



Emmanuel News Notes

November, 2010

Pastor Lookingbill ponders. changes

Dear Friends,

The time is changing! It's November and we switch again from daylight savings time to standard on the first Sunday in the month. We are told that it's good for us to do that, to "fall back," saving some energy and recognizing that we're heading into the time of year when there is less daylight.

What it usually means for most of us living on the east coast of the mid Atlantic is that we're indoors more. That gives us a chance to look around the attic and garage so that we can donate our excess to the Annual Garage Sale at Emmanuel. We have, perhaps, more time to read and study? There's more time for us to get involved in Church – no more cutting the grass for a little while! We can start planning the family traditions around Thanksgiving and Christmas, winter break from school and New Year. We have time to change the way we do things during summer hours. The fall sports are over and the banquets are all recorded in pictures and on You-Tube, trophies are now lined up in the house! We have time to change our habits.

The Church is still in action, probably busier than in the summer! Church Life Sunday is scheduled for the second Sunday of the month, a time to meet the leaders of our Council and programs and volunteer to get involved. There will be time for Stewardship planning for next year, both in terms of our congregational budget as well as how to be involved in the life of Emmanuel. The first of our Confirmation Retreats is planned in November, a time for the Pastors and youth to "get away" in the sense of listening to God more intently. The Dinner Club will hold the first round of family dinners for members to get together and enjoy wonderful food and one another. The Interfaith Study with Rabbi Cahan will continue the study of Deuteronomy and what benefit that book has had on both Jewish and Christian traditions. Genesis and Faith are central to the Wednesday studies at Church. Then there's Thanksgiving Day for us to remember to give thanks to God for our nation, our leaders and military and how we worship in this country in freedom. We must be living in a good place; so many other people want to come here!

Then, at the very end of the month, we turn our attention to Advent, wreath making and the promise our children have heard all year long – Christmas and gifts are coming! It's time to think about others, perhaps making the "Gifts of Hope" and the "Giving Tree" a real part of the annual plan for presents. What a difference it makes to those living around the world in need when the Church can reach out to help with water, seeds and food, necessities of life. What a difference it makes to those families in D.C. who need a warm coat and a new toy! Someone at Church cares! The Sunday School is investing this year in such gifts that Lutheran World Relief can provide around the world as part of our preparation for the 50th Anniversary of Emmanuel.

The question for members of the congregation is: "Where do I want to fit in my talents?" Are you talented with music and want to support our choirs? Are you interested in teaching our children, mentoring our confirmands, enriching your knowledge of Holy Scriptures? Are you looking for ways to support the Church Office as a volunteer? Are you able to support the life of the congregation with an increase in your annual offering? Can you make a dinner for one of our members who has just come home from the hospital? How about driving someone to the doctor's office? There are many ways to share our mutual concerns and enrich the lives of those living around us. How will you respond to the challenge of "Church Life" in the coming year?

The time is changing. This is another opportunity to think about your Church relations and commitments, about the people we see at worship and those who are in hospital care and unable to come to worship. It takes all of us in the Church to be the whole community of faith that our Lord has called together. We strengthen one another for the work and benefits of our life in Christ. Our time is changing. Our Lord never changes and is always providing grace and mercy, comfort and challenge to live as the image of our Creator.

In Christ's Service,

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor

DATES OF NOTE

- Nov 5 Drop-off for garage sale
- Nov 6 Garage sale (page 4)
- Nov 7 Touch Football (p 8)
- Nov 7 Church Life Sunday
- Nov 8 Fun Bunch Lunch (p 8)
- Nov 10 St. Martin's Day
- Nov 12-14 Confirmation Retreat
- Nov 15 Monday Night Football viewing (page 3)
- Nov 18 Interfaith Study at Emmanuel (page 3)
- Nov 20 Help the Homeless Walkathon (page 3)
- Nov 21 **Sneakers & Squeakers** Adventure Theater (p 6)
- Nov 24 Thanksgiving Day Service
- Nov 28 Advent Wreath workshop (page 5)
- Dec 3-5 Chrysalis High School Retreat (page 8)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00

