

Emmanuel's Voice

The Newsletter of Emmanuel Lutheran Church

April 2008 ~ Volume 20 • Number 3

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From Our Pastor:

Grace and peace to you from God Almighty and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

“The wind blows where it chooses and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

I have used this passage of scripture before in a previous newsletter message. Jesus is explaining to Nicodemus what it means to be born anew (from above). Those who are born anew are born of the Spirit. And it is a life springing up again and again through the power of the cross. It is a life of giving our selves away through the breadth and power of the Holy Spirit. And in this life of rebirth we raise the question, “Do we want to be tumbleweed?”

On Thursday, March 27 the Southfield Parks and Garden Club and Emmanuel Lutheran Church celebrated the dedication of the Community Garden on our property. At first glance it looked as if there would not be many participants for the dedication. The wind was blowing, snow was falling, and it was cold outside. But that was at first glance. We discovered many more people making their way to the tent immediately thereafter. One individual came from Ypsilanti for the dedication. She was overjoyed that a community farm was being instituted in Southfield! And Stephanie Fries, the Associate Development Director of Forgotten Harvest, came for the celebration in joy and thanksgiving.

I do believe there were wonder and amazement running together at the same time. Wonder in considering what might be. How will the garden take shape? Who in the community will participate? How will Jon Adams the director of the Southfield Parks and Garden Club lead us? And yet there was amazement. This community garden is larger than ourselves. It is God’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes!

Was there struggle in getting here? Yes. Was there anxiety about being so open and vulnerable? Yes. Despite these things this congregation decided to move in the direction God desired. God wanted us to be in greater partnership with the community. God desired us to serve those who are in need of fresh fruits and vegetables. God knew that Jon Adams needed a location for the garden. And God said, “Emmanuel Lutheran Church!” Sisters and brothers, God still desires this faith community to believe, learn and lean on Jesus! The Holy Spirit blew and we said, “Yes we want to be tumbleweed.” It was cold, windy and the snow was falling Thursday, March 27. But despite these things, blessedness abounded.

We do not know where God will take us from here, but we are being faithful in what God has entrusted to us. Let us continue to be tumbleweed. I believe is the best thing to be.

“Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol Him, all you peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 117)

My love is with you in Christ Jesus, **Pastor David**

Deaths

Alice Lindrus died on Saturday, March 22.

Christian love and sympathy are extended to Pastor Michael Rothgery and his family upon the death of his father and to the family of Alice Lindrus.

News from the Mustard Seed Library

The ELCA Task Force has completed the "Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality". A social statement is a teaching document that assists Lutherans in forming judgments on social issues. Rebecca S. Larson, executive director, ELCA Church in Society, states that "This draft social statement insists that God has created us as sexual and therefore relational beings. This is God's intention and it is good. It is for this reason that the theme of trust is so evident, because trust is the cornerstone for the flourishing of all relationships and of society." Larson further states that "In no area of our lives is trust more critical than in the area of human sexuality. We are therefore called to demonstrate trust in all of our relationships and to work to make this world a more trustworthy place." The "Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality" of the ELCA is available at <http://www.ELCA.org/faithfuljourney/draft> on the ELCA's Web site. There are also three copies of the "Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality" in the Mustard Seed Library on the same shelf as the Lutheran Magazines. If you have an interest in reading this Draft Social Statement, please feel free to take one. If there aren't enough for everyone, more can be ordered. Please see me or Pastor Maddox.

