

### Worship

#### **Sunday, February 24, 2013**

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Amy Nyman

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Special Music: Earthen Vessels

#### **Sunday, March 3, 2014**

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Amy Nyman

Gospel John 7:37-39

Special Music: Emmanuel Choir, Mark Bond-Flutist, Linda Longardner

#### **Sunday, March 10, 2014**

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Amy Nyman

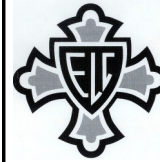
Gospel: Mark 2:4-12

Special Music: Earthen Vessels

#### **In this Newsletter:**

- \* Message from Jack Ream, Cong. President
- \* 2013 Congregation Council
- \* Call Committee Update
- \* Lenten Subs & Scripture
- \* Tuesday Morning Spiritual Journeys
- Movie Matinee and Community Events

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# THE MESSENGER

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 24 2013

***Deadline for the next newsletter: March 10, 2013***

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Annual Meeting on January 27th. The congregation approved reports of the President, Treasurer, Church Council Committees and the Church Staff as well as the 2013 Budget of \$375,155.00. In addition, members of the congregation were elected to serve in various capacities:

Church Council Representatives:

Karen Ream Buchen, Malinda Helge, Fred Johnson,  
Tim Park, Ross Stern, Jennie Sparks and Bobbie Walter

Nominating Committee:

Linda Aldana, Donna Anderson and Fran Hamm

Audit Committee:

Jeff Benson, Kathy Humphrey and Gary Peterson

Lay Voting Representatives at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly:

Lou Ann and Harlan Johnson

The congregation also voted to become a Reconciling in Christ church, affirming our long-standing vision of being "a safe and healing spiritual community for all who come, regardless of economic conditions, race, sexual orientation or spiritual struggle." Even though this was a difficult and emotional issue, an open and frank discussion was held with many expressing their point of view. Those who spoke, did so from their hearts, which may have made this the most extraordinary conversation ever heard in this church.

The Reconciling in Christ Task Force has been reviewing the evolving history of this issue and has prepared a report that can be found inside the newsletter.

In writing about Emmanuel's early years, 1895 -1902, Mrs. Florence Paulson noted, *"We cannot help but sense the struggles that the congregation was going through. But still, Emmanuel was advancing, slowly and steadily, making its influence felt in the growing community."*

And so, as we continue to move forward doing God's work, we honor our ancestors by not giving up, no matter how difficult the issues may seem. Remember, with God, all things are possible.

Your Friend in Christ,  
Jack Ream, Council President

### **Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee has been meeting regularly and working diligently to call the perfect pastor for Emmanuel. We are in continual contact with the Northern Illinois Synod to consider any candidates whose names and profile papers they may give us. We have placed an ad in the Christian Century magazine and their online publication to extend our search nation-wide. We are also following up all suggestions and leads given us by friends or members of Emmanuel. If you have any further questions or possibilities for us, please contact any of the Call Committee members. We appreciate your prayers and support as we work for Emmanuel's future.

Karen Van Howe (chair): kvanhowe@comcast.net 815-962-5296  
Linda Aldana: gordoloba63@sbcglobal.net 815-222-9331  
Jonathan Chell: chelljonathan@yahoo.com 815-332-3741  
Terri Hotek: terrilu52@comcast.net 815-222-9488  
Gary Peterson: garypeterson9@sbcglobal.net 815-399-1981  
Catherine Rennert: cathy.rennert@gmail.com 815-968-1157

### **Subs & Scripture with Pastor Amy Nyman**

"Stations of the Heart" - Wednesdays at noon during Lent

All are welcome. Free-will offering.

You are invited on a special journey during Lent!

As a congregation, we will be using Stations of the Heart by Herbert Brokering to guide our daily devotional practice and forge our conversations at our Wednesday noon lunch meetings during Lent (formerly known as Soup 'N Scripture).

Stations of the Heart is a powerful Lenten journey that guides readers along forty-seven stops of faith to find rest and gain vision to believe the hope of God. Each of the stations represent places common to us in our daily lives, and the devotions are written as conversation and prayer with God. This journey focuses on forty-seven scripture readings taken from the book of Psalms where people of faith wrestle and petition, praise and plead in their faith walk. Stations of the Heart devotional guides are available on the counter in the church office.

*Subs & Scripture is sponsored by Adult Education and Worship & Music.*

### **Assisting at Worship in March:**

**Altar Guild:** Peg Burns, Merry Tassoni

**Lectors:** Feb. 24: Marianna Kunkel

March 3: Matt Hamp      March 10: Jennifer Olson

**Ushers:** Ross & Dannette Stern

**A big THANK YOU** to the Caring Connections for the lovely flowers and birthday card. It is so nice to be remembered on my 95th birthday with Sue Scott bringing communion to me. God bless you.

