



EMMANUEL MESSENGER

Volume 20, Number 1

January 2010

We Celebrate the Season of Epiphany

The season of Epiphany is a time when we witness the manifestation of God in Christ Jesus. Over these next several weeks (January 10 – February 14) we will hear of how Jesus is the Son of God on earth. It is also a time when we celebrate light – both Christ as the light of the world who came to overcome the darkness of sin and evil, and how we are called to be “little lights” in the world reflecting the glory of God and sharing Christ’s love with the world.

In our baptism, we are claimed by God as God’s beloved children. Therefore, we are called to let our lights so shine that others see our good works and give glory to God in heaven. During this season of Epiphany, we will remember this baptismal call and look at how we can live out our baptism in our lives today. With Christ as our guiding light, we shine forth Christ’s love to our world today!

January 9 & 10 – We see the glory of God in Jesus as he is claimed as God’s Beloved Son in his baptism. We are reminded that we are claimed as God’s beloved children in our baptism and find new life and forgiveness. As we renew our baptismal vows, we are strengthened for service in the world.

January 16 & 17 - Theme: The glory of God is found in Jesus as he turns the water into wine. This is the first of many signs of the manifestation of God in Jesus. The glory of God is found in celebration as Jesus saves the best for last, brings joy out of despair, and inaugurates a new day. We become the manifestation of God any time we celebrate the new life we have in Christ.

January 23 & 24 – As Jesus visits his hometown, he shares how he is the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah. The glory of God is found in healing, reconciliation, and being set free from the bondage of sin and evil. We become the manifestation of God whenever we bring reconciliation, peace, and healing to others.

January 30 & 31 - The glory of the Lord is found in good news and inclusion of those on the outside. The glory of the Lord is found in those who bring good news to build up all of God’s people up.

February 6 & 7 – The glory of God is found in ordinary people doing extraordinary things. When we are willing to go with God into deeper waters, amazing things can happen as we become the manifestation of the power of God. God can work miracles in all of us, not just the wealthy and mighty.

Feb, 13&14 - Transfiguration of our Lord– Service of Healing and Wholeness

Theme: The glory of God is found in Jesus as he is transfigured on the mountaintop. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets, and brings hope and healing in desperate situations. Although we get a glimpse of the splendor of Jesus on the mountain, he still comes down to go the way of the cross to reveal the true glory of God as he gives of himself for the redemption of the world.



NEW BUILDING POLICY.....

After checking out the rental policies of other churches in the area, our Church Council approved a new policy for Emmanuel. Beginning January 2010, anyone using our building will be requested to pay a \$25.00 Holding Fee - members as well as outside groups. This Fee will be returned if the area being used is left clean and set up as it was found. If the group is on-going, the Fee can be rolled over to the next meeting provided the space is left clean, etc.

If you are interested in using a room in the building, you need to call the church office during business hours (Mon-Fri, 10-5), then the space can be reserved on the office calendar. Once it's on the calendar, there will need to be a form filled out along with the \$25.00 check (made out to Emmanuel) and turned in to the church office before your event.

Also, being on the calendar assures that you will have heat (or AC). You are also responsible for your own set up since our custodian only works part-time. If you need a special set up you can contract with him directly.



NEW FLOWER CHART

The 2010 altar flower chart is posted on the hallway bulletin board. More than one person/family can sign up for each Sunday and an arrangement will be ordered for each person signed up. Arrangements are \$17.00 each. When families sign up, it helps defray the cost to the church.

Emmanuel Lutheran Gifts and Skills Inventories

We are beginning to compile the many Gifts and Skills Inventories that people have filled out over the past several weeks. This will allow us to know what ministries our members are active in as well as those ministries people may have new interest in becoming part of. We will begin to contact people after the first of the year for any new interests in ministry activities through Emmanuel. Thank you for your cooperation!