Sharon K. Hall

CROP Hunger Walk News

The CROP Hunger Walk committee members have been diligently working on this year's Walk. The Walk will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 20th, starting and ending at Emmanuel. Harriet Demorest, the CROP Hunger Walk treasurer is handing out pledge forms to all persons interested in walking either the mile route or the 5.6 mile route. Barb Klimkowski is preparing the fliers which will be distributed in the neighborhood and also doing publicity. Jane Kemppainen, Bill Jameson and Christina Wardell met with the youth group on a Friday evening and, together with Rachel Gutenberg, Branden Preblich, and Pastor Maddox, youth group leaders, worked with all the kids to make the maps the walkers will follow on Walk day. Jerry Hall is gathering his volunteers to put out the signs and mark the route on Walk day. Sharon Hall has been calling, e-mailing and sending out information to local churches and organizations. Since the Southfield/Lathrup CROP Hunger Walk started in 1982, a group of passionate and dedicated workers from local churches/organizations has developed and it is our privilege to count ourselves among these community people and to work together with them responsibly to do what we can to alleviate hunger, both in the world and in our own city. Many wonderful relationships of friendship with our Southfield/Lathrup neighbors have resulted from our participation on the annual CROP Hunger Walk.

We are thankful and proud that the congregation at Emmanuel has seen fit over so many years to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk in Southfield/Lathrup. We are especially thankful that we have always had strong pastoral encouragement and support. Pastor Maddox generously takes time to attend every meeting and gives his ideas and suggestions.

There are different ways people can participate in the CROP Hunger Walk--through prayer, providing refreshments on Walk day, through walking and pledging. We trust with full confidence that, with all

this going for us, the 2008 CROP Hunger Walk will be a great success!!!!

What's Happening at the Synod House

This month I am actually writing this article from my old desk at the Synod House. That is because I have been called back into temporary service as an 'extra pair of hands' during preparation for the Synod Assembly. Despite the fact that it is a one-day assembly this year, it will still occupy much of everyone's time for the next month. A myriad of details go into even an abbreviated assembly and each site presents its own set of challenges. And normal day-to-day activities and responsibilities do not stop because we are planning an assembly. In addition, a number of serious clergy illnesses and family losses have occurred recently, which make for heavy hearts in all staff members.

The Bishop recently returned from the annual Council of Bishops meeting. Just prior to that, he and Pr. Eggleston traveled to our companion synod in Jordan and the Holy Land, where they made arrangements for the 2009 Council of Bishops meeting. Bishops from all 65 ELCA synods will convene there in January 2009, giving them an opportunity to see first hand the impact of the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine.

The Chrism Mass was celebrated on the Wed. of Holy Week at Christ-Iroquois Lutheran in Detroit. In the Chrism Mass the Bishop preaches and presides at Eucharist, providing rostered leaders and congregational members a time to worship together. During this worship, rostered leaders also have an opportunity to renew the vows taken when they were ordained, and oils are blessed for use in the coming year. This service was celebrated here at Emmanuel last year.

The mail has just arrived with a new batch of assembly registrations and so until the next time, God's peace.

Pat Orhodnicky

Outreach Update

.....and Jesus said, "Feed my sheep". John 21:17

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry continues to fill a vital need in our community. The Meijer's gift cards are gone now and we do not know if we will receive another supply. Canned and packaged foods as well as cash contributions are needed on a regular basis to keep the shelves stocked. One suggestion is to bring a can or package each Sunday and place it in the basket in the narthex.

Community Farm: The dedication ceremony for this new and exciting ministry is scheduled for Thurs. March 27th. Members of the Southfield Parks and Garden Club will administer and oversee the actual operations. A five year plan has already been drawn up with four 4'x60' vegetable beds scheduled for the first year.

CROP Hunger Walk: This annual, ecumenical event which will again be hosted by Emmanuel continues to be a strong ministry which brings together people committed to eradicating hunger and poverty.

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 1:2-3

Emmanuel Lutheran Refugee Congregation: We are attempting to re-establish contact with our sister congregation in Buduburam, Ghana. They have been a faithful presence in word and service for thousands of Liberian refugees during the long years of civil war. With the end of the war, the Refugee Camp has closed and the refugees are returning to their homeland to help in the restoration and rebuilding. Many people have elected to remain in Ghana, however, and the congregation may still be in existence.

Bette McCrandall, Missionary in Liberia: We are hoping to re-establish contact and ongoing support for Bette McCrandall.

"For wherever two or three come together in my name, there am I also." Matthew 16:20

Ministry at The Fountains: This weekly celebration of Word and Sacrament continues to grow in numbers and commitment. There is a joy during these services that is contagious. On the occasional Saturday that we cannot be there, the 'congregation' meets to read scripture and pray together.



Emmanuel Community Farm

The Emmanuel Community Farm ground-breaking and dedication took place on Thursday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Pastor David led us in prayer. Jonathon Adams, the president of the Southfield Parks and Garden Club; Brenda Lawrence, the mayor of the City of Southfield; Amanda Maria Edmonds, Executive Director of Growing Hope; Susan E. Goodell, Executive Director of Forgotten Harvest and Barbara Klimkowski, our Council Vice President; were the keynote speakers. Cable 15 and several newspapers were also represented.

All were invited in afterwards for fruits, vegetables, cookies, cake, tea and coffee.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

(248) 357-1848


April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 30 2 Easter Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament 10:30 am Coffee/Tea Fellowship 12:00 noon Confirmation Class 4 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 pm	March 31 Bible Study 7:00 pm	April 1	April 2 Bible Study 10 am Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting 8:30 pm	April 3 Clergy Cluster Meetings 9:30 am Prayer Meeting 7 pm	April 4	April 5 Men's Breakfast at Stackerz 8:30 a.m. Ministry at The Fountains 2 pm
6 3 Easter Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament 10:30 am Coffee/Tea Fellowship 12:00 noon Youth Choir rehearsal 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 4 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 pm	7 Bible Study 7:00 pm	8 Church Council 7 pm	9 Bible Study 10 am Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting 8:30 pm	10 Clergy Cluster Meetings 9:30 am Prayer Meeting 7 pm	11 Youth Group Meeting 6:30 p.m.	12 Ministry at The Fountains 2 pm
13 4 Easter Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament 10:30 am Coffee/Tea Fellowship 12:00 noon Handchime practice 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 4 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 pm	14 Bible Study 7:00 pm	15	16 Bible Study 10 am Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting 8:30 pm	17 Clergy Cluster Meetings 9:30 am Prayer Meeting 7 pm	18	19 Ministry at The Fountains 2 pm
20 5 Easter Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament 10:30 am Coffee/Tea Fellowship 12:00 noon Youth Choir rehearsal 12:15 pm CROP Hunger Walk 1pm Confirmation Class 4 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 pm	21 Bible Study 7:00 pm	22 Newsletter Submissions Due	23 Bible Study 10 am Sunday School Teacher's Meeting 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting 8:30 pm	24 Clergy Cluster Meetings 9:30 am Prayer Meeting 7 pm	25	26 Ministry at The Fountains 2 pm
27 6 Easter Adult Forum and Sunday School 9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament 10:30 am Coffee/Tea Fellowship 12:00 noon Handchime practice 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 4 pm Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 pm	28 Bible Study 7:00 pm	29	30 Bible Study 10 am Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting 8:30 pm	May 1 Clergy Cluster Meetings 9:30 am Prayer Meeting 7 pm	May 2	May 3 Ministry at The Fountains 2 pm

