found

page 5 of this issue

March 8, Sunday, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

4rd Annual Chili Cook Off

Come on out to taste some Chili (including a vegetarian chili), have some dessert, and enjoy great fellowship. We will also have some other food fare for those who prefer something other than chili. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 3- 12, with a \$25 cap for families. Proceeds go toward the 2009 Youth Gathering. See write-up on page 9 for more information.

Mark your calendars:

March 15 Confirmation Class leads the service

March 20-22 Shekinah retreat

March 29-30 Confirmation retreat at Hallowood

L.Y.F.E. Assurance Sale Resumes February 8, 2009

The Lutheran Youth From Emmanuel (L.Y.F.E) will begin selling LYFE Assurance to benefit our church in the future. This is a fund raising event for the youth and adults who will be attending the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. By purchasing LYFE Assurance you will become a stockholder in the future of our church by helping to fund leadership training, stewardship development, mission awareness, Christian values, and discipleship in our youth. Stock shares will be \$25 each (no limit on how many shares of stock you can purchase). Stockholders will receive a bi-monthly progress report before the Gathering. They will also receive news and a postcard from the youth while we are in New Orleans. In the Fall of 2009, stockholders will be invited to a stockholders dinner to learn about their investment.

Hope Floats Rubber Duck Sale

Hope Floats for New Orleans as the Lutheran Youth From Emmanuel (L.Y.F.E.) prepares to send a team to give the people there a hand-up as well as to learn leadership skills for the future good of the church.

The Christmas-themed sale of Hope Floats rubber ducks was great, and we hope all those who purchased ducks will want to continue to add to their collection. We will be selling Mardi Gras-themed rubber ducks to continue to raise awareness of the on-going situation in New Orleans more than three years after Hurricane Katrina.



Music produces a kind of
pleasure which human
nature cannot do without.
Confucius

Greetings!

I wish to thank the many, many members and guests who worshipped with us on January 11th and told the choir and me how much you enjoyed our presentation of *Nativity Suites*. Some even suggested that an encore performance should be scheduled during the Advent season late this year. I was very pleased and gratified by such warm and enthusiastic responses to our effort.

Also, I offer a public "Thank You" to Kristi Johnson for her musical leadership from the organ bench for that service. Always solid as a rock, Kristi's voluntaries were "spot-on", offering well-crafted arrangements of much of the music heard during the cantata. I, and the Emmanuel Congregation are so fortunate to have her talents "in the house" in which we live and worship.

Now I take this opportunity to remind everyone of the events taking place in February.

On the first Sunday, which happens to be February 1, 2009, there will only be a single service in order to accommodate the Congregational Meeting. It will be at 10:00, and will be a special service of Lessons, Carols and Hymns. Drawing the best of numerous examples we've seen, Kristi and I will offer a format which will be different from what we've experienced in recent years which we are certain will be quite meaningful.

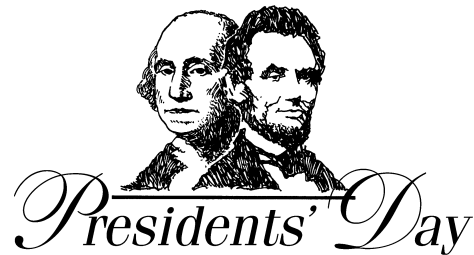
On a much lighter note (several much lighter notes, actually!), you are urged to come see and hear some of our church family's most talented members and friends on Saturday, February 28 at 7:30 PM. That's when we will reveal the exciting Treasures of Emmanuel, our (almost) annual production of music and humor. As I said in the last issue, I don't want to give it all away, it will have a post-Mardi Gras theme with no (few!) holds barred, featuring Resident Master of Ceremonies, John Drumm, Joyful Praise and Emmanuel Ringers as you've never heard them before, performances by many of our precocious kids, dueling pianists Jessica Botsford and me, and much, much more! This will be an evening of fun and entertainment for everyone.

Music, whether as part of a worship experience, or when played or performed just for fun, is an art form for sharing. So cancel whatever else may be on your calendars and plan to join us. And the price? Let's put it this way: You're not likely to need your MasterCard.

Until next time, I am

Faithfully yours,

Dingwall Fleary
dingwallfleary@verizon.net



For years, we celebrated Lincoln's birthday on February 12 and Washington's birthday on February 22, regardless of the day of the week on which the day fell. Then Congress, in its wisdom, decided that there should only be one holiday and that it should be celebrated on a Monday, the third Monday in February. So now we have "Presidents' Day." Neither Abe nor George could celebrate their holiday on their own birthday, were they still with us. So, when February 12 comes, tip your glass to Abe's 200th birthday and on February 22, toast George's 277th. On Presidents' Day you may drink to yourself.

Washington was born before the English adopted the Gregorian calendar. Although most of Europe had adopted the Gregorian calendar much earlier, in 1732 England and its colonies still used the Julian calendar which was increasingly out of synchrony with the seasons. George was born on February 11. After England adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, George determined that his birthday was then on February 22 and ever since then we've noted that date. Things still are out of whack now and again and the Naval Observatory added a leap second this last December 31. Nothing like the eleven days that had to be corrected in 1752, but significant to science and the military, nonetheless.

We often hear the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday called "Shrove Tuesday." Why? Lent is a season of fasting and prayer during which we are encouraged to discipline ourselves in preparation for the celebration of Easter. What better way to prepare for a season of discipline than by confessing our sins and starting the season with a clean slate? So people are urged to confess and receive absolution. The old English term for this is to be shaven. Shrove is the past tense of that old verb [shrive, shrove, shaven]. Remember the fellow in the old nursery rhyme of the House that Jack Built—he was 'shaven and shorn,' that is, he was starting afresh with a cleansed soul and a newly shaved tonsure.

Have you noticed how pretty it can be to watch gently falling snow? The flakes sift past the window and gradually outline the branches of the bare trees with white. It is really quite pretty. But, if you have to be out in that miserable weather, the chill eats into your very marrow and the treacherous footing or driving makes life very unpleasant indeed. It's the same event. The difference seems to be in one's viewpoint. Being warm, dry, and sheltered certainly alters our perceptions.

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