



SERVICES

6:30pm - Family Service

9:30pm - Reflective Service

Seasonal music selections will be played for

15 minutes prior to each service.

No communion will be offered.

The Emmanuel Spirit

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

150 N Hanover St.

Pottstown, PA 19464

610-323-4312

Office Hours: M-F, 9am– 12:30pm

namesakelca@verizon.net

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Pottstown, PA

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Emmanuel Spirit

December 2015 Issue

150 N. Hanover St. Pottstown, PA 19464

(610) 323-4312 (office)

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-12:30

Greetings Emmanuel Faithful,

We bring to you the Advent Newsletter with tidings of great joy and love. One question though- do we know what Advent means? The definition of the word states clearly: Noun- The arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. There you have it. Therefore, as we travel through this celebration, what do you think of, or about?

We spend a lot of time looking for just the right gift to give to others whether spouses, significant others, children, co-workers and friends. We look to make that gift special and meaningful. Sometimes we will spend a great deal of time and money to find that present.

This is also a time of anticipation for Christians. Throughout Advent, we focus on society and concerns of the early church and Jesus' birth. It too was a difficult century with many worries. What amazes me is that it was in such circumstances that God chose to come into the world. God gave us the greatest gift and that was His Son. God gave us the gift of forgiveness and salvation. Jesus was born and lived so that he could offer himself as a sacrifice of love, the ultimate act of forgiveness. What a special gift we were given.

In the midst of our shopping for that special gift for our special someone, I would like to encourage all to reflect on what it means for us to receive Jesus as a gift. Imagine the perfect gift being to seek out someone and to share forgiveness. You see, it is to no longer hold onto past hurts, but to share the love Jesus commanded us to share with one another.

We may also think about the stewardship series that Emmanuel just completed. What is your spiritual gift? What have you been blessed with so that you may be a blessing to others? What part of your time, talents, and treasure were you able to give back? Though, I urge you to realize that with all this said- because God has already blessed us and chosen to be with us, to be for us, it is in Jesus that we can trust that God will do it again. God will not leave us alone. God will not let sin and suffering go on unchecked. God is working to make all things new. God longs for the world to be set right. God will do it. That is the Good News of Christmas, and that is the Good News for which we hope and yearn for each Advent.

So, this season, join us in praying this simple prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus." Pray for God to come into your life, accept Him into your heart, into our community, and into our world. When faced with brokenness, we absolutely need Jesus Christ to make it right. Join us this Advent and Christmas Eve to celebrate the Good News that God has answered prayer, and gives us exactly what we need.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Reverend Phillip Waselik

A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Will you despair or inspire?

On All Hallows Eve, when I saw that first ‘holiday’ commercial, heard the first Christmas carol and noticed that the first of the holiday programming was on television, I couldn’t help but flash back to that image of good old Charlie Brown standing on stage in the Peanuts’ Christmas special. Thoroughly exasperated with what is going on around him, he screams out, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?”

Don’t we all, at times, get that frustrated and/or fed up with all the ‘noise’ that nowadays surrounds what is supposed to be a holy occasion?

Whether we consider it too early for Christmas songs and shows or not, they are being played. Regardless of our thoughts concerning holiday sales and decorations, they are all around us. There are some who are more focused on revenue than on the revelation of a savior. There are times when it seems no one is focused on the true meaning of Christmas. Instead of despairing, respond. Each of us must serve as Linus Van Pelt to the world’s Charlie Brown. We must step forward, take center stage and tell the story. With the good news of Jesus’ birth as our security blanket, it is up to us to turn the clamor of commercialism into a choir of angels.

How will you respond this season? How can you show Christ to a world in need? Emmanuel has many and varied ministries. Become an active part of God’s mission. Share your gift, your time, yourself. Find or start a group to pray with or study scripture with. Spend some time in service to Emmanuel or one of the many groups with whom we are associated. Inspire others through your actions. Witness to the overwhelming love of God.

Your brother in the work of Christ,

Stuart Earl Bowman, Council President



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need men or women, young or old, to share their talents and time in worship duties. Each week a group of folks just like you assist Pastor Phil in making our services meaningful. Duties include: GREETERS, USHERS, LECTORS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, MONEY COUNTERS, and ALTAR GUILD. Please contact June Newman or the Church Office if you wish to help serve during 2016.

Good Gifts Catalog Shopping

The holiday shopping season has begun. There are so many wonderful gifts to buy. Your son or daughter will think you are so thoughtful for buying them a goat or cow that they don’t have to feed! We have catalogs, gift cards, and order forms in the Genesis Room. Please let us know if you purchase a gift. We want to keep a chart of our success as we improve the lives of a poor village.

I hope you have found something in the catalog to purchase. From ten dollars, to a community fish farm, you have so many choices. We would like to hear from you when you buy, or give a gift to someone. With all the disasters around us, we need to share. Our needs are small compared to the floods, fires, wars, and earthquakes we hear about every day. Blessings to you with your purchase. Extra catalogs, cards, and order forms are in the office if you need them.



COMMUNITY MEALS

By Dawn Varady

Community meals are served Monday through Friday at various locations all year round. The Pottstown Cluster put together this program and asked for churches to volunteer to cook and host the meals. Emmanuel has been fortunate to be a part of this mission. The clients who come for the meal are very thankful and express their appreciation to all the volunteers. Many friendships have been formed from the conversations and socialization that take place every week. Anyone who would like to share in the joy of this adventure, please check the schedule located on the bulletin board in the hallway and sign up to come out and help when you can.



W.E.L.C.A.

By Barbara Daub

Currently our members are planning to visit our shut-ins between December 1st and Christmas. In addition to friendly conversation, we will also provide little treats and an handmade decoration. We are also planning to go Christmas caroling with our church congregation on Friday, December 18th at 6:00pm.

Elizabeth and Gladys Circle meet the third Tuesday of every month at 9:30am at the church. Sara Kepner Circle meets the third Monday night of every month at 7:00pm. We have four combined circle meetings a year with speakers or doing projects.

Our year round projects are: Books for the children ages 4-18 years at Martin Luther Springs, glasses (not sunglasses) for people in Central America, and cell phones for abused women. Please place your donations in the containers marked in the corner of the Fellowship Hall.

Our groups here at Emmanuel are also part of the Southeastern PA WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference group. This larger group has Bible studies the first Tuesday of each month. Refreshments are served at 9:30am and the Bible Study begins at 10:30. The following are upcoming events:

- **December 1**—"Special Advent Gathering" Study from December issue of *Gather*. Sheila Specht, devotional leader. Meeting at The Pennsburg Diner.

There will be no Bible Studies in January & February, 2016.



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES in 2015

Welcome our newest members to Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Through baptism we received:

Austin Smola, son of Stephen and Mandi Saylor Smola
Margaret Louise Ramirez, daughter of James Ramirez and Jessica Cahill
Alexander DaCosta Ramirez, son of John Ramirez and Ana DaCosta
Parker Lucy Saylor, daughter of Bryan and Kristen Saylor
Abby Gail Summerfield Gerhart, daughter of Timothy and Kelly Stanley Gerhart
Reece Davenport, daughter of Christopher Davenport and Jordan Crosby
Aryanna Davenport, daughter of Christopher Davenport and Jordan Crosby

Through transfer we received Keith Hampton, Jr

We mourn the loss of:

Elizabeth Millard
David C Rotz
Betty L Pollock
Charles R Fisher

Bertha Quay
Emily Pauline Kerr
Susan A Marinari
Janet F Stetler

Donald Miller
Eric S Fazekas
Pauline Grow

OTHER NEWS ABOUT EMMANUEL

The music series has its kick off on December 6th at 3pm with the Community Music School in collaboration with Emmanuel's music program with Lessons and Carols. Beginning in March we will host at least one concert each month. A schedule will be released soon, along with a mailing. This is an exciting time for Emmanuel. Please join us.

Emmanuel has a rich history, and Christian Education is a mainstay. For that reason we are excited to re-establish Sunday School and create both a Men's and Women's Bible study. All classes meet at 9:30am. For more information, please contact the pastor. We are also looking for a volunteer to serve as a Director of Christian Education.

Our building is a busy place most days into the evening. We provide space for Chosen 300 Ministries to host a meal, fellowship and support on Tuesdays and Saturdays for those less fortunate in our local community. ARC Alliance provided a music program for developmentally delayed preschoolers and their parents on Thursday mornings. They will be returning in January for another 10-week program. PEAK and the Pottstown School District hold their monthly meetings here to promote an on-going dialogue to improve the education of our local children.

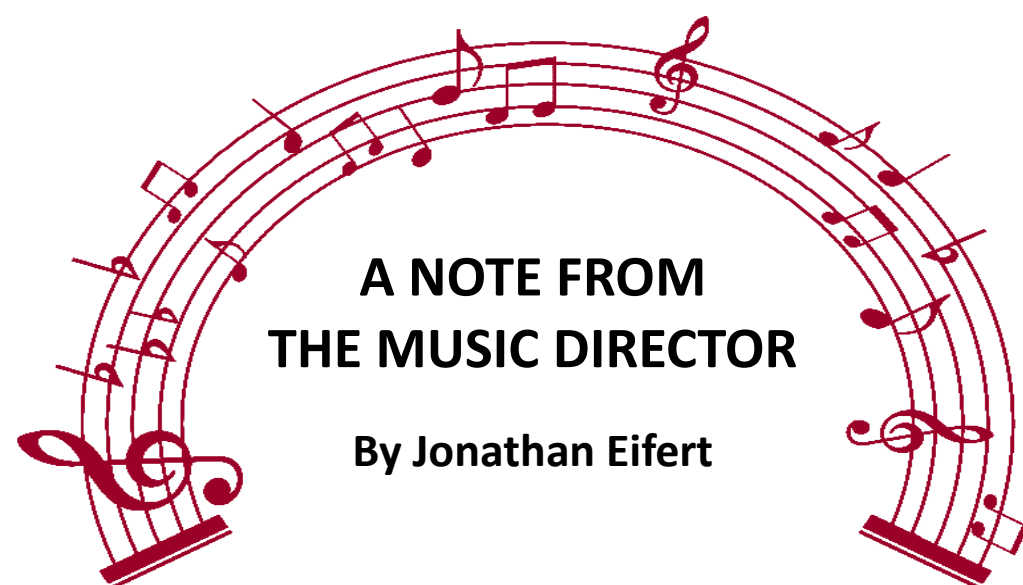
PLEASE JOIN US!



FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST will be December 6th. This new opportunity to meet and share will begin at 7:45AM and end at 10:15AM. A variety of egg dishes and breads will be served. The usual breakfast beverages will be available. Come before the Contemporary Service and stay for Sunday School. Or come in time to have breakfast before Sunday School and stay for the Traditional Service. The January breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, January 3rd.

THIRD SATURDAY FAMILY ACTIVITY NIGHT will be December 19th. This is an intergenerational activity. If you are 102 or 2 years old join us at 6:30PM to 8:30PM for a fun evening. We will watch *The Polar Express*. Kids, young and old, are invited to wear their pajamas. Refreshments will be served. TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE IF NECESSARY. Invite your friends and family to join the fun and fellowship. Another FUN event is planned for January 16th.





A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

By Jonathan Eifert

The music program continues to evolve at Emmanuel in exciting new ways. One of the largest changes is the re-launch of the concert series. Pastor Phil is a great visionary who has installed this musical programming back into our cherished sanctuary. We have several concerts planned throughout 2016 that will be announced in due time. This December, however, we are very pleased to showcase our partnership with Community Music School. They will present a special Lessons & Carols concert on Sunday, December 6th at 3 PM. The afternoon will feature student musicians performing Christmas music interspersed with a reading of the Christmas Story and singing traditional carols. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10. If you would like to attend but cost is an issue, please speak with Pastor Phil.

If you would like to participate in music lessons at Emmanuel through our partnership with Community Music School, please call their office at 610-489-3676. Music lessons currently offered include piano, voice, guitar, violin, viola, bassoon, clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, euphonium, and tuba.

Our beloved soprano chorister Toni Marie Palmertree was awarded the Adler Fellowship from San Francisco Opera this fall. She will embark on a two-year journey of intensive operatic training at one of the most prestigious opera houses in the world. We wish her continued success in her journey to become one of classical music's great vocal treasures. We are proud of her accomplishments and of course, we will miss her greatly!

The Bell Choir is back! After our performance on Easter Sunday this year, many of you desired to hear the bells for Christmas. I hope to see you all on Christmas Eve for an evening filled with beautiful music to celebrate the birth of Christ.

If you ever have questions about the music program or would like to request a particular piece/hymn/song, please let me know or email me at jonathaneifert@gmail.com.

News from Community Music School



Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 3pm
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
150 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown,
PA

Tickets \$10 at the Door



Community Music School and Emmanuel Lutheran Church will present a Lessons and Carols Concert at Emmanuel Lutheran located at 150 N. Hanover Street in Pottstown, PA. This concert is sure to usher in the holiday spirit with seasonal readings and carol singing peppered with musical performances by CMS students. Pastor Philip Waselik will lead the spiritual lessons and Music Director, Jonathan Eifert will lead the congregational carol singings. CMS' piano faculty member Seth Trumbore will provide glorious organ music throughout the program. The CMS Children's Choir and Suzuki Academy will perform as well as a trumpet ensemble, string quartet, and faculty trio.

Tickets are \$10 at the door or available through Community Music School at their location in Trappe, PA or by phone at 610-489-3676. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Pottstown Cluster to receive \$1 off the cost of admission.

CMS welcomes Bob Schwanger for our Pottstown and Trappe Locations

Bob Schwanger has been a private clarinet, saxophone and flute instructor for over 30 years in the Boyertown, Pottstown, Twin Valley and surrounding areas. He's a 1976 graduate of Bloomsburg State College. He has played lead clarinet in the Boyertown Alumni Band for nearly 40 years. He especially enjoys playing jazz tenor sax in the Sunnybrook Jazz Band. He also plays with the O'Such Rhythm and Music Band and has been active in worship groups locally. His students have participated in many local school bands and jazz bands; as well as Inter-County, County, District and State concert and jazz bands. Some of his students have become members of the Penn State Blue Band, Temple University Bands and other college music groups. He enjoys working with students of all ages. Currently their ages range from nine to seventy-two. He also enjoys teaching all styles of music.

