

# A Note From Pastor

As we begin a new year together in Christ, I encourage you to renew your commitment to growing through the study of God's Word. This month we will begin several new Bible classes and even if you haven't been a regular in Bible study in the past, this would be a great time to jump in and get involved.

On Sunday mornings our schedule looks like this...

## **Christ-Centered Parenting**

Raising Kids of Character (Part One): This class will run for four weeks and began on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Raising Kids of Obedience (Part Two): This class will be held for six weeks beginning on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Both of these classes will be led by professional Cross Connections counselor Terrie Ensley and will meet in Room 4 in the lower level of the school on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15.

## **Lutheran Christianity**

This class is designed for those who would like to learn or review the basic teachings of Christianity. This 12-week course provides a great opportunity to ask your questions in a non-threatening and open environment. Lutheran Christianity meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 in Room 5 located in the lower level of the school and is led by Pastor Thomas Eggold and Mr. Don Hille.

## **An Introduction to Hebrews**

Hebrews focuses on Jesus Christ as the perfect Savior from sin and the total answer for every need. The author urges us as children of God not to sit down or slide backward but to stride forward on the trail blazed by Christ. It picks us up when we are discouraged and provides us with the incentive to travel in this life with Christ. This ongoing study will meet in the Brandt Hall Meeting Room and is led by Jim Croxton and Mike Ritzman.

## **Selected Psalms**

Pastor Brunow will lead this group in the exploration of many well-known Psalms beginning with Psalm 23. This study began on January 4<sup>th</sup> and meets in the Sanctuary from 9:15-10:15.

## **Faithful Stewards**

This class is led by David Schinbeckler and is held in the Faculty Meeting Room next to the Activities Center. Visitors who would like to inquire about this study are welcome to come to this class.

**Portals of Prayer Study**

This study is led by Matt Konow and meets in the school Conference Room next to the Welcome Center

**Love and Respect**

This is a marriage enrichment DVD series by Dr. Emerson and Sarah Eggerichs that meets in Room 5-6 in the lower level of the school. This series is led by Jake and Dawn Schmidt and you are encouraged to join them at any time during the series with or without your spouse.

**The Following Bible Classes Meet During the Week:****Women's Study of Proverbs**

Director of Administration and Congregational Care, Lana Hille leads these women's groups as they explore the Book of Proverbs. The first group meets on Mondays from 6:30-7:30 a.m. and another on Wednesdays from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the Brandt Hall Meeting Room

**The Gospel of John**

This Bible study will look at the second half of John's Gospel using the Life Light Series. This class will be held on Monday evenings in the Brandt Hall Meeting Room from 5:30-7:00 p.m. and is led by Pastor Eggold and Pastoral Assistant Tony Booker.

**Romans**

On Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Brandt Hall Meeting Room, Pastor Gene Brunow will lead a study group on this book that is foundational to Lutheran Theology.

**Men's Bible Study**

This group meets each week to study and discuss the readings to be used in worship the following Sunday. Pastor Eggold leads this study on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Brandt Hall Meeting Room.

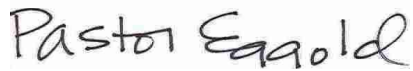
**"The Power of the Praying Wife"**

Michele Kausch and Jean Light each lead a study group on "The Power of the Praying Wife." Jean's group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Brandt Hall Meeting Room. Michele's group meets on the first and second Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Faculty Meeting Room located next to the Activities Center.

God promises that in His Word He works faith, delivers forgiveness and empowers us to live lives that reflect Christ. As you set resolutions for a new year, the regular study of His Word needs to be at the top of your list. Consider God's promises about what He does

through His Word (Isaiah 55:11) and look for ways to keep Scripture at the center of your life.

In Him,



Pastor Thomas A. Eggold

## EMMANUEL'S MINISTRIES

### **CAREGIVING** Phyllis Tittman, Deacon

*We seek out those in need and respond with the healing love of Christ.*

**Crisis Fund**—This fund was established several years ago by the Ranke sisters to help those in need. We are so pleased to share that the response to supplement this fund due to significant needs this fall was overwhelming. We have been able to replace the borrowed principal and add to the available assistance. Many thanks to our Emmanuel family.

**Cup of Kindness**—Collection boxes can be found near all the entrances to the sanctuary. The money collected is matched by The Lutheran Foundation and then given to Lutheran Social Services to be shared with families who have crisis needs. Several of our own families have been helped by this fund. Please share your quarters or dollars as you are able.