CHURCH LIFE SUNDAY IS 14 NOVEMBER

On the second Sunday in November, the Church Council has set a time for Church Committees and leaders of programs to meet with members of the congregation to both tell their stories and to recruit new members. From the Christian Education Committee looking for members and teachers aides to the Worship Committee looking for new lectors and ushers, this Sunday will be a time to meet together and see what new adventures there are at Church, ways to meet together and ways to serve. The Dinner Club will be present too to let folks know about how to meet members of the Church through comfortable home dinners. The Outreach Committee will be able to explain their extensive annual programs to reach outside the congregation to those in need, like the fall program to feed the homeless at the Community Based Shelter.

Plan to come to Church on Sunday 14 November and stay between the services to meet our leaders and plan your ministry for the coming year.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE ENCOUNTER THE BOOK OF GENESIS

The Book of Genesis is the topic for our fall Wednesday morning Bible Encounter this year. There is much to be learned from studying this ancient text that has been compared to other ancient texts, edited, modified and rearranged to reflect a growing theology for the Hebrews. Allowing the Hebrew language to bring to life some of the ancient meaning for the Hebrews is both exciting and challenging to our modern questions about science and religion, evolution and theology. From the closer reading that we've been doing, it's possible to more clearly understand the depth of the questions and the importance of the stories in Genesis.

This First Book of Moses is basically divided into two large sections: The first eleven chapters bring to light the pre-history creation stories and the account of the flood. Beginning at Chapter 12, the story of Abraham and Sarah and the ancestral history leads to the wonderful cycle of stories about Joseph, Egypt and God's purpose despite human failures.

Pr. Lookingbill gathers the Wednesday morning Bible Encounter group to share insight and enrich our understanding of Holy Scripture. We meet at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday and conclude with a brown bag lunch about noon. Members and friends of Emmanuel are always invited to join our study as we review our ancient "origins" and share our Christian view about how God continues to interact in our lives today

WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY *THE FUTURE OF FAITH*

The Wednesday evening study group is meeting for weekly supper together and to study the most recent book by Harvey Cox of Harvard College and Divinity School, The Future of Faith. Dr. Cox describes three eras in the history of Christianity: The Age of Faith, the Age of Belief and now what he hopes will be recognized as the Age of the Spirit. The Age of Faith lasted until Christianity was legalized by Constantine in the 4th century. For the next 1500 years there was an Age of Belief where creeds and doctrines held the attention of the Church. Now there is a revival of religious expression in the world, searching for meaning and for a spirit to guide our living.

Harvey Cox introduces us to his view of the future of religion in America through some of his lectures at Harvard and his experience over the years with faith traditions. One of his major assertions is that "fundamentalism" is dying! He sees in the fundamentalist camps a "rearguard" attempt to change the sweeping tidal change in religion. The world is changing faster than the fundamentalist framework can understand. Fundamentalism insists on obligatory belief systems, a yearning for some mythical past that was uncorrupted along with a propensity for violence. Our emerging view of the world is much more flexible and adaptive, through historical study we have become more realistic about our religious heritage and society is seeking a more peaceful way of life.

Join Pr. Lookingbill and the group each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall for supper at 6:30 and in the Christian Education room at 7:30 for the study. Supper is provided by members of the group each week and shared with generosity. You need not come to supper to participate in the study. Dr. Cox's book is available through the internet and in most book stores.

Financial picture as of Sept. 30

	Budgeted	Actual
Income	\$492,450.05	\$410,230.74
Expenditures	<u>492,450.57</u>	<u>482,005.21</u>
Deficit	(0.52)	(71774.47)

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

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

INTERFAITH STUDY CONTINUES IN NOVEMBER

Pastor Lookingbill and Rabbi Emeritus Leonard Cahan are continuing their study of the Book of Deuteronomy this fall, meeting at Emmanuel for the next session on 18 November at 7 p.m. By continuing the study began last year, we are extending our knowledge of one of the most fascinating books of the Hebrew Scripture, one that changed the course of Jewish identity and influenced Jesus in his teaching and ministry.

