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Emmanuel
LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

elcvienna.org

“You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised...”

MARK 16:6



Happy Easter—He is risen indeed, Alleluia! I thank God for Easter, for the holy day, and for the whole seven-week holy season of Easter. As this pandemic continues on, it is a blessing to get to celebrate our faith and hope in Jesus, the risen Lord who gives us the good news of new life.

We can see that new life all around us as Spring shoots forth. I am loving all the colors bursting forth in the green of the grass, all the flowers (oh my goodness, all the flowers!), and the trees leafing out as well. It is a beautiful spring and it reminds of God the creator who created all out of nothing who gives new life even after death. Praise be to God!

We can see new life in the pandemic fight, too. More and more I am hearing from people who have been vaccinated. It finally feels like we have hope like never before in this fight against Covid. We were able to have in-person worship again beginning on Easter Sunday, and hopefully with the vaccinations, continued discipline under CDC guidelines, and warmer weather we can continue to see each other and see each other through this struggle. I keep saying this as a proclamation of faith in God who heals, “Hang in there. We’re gonna make it!”

We can see new life in our congregation as well. In the last few weeks Pastor Lydia and I have had the great pleasure of baptizing a couple of our little ones. From my perspective, there is nothing better than getting to do baptisms. To celebrate a new life in Christ, washed by water and the Word, claimed in love by God, marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit is an inspiration to us all.

We can see new life in our staff who are working so hard as is our council and our lay leadership. We are looking forward to Vacation Bible School and youth

ministry summer programs. We have some property improvement projects underway. We are reviewing and revising our strategic plan as we look forward to growing in discipleship, evangelism, stewardship, and outreach. We are undertaking a campaign for our endowment—the future of our ministries together is bright and exciting.

We can see new life in our preschool day in and day out too. They have a great leadership team and staff. The kids are active, having fun, learning and growing. The staff are so careful with them during this pandemic. This month we celebrate the week of the young child, so we give thanks to God for our preschool, our kids and their families—God bless them. They are a gift and an inspiration to us!

My prayer for you this Easter season is that God bless you with a constant sense of God working in your life, giving you new life, raising you up everyday with signs of God’s grace, love, and hope all around you!

Happy Easter,
Pastor Tony Prinsen



UPCOMING

APRIL 17

Hike at Great Falls
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Estate Planning Workshop
1:00-3:00 PM on Zoom

APRIL 18

**Online & In-Person
Worship**
9:00 AM

**Color of Compromise, pt. 5
Faith Forum**
10:15 AM

**Capitol Watch Party
for Youth**
Noon-3:00 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Young Adult Lazy Sundays
4:00 PM, Lazy Dog Fairfax

APRIL 24

Family Outdoor Work Day
9:30-11:30 AM
In Parking Lot

APRIL 25

**Online & In-Person
Worship**
9:00 AM

**Color of Compromise, pt. 6
Faith Forum**
10:15 AM

Drive Thru Communion
10:30 AM-12:30 PM

MAY 1

**Hike at Sky Meadows
State Park**
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

MAY 2

**Online & In-Person
Worship**
9:00 AM

**Color of Compromise, pt. 7
Faith Forum**
10:15 AM

**Confirmation End of Year
Breakfast**
10:15-11:15 AM

MAY 9

Mother's Day

**In-Person and Online
Worship**
9:00 AM

**Color of Compromise, Pt 8
Faith Forum**
10:15 AM

Drive Thru Communion
10:30 AM-12:30 PM

For Those without the Luxury of Taking Clean Clothes for Granted


BY SUSAN AND TERRY OLENCHUK

Clean clothes. A washing machine. A clothes dryer. Most of us take these things for granted in our daily lives. Some of us probably view “doing laundry” as a chore to be tolerated. But many people in our community do not have the luxury of grumbling about this chore. Instead, they wonder whether and how they’re going to be able to get their clothes clean. Laundry is one of the essential services that the Lamb Center provides for its homeless guests. Week in and week out, Monday through Saturday, two shifts of volunteers from numerous faith-based organizations serve in the Lamb Center’s laundry room. For years, volunteers organized by Emmanuel have staffed the Lamb Center’s laundry room every Saturday afternoon and every third Saturday morning of the month. In addition, several from Emmanuel take on additional shifts on weekdays and other Saturday mornings.