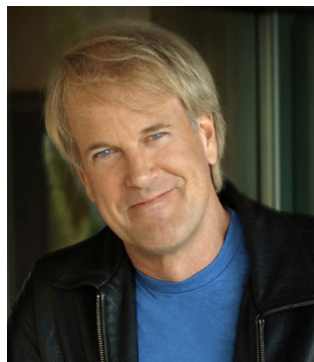
If you would still like to fill one out, they are available in the gathering area by the display "WHERE DO I FIT IN?". Please take time to fill one out!

Picture Directories To Arrive After 1st of the Year

Our new picture directories for Emmanuel will not arrive for Christmas as we had hoped. We ran into some problems with the roster printing out correctly and we want to make sure the directory is as accurate as possible. This has delayed things a bit, so we expect to get the new directories sometime in January. Sorry for the delay!!

Celebrate our 75th see John Tesh in concert

Lutheran Social Services' 75th anniversary celebration will continue into 2010, with a gala Diamond Celebration concert featuring Christian pop musician John Tesh January 29 at 8 p.m. The concert will take place at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road (near Haggerty) in Livonia.



Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each. VIP tickets, which include a reception from 6 to 8 p.m., a

silent auction and preferred seating, are \$75. [To purchase tickets, visit our secure Web site](#) or call Anita Jones at (313) 823-7983.

Annual Sub Sale! It's that time of year again. The youth will be taking orders for sub sandwiches during Sunday mornings on **January 17, 24, and 31**. They will be freshly made and ready to pick up on Sunday February 7 (Super Bowl Sunday). The cost is \$5.50 per sub or 3 for \$15. Place your orders and get ready for a great Super Bowl!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 9th - 7:30 AM

The next Men's Breakfast will begin a discussion and study entitled "**A Man and his World**". The study will be led by Dan Putman. It will focus on topics such as work, children, marriage, money and others. This will continue for several months and should prove to be an interesting topic. The meeting runs from 7:30 to 9:00 AM.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

EMPHASIS OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY "Grow Your Faith"

Several of our members have or are currently attending universities, colleges or seminaries in preparation for work within the church. Recently, Judy Cook and Bruce Nieman have taken classes to prepare to preach and lead worship in the church; Lorah Finkenbine is pursuing an undergraduate degree in religious studies. There might be others of you who are still in the praying and thinking stage. As a congregation, we would like to support these folks financially as they pursue their education. It is important for the student to know they have the support, financially and otherwise, of "the folks back home." But it is also important because most of the time, the jobs or careers they are pursuing are not particularly high paying jobs and student loans can be a big burden once they graduate. During the month of January, our "Emphasis of the Month" is the "Grow Your Faith" fund. This fund was established several years ago to help those pursuing religious education of various types. Funds are distributed based on the council's discretion. Please prayerfully consider supporting this fund!

Psyanky anyone??



In January there will be a sign-up to learn and practice a new creative skill – psyanky. Psyanky is an Eastern folk art, practiced in the Ukraine for generations. Pysanky are made with real eggshells and decorated in the technique akin to batik. Christian, geometric and floral symbols are applied with melted beeswax using a tool called a kistka. Eggs are dipped into successively darker dye baths. At the end, the beeswax is melted off to reveal the colorful shell and your unique and beautiful creation.

Traditionally psyanky are made during Lent culminating as gifts of gorgeous and significantly decorated eggs to family and friends. Katy Koskela will be holding some classes with opportunities for one or two small groups (of 10 each, age teen - adult) to get together learn about and practice psyanky. If interested, you will have an opportunity on the sign-up to indicate what days you prefer to meet with the goal of meeting at least once a week during Lent. Each session will last a maximum of 2 hours. Cost of the basic kit to start is \$6.50. **In order to come to any of the successive classes, you must attend an initial instruction class.**

When: Lent – beginning week of Feb. 17,
How many classes: For 6 weeks until Easter on April 4th

Day of week to meet: To be determined

Where: Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Cost: Initial cost of \$6.50 plus at least 1 blown egg per session

Living Water Ministries Camp Opportunities!