This study has been an engaging opportunity over the years for both the Christians and the Jews to see how our separate, yet dependent, traditions have viewed Holy Scripture. Especially this study helps us to see how "Yhwh alone" (God alone) in Deuteronomy is the first real expression of monotheism in Hebrew culture. Of course, Jesus taught his disciples and the whole Church to pray to "Abba," Our father.

By continuing our study of Deuteronomy this fall, we are extending our understanding of a part of Torah that has often been overlooked by Protestant theologians. As Walter Brueggemann, possibly one of the most respected of Protestant scholars of the Old Testament alive today, has noted in his Introduction of the Old Testament: The Deuteronomists' "theological intentionality" is marked by an "immense interpretative imagination." What he means is that Deuteronomy represents a separate, distinct and imaginative reflection of values that have influenced Judaism and by extension Jesus and Christianity throughout the ages. Deuteronomy makes clear that "deeds and not creeds" are the living witness of our religious life.

As Jesus was asked "what is the greatest commandment?" he replied like a good rabbi: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might (Deut. 6.5) and your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22.34-39). This is a direct application of the core teaching of Deuteronomy which challenges the interpretation of the teaching of Moses and the Pharisaic teaching on the Law. Jesus stands in the tradition of those who see the way you live daily as the important expression of your faith.

Are You Ready for Some Football!?!?

Come Join Us for Monday Night Football
November 15

Redskins host the Eagles

All Youth, Young adults, and not-so-young adults (parents too) are invited to the Moss' home for the Monday Football game - Redskins versus the Eagles. Snacks and chili will be available. If you cannot stay for the whole game, you are most welcome to come out for part of it. The Moss' home is located at 4804 Enfield Road in Bethesda. RSVPs are not required, but will be helpful. RSVP to Pastor Lewis.

Health Ministry News:

Please stop by the Health & Caring Ministry table on Church Life Sunday. Learn about current programs, future plans, and ways in which you can be involved! In addition, on Nov. 14th we will be concluding the "Get My People Going" program.

A Pyramid for Everyone

The children of Israel were blessed with manna and quail in the desert and were glad to leave the land of pyramids for the land "of milk and honey." Did you know that there are several food group pyramids to help you eat a more healthy balance of nutrients? They include the Vegetarian Diet, the Mediterranean Diet, the Asian Diet, the Latin American Diet, and the Mayo Clinic Healthy Weight Pyramid. All of these can be found online at www.mayoclinic.com. Just type "food pyramid" in the SEARCH box for more information on healthy eating.

You can also find the revised food pyramid developed by the United States Department of Agriculture at www.mypyramid.gov. Both the Mayo Clinic and MyPyramid will let you enter your height, weight, age, and gender into a simple program that will give you a recommended daily caloric input for weight maintenance or weight loss.

Don't forget, all healthy diets require moderation in portion size and exercise as part of a balanced lifestyle.

Blessings on the journey!

Anna

Help the Homeless Walkathon

November 20, Saturday, 7:30 am

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: The Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon is one of N Street Village's most important annual fundraisers. Every dollar counts: One walker registering for \$25 could provide 20 hot breakfasts for homeless and low-income women at our drop-in day program. Forty walkers could provide three weeks of services and support for a woman in our recovery housing program. 100% of our supporters' registration fees and donations go directly to N Street Village to support programs and services for nearly 900 women each year.

DETAILS: Supporters register to walk (\$25 for supporters 26 and over; \$15 for supporters 25 and under) and can also donate additional funds to support the work of N Street Village. The walk is held on Saturday, November 20th on the National Mall. Register online at www.helpthehomelessdc.org.

We will meet at the church and then head over to GROSVENOR/STRATHMORE METRO. We will exit at METRO CENTER and walk over to meet the rest of the N Street Village walkers in front of the Old Post Office Building (1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW) to fuel up on coffee and snacks from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. Check-in begins at 8:30, and the walk begins at 9 a.m. Afterward we will gather to take the Metro back.

THE GIFTS OF THE SEASON

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

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

Here's how: From November 28 - December 19, Gifts of Hope lists will be available at tables in the narthex. You can select a good or service requested by a Lutheran synod or service organization, and make a donation to buy the item. You'll receive a gift card and an insert describing the present. On Christmas, you can give the card to the person in whose name you've purchased the gift, and tell them about the good work being done in their name.