**Food Bank**—During January we would like to restock our *cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, pasta and pasta sauce, canned juice, canned soups, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, hand soap, and toilet paper*. Our food bank is open every day to our members, and for those in our neighborhood, the food pantry will be open **Thursday, January 15th** from 4-6 p.m. Many thanks for your generous contributions to our food bank over this past year!

**Grief Support** will meet at Casa's on Fairfield at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 15th. For reservations please call Esther Miller, 422-0859 or Mary Louise Spice, 432-1210.

## **Parish Nurse Notes**

**Blood Pressure Screening**—A nurse is available to take blood pressures this month at church on **Wednesday, January 14th**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., **Sunday, January 25th**, 9:15-10:15, or stop by Lana Hille's office any weekday.

**Making Decisions After Your Diagnosis**—Learning that you have a health condition can leave you feeling angry, lonely, and frightened. You may grieve the loss of your health or independence. But you're still in control. Research shows that people who are more involved in their healthcare tend to get better results and be more satisfied. Consider this advice:

- ◆ Don't go alone—seek out the support of family and friends. You also may find strength in a support group.
- ◆ Become your own disease expert. Learn about treatment options and what you can do to manage your illness. For example, you may be able to change the course of your condition by putting an end to unhealthy habits. Look for information that's based on a careful review of findings published in medical journals.
- ◆ Make your doctor your ally. Your doctor can help you set goals and develop a treatment plan for better health.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** Michele Kausch, Deacon

*We provide all ages with an environment for comprehensive Christian education and continuing spiritual growth.*

### **Concordia Lutheran High School**

**Concordia Lutheran High School**—Check out CLHS's web page at [www.clhscadets.com](http://www.clhscadets.com) or call CLHS at 483-1102 for more information on the events listed below.

Nostalgia Night will be held on Friday, January 23rd, during the boys' basketball game against the Snider Panthers. This year the Alumni will honor Concordia girl and boy soccer participants that were All-SAC, All-AREA and above, and any team that made it to sectionals or above.

For the second year, the CLHS Bands have partnered with *Spike and the Bulldogs* for a special fundraising event. This event will help raise funds to support the endowment for instrumental music students wishing to attend Concordia, to purchase new musical instru-

ments, and missions. Make plans to attend this second annual event on Saturday, April 25th at the Pine Valley Country Club. Tickets are \$25 each and will be on sale at the school beginning Jan. 12th for Concordia families and open to the public Feb. 2nd. For more information, contact the CLHS Music Department at 260.483.1102 ext 198.

Ring in the New Year with savings at Concordia's Thrift Shop January 16th-24th. Stop in for their Buy One, Get One FREE (some exceptions may apply) sale. Be sure to pick up a CLHS Thrift Shop Punch Card. Each \$10 purchase of any merchandise at any visit receives a punch. After five punches, you receive \$5 off your sixth purchase. The shop is located at 3436 N. Anthony Shopping Center and shop hours are Monday, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## **Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School News**

**Kindergarten Open House/Registration—“*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it*”** Proverbs 22:6. At Emmanuel-St. Michael, parents have a wonderful opportunity to reinforce the Christian values that are being taught at home by taking advantage of the Christ-centered education available at our school. To find out more, plan now to attend the Kindergarten Open House/Registration on **Wednesday, January 28th at 7:00 pm at 2131 Getz Road**. Another meeting will be held on Thursday, February 26th. Plan now to attend one of these meetings and discover the excellent academic opportunities provided within a caring Christian environment at Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School.

## **Preschool/Daycare Ministry**

**Happy New Year!! Merry Christmas!!** We will begin the new year in preschool and daycare by celebrating Christmas! Due to a “snow day” the last school day before Christmas break, when all the children return on January 5th, we'll celebrate Jesus' birthday with a Christmas party! It might sound a little strange at first, but actually is a good reminder that we can always thank our Heavenly Father for the gift of His Son, Jesus. We can begin the new year and each new day knowing that we are God's forgiven children because Jesus died on the cross and became alive again for us. We pray that you, too, can have the same kind of excitement about Jesus' birthday that our little preschoolers have as you begin 2009.

**Volunteer Opportunity**—If you find that you have some extra time on your hands this winter, the Preschool and Daycare are seeking volunteers to help take care of our little ones. Volunteers could read to the children, help supervise on the playground or in the gym, assist during lunch periods, tell Bible stories, or help with art projects. You could volunteer just one time or on a continuing basis, if you wish. Spending an hour or two with

the children can be so rewarding—for them and for you. Please call 423-1369, extension 340, if you are interested. Thank you!

**Items of the Month**—For January, we are asking for donations of juice or stickers. The donated items can be placed in the Preschool/Daycare box located in Brandt Hall. Thank you so much!