Sunday Servants • April 2008

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Day	3 Easter	4 Easter	5 Easter	6 Easter
Color	White	White	White	White
Special		Children's Sermon		Children's Sermon
Liturgy	Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 6	Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 6	Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 6	Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 6
Readings	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
Presiding	Pastor David O. Maddox II			
Assisting and Lector Christina Wardell	Ed Kotajarvi	Pewu Bah-deh	Richard Chavanak	Calvin Coleman
Director of Music	Jody Doktor			
Cantors	Barb Klimkowski	Jody Doktor	Richard Chavanak	Choir
Ushers Roger Demorest	Dean Lemponen Ed Gilbert Paul Zetye Jack Klein	Lyn Bodnar Shirley Pulley Irene Karna Dolores Ward Doris Gaston Barb Laho	Earl Lampi Carl Lindstrom Bruce Ricketts Jerry Hall	Sandy Fioretti Jodi Demorest Sarah Alward Shannon Jackson
Greeters Tracee Robinson	Toini Kesti Erick Kyro	Tracee Robinson	Bob and Shirley Erickson	Ed and Helen Gilbert
Acolytes Christina Wardell	Jessica and Emily Moilanen	Michael Wright Lisa Jones	Maria Wardell Lorpu Johnson	Brittney and Morgan Jones
Altar Care Tracee Robinson	Sharon Hall, Janet Kotajarvi, and Cindy Anderson			
Tellers Harriet Demorest	Tracee Robinson Darin and Donna Page	Bruce and Sharon Ricketts and Roger Demorest	Bruce and Sharon Ricketts and Roger Demorest	Rudy and Vicki Perttunen and Roger Demorest
Fellowship Hour Janet Kotajarvi Shirley Pulley	First Sunday Group	Young at Heart	Women of the ELCA	April Birthdays
Audio Recording	Jerry Hall			
Adult Forum	Richard Chavanak			
Sunday School Barb Klimkowski	Barb Klimkowski Cindy Moilanen Christina Wardell	Barb Klimkowski Kristin Moilanen Cindy Anderson	Barb Klimkowski Ann Dixon Christina Wardell	Barb Klimkowski Donna Page Darin Page
Flowers Sharon Hall			Sharon and Jerry Hall	
Worship Folder and Bulletin	Christina Wardell			

If you cannot serve on your appointed day, please arrange for a substitute and call the church office at (248) 357-1848.

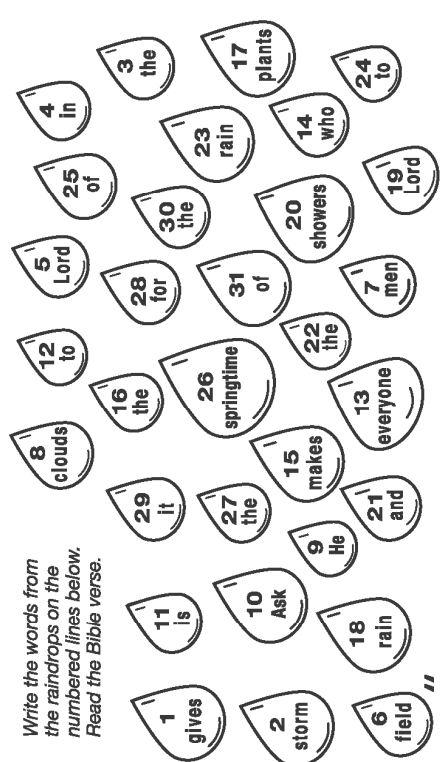


Just for KIDS

Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.



10 _____ 16 _____ 5 _____ 28 _____ 18 _____
 4 _____ 22 _____ 26 _____
 29 _____ 11 _____ 3 _____ 19 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____
 _____ 27 _____ 2 _____ 8 _____
 9 _____ 1 _____ 20 _____ 31 _____ 23 _____
 _____ 12 _____ 7 _____ 21 _____ 17 _____ 25 _____
 _____ 30 _____ 6 _____ 24 _____ 13 _____

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)

Answer: "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone." Zechariah 10:1

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

23425 Lahser Road
 Southfield, MI 48033

Address Service Requested

Sunday School and Adult Forum 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Coffee/Tea Fellowship 12 noon

Monday Evening Bible Study 7 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10 a.m.
Thursday Evening Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.



**claimed
 gathered
 and sent**
 for the sake of the world

Please call the church office at (248)357-1848 if you no longer wish to receive this monthly newsletter.