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



**DO YOU SEW?
LOOKING FOR A FEW
GOOD VOLUNTEERS
TO ASSIST WITH
MENDING CLOTHES.
THURSDAYS @ 9:30
AM TO 12:00 PM
JOIN OUR SEWING
CLUB - WE NEED YOU!**

**MUST KNOW HOW TO USE A
SEWING MACHINE**

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN HOME AND
VILLAGE
CONTACT VOLUNTEER MANAGER
AT
301-354-8447**

Synod Assembly Concludes

On Saturday, September 25, the Metro Washington DC Synod had its final session of the year. After a two-day meeting in May, some activities remained to be accomplished, principally the adoption of a spending plan (\$2 million) for the year 2011. This year, the Synod chose to send 50 percent of its income to the national ELCA. This amount is 5 percent lower than it sent in previous years, but is also 5 percent higher than the original plan. It is a compromise spending plan which takes into account the fact that the Synod must pick up some expenditures which were previously handled by the national ELCA.

The assembly was addressed several times by Dr. Rodger Y. Nishioka, a dynamic speaker from the Columbia Seminary in Georgia. The most moving part of the assembly was during its final worship service in which the Synod recognized the 40th anniversary of the ordination of Elizabeth Platt, chaplain at the University of Maryland. She was the first woman ordained into the Lutheran ministry in America. After receiving the gift of a ceramic chalice from the women clergy of the Synod, Pr. Platt officiated at the eucharist.

FIRST COMMUNION ON REFORMATION SUNDAY

Pr. Lookingbill taught a series of classes on three Sundays in October for five youth and their parents who were ready to prepare for their first Holy Communion this fall. The Church Council has set a policy for children who are judged sufficiently mature by parents and the Pastor that they be educated and then join the rest of the congregation at the Communion table. During the three weeks, the youth discovered the Biblical heritage of the Lords' Supper, studied Martin Luther's catechism about Holy Communion and were instructed on the practice and the experience we share here at Emmanuel. First Communion was celebrated on Reformation Sunday, 31 October, for:

**Michaela Marie Davis Marie-Claire Salive
Eric Douglas Paxson Margot Anna Szamosszegi
Ryan Scott Paxson**

We welcome these youth to share in the Holy Communion that binds all the Church together.

Emmanuel's Second Annual Garage Sale

Saturday, Nov. 6th, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Donations of gently used items will be accepted from Sunday Oct. 31st to Friday Nov. 5th. Please drop off in Fellowship Hall during church office hours. The sale is on Saturday, Nov. 6.



Advent Wreath Workshop

On Sunday, 28 November at 4:00pm, we will make Advent Wreaths followed by a potluck supper. Come and make your own tabletop decoration. You may want to bring gloves and hand-held clippers for cutting the greens. A sign-up sheet for the wreath making and potluck supper will be on the Narthex Table by 7 November, along with a sample of an Advent Wreath. \$15.00 is requested to cover the cost of materials. Questions: call Sheila Murtland at 301-983-2683.

Bibles Presented

Emmanuel has a tradition of passing on the word of God to the third graders in the form of a new Bible (we also present them to older elementary age students who have not yet received one). Here are the names of those who received Bibles during our Reformation worship service on October 31, 2010.

Jackson Barlow
Matthew Beardall
Abigail Cannon
Ellis Cawley

Michaela Davis
Rowan Gjersvold
Cecilia Price

Emmanuel's Confirmands

Confirmation is an important event in the life of the Church. At Emmanuel youth, usually in seventh and eighth grade, prepare for confirmation as they study the Bible and the Small Catechism while becoming more familiar with their faith tradition and begin to understand their own faith journey. The youth who are currently in confirmation class this year are listed below. Please keep them in your prayers throughout the year.