There are many opportunities for attending camp either at Stony Lake or Michi-Lu-Ca this summer 2010. Check out their website at www.elcalivingwater.com for more information on specific camps and registration forms. Camp is a wonderful experience for all ages (3rd grade through adult) and it is a fantastic time

to be in God's creation. Discount rates apply if you are registered and paid in full by Feb. 15 or April 15, so don't delay! We also have camp scholarships available. Talk to Rebecca if you have questions.

Elementary Camp opportunity this summer: We have a few elementary age children who are attending Stony Lake Camp this summer June 27-July 2. Perhaps you may be interested in having your child attend that same week along with others from Emmanuel. Rebecca and Pastor Walt will also be at Stony that week for Confirmation Camp. Talk with Rebecca for more information or check the Living Water Ministry website at www.elcalivingwater.com.

NO FOOD ALLOWED – Please do not take food outside the Fellowship Hall without adult or staff supervision.

Our custodian is only part time (ten hours a week), and needs ALL our help in maintaining our building. Not only do we want to preserve it for our own members, but we want to present a clean and inviting space for our visitors. Thanks for your help.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jennifer Brukoff, Karen Saylor, Allison Potter
- 2 Chuck Wendt
- 5 Katy Koskela, Stephanie Radloff
- 6 Sally Miller, Heath Stilwell, Rachel Saatio
- 7 Stephen Dickinson
- 8 Caitlin King
- 9 Dawn Acosta, Morgan Waters
- 11 Kim Love,
- 12 Laura Blickle
- 13 Diane Luoto, Dan Carpenter, Nathan Baumgartner, Larry Ripple, Elizabeth Scupholm
- 15 Emily Baumgartner, Mark Love
- 16 Jessica Shaker
- 20 Connie Kotrba, Cheryl Phillips, Sharon Courter
- 21 Katherine VanLoke, Casey Kotrba
- 25 Noah Cook
- 26 Zachary Obsniuk
- 27 Preston Currie
- 30 Christopher Miller, Wilhelmine Rometsch, Lindsay Kotrba
- 31 Judy Sieron, Emily Denn, Linnea Schulz

CONGREGATION VOTE

The congregation voted to approve the 2010 Budget proposal. The voting results are as follows:

118 – Yes

6 – No

6 - Abstained

Total voting: 130

Thanks to everyone for your work in developing the budget for this next year and also for those who were able to assist with the presentation and voting. A special thanks to Alan, who did a great job in putting the budget sheets and presentation together.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Thrivent Financial Congregational Coordinators for this past year for all their support. Thanks to Jan Watkeys; Dan Putman; and Carol Niemi.

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Is a good way to find out important issues and events impacting our church and provides stories that educate, inspire and nurture faith. For information on how to receive this magazine call 1-800-328-4648 or visit the web site: www.thelutheran.org. They also put out a magazine for children called "The Little Lutheran" for children age 6 and under.

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Homebound: Blanche Berry, Edna Mansfield

CANCER CONCERNS:

Members: Barb Heien, Bud Luoto, Bill Norman,

Family Members: Norma Gerzac (aunt of Ed Caram); Nelly Erneta (mother of Pattie Schaefer); Trudy Schaefer (sister of Betty Orr); Jerry Neese (father of Judy Cook); John Chalfa (Craig & Lynn Leach sister-in-law's father); Karin Stachowski (sister of Cheryl Phillips); Kelly Hill (sister of Megan Waters); Kurt Andy Wilder (uncle of Jake Bietzel)

Friends: Beth Flory (friend of the Graff Family); Torri Hoard (friend of Tony Amann); Joyce Rhinehart (friend of Bud & Diane Luoto); Paul Hooper (friend of Bud & Diane Luoto); Denise Grote (friend of Bud & Diane Luoto); Leslie (friend of Jim Messineo); Christine Salata (friend of Sue Dickinson); Joyce Powers (friend of Diane Plath) breast cancer; Judy (friend of Lois Scupholm); Pam (friend of Lois Scupholm); Dave Navarre (co-worker of Fran Gee); Gloria Lagrant (friend of Fran Gee); Lora (neighbor of Linnea & Robert Schulz); Maryann (friends of Linnea Schulz).