## **Lutherans for Life**

**LIFE SUNDAY**—Donations of baby items (new or gently used) are being requested for the baby shower that will be held on Life Sunday, January 18th. These items along with the baby quilts will be dedicated during the church services and then will be sent to Russia and our own local pregnancy centers. The donated baby items can be placed in the basket located in Brandt Hall under the LFL bulletin board.

**Immediately following the 10:30 service on Life Sunday, an *authentic Russian dinner* will be served in the school cafeteria. Reservations are needed if you plan on attending the dinner and you can do so by signing up in Brandt Hall. A freewill offering will be asked to help cover the cost of the meal.**

## **FAMILY MINISTRY** Catherine Peterson, Deacon

*We strengthen families through Christ-centered spiritual, social, and intergenerational activities, equipping them to be faith builders in their homes.*

**Couples Club**—Our **JANUARY** event will be an informal evening with Pastor Tom and his wife Sonya on Saturday, January 17th. We will enjoy an evening of story sharing, engaging discussions and getting to know each other better. You are encouraged to start the evening with the 5:00 pm Worship Service in which Jacob and Sarah Pennekamp will be giving a personal testimony on the Sanctity of Life. We will then move to the Activity Center for a chili dinner. Feel free to bring a salad or dessert to share. We ask that you **register by January 12th**. Childcare will be available by registering.

**Couples Club**—Our **FEBRUARY** event is geared towards all you **CHOCOLATE LOVERS!** Our Couples' Club would like to invite all Emmanuel adults to join us as we will be touring DeBrands Fine Chocolates at 10105 Auburn Park Rd. on **Saturday, February 7th** at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at DeBrands, take the tour, receive several samples and then you can purchase a yummy snack afterwards. The cost is \$5 each which gives you a \$5 gift certificate that can be used that evening toward any \$10 or more purchase. Remember, this is one week before Valentine's Day! You will need to sign-up in the Brandt Hall as we need to give them a final count. **Registration deadline is Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Fall Festival**—\$1,200 (part of monies raised from Fall Festival, 2008) was put in the “Ranke Fund” (Crisis Relief Fund) which in turn will be match by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**Garden Update**—Hundreds of spring bulbs were planted this fall by Paul Bircheff, and perennials will be planted in the spring. Thank you to all who have given donations towards the matching funds for this project.

**Hall’s Community Partnership**—If you don’t have an Emmanuel card, pick one up at the entrances to the church and in Brandt Hall. Remember to use this card for your holiday purchase at any Don Hall’s establishment. 5% of your bill is returned to Emmanuel. Thanks to all of you who use your Partnership Card!

**Moms and Tots**—We would like to invite all Moms and their preschoolers to our monthly Moms and Tots Playgroup held on January 28th. We meet in the Activity Center on the 4th Wednesday of each month for fellowship and playtime. Playgroup goes from 9:00—10:30 a.m. No reservations are needed, just come to the Activity Center on the upper floor of our school building.

**Senior Lunch Bunch**—John Homrig, Board member of the Alzheimer Association, will be our guest speaker for our **January 20<sup>th</sup>** Lunch Bunch. His topic will be “Maintain Your Brain”. This promises to be a very interesting presentation. Please sign-up in Brandt Hall or call the church office at 423-1369. **Reservation deadline is Wednesday, January 14.** Cost for the meal is \$6.00. Reservations are required.

**Women’s Fitness**—If one of your goals for 2009 includes fitness, consider joining Angie Miller in the gym every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15-9:00 a.m. She leads a fun class which includes flexibility, strengthening and core exercises. Angie works with all levels, those of us who are in good shape and want to maintain and those of us who have decided that 2009 is the time to get serious about changing our bad health habits. Class began on Tuesday, January 6th. Try it out!

## Youth News

**A Celebration of Marriage Dinner**—Emmanuel’s Senior High Youth would like to honor couples in our congregation married 25 or more years. We invite you to bring your Valentine for an evening of fellowship, dining, and music on Saturday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Center. RSVP by signing up in Brandt Hall or call the church office at 423-1369 by February 1st. Thank you.

**Emmanuel Member Andrew Pratt**, a student at Purdue University, was initiated into Beta Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi on September 19, 2008. Beta Sigma Psi is a national fraternity for Lutheran college men that emphasizes spiritual, scholastic and social excellence among its members which number over 8,000 collegiate and alumni members around the world.