Annika Cowles
Devin Cawley
Elle Einwaechter
Josh Freilich
MacKensie Hessler
Heather Lundberg

Kristen Miller
Ryan Paxson
Marie-Claire Salive
Emma Schuettler
Evani Seested
Katie Schluntz

From the Council President:

Greetings

Parish Life at Emmanuel

Worship is the central focus of life at Emmanuel, but there is a lot more to congregational life than worship. That will be the focus of Parish Life Sunday on November 14th. Just to make worship happen, we need volunteers who staff the Altar Guild, the ones who prepare the physical setting for worship. Then there is the Worship and Music Committee who make decisions about worship form and content. Everyone sees and enjoys the adult and children choirs and the bell choir and the wonderful musicians who contribute to the worship experience.

But there are other forms of congregational life at Emmanuel. There are bible study groups, prayer groups, the adult study group, and book study groups. These can be seen as extensions of worship.

The Outreach Committee fulfills the congregation's commitment to our larger external community in a variety of ways.

There are also those events supported by the Parish life Committee that are not so directly tied to worship but enhance our sense as a community of faith; Oktober Fest is the most recent example, but church picnics and the refreshments that Shiela Murtland brings to events big and small. Then there are the activities that support the congregational infrastructure: the Property Committee, the Finance Committee, the Stewardship committee.

All of these groups rely on people, people who volunteer their time and talents to make their own special contribution to Emmanuel.

We are looking for people to volunteer, not to wait until they are asked, but to step forward and say "ask me." For example, we need individuals who can volunteer for snow removal. Walt Waldrop, who has accepted that responsibility for years, is stepping back from that responsibility. We owe Walt a huge thank you for his efforts, and the best way to say thank you is to try and fill his shoes.

Likewise, Bob Zeller has accepted responsibility for tasks that most of us barely recognize as a need because they are so invisible. One of those tasks is maintaining order in the storage room. That is a perfect job for the person who wants to make a low visibility contribution.

And you do not need to wait until Parish Life Sunday on November 14th to step forward.

Peace and Joy
 Jim McGee
 1920Jimmy@gmail.com

Parish Vital Records

Births

Logan James Constantino, born 28 September 2010 to Erika and James Constantino

Deaths

Regina Origoni, friend of Judy and Bill Wymer

Keith Reed, October 2010 father of Steve Reed

Ted Crosby, 8 October 2010, father of Mark Crosby

Theresa Kinniburgh, 21 October 2010, niece of Mike Poston

Weddings

Judy Jo Summers and *Scott Sadler*, 2 October 2010 at Emmanuel

Laura Davis and *Adam Stifel*, 2 October 2010 in Poolesville, Md

New Members

Vic, Biani, Evani, and Ava Seested. 10 October 2010, by affirmation of baptism



Sneakers and Squeakers Alert

November 21, Sunday, 2 pm
Children's Theater at Adventure Theater
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Experience the timeless tale of Rudolph and friends in a whole new way - LIVE! The beloved classic soars from the TV screen to the stage in this live-action world premiere. Featuring everyone's favorite characters: Hermie the Elf, Sam the Snowman, the Misfit Toys, the Abominable Snow Monster, Yukon Cornelius, Santa, and (of course) Rudolph! You won't want to miss this wonderful holiday tradition that speaks to the misfit in all of us.

All families with children up to the sixth grade are invited to join us for an afternoon at the Adventure Theater in Glen Echo, MD. Tickets are \$15 a piece. For those of you who would like to meet at the church for lunch before we head over to the play, we will have lunch makings here.

Please Contact Pastor Lewis by November 13, 2010 if you are interested in going so we can make sure there are enough seats. Seats may still be available after that date depending on ticket sales.

GROWING CLOSER TO GOD!

Christian Education is a life-long learning process, inspired by God. We may find Christian Education in Bible study classes or in personal study of God's Word. We may even find Christian Education in the Sunday bulletin or in "News Notes." Any time we see evidence of expanding our knowledge of Christ and His love for us, we are involved in Christian Education. There is no prescribed form; there is no body of laws governing Christian Education other than our baptismal covenant.

In Christian love and by God's grace we were all charged with being raised according to the learning and teaching of Christian principles. It is the teaching of these Christian principles that forms the basis of our faith. The principles need to be taught more than once – literally a life-long assignment of daily review and renewal....and it is the responsibility of our entire church community to participate in our effort to not only teach these principles but to openly practice them in our community of faith. A handful of people is not enough – we need strong support from each of us.

In Christian Education at Emmanuel, our strengths offer a springboard for our spiritual growth.

- support from Pastor Lookingbill and from Pastor Lewis
- adult classes – Bible Study on Wednesday Morning, Wednesday Evening
- time for study on Sunday morning between services
- music education in a Christian setting with the Joyful Praise Choir, Bell Choir, Senior Choir
- two year Confirmation class which includes Bible study and study of Christian doctrines as well as an enrichment program and retreats.

What our Christian community requires:

- encouragement from our congregation and serious consideration for what it means to be a Christian
- increased Sunday School participation of all ages.
- parents who are committed to bringing their children and youth to Sunday School and youth activities on a regular basis
- additional teachers who will share their knowledge and faith with our young children, youth and adults

These are areas which need strengthening. In four words, Christian Education means: *Growing Closer to God*. In a variety of ways we can get that message across to our members and the community. And we must! When "Growing Closer to God," becomes our goal for Christian Education at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, we will then be sharing with our children, youth, young adults, and adults the gifts which God intends for us – indeed gifts which God intends for us to share with others to grow our community spiritually.

Kristi Johnson, Christian Education Committee

Sermon from Youth Sunday

[Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I really want to share something wonderful with all of you. Last month on October 10, 2010 we had a Youth-Led Worship Service. During that service we had two great sermons given by a couple of our high school seniors. Below is one of those sermons. I hope to publish the other one next month.

PAX, Pastor Robert Lewis +]

Hello, I am Claire Thronson. I was confirmed here at Emmanuel four years ago, and have been involved in youth activities since then. I am currently a senior in high school.

Think back to when you were a senior in high school. Think about what high school you were attending, what you looked like, whom you had a crush on, or what things were making you angry as a teenager on the threshold of adulthood. Now think back to the time that has passed since you were a senior in high school. Think about the experiences that have occurred that make you who you are today. Think about the events that have changed your life. Think about the person you are today and how different that person is from those high school teenagers who thought they were too cool for school.

Think about your self-discovery process. How did you figure out who you are? How did you realize certain things about yourself? Who has changed your life? What part has God played in this life? How has He changed it? How have you become closer to yourself through His work and His words? Everyday brings new experiences that can change our lives, for better, or for worse. Everyday we gain more self-knowledge that, the day before, we would not have even imagined discovering. Everyday the sun rises and we are able to know that tomorrow, the sun will rise again; just as beautiful and magnificent as God intends it to be.

These changes can be hard ones. They can call into question everything that we believe in, they can question our very existence. One thing that we will always know is that God, and His son, will always be watching over us. The sun rising tells us that everyday God will be there waiting for us to learn more about ourselves.

In the second reading (2 Timothy 2:8-15), Paul tells Timothy about Jesus Christ:

If we die with him, we'll live with him.

If we stick it out with him, we'll rule with him.

If we turn our back on him, he'll turn his back on us.

If we give up on him, he does not give up – for there's no way he can be false to himself.

We should really have a closer look at that last line. We all, in some way, whether big or small, try to emulate what Jesus teaches us. We all, in some way, try to follow in his earthly footsteps. So, this last line can be easily applied to our lives. If Jesus cannot be false to himself, then why are we false to ourselves? In other words, how will we be true to others, if we cannot be true to ourselves?

Looking at my self-discovery process has taught me that change is hard, that trying to be true to yourself is a very, very difficult thing. I mean heck, just look at these cranberry hymnals that are supposedly so great, and think about how hard it has been to adapt to the change in books.

Think about how the world is advancing rapidly in technology and how we have to quickly adapt to the new discoveries the world is throwing at us. *[Claire shows us her iPhone]* I have this shiny iPhone, and even as a 17 year old, I have no idea how it works, so if any of you would like to help me....?