The laundry process is deceptively simple. Guests drop off their dirty clothes and then volunteers wash the clothes, dry the clothes, fold the clothes and prepare them for pick-up. But laundry service is so much more. Often guests are dropping off the only clothes they own besides what they are wearing. Often, laundry contains clothes a guest needs for work the next day. Sometimes dirty laundry is filled with the clothes of children. Sometimes, clothes are soaking wet because of a recent rain, or frozen stiff because that soaking rain was followed by sub-freezing weather. Sometimes laundry is filled with dirt from




the ground where our guest slept the night before. Laundry is something very personal and many guests provide special instructions: please use bleach; please don’t use bleach; please use a detergent for sensitive skin; please make sure my clothes are completely dry because damp clothes are uncomfortable in cold weather; please have my laundry ready for my next 6:00 AM work shift.

Terry and I joined the team to provide laundry services to the Lamb Center guests a couple years ago. We serve on the morning shift every fourth Saturday of the month. The universal emotion that each guest expresses when they drop off and pick up laundry is sincere and heartfelt gratitude. We feel privileged and humbled that we can play a small role in helping to provide an essential service to the local homeless community who do not have the luxury of taking clean clothes for granted. 



Why I Volunteer

BY DESIREE DI MAURO

I help out with Community Outreach ministries, because I know how fortunate I am. I’ve never been truly poor in my life. I’ve always had plenty to eat and a roof over my head. I’m fortunate to have my wonderful family. I’m very aware of the fact that not everyone is as lucky as I am. Since I always try to teach my kids about “a spirit of thankfulness,” I figure I should “walk the walk.” Volunteering with Community Outreach is a great way to put this philosophy into practice! 

Bible and Bacon Women's Group— Our Story and an Invitation!

It started with a morning shower and hasn't stopped yet...at least thirty-five years and counting.

Longtime Emmanuel member Shirley Gibbs was in the shower when she realized that what this church needed was a Bible study for working women, for those who just couldn't make it from Monday to Friday. There were several Bible studies for women, but they didn't work for Shirley or a number of her friends. But Saturday was doable. Saturday morning study meant meeting early, sharing breakfast and Bible study and then being off to youth sports or family activities—all by 10 am. Definitely doable.

And thus, was born Bible and Bacon, a Bible study hosted in Shirley's home and based on a structure and lessons published by Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Today the lessons and other wonderful material are available to members each month in Gather magazine. The Bible in the name...obvious. The Bacon...a hearty breakfast."

"I used to think it was a dumb name," one member said, "but now I kind of like it. It is old fashioned but it's a link to our past. Besides, we call it B&B most of the time."

Over the years, the study moved around a bit and one capable leader after another took over including Pastor Renee LiaBraaten and for the last roughly 20 years, ELC member Cheryl Gallagher.

Many of the original B&B'ers are now grandmas but still gather on Saturday mornings. We've added new participants along the way (being a mother or a grandmother definitely not a requirement) and even welcomed back some long-distance friends now that we're Zooming (Florida and, temporarily, Hawaii). "When the happy time comes and we don't have to Zoom," one member said, "we're going to try to do it anyway. We don't want to lose those who have reconnected!" Not a few of us miss the breakfast in this age of Zoom. But we can still share our opinions, pray together, and experience fellowship.

How has this group hung together for so long? We asked each other that very question recently and here's what we figured out.

Church women of any age or level of knowledge are welcome to join B&B, leader Cheryl Gallagher says. One member shared that "I originally joined because no prior biblical knowledge is required."

Several B&B'ers like that the lessons are structured so "you can participate even if you didn't have time to prepare."