OTHER MEDICAL CONCERNS

Bob Guezen (son of Marge Guezen) new treatment for neuropathy; Greg Frohriep (son-in-law of Larry & Sue Ripple) vision problems just had 3rd eye surgery; Lois Graeff (niece of the Rajala's) heart attack; The Lindsay Family (friends of Fred Abel); Michelle Quinn surgery; Tom Waters knee surgery; Joey Dauer, pain; Rena Koskela (Dave Koskela's mother) back surgery; John Snowden (co-worker of Dave Koskela) hurt in hunting accident; Shelly Courter (sister-in-law of Lesley Courter) unknown medical problems; Bob Ottenhoff (step father of Sara Barth) recovering from heart surgery; Joan Messineo (Jim Messineo's mother) dealing with cancer. Dustin Mott (nephew of Bob Mott) personal issues; Bill Clinansmith (Marge Guezen's daughter-in-laws' brother) cancer; Lora Dixon (friend of Linnea Schulz) surgery for returning cancer; Sharon Jackson (friend of Katherine VanLoke) surgery for breast cancer; Donna Dunn (sister-in-law of Ed Caram) possible heart attack; Erin Backus (friend of Toni Patterson) colon surgery; Dan Edwards (Carole Edwards son) up coming medical tests; Fran Sulak (friend of the Kotrba's) surgery; Becky Enderlen surgery on carpal tunnel and recovery, Joey Dauer hospitalized with infection.

Our Sympathy to:

The family of Tina Banach on the death of her grandmother; The family of Resi Richter on her death; The Mussat family (friend of Carole Edwards) on the death of their mother/grandmother; The family of Robert Green (friend of Kim Love) on his sudden death; The family of Raymond Martin (cousin of Ed Martin) on his death; The family of John Chalfa (Leach's brother's in laws) on his death; The family of Jerry & Julie Lopez (friends of Abby Edwards) on the death of Jerry's father; The family of Louise Souave (friend of the Kotrba's) on her death; The Pengrum family (students of Diane Plath) on their mother's death; The family of Joe McInerney (uncle of Cheryl Phillips) on his death; The family of Frank Bassett (friend of Lorraine Renaud) on his death; The family of Sarah Lyon (sister of Patty Graff) on her death; The family of Father Ferens (pastor of St. Colette's Catholic Church) on his death;

PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME OF THE CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESSES HAVE CHANGED:

Pastor Scott Sessler: **PastorScott@emmanuel-livonia.org**

Pastor Emeritus Walt Dickinson:

PastorWalt@emmanuel-livonia.org

Judy Cook: **judy@emmanuel-livonia.org**

Rebecca Couser: **youth@emmanuel-livonia.org**

Laurie Davis: **laurie@emmanuel-livonia.org**

Marilyn Kramer: **marilyn@emmanuel-livonia.org**

General Office: **office@emmanuel-livonia.org**

"ADOPT" A ROOM AT THE WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY CENTER

The Wayne County Family Center, a ministry of Lutheran Social Services, provides a temporary home for 24 families. Our center is filled with love, but it needs refurbishing. We need to replace the worn furniture in each family room. New items have been selected that are durable, practical, safe, and attractive. Floor coverings, window treatments, fresh paint and pictures for the walls will make this a real, livable home. We need some "angels" - individuals or congregations - who will adopt and refurbish a room at the center. It will cost \$3,600 to \$5,400 to fully renovate each of the 24 rooms. Smaller donations will help us renovate the communal spaces, including the dining room, TV room and library. For example, a gift of \$300 will buy a new round dining table. A gift of \$100 will purchase a high chair that meets current safety standards. Visit the center and see our sample room. Call Jennifer Richard, director of Major Gifts for Lutheran Social Services, at (248)763-7914, and tell us how you can help.

LEND A HAND - SEND A FOSTER CHILD TO COLLEGE

Foster care is a heartbreaking reality for many Michigan children. Each year 500 youth age out of the Michigan foster care system when they reach 18 years of age. They are now on their own. How many of our 18-year-old children could make it alone? More than one in five of these youth will become homeless at some time after age 18.