Phyllis Lynn

### **Auditor's Report - February 2, 2013**

#### **Church Council - Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

#### **Treasurer and Finance Committee**

We have audited the cash records of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. In our opinion, the financial reports present fairly the operating results for the year ended December 31, 2012. The examination of the reports included such tests of records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary.

Fred Johnson

Milton Johnson

### **Matching Grant Extended**

Thrivent has extended the matching grant until March 31, 2013. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE MATCHED BY HALF OF THE AMOUNT GIVEN THROUGH THE THRIVENT MATCHING GRANT. Our Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from Thrivent. This is a matching funds grant. Any donations made to these ministries up until March 31st will be matched \$.50 from Thrivent for every dollar donated. Please give as you are able. No gift is too small. It will add up quickly. Bless you, Emmanuel, for your generosity and support.

**For more information on events at Emmanuel: please visit our website at [www.EmmanuelLutheranRockford.org](http://www.EmmanuelLutheranRockford.org)**

### **2012 Report of the Youth Group**

The E.L.C. youth Group consists of a small group of 3 to 6 high school aged youth. We meet three to six times a month. Most Sundays we have “Soul Talk”. We say a prayer and or do a meditation, light a candle, and sit in a circle. We take turns speaking from the heart and listening to each other. We then close with prayer and proceed to do some sort of playful activity, and or share a meal.

We also take trips together. This year we went skiing at Christmas mountain, and went on a spiritual retreat, camping on the Wisconsin river. The new trip was a great change of pace. We plan on alternating trips between the Wisconsin River and Luther Village every year. Both places are ideal for getting away from daily routine, and focusing on our spiritual journey.

Each year we help serve Emmanuel and the community. We helped serve Emmanuel in 2012 by working in the soup kitchen, collecting food for the food pantry, and odd jobs around the church. Community service is mostly done through E.L.B., by providing a consistent place where young musicians can perform and be enjoyed by their peers.

The E.L.C. youth group is a unique sanctuary in Rockford, enjoyed by many generations. I have been very honored to have had the opportunity to nurture and watch adolescence grow into adults, as well as share times of great joy and great defeat. This age group is one of the toughest, emotionally, to be in. I take great joy in being able to provide just a little nook of sanctuary, and am thankful to be able to grow and learn with all who have participated in the group.

In 2013, we hope to once again build a committee, and continue to build the group, as well as welcome in our 7th and 8th graders. We are always looking for help, and visitors are welcome. We meet at Emmanuel every first three Sundays. stop down or contact me at 815-670-4764 or [luciora4@yahoo.com](mailto:luciora4@yahoo.com)

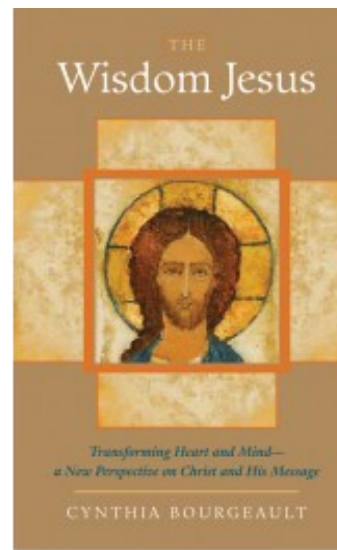
May you all find peace and passion this year.

Lucio R. Aldana,  
Youth Coordinator

### **Symbols and Their Uses**

I would guess that the average person has little knowledge about symbols and their power and use even though every one of us in every culture in the world is clearly affected by a barrage of symbolism every day of one's life. We are both inspired and victimized by symbols. Millions of people wear a cross identifying themselves as followers of a first century prophet, teacher, and elder brother. The same wooden symbol burning on the lawn carries a completely different, threatening message meant to create fear and intimidation. The swastika in ancient times was symbol of the sun and the four directions of the world until a twentieth century dictator chose it for a symbol of the Nazi Party in fascist Germany and all that organization represented. Join us for a discussion group with Reid Ferguson at Emmanuel on Wednesday, March 13th, 7:00pm. All are welcome.

### **Tuesday Morning Spiritual Journeys**



The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind--A New Perspective on Christ and His Message  
by Cynthia Bourgeault

If you put aside what you think you know about Jesus and approach the Gospels as though for the first time, something remarkable happens: Jesus emerges as a teacher of the transformation of consciousness. Cynthia Bourgeault is a masterful guide to Jesus's vision and to the traditional contemplative practices you can use to experience the heart of his teachings for yourself.

Books will be available to you in the Office or from Ruth Ann on Tuesday mornings. Price: \$11.50. (Please write checks to Ruth Ann Molyneaux.)