"And there's no judgment," said one member. "We want to hear what you have to say. "Sometimes we may seem to go off track," Cheryl says, but that's a good thing if we're exploring something we want to talk about. "We're allowed to take the study discussion where it needs to go, Spirit-led, even if we don't 'complete' the lesson. We've been told our study is appealing to younger participants because of our collective, hard-earned wisdom."

"The fact is, Bible and Bacon is so much more than a bible study. We study together, laugh together, cry together and pray together and just simply enjoy one another's friendship"

Over the years, since Shirley Gibbs first had the idea for this Emmanuel sisterhood, it has evolved into an action group that tries to live the lessons of the Bible. It contributes money to community endeavors, sells Fair Trade items supporting the small farmers of the world, as well as olive oil produced by the Arab and Israeli women of the Middle East. We also form teams to support Emmanuel activities like Lenten and Hypothermia Prevention meals.

We pay tribute to our founder, Shirley Gibbs, who died June 13, 2020. Shirley was right. Emmanuel needed a Saturday morning Bible study for women and this is it.

We hope you will join us on the third Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Contact Cheryl Gallagher at cckrice@yahoo.com to receive the study outline and Zoom invitation. 

The Perfect Way to Represent God's Vision of Welcome and Love of All People

BY PASTOR LYDIA POSSELT



In 2004, a show appeared on PBS to capitalize on the recent trend of reality TV shows, with a twist—17 American and British applicants were chosen to experience five months of living in 1628 on the site of an actual early American colony. “Colonial House” explores the survival spirit of early settlers, but also clearly reveals its dark side. From the very beginning, we learn how sexism, racism, economic motivations, and religious intolerance are baked into our country’s origins. Right now, this series is available on YouTube, and is worth watching. As we learned during our Adult Education hour series, “The Color of Compromise,” we

as a nation made choices that caused harm to our siblings. But the good news is that we now can make choices to chart another path forward.

Some of the positive choices include the “Liberty Amendments”—the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th Amendments to the Constitution. During the months of June and July, the city of Vienna and the state of Virginia have declared a community-wide celebration of these amendments. We as Lutherans have always been deeply committed to liberation, justice, and inclusion. Now is a perfect opportunity to participate and represent God’s vision of welcome and love of all people, through our presence and (safe) participation. 🏠

Estate Planning 101: What You Need to Know!

Do you have a will or a living trust? The sad reality is that as many as 60% of Americans do not have a valid will or trust, and as many as 70% of estates do not achieve the intended goals.

A will or trust is an important final way to share with family and charities what is most important to you. A will or trust simply directs those we leave behind how to divide our assets. When instructions are not provided, resolving the estate can be a time-consuming and costly process that is difficult for loved ones.

A will or trust can also reflect a statement of what is important to you. It can be a final way to teach your children and family members that they were important to you, but so are certain ministries that make a difference in your community and the world.

Contact your attorney, or utilize one of the various online estate planning tools, to make a will or trust or to modify your existing estate documents to include Emmanuel

Lutheran Church. If you need an experienced estate attorney, we can help you find one. There are many ways in which your gift can be directed. It can go to the greatest need, support a capital project, or enhance an endowment that will be used to support Emmanuel and its ministries as well as ELCA ministries for years to come. You can give a specific amount or give a percentage of your estate, allowing the amount of the contribution to increase or decrease based on the amount of total assets in the estate. 🏠



VIRTUAL ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP ON APRIL 17

To learn more about these and other related topics, we invite you to attend a virtual Estate Planning Workshop on Saturday, April 17 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Presenters include Alison Mathey, a local estate planning attorney; Rev. Yvonne Lembo, Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation; Mark Knauff, a Thrivent Financial representative; and members of the ELC Endowment Team. You may register for the workshop at bit.ly/3cUMhWW or find the link on our website under Events.



FACETS CLEANING SUPPLIES DRIVE UPDATE

Thank you to Steven James and Jamie and Jonah Konstas for collecting cleaning supplies for FACETS over the past few weeks. Jamie also put her organizing skills to work again and made it so convenient to order supplies online. Because of your donations, we were able to collect in-person 227 cleaning items which were dropped off to FACETS this week! What a wonderful way to wrap up the 40 days of service!