Lutheran Social Service manages the Michigan Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program for the State of Michigan. More foster care youth than anticipated are applying for vouchers, so there is less money per student. We can award up to \$4,000 for a full time student and \$2,000 for a part time student. The average cost of college for a year is \$26,250 for a full-time student and \$12,000 for a part time student, so the voucher doesn't cover all costs.

Decide today to lend a hand and make a gift to one of these foster care alumni. Or think about adopting a teen in foster care. The gift of adoption can change a life forever. For more information call (877) 660-METV (660-6388). To make a gift send your check to Sonia Bankston in Development at 8131 E. Jefferson Ave, Detroit, MI 48214, or call her at (877) 259-6369.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER POSITION -

Sunday Morning Coordinator - Emmanuel is looking for one or two individuals who might be willing to help us out on Sunday mornings. Since our Christian Ed Director may not always be on-site, one or more individuals are needed to help out with collecting offering and attendance sheets, monitoring classrooms, assisting teachers as needed with supplies and/or copies, ensuring staff presence, general managing, etc. If you can lend a hand, please see Judy Cook or sign up on the bulletin board.

---NEW ADULT CLASSES COMING in JANUARY---

Principles for Daily Living – A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES - Pastor Scott will be leading a bible study on the book of James on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM starting January 6 and ending February 10. This 5-week course will explore the practical implications for Christians in their every day life as we strive to live out our faith. The book of James covers such topics as partiality, humility, taming our tongues, works and faith, seeking wisdom from above, and other relevant principles for those wishing to live out a life of faith. We hope you will join us! Please sign up on the bulletin board at church, or just show up to the first class on January 6.

Below is a weekly description of the bible study:

January 6 (chapter 1 of James)

- Introduction to the book of James (author, date of writing, context)
- Viewing trials and temptation as opportunities for growth
- The importance of seeking goodness and wisdom from above
- The importance of humility, listening, and being slow to speak and anger
- Being doers of the Word and not just hearers

January 13 (chapter 2)

- The dangers of showing partiality
- The importance of showing mercy
- Faith without works is dead and the importance of action in addition to words

January 20 (chapter 3)

- The impact of our words and being able to bridle the tongue

- Seeking godly wisdom and peace instead of disorder through envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition

January 27 (chapter 4)

- The danger of coveting what others have and unbridled passion leading to wars and strife
- Being exalted by humbling ourselves before God
- The danger of arrogance and unjustly judging our neighbor

February 3 (no class)

February 10 (chapter 5)

- Learning to be patient and steadfast in faith
- Being a person whose word is credible
- The importance of prayer and confession in our lives
- The importance of seeking out those who have strayed

MAKING SACRIFICES - The Cost of Discipleship,

begins Sunday, January 3, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. It may come as a shock, but the Bible says that the Christian life requires sacrifice and suffering. Being a true disciple of Christ means taking up our crosses daily and sharing in Christ's suffering. But it also means experiencing profound JOY! These 7 lessons are designed to lead us to a better biblical understanding of sacrificial living. The cost of the participant book is \$7.00. Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

“Coffee Break” Women’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study – Our next study session begins on **Wednesday, January 13th** at 9:30 a.m. The group will be reading, studying, and discussing the book *“If You Want to Walk on Water, You’ve Got to Get Out of the Boat”* by John Ortberg. The book focuses on how deep within each of us lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, “Come”? John Ortberg invites us to consider the incredible potential that awaits us outside our comfort zones when we trust in him. Women of all ages and stages are invited to join us. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many books to order. The cost of the combination Book & Participant Guide is \$24.00. (Book only is \$16.00, Participant guide is \$8.00). Participants may also purchase the books online from Amazon.

“Two on Tuesday” from UPLIFT

THE BOOK OF ROMANS - Tuesday Evenings at 7:00, beginning January 5, 2010. This class will be held at Holy Cross in Livonia, and led by Pastor Dana Runestad. This class will explore St. Paul's letter to the Romans through historical, literary, devotional, and Lutheran theological perspectives.