Tuesday Morning Spiritual Journeys  
meets weekly at 9:30am  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 920 3rd Avenue,

## 2013 Emmanuel Lutheran Congregation Council

### Officers and Committee Chairs

Pastor Amy Nyman

Jack Ream	President
Andrea Mahan	Vice President & Children's Ministry Chair
Rich Lundin	Treasurer & Finance
Bobbie Walter	Secretary
Malinda Helge	Member-at-Large
Terri Hotek	Worship & Music
Fred Johnson	Finance & Stewardship
Tim Park	Adult Education
Karen Ream Buchen	Membership
Jennie Sparks	Publicity
Ross Stern	Building & Grounds
Kathlyn Wright	Outreach



Join us in the Celebration room for an afternoon Movie.  
Pop will be provided. If you have a snack you would like to share, feel free to bring it!

February 24th, 4:00pm Movie is:

"Lord, Save Us from Your Followers"

Why is the Gospel of Love Dividing America? Filmmaker and follower Dan Merchant donned his Bumpersticker Man suit and set out across America in this funny and moving look at the collision of faith and culture. Hosted by Mathew Hamp.

*\* if you'd like to host a movie in the coming months, please talk to Mathew Hamp for scheduling.*

Next Movie Matinee is scheduled for Sunday, March 24th at 4:00pm  
TBA ( What is your favorite Jesus in film?)

## "Crosses: Symbol & Form"

Calling all artists and collectors! Art@Emmanuel invites you to display your artwork in an upcoming show at Emmanuel during Lent.

"Crosses: Symbol & Form" will be a collaboration of new work from artists and pieces from private collections, including favorite small personal items used for prayer. Art@Emmanuel hopes to include a variety of work, in many mediums, from a wide variety of artists and collectors. Your participation is greatly appreciated! (Participation forms are available in the church office.

**Feb. 25: (Monday)** Drop off/due date for artwork/crosses, by 4:00pm.

**March 3:** Opening Reception for "Crosses: Symbol & Form" after Sunday worship.

**March 31:** Easter Sunday-- take home your crosses.

Call Andrea 815-298-3881 for more info.

## SOUNDS FROM THE SANCTUARY - 2012-2013 CONCERT SERIES

Michael Thomas Crisostomo Hey in concert. March 3, 3:00 P.M.  
Michael Hey currently studies organ at The Juilliard School in the class of Paul Jacobs, chairman of the department and recent Grammy award winner. A full-tuition recipient in his fourth year, he has been accepted into the highly selective Accelerated B.M./M.M. program. He serves as Assistant Organist at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in Manhattan. His official New York City debut came in November 2010 at Lincoln Center when he performed a Handel organ concerto with the Juilliard Orchestra. Concert at First Lutheran Church, 223 S. Third St., Rockford. Everyone is welcome. Free will offering. Questions, call 815-962-6691.

**A weekend retreat for post-abortion healing is scheduled for March 8-10, 2013 at the STRONGHOLD Retreat and Conference Center in Oregon, IL.** RACHEL'S PEACE is the interdenominational version of Rachel's Vineyard offered in Northern IL. The retreat offers hope and healing to any woman or man who has experienced an abortion. Visit: [www.rachelspeace.com](http://www.rachelspeace.com) or [www.facebook.com RachelsPeace](http://www.facebook.com/RachelsPeace) for more information.

A donation of \$150 includes room, meals and retreat materials. Partial scholarships are available. Participation is strictly confidential.

For more information or to register contact:  
Catherine Rennert at 815/968-1157 or email  
[cathy.rennert@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.rennert@gmail.com)

## **Emmanuel Lutheran Church - March Birthdays**

March 1:	Shirl Reed	March 15:	Dannette Stern	March 23:	Jeff Birch
	Miriam Ring	March 17:	Gloria Brown	March 24:	Don Heckelmiller
March 3:	Karissa Swope		Ann Downie	March 25:	Judith Lord
March 8:	Matthew Campbell		Helen Parnaby	March 27:	Ellie Laesch
March 11:	Marianne Kunkel	March 18:	Matthew Kromm	March 28:	Ebin Koerner
	Catherine Rennert	March 20:	Chris Lundin	March 29:	March Hoffman
March 13:	Phyllis Sio	March 21:	Raeanne Cutler	March 30:	Craig Beiersdorff
March 14:	Paula Fitzpatrick	March 22:	Bobby Moseley		Sally Susan

## **March Baptismal Birthdays Celebrated on March 10, 2013**

Phyllis Babb	Jeanne Lindberg	Lisa Novak
Jennifer Butler	Roberta Lindley	Georgia Nygren
Raeanne Cutler	Richard Lundin	Clara Roose
Lydia Fleming	Zachary McIntyre	Debbie Roose
Susan Gilbaugh	Tennes Morris IV	Will Smardo
Kristi Hoerres	Bobby Moseley	Paula Stahl
Bev Hoff	Jason Nelson	Bobbie Walter
Rachel Laesch		