Being true to yourself is definitely the first step in being true to others. In our Gospel reading (Luke 17:11-19), the man is shunned from society because not only is he a leper, he is a Samaritan. He is shunned from society by his appearance, health condition, beliefs and values. How is this not like anything we experience in the modern world? Knowing oneself allows us to better understand, better explore, and better learn from the experiences and knowledge of other people. You never know who is going to change your life, do you? I sure don't, so my first step is learning about myself so I can continue growing and helping others learn about themselves and their faith.

Looking to the little things in life can really broaden our views on the world. We all need to stop and smell the roses every once in a while and see the beauty that God has created for us. We all need to stop and watch the gem-shaped flame of a candle and see the beauty that God has created for us.

Ever since I was a little kid, I have believed that the smoke rising off candles was a visual sign of God and the Holy Spirit.

[Claire lights a candle from the Christ Candle and then passes the fire on to everyone in the sanctuary, each of whom is holding a candle.]

As the Buddha once said, thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle and that the life of the first candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

I may be that high school student who has no idea what it feels like to look back on my years in high school and realize how much I have changed. I may only have 17 years of experiences that have shaped my life. But, I do know one thing, these 17 years have brought many ups and downs, many comedies and tragedies, and through them all God has shined His light for all of us and proved every single day that He is sharing His happiness with me. I know that my happiness cannot and will not be decreased by sharing it with you all and I know that my life with Christ cannot and will not be shortened for as long as I have my faith.

Please blow out your candles and enjoy the wonder that I have faced since I was a little kid, the wonder in seeing God and the Holy Spirit in the mysterious smoke.

[All blow out their candles followed by a few seconds of silence.]

And, as Paul tells Timothy, "Get up. On your way. Your faith has set you free..."

Youth and Family Ministry Calendar

November 6, Saturday, 8 - 1 pm

Church Yard Sale

Youth are needed to help with the Yard Sale and can earn SSL hours by helping their community.

November 7, Sunday

Retreat Forms and Fees Due

Forms and fees for both the West River Confirmation Retreat and the Chrysalis High School Retreat are due on this date. Forms are available on the church's website, in the Narthex or by contacting Pastor Lewis. Fee for each retreat is \$70.

November 7, Sunday, 1 - 3 pm

Touch Football & Lunch

All Youth (6th to 12th grade) are invited to play touch football in the side yard of the church, beside the chapel. Meet Kurt Moss outside ready to play. Bring your change of clothes to church and you will not have to miss a minute of the fun. Lunch makings will also be available.

November 8, Monday, Noon

Fun Bunch

Come and join us for lunch fellowship and a program on Thanksgiving.

November 12 - 14, Friday 4 pm - Sunday 2:30 pm

West River Confirmation Retreat

All Confirmands should have their forms and fees in by November 7, 2010. You will need money for dinner on the way to the retreat center on Friday evening.

November 15, Monday, 8 pm

Monday Night Football

All Youth, Young adults, and not-so-young adults are invited to the Moss' home for the Monday Football game - Redskins verse the Eagles. Snacks and chili will be available. If you can not stay for the whole game, you are most welcome to come out for part of it. The Moss' home is located at 4804 Enfield Road in Bethesda. RSVPs are not required, but will be helpful. RSVP to Pastor Lewis. See page 2.

November 20, Saturday, 7:30 am

Help the Homeless Walkathon

We will be walking to Help the Homeless as well as helping N Street Village sign up enough walkers so they can receive a grant that helps the women living and learning at the N Street Village. Forms are in the Narthex. See elsewhere for more information.

November 21, Sunday, 2 pm

Sneakers and Squeakers Event - Children's Theater at Adventure Theater

All families with children up to the sixth grade are invited to join us for an afternoon at the Adventure Theater in Glen Echo, MD. Tickets are \$15 a piece. For those of you who would like to meet at the church for lunch before we head over to the play, we will have lunch makings here. We will be watching a live-

action play of the Christmas classic, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. See page 8.

November 24, Thursday, 10 am

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service

Come join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving in the morning before heading off to Thanksgiving Day Dinner with family and friends

December 3 - 5, Friday 4 pm - Sunday 3 pm

Chrysalis High School Retreat

Everyone should have forms and fees in by November 7, 2010. You will need money for dinner on the way to the retreat center on Friday evening and coming home on Sunday.

The National Lutheran Home Auxiliary's Fall Festival



Saturday, November 13, 2010

9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Silent Auction, Christmas Room,
Grandma's Attic, Plants,
Jewelry, Resident Crafts,
Baked Goods, Candy, Handwork,
Books, Postcards, Stamps
Gift Shop 50% off Sale

All proceeds benefit the Residents

Lunch served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tickets sold for \$8.00 or Lighter fare \$4.00

Independent Living Cottage Tours
10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Home Chorus program at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel

9701 Veirs Drive: Rockville, MD

Further Information Call 301-424-9560

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY-BASED SHELTER

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to all who contributed to the October Community-Based Shelter project. Around 70 of you donated supplies, prepared fabulous meals, and served at the homeless shelter during the first week of October. It was a cold week and Emmanuel's love warmed their hearts and souls. Our guests at the shelter were very grateful for our generosity. They loved the food from the vegetables, to the soups, the salads and the desserts! What is really amazing is that almost every person responded "yes" when they were called to ask for assistance! AND... even better, we had some "first time" volunteers! From our guests at the shelter and from the Outreach Committee... a huge THANK YOU!!!!!!!



Once again, at Emmanuel, we will remember a group of people who live in Anacostia with families to support. Christmas, rather than being a happy time, just adds another burden to their lives.

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

As in the past, Emmanuel assists SEM through a Giving Tree project (as well as through Gifts of Hope). Through this project, we buy Christmas presents for the children of the folks participating in SEM's programs. In so doing, we are supporting the participants' self-help efforts. We're also showing compassion for their children - who have been living for years with the poverty imposed by having underemployed parents. To keep consistency, recommend a maximum of \$40 per gift. Won't you buy a present for an Anacostia family this Christmas?

So... how do I help?

The Giving Tree will be set up by **November 21**. Please **select an ornament and sign your name and phone number to the sign up sheet near the tree**. The ornament has gift suggestions and sizes on the back. Then return the gift (wrapped and with the ornament attached) to the church by December 12. We'll take the gifts to Southeast Ministry in time for them to "appear" under the family Christmas trees. Happy shopping!



There is a melancholy sense of winding down as the year reaches November. Is it the falling leaves, the shorter days, the chill in the air? Probably all of that and more. Some birds have the need to go south and we're a bit envious as we think of them sitting on a sunny beach somewhere sipping a beverage, enjoying the breezes, and watching the young pullets go by. On the other hand, sitting by a warm fire with music playing and a good book handy isn't a bad way to spend a few days in November right here in Maryland.



November has a couple of notable days that garner a lot of attention, Thanksgiving being the most well known. But Veterans Day has its adherents too. Some of us remember November 11 as the day that the War to End All War came to an armistice. What an optimistic thing it was to name that war especially now, ninety some years later, when this country alone has undergone five or six nasty wars and military actions since then. All war has some origin in hubris and exalted over-optimism, perhaps that is true even today.



November is also often the time when we experience a wonderfully welcome spell of good weather. Our fathers often called this period after the first frost "Indian Summer." Our German friends refer to it as "St. Martin's Summer." So on St. Martin's Day (November 10) drink a toast to St. Martin, Martin Luther (his birthday), and the beautiful fall weather.



If wishes were horses, all beggars would ride. It's an old saying and like many of these old saws, there's truth in it. We want things we cannot have and want to do things that are beyond us for many reasons. We're rarely satisfied. So, recently there has been a survey asking about happiness. Are you happy? Are we? What really is happiness? Perhaps it is in being content with what is within our grasp, in having cordial (loving, even) relationships, and the knowledge that the wolf is not yet at our door.



As the opportunity comes in November to observe Thanksgiving Day, let us pause and regard things for which we rarely give thanks: an effective police force, prompt trash removal, the noise of children at play, weather forecasts that seem to be fairly accurate, the play of the seasons, smells that evoke memories, memories that recall faces and voices, wonder at natural displays, and the opportunity to give thanks at all.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Susan Drumm, Joyful Praise Choir
Ligia Benjumea, Nursery Attendant
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NOVEMBER, 2010