**Senior Youth Calendar—9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Graders**

**Sunday, Jan. 18th** 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sunday Night alive (SNA ) in the Activity Center

**Junior Youth Calendar—7th and 8th Graders**

**Sunday, Jan. 18th** 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sunday Night alive (SNA ) in the Cafeteria

**OUTREACH** Tony Booker, Deacon

*We equip, train and empower all members to  
share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

**Meet our New Members**

**Harold “Ben” and Joan Davis**—Ben is self employed with “Ben Davis Chevrolet” located in Auburn, In, and Joan is employed with Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn. Ben and Joan enjoy golf, traveling and reading. They spend October through May in their home in Florida, and June through September in their home in Auburn. Ben and Joan have eight grandchildren ages 6 through 25, 4 boys and 4 girls, four of which have attended Emmanuel-St. Michael School and three who have or will be graduating from Concordia Lutheran High School.

**Alton and Emilie Fox** are both retired. Alton enjoys NASCAR, football and Fox News and is a lifetime volunteer. Emilie enjoys reading, raising house plants, and classical music and she also does some volunteering.

**Jason and Melynda Hoffman** have five children, Joshua, 13, Matthew and Brooke, 9, Lyndi 8 and Tessa who will soon be seven months old. Jason is employed with Inve-tigo and Melynda is a homemaker. Jason enjoys playing the guitar, bass, keyboard and accordion, recording music and woodworking. Melynda enjoys aerobics and scrap-booking. Joshua plays the clarinet, loves computer programming and Legos. Matthew loves to play outside, skateboarding and measuring things. Brooke enjoys choir, drama and playing the piano. Lyndi enjoys art, drama and playing the piano. Both girls love to play Barbies, take pictures, play with the baby and are homeschooled. Tessa rolls over and likes to play with her feet.

**Stephen Lewis** is employed with Haller & Colvin, P.C., and he and his wife, Elaine, enjoy their summer home in Coldwater, MI, travel and spending time with family.

**Emily Policinski** is employed with the Fort Wayne Neurological Center and is also a full-time student at IPFW to complete her Bachelor's degree in general studies.

**David Price** is employed with Canterbury School and enjoys literature and philosophy.

**Luke Starnes** is the husband of Emmanuel's Music Director, Rochelle, and they have an eighth month old son, Nicholas. Luke is a full-time student and enjoys golf, paintball, darts, pool, ping pong, swimming, camping and building projects around the house. As a family they enjoy traveling, swimming and camping.

**Marshelle Wudy** is the wife of member Jon Wudy and they have a two year-old son, Ethan. Marshelle is a homemaker and enjoys outdoor activities, winter and summer, cooking, reading and singing. As a family they enjoy spending time at the lake in the summer or in Michigan in the winter, car rides and vacations.

## **STEWARDSHIP** Jake Schmidt, Deacon

*We respond to God's grace, by teaching an awareness of God's gifts to each of us and instilling a desire and commitment to use these gifts in his service.*

### **We Thank God For...**

...the recent gift from Orby Hurless, in memory of his wife, Lucille, who was taken home to heaven on February 22, 1997. Orby and Lucille would have celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 24th.

...the faithful stewardship of Marcille Burtch and Betty Twist who were recently honored by Wellspring (formerly West Central Neighborhood Ministries) for their long-standing service to this West Central social services agency.

### **From the Board of Stewardship and Missions—“Wait Until Next Year!”**

Ernie Banks, a former Major League star shortstop, played his entire career (1953-1971) with the Chicago Cubs. During his career he was selected to the All-Star game eleven times, named the League's Most Valuable Player two times and .in 1977 elected into Baseball's Hall of Fame on the first ballot. Two of his more famous nicknames included “Mr.Cub” and “Mr. Sunshine.” During his long career the Cubs never won a world championship, but at the end of each season of his great career he would say, “Wait until next year!” When that next year came around Ernie would play each game with excitement

and enthusiasm. His catch phrase was, "It's a beautiful day for a ballgame...let's play two!" The world championship never came, but that did not dampen Ernie's excitement and enthusiasm for life and for baseball. Ernie was playing the game for more than a championship; he enjoyed the game for the game's sake.

Perhaps when we were reflecting on our many failures and shortcomings as we moved toward the end of 2008 we may also have been saying to ourselves, "Wait until next year." Well, whether or not that was the case, it is now the "next year!" With God's help we can look forward to 2009 with the same kind of excitement and enthusiasm that Ernie Banks displayed year after year. That's possible because of the assurance of forgiveness we have as a result of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. The past is gone, a new year has come and we can move forward with enthusiasm and excitement because God's Holy Spirit is within us to help us to will and to do those things that are evidence of our being the children of God.

