



THE PILLARS

Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry, Pastor

Monthly Newsletter of Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Reflection: Christian Education

For the last couple editions of the Pillars, we have included that Emmanuel's 2012 resolution to focus on Christian education. Leaders have recognized that we are lacking some life and energy in that fundamental practice of our Christian life together. In response, we have been exploring new possibilities, connecting with Synod resources, and preparing to try some new things in the coming year.

On the last Sunday in January, we are holding a special lunch for people who are actively supporting our Christian education programs. Beth Caywood, Director of the Synod Resource Center, will offer some highlights about changes that are coming and lead discussions about our hopes and plans. For those who will not (or did not) attend the lunch, I am happy to share some of those plans here!

We will finish off our Sunday school year with a special intergenerational program on our last day, Sunday, May 20, 2012. Look forward to a morning of fun and learning together, for all ages!

In the fall, we plan to start a new "Spark" curriculum for students in pre-K through grade 6. These materials speak to kids at appropriate levels for different age groups and invite them to enter into the stories of our faith.

Also in the fall, we hope to begin a new hospitality ministry in the social hall during the Sunday school hour, for adults who are not participating in classes as either teachers or students. We hope this will be an opportunity to connect with one another as spiritual friends – or read the newspaper with eyes of faith – or just relax with a little food and our church family before worship.

We are considering starting a third adult education class on Sunday mornings which would ask some big faith questions with younger adults.

The Christian education committee is excited about the possibilities of how God may draw people deeper in their lives of faith, and how we all might grow together in understanding and in relationship. Please get excited with us!

In this newsletter, you will find a new Christian education brochure, which lists some of the opportunities to serve and to grow through ministries of Christian education at Emmanuel. Please take a look at it and prayerfully consider how God might call you to engage in new ways, either now or in the fall. If your interest is piqued, or if you have questions about what it would mean to offer your support to one of our education ministries, please speak with Donna French, Sue Spelic, or me. I am praying for you and for us all; may the Holy Spirit bless us with new life and learning in our lives of faith.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jennifer

The Season of Lent

It's hard to believe that Lent is here already!

Begin your season of prayer and preparation with your church family at Emmanuel.

Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

7:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February 29 Lenten Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Covered dish dinner

7:30 p.m. Lenten worship

Youth Group in February

Visiting Local Veterans

On Sunday, February 5, students in grades 7-12 are invited to stay after church for lunch and to pack up the "Welcome Home Buckets" that we are collecting for our local veterans. Then we'll head to a VA facility in Aspinwall to visit with some veterans. We'll finish by 3:00 pm and be home in plenty of time for the Super Bowl that night. Please let Pastor Jennifer know if you have any questions! (pastor@elcetna.org)

What's the WORD????

Students in grades 7-12 are welcome to join our Synod's monthly youth gathering. See camp friends or meet new ones! The theme for this month is "What's the WORD?" Bring \$5 for dinner and shower/bath gel, lotion, or lip gloss for a local women's shelter. Our group from Emmanuel can meet at church and carpool. R.S.V.P. to Pr. Jennifer by Wednesday, February 8.

Collection for Local Veterans

During January, Emmanuel's teens are collecting donations for local veterans, who are transitioning to community life. We will be making "**Welcome Home Buckets**," with materials for cleaning and caring for home and sharing them through one of our local VA facilities.

The next time that you are at the grocery store or K-Mart, please consider picking up one of these items and bring them to the collection box in our church narthex:

Bucket	Mop
Pine Sol	Broom
Dust Pan	Dish Soap
Toilet brush	Hand soap
Cleaning sponges or cloths	
409 or Fantastic all-purpose cleaner	
Toilet Paper – multipack	

Our students will be delivering the donations and visiting with veterans on the afternoon of Sunday, February 5. Thank you for supporting our youth's ministry!

Youthfest Retreat for 7-12 graders

at Camp Lutherlyn in Prospect, PA

March 23-25, 2012

Are you interested in attending our Synod Youthfest retreat, complete with the band Agape?

Great! We want to help get you there.

The registration cost is \$122 per person - talk to Pr. Jennifer if you need assistance.

Registration forms are available on the bulletin board near the church side entrance or at www.lutherlyn.com.

Please let Pastor know if you are planning (or hoping to go) ASAP, but your forms should be submitted to her with a check (made out to Emmanuel) by Sunday, February 19, 2012.