Sign up on the bulletin board. Topics will include:

What must I do to be saved? Romans 3:9-31

Saved by Grace...Isn't that too good to be true?

Romans 5:1-11

If what I do doesn't save me, does it matter how I live? Romans 6:1-23

Where is God when we suffer? Romans 8:18-39

How can I keep from singing? Romans 10:1-21

What does God want from us? Romans 12:1-21

LISTENING FOR GOD, Tuesday Evenings at 7:00, beginning January 5, 2010. Class to be held at Holy Cross, Livonia

led by Joyce Olivier. This class will explore American literary foundations for faith from Stephen Crane to Mark Twain. Joyce will provide an introduction through the spectrum of R. Neibauer and Henry Fairle. Then, the class will read and discuss one or more of the following stories each week:

-*A Small Good Thing* by Carver

-*A Visit to Grandmother* by Kelley

-*The Rocking Horse Winner* by Laurence

-*Change* by Worwode

-*I Stand Here Ironing* by Olson

-*A Good Man is Hard to Find* by O'Connor

-*Revelation* by O'Connor

-*Sucker* by McCullers

-*Sunrise on the Veldt* by Lessing

-*Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?* by Oates*

Joyce Olivier, AB, MA in Language and Literature, is a long time Holy Cross member who recently retired after forty years of teaching with great distinction. In 1987, she received the Presidential Distinguished Teacher award and was named "Teacher of the Year" in 1995 by the Archdiocese of Detroit Western Vicariate. We are grateful Joyce is sharing her gifts with us!

JANUARY 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Bowling, 5:45pm, Drake Shire Lanes	4	5 Cub Scouts, 6pm (FH) Stephens Ministry, 6:30pm (Grace)	6 Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Hope) LOLT (NA), 7pm (FH)	7 MOPS, 9:30am Bell, 6:15pm & Choir, 7:15pm (Sanctuary) RFA, 6:30pm (Library)	8	9 Men's Breakfast, 7:30am Dickinson, 10am (FH & Narthex) Worship, 5pm
10	11	12 Livonia. N & F, 7pm (FH)	13 Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Hope) LOLT (NA), 7pm (FH)	14 MOM'S, 10am (FH) Bell, 6:15pm & Choir, 7:15pm (Sanctuary) RFA, 6:30pm (Library)	15	16 Worship, 5pm
17 Youth Group, 6pm (Youth room) Bowling, 5:45pm, Drake Shire Lanes	18	19 AAUW, 7pm (FH) Stephens Ministry, 6:30pm (Grace)	20 Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Hope) LOLT (NA), 7pm (FH)	21 MOPS, 9:30am Bell, 6:15pm & Choir, 7:15pm (Sanctuary) RFA, 6:30pm (Library)	22	23 Lesley Courter, 12pm (FH) Worship, 5pm
24 Youth Group, 6pm (Youth room)	25	26	27 Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Hope) LOLT (NA), 7pm (FH)	28 Bell, 6:15pm & Choir, 7:15pm (Sanctuary) RFA, 6:30pm (Library)	29	30 Worship, 5pm
31 Youth Group, 6pm (Youth room) Bowling, 5:45pm, Drake Shire Lanes						

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 34567 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152
 Pastor Scott Sessler – 248-442-8822; Pastor Emeritus Walter Dickinson – 248-442-8822 & 734-464-6635 (h)
 Dorothy Trent, Music Director - 313-537-1394; Valorie McCune, Contemporary Worship Leader
 Laurie Davis, Secretary; Marilyn Kramer, Secretary – 248-442-8822
 Judy Cook, Parish Ed Director, 248-442-0307; Rebecca Couser, Youth & Family Ministry Director
 Travis Nixon, Treasurer; Nursery Attendant: Colleen Bonner, 9:00/9:30;
 Part-time Custodian, Bill Boone
 e-mail address: office@emmanuel-livonia.org ; Website: www.emmanuel-livonia.org
Worship schedule: Saturday, 5pm; Sunday, 8:00 9:30 and 11:00; Sunday school 9:30.