As God's redeemed stewards we look forward to this new year of grace and the many opportunities to use all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. It is helpful for us to remember that we live out our stewardship in cooperation with and encouragement from our fellow redeemed stewards. We are never in this work alone. While it is true that our stewardship is a personal response to God, it is always to be lived out within our community of faith, specifically our congregation. Perhaps we can have the same spirit and enthusiasm that Ernie Banks had for baseball but instead of saying, "It's a great day for a ballgame...let's play two," we can say "It's a great year for being God's stewards, let's do twice as much!"

May God bless us as His redeemed stewards and help us throughout this year to freely and joyfully serve Him and His kingdom with all that we are and have. **Source is LCMS Stewardship Resources**

## **WORSHIP** Justin Arkkelin, Deacon

*We provide opportunities for God's love to be communicated to people of all ages through his Word and Sacraments, in a variety of inviting and appealing worship forms.*

**Wednesday Evening Services** will **NOT** be held until Ash Wednesday, February 25th. Please note this change and during the next six weeks please join us for one of our week-end services.

**A Huge Thank-You to** all the people who put in special rehearsal hours in preparation for our Christmas services. The services went wonderfully and were made special for many by the music that was shared. Thank you for offering your talents.

**Sanctity of Life Sunday**—Through what is called the Russia Project, Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne has helped the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church establish an independent seminary in Novosibirsk, Russia. Pastor Pavel Khramov is a graduate of this new seminary and was ordained in 2001. He is currently earning an advanced degree at our seminary here in Fort Wayne, focusing on Lutheran Theology. Pastor Khramov plans to speak and show a short video on the Pregnancy Crisis Center in Novosibirsk, Russia that was established with the help of a grant from Lutheran World Relief and Human Care. He will share the particular plight of Life issues in Russia that still suffers the consequences of 80 years of communist atheism, both spiritually and economically. Don't miss this opportunity to find out how Lutheran World Relief is helping to provide compassionate care around the world for those struggling with Life issues. **Rev. Khramov will be speaking in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 18th, at 9:15 a.m.**

## Thank You

“We are grateful to all who sent cards, prepared food, encouraged us with their words and kept us in their prayers during this difficult time. A special thank-you to Pastor Tom and Pastor Brunow and the beautiful choir for their messages of comfort and reminders of God's promises of eternal life.”

### **The Family of Victor Stein**

“To the Emmanuel Staff and Family,

Thank-you to the entire staff of Emmanuel for your visits, prayers and devotions during my recent stay in the hospital. Also thanks to members of Emmanuel for your prayers, cards, visits and transportation provided to Georgia and me. Until one spends several weeks in the hospital, you don't realize how much these things mean. I realize that I was back in the hospital in August before I wrote a thank-you for my hospital stay which ended in June. So please accept this thank-you for both of my hospital stays this summer and fall.”

God's blessings to all of you,

**Harold Rieck**

“During the announcement that I was retiring, things said by Pastor Tom and Barry Light made me feel I was really appreciated during my 25 years here at Emmanuel-St. Michael School. I have really enjoyed working here, and will continue a few hours a day for the next three years. I also want to thank Emmanuel for the gift card.”

God bless,

**Barry Doege**

## Church Attendance

Week of November 23rd—505  
Week of November 30th—849  
Week of December 7th—618

Week of December 14th—1,555  
Week of December 21st—316  
Week of December 28th—1,489

## Birth

Kaitlin Blair Anderson—December 9, 2008  
Emerson Kate Schoenefeld—December 11, 2008  
Caleb Mitchell Clapper—December 16, 2008  
Ryan Thomas Merker—December 23, 2008  
Thomas J Bay—December 26, 2008

## Official Church Acts

<b>Child Baptism</b>	November 29th	Aaron Felix-Lee Koa Cory T. Taing
	November 30th	Madison Keli Smith
	December 13th	Mayce Ann Bieberich
<b>Buried</b>	December 2nd	Alvin Buuck Gabriel Shelton
	December 3rd	Victor Stein

## Memorials

Al Buuck	Emmanuel Church	\$ 245.00
Floyd Hafft	Emmanuel Church	\$ 100.00
Wanda Hitzeman	Emmanuel Church	\$ 320.00
Irene Piering	Emmanuel Church	\$ 550.00
Richard and Helen Riebersal	Crisis Fund	\$ 100.00
Gabriel Shelton	Emmanuel Church	\$ 100.00
Victor Stein	Chancel Choir (Choir Robes)	\$ 528.00
Nina Vorich	Crisis Fund	\$ 400.00