Super Bowl Sunday is fast approaching. This means different things to different people. Here at Emmanuel it also is spelled different. We spell it Souper Bowl Sunday which gives us another opportunity to share our Blessings. On Sunday February 5 we will be collecting for ELCA World Hunger Relief. You can place your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars or Checks in the Soup pots located in the Narthex or Sunday School Building Entrance. Romans 12:13 tells us "Share with Gods People who are in need, practice hospitality." Just imagine if we put a penny in for every blessing God gives daily. The Pot would be overflowing.

FROG BLOG:

Confirmation class

This year, the first and second year confirmation classes joined into one, in order to create a larger group and allow for less intimidating and more fun discussions. Please help our class offer a special welcome to Matalyn Holland, who just joined our class as a first year student!

Throughout this year of confirmation, we are learning about some of the central stories that our tied to our Christian faith story. This fall, we explored the call of Abraham and Sarah, the Exodus with Moses, the giving of the 10 Commandments, and rule of King David. From February through May, we will continue by delving into the life of Jesus Christ. In addition, students are Christian Henning, Julia Bernesser, Sidney Schmitt and Anniston Bieri.

~ Pastor Jennifer

BOY SCOUT HOAGIE SALE

If you signed up to purchase a hoagie, please pick them up on Saturday, February 4th or Sunday, February 5th. Thank you for your support!

Coming Soon Pictorial Directory!

It has been at least 20 years since Emmanuel has had a pictorial directory. We are encouraging all members to participate. Life Touch Church Services is going to put all this together. Let me assure you, no purchase is required to have you picture taken for the directory. Purchasing pictures is entirely up to each individual. The dates for pictures are April 19, 20 and 21. A committee will be making calls and setting up appointment dates. Thank you for your participation in the worthwhile project.

SERVING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 5

Ushers: Craig Tuite, Matthew Kiernan
Vera and Brittney Harencome
Acolytes: Julia Bernesser
Maddie Dombrowski
Nursery: Trish and Terry Tuite
Lector: Bob Burkhart
Counters: TBA

FEBRUARY 12

Ushers: Trish and Kaitlyn Tuite
Earl Fugh, Earl Zinsser
Acolyte: Lexi Henning
Nursery: Keith and Alisa Braho
Lector: Vera Harencome
Counters: TBA

FEBRUARY 19

Ushers: Edna Zimmerman, Laurie Eichhorn
Maria and Jimmy Bush
Acolyte: Sydney Schmitt
Nursery: Courtney and Kaitlyn Tuite
Lector: Linda Henne
Counters: TBA

FEBRUARY 26

Ushers: Claudia Conte
Vic, Karen and Maria Zacchero
Acolyte: Christian Henning
Nursery: Rafelin O'Dell
Lector: Glenn Kunard
Counters: TBA

MARCH 4

Ushers: John and Carol Koedel
Lee and Kelly Henning
Acolytes: Ashley Matesic,
Anniston Bieri
Nursery: Jennifer Egan, Brittney Harencome
Lector: John Koedel
Counters: TBA

Thank you....

From: Charles T. Lockwood, President and the children and staff of Glade Run Lutheran Services

Thank you for your participation in the Glade Run Lutheran Services Christmas Angel Program. Your support and generosity has made a difference in the lives of so many individuals.

May this new year hold many blessings for you and your loved ones. Many thanks for your continued prayers and contributions.

A HUGE Thank You to all of those who kept Bread of Life Food Pantry in their thoughts over the past holiday season. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all and has helped to feed many. Wishing you only Peace and Joy in the New Year. Thanks and see you tonight!

Sandy McDermott

Bread of Life, Volunteer Coordinator

Dear members of Emmanuel,

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift for our family, which was a delightful surprise! The money was a blessing for us and certainly helped to make our holiday times a bit more festive. May God bless you and your family throughout this new year.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jennifer, Jeff, and Peter McCurry

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP:

All are welcome! Please bring \$2 each time to contribute to costs of food and entertainment.

-Thursday, February 2, 1-3 pm:

Rev. Scott Bryte, ventriloquist

-Thursday, March 1, 1-3 pm:

Program TBA

Prayer Requests

Emmanuel joins in prayers of thanksgiving at the birth of Parker Emerson Long in January 2012. He was 7 lbs. 6oz. and 18.5" long. We will welcome him in the waters of baptism on Sunday, February 12, 2012.

Please pray for the Wolfinger and Hill families at the death of our member, June Hill, who died on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

Sharing Our Old Hymnals

The Lutheran Church in Liberia has been using the old, red *Service Book and Hymnals* for their worship services. They are hoping to transition to using the newer, green *Lutheran Books of Worship*.

Emmanuel's leadership has decided that our unneeded *LBW* hymnals should be a blessing to other Christians around the world. We will keep around 30 hymnals for use during Lent. Otherwise, we hope to donate what remains!

From **Sunday, February 5–Sunday, February 12**, our *LBW* collection will be downstairs in the social hall. If you would like a copy for your personal use, you are welcome to take one at that time.

Meals on Wheels:

Baked goods for the Elfinwild Presbyterian Meals on Wheels are due the first Sunday of the month. Please place your items in the hallway from the side entrance door. Thank you!

Council Notes:

- *Proposed budget passed by Council
- *Office Equipment: copier, needed for Church Office.
- *Evangelism Committee will be recruiting non-council members to serve on this committee
- *Alternative giving program was a success.
- *St. Afterschool Program is being explored to start up in 2012-2013.
- *CPR classes: date to be announced.
- *Committee to meet regarding Constitutional amendments.

Update Your Contact Info!

We have many incorrect phone numbers at our church office, which makes it hard to call you!

In the December Advent letter, all members of Emmanuel should have received a blue card with the invitation to update contact information. Extra cards are also available in the church narthex. Please fill out a card with your information, even if you think that we have it already. We may not!

This will help us be ready for the new church directory, which we will be producing in the spring. Thanks for your cooperation!

**WILLIAM J. WOLF MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Scholarship is available for undergraduate and graduate students of the Lutheran denomination residing in Allegheny County. The award will not exceed \$5,000 per year for four years. Renewal of the scholarship will be contingent on maintain a good grade point average. Completed applications should be submitted by April 1, 2012. Please contact Deborah L Turner, Scholarship Coordinator of the Pittsburgh Foundation at 412-394-2649 or email turnerd@pghfdn.org for more information or an application.

THE MILLVALE CLINIC

Free legal advice which is sponsored by the law firm of Dickie McCamey and Chilcote, PC which meets at Christ Lutheran Church in Millvale, is available by appointment only, the first Thursday of the month between 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Potential clinic clients, please call our dedicated line at 877-239-2745 and leave a message.

Stay at Home Mission Work Camp 2012

** Article reprinted from the January Synod newsletter.*

Christ Lutheran Church of Millvale, St. Mark Lutheran Church of Brookline, Trinity Lutheran of Gibsonia, and other Lutheran folk are sponsoring a stay at home mission work camp beginning Sunday, June 24 (6:30 pm) thru Friday, June 29 (ending early afternoon). Participants will eat and sleep at Christ Lutheran Church during that week. Participants will work on homes of elderly and low income people to make them more livable and secure. We invite adults and youth (those who have completed 6th grade to 12th grade). The camp fee is \$75.00. Please contact Pastor George Mendis at 412-821-4300 or email clc@clcmillvale.comcastbiz.net with questions and to procure registration materials. Registration is limited to 60 work campers and is due by Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

facebook

Connect with our congregation on facebook! Get reminders about what's going on and invite friends easily. Go to Emmanuel's website home page (www.elcetna.org) to find links to both our church and youth facebook pages.

**Lutherlyn's Woodland Quilters
Quilt Shows**

The Woodland quilters will be having 2 quilt actions with all proceeds going to the Campership Fund, so that Lutherlyn can keep its promise that every child can attend camp!

The first auction will be held at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8070 Rowan Road in Cranberry Township on Saturday, March 3 starting at 5pm (potluck dinner). The second auction will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran on Mt. Roayl Blvd. on Sunday, March 18 starting at Noon (lunch is \$3.50). For additional information, please see flyer in the side entrance hallway or see John Jeffries.

Did you miss worship Sunday?

Go to our website (www.elcetna.org) to read the sermon or be reminded of upcoming events!

French Toast Breakfast

Sponsored by All Saints Music Ministry

will be on Sunday, February 19th at All Saints Activities building. Breakfast will be served from 9 am to 1 pm. The menu will consist of Texas size French toast, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, juice or milk. Cost for adults is \$6.00 and children are \$3.00. Tickets will be available at the door and proceeds benefit the Parish and Music ministry.

Mission on the Mon

Mission on the Mon is a week-long Christian neighborhood immersion experience in McKeesport, Pennsylvania for youth, filled with mission projects in the local community, exposure to innovative ministries in the area, and plenty of fun, including nearby Kennywood Amusement Park.

All youth going into grade 9 through having completed grade 12 in Fall 2012 are invited to apply. Cost is \$140 per person, due June 1st. Early bird registration, due April 1st, is \$125. Some financial aid will be available.

There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the side entrance hallway or speak with Pastor Jennifer with any questions.