



# Emmanuel's Informer

December 2020 Volume 52, Number 12



As you're reading this Advent is already upon us. Advent is, of course, the time during which we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. It is also a time for us to prepare for and look forward to the day

Jesus returns. We know that this year Advent and Christmas will be unlike any other that we've experienced in our lifetime. Many of our time-honored traditions with family, friends, and our siblings in the Christian community will, out of necessity and safety, have to take place in new and creative ways including some that we may not be comfortable with. But for the wellbeing of all we have to do our best to make sure that those we love and care for remain in good health. It's important to remember that as Christians we live in hope and that nothing can take that hope away because Christ has already come for our salvation and he will come again in glory.

Given all of the stresses, strains, and uncertainties we've been through this year it's imperative that all of us do whatever we can in the upcoming weeks to act in ways that are in keeping with our calling as Christ's disciples. We are Christ's representatives in our world. Therefore it's up to us to make sure that in the midst of not knowing exactly where our road may take us that Christ's light and love shine through us and onto others, especially those who are hurting, neglected, and in need of compassion.

Tradition says that the candles on the advent wreath symbolize the four virtues of hope, love, joy, and peace. I pray that all of you will, in some way, find some of each in your life as we make our way through December in hopeful anticipation for Christmas day; the day the Light of the World came to dwell among us and changed our world forever.

Have a most blessed and merry Christmas,

*Pr. Dan*



## Advent and Christmas Eve Plans

by Michele Geiger, Worship Chair

We are very cognizant of the current increase in COVID cases and are monitoring that closely. Given that, I want to share our current plans for Advent and Christmas Eve. I am excited to tell you that Bobby and Beth are working hard to provide us with a daily online musical selection from our congregational members during the Advent season. In addition, we have decided to hold all our Sunday in person services during Advent in our beautifully adorned sanctuary. We'll have our Christmas tree up, decorated with the Chrismons that were handmade years ago by members of our congregation. In addition, we look forward to Mary and Joseph and the wisemen making their journey down our window sills to our beautiful nativity so lovingly made by Sue Theoret. And of course, we'll have our Advent wreaths both upstairs and down. Our online services will remain the same.

We had a long discussion about how to make our Christmas Eve services special and memorable given this crazy year. We know we can't do the normal services, as much as we want to. We heard you that you want to be able to sing carols on Christmas Eve, and that you want to sing Silent Night as we light candles. We also want to be able to gather as a larger group than we are able to indoors. Given that, we've decided to do something totally different this year. In addition to a full traditional and contemporary online service with special music, we are excited to offer a short, 20 minute outdoor service in the parking lot. We're excited about this because we'll be able to have increased attendance **AND we'll be able to sing!**

*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2*

We'll tell the Christmas story, we'll sing a couple of Christmas carols with Beth and Bobby playing acoustic guitar and we'll end with our beloved Silent Night as we light our candles as we await the birth of our Savior. We all know this is different, it's not what we want, but it's something we can tell our kids and grandkids some year.... *"2020 was the year grandma and grandpa gathered as a family in the parking lot and sang carols and celebrated the birth of baby Jesus."*

One of our major concerns with doing an indoor service was the possibility of having walk-ins and we might already be at maximum capacity. That is the absolute last thing we'd want to have to do- turn someone away on Christmas Eve. By doing an outdoor service, we can have more people. And we can handle walk-ins easier because of being outside. Instead of only being able to seat 15 family units indoors, we feel that we can safely allow 50 family units outside. We're so excited that more of our church family can be together. And we're prepared to add a second outdoor service if it is warranted. We will be asking you to call Lynne in the coming days, letting us know if you're coming and how many. If we find out that we're looking at more than 50-60 family units, we'll add that second service.

We will socially distance and wear masks. We are putting a plea out for propane heaters, to help provide a little warmth, so if anybody has any they are willing to let us borrow, please give Lynne a call.

So currently we will be offering an online traditional Christmas Eve service at 3 p.m. and an online contemporary Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m., both with special music. The outdoor worship will be held in the parking lot at 5 pm and if there is a need to add the second outdoor service that will be at 6 p.m. These outdoor times allow you to still watch the online services if you'd like, while still joining us at church in the parking lot.

Finally, as we work our way through this difficult time, we ask you to give us grace as we try to do what is best to keep us all safe in these unprecedented times.





## Let Us Know You're Coming!

In order to be able to plan for our outdoor Christmas Eve worship, we need to have a good idea of how many families/households will be attending. If we find that we have more than 50-60 family units signed up for the 5 pm service, we will gladly add a second outdoor service at 6 pm. We are asking that you call or email Lynne in the next few weeks, so we know if we should plan on adding a second service.

## Here's Your Chance to Give Something Unexpected this Christmas!

At Christmas we remember that we have received the gift of God's love and so we share God's love with others by giving them gifts. This year, why not consider giving something that is fun, meaningful and makes a lasting difference in the world? Why not choose something from ELCA Good Gifts as a way to honor a family member or friend?

This year at Emmanuel's, instead of taking a tag from a Christmas tree in the Gathering Area or in Fellowship Hall, you can participate online by going to **[goodgifts.elca.org/wish-list/emmanuel-christmas-gifts-2020](http://goodgifts.elca.org/wish-list/emmanuel-christmas-gifts-2020)** and picking something from Emmanuel's Wish List.

You can make your purchase from the website in honor of family or friends and Emmanuel's will receive notice that you have removed that item from our wish list. You can also print or email a card to your someone special to let them know that you've purchased this special gift in their honor. Give something unexpected in a year full of unexpected events - and help make a real and lasting change in the life of someone in need.

A direct link to our Good Gifts Wish List can be found in the weekly eNews or on our website (emmanuel.org). You can also go to ELCA Good Gifts and search for "Emmanuel's" to find our Wish List for 2020.



Give  
something  
**unexpected**  
this  
Christmas.

**Note:** When entering your billing information during checkout you **MUST** choose a "Title" (Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc) or you cannot complete your order.

**[ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)**

## 2020 Poinsettia Sponsors

Once again, red poinsettias will be available to purchase as a memorial or as a tribute gift to beautify our worship spaces for the Christmas holiday services. The price is **\$9.00** each. A reservation form is found below.

The deadline to place your order is **Sunday, December 13.** Just complete the form and place it in an envelope marked Poinsettia Order, and include the correct amount of **\$9.00 per plant**. Place your envelope in the offering plate, or mail your order and check (made out to Emmanuel's) to the church.

You may pick up your poinsettia after Christmas Day.

### Poinsettia Sponsorship Form

I/We wish to purchase a poinsettia for the church.

Please ( X ) the following:

(   ) In Memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of person in memory of)

(   ) In Honor of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person in honor of)

(   ) To the Glory of God

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_  
(your name and telephone number)

Total quantity ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The price for each red poinsettia is **\$9.00**.

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13.**

# Let us WORSHIP Together

**Holy Communion is celebrated  
at all services.**

- 8:00am** Online Traditional Service  
from the Sanctuary
- 8:45am** Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom  
(please see the weekly eNews for  
the link)
- 9:00am** In-Person Worship  
(please check calendar for location and  
call church office to sign up)
- 9:30am** Online Celebration Service  
from the Fellowship Hall

Online services can be found on our  
Facebook page - see [emmanuelsofthebath.org](https://www.emmanuelsofthebath.org) or  
the weekly eNews for the link.

**Dial-In** Call 610-477-0100 to listen to  
our services at any time.

Bulletins/announcements for all online  
services can be found on our website:  
[emmanuelsofthebath.org](https://www.emmanuelsofthebath.org)



## December Bath Area Food Bank

During the month  
of **December**,

Emmanuel's Lutheran Church  
will help the Bath Area Food  
Bank by collecting **Canned  
Fruits, Toilet Paper and Paper  
Towels**. Also appreciated this  
month are canned yams/sweet  
potatoes and Stovetop stuffing.  
The food bank is **no longer ac-  
cepting** Jell-o or pudding.

**Donations for the food bank  
can be dropped off in the vesti-  
bule to the downstairs parlor  
(see below for details).**

Grocery gift cards (preferably  
Ahart's) are needed for emergen-  
cies. Please drop all gift cards in  
an envelope marked "Food Bank"  
into the lockbox located on the  
wall in the vestibule to the down-  
stairs parlor.

The Bath Area Food Bank is al-  
ways in need of monetary dona-  
tions which stretch farther than  
any amount of food that we can  
give.



## How to Donate During Social Distancing

During business hours (Monday-Friday, 9am -3pm) the outside  
side red door into the downstairs parlor vestibule will be un-  
locked. There will be bins inside the door for you to drop off  
any items you wish to donate (Food Bank or other dona-  
tions). There is also a lockbox to drop off your envelopes and offerings.

Please feel free to drop off items at your convenience. The inside door into the build-  
ing itself will remain locked. If you need assistance please call the church office (610  
-837-9250).



## Mittens, Scarves, Hats and Gloves

The deadline for the collection of Mittens, Scarves, Hats and Gloves for the Bethlehem Area School District is Sunday, December 6. Please bring your donations to the labeled bins available in the Fellowship Hall and upstairs gathering area. There will also be a bin in the small vestibule area outside the downstairs parlor to place any donations during the week. As always, thank you for your generosity!

### WELCOME *New Members*

On November 15 we welcomed the following into our Emmanuel's Church Family:

Linda Dibiaso  
375 Adams Lane  
Bath PA 18014  
10-730-2968

Glen and Donna Remaly  
536 Briar Rd.  
Pen Argyl PA 18072  
610-714-5315

Chris and Kelly Heffner  
566 Bauer Rd.  
Bath PA 18014  
484-515-3585

Carol Wilkinson  
770 Bushkill Drive  
Bath PA 18014  
610-550-8948



### Miller-Keystone Blood Bank

When donating blood at Miller Keystone Blood Bank please ask them to credit **Emmanuel's Bath** and the code is **0656**. This way we will receive credit for your donation.



Join us on ZOOM on Sunday Mornings at 8:45am for Emmanuel's Virtual Coffee Hour. See the weekly eNews for the link. If you don't get the eNews please contact the church office to sign up.

### Propane Heaters Needed!

Do you have any propane heaters you'd be willing to loan us for our outdoor Christmas Eve worship? If so, please contact Lynne at church. Thanks!



**EMMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**  
Thursday, October 8, 2020 @ 7:00 PM, Zoom Online Meeting

Marilyn Angst	David Getz	Chris Wolf
Kristin Butz, Secretary	Paul Honett	Pr. Dan Clayborne
Pete Coccetti, V. President	Win Miller	Bob Siegfried, Treasurer
Justin Fallenstein	Karl Monroe	Bob Bennett, Financial Secretary
Jane Fried	Dianna Schoenen, President	

\*denotes not in attendance

**This meeting was held via ZOOM due to COVID-19 precautions for social distancing.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Pete Coccetti.

**Devotions:** Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Dan Clayborne. November prayer will be offered by Chris Wolf, December will be Win Miller.

**Review/Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Win Miller and seconded by Justin Fallenstein to approve Sept. council minutes. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Will be moving to indoor worship; congregants will need to sign up. Will alternate from one week in the Sanctuary, the following week in the Fellowship hall.
- There were 4-5 people who attended the Blessing of the Animals service.
- There are 10 first year confirmation class students.
- The new member class will be held on Thurs. Oct. 15, 2020.
- There will be an Eagle Scout program on Nov. 1, 2020 in the pavilion for Colin Davidson.
- Synod Assembly is coming up starting on Oct. 16, 2020, Karl and Sue Monroe will be attending.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Submitted by Bob Bennett. Continue to be in the black, decreased expenses balances out decreased offering.

**Treasurer Report:** Submitted by Bob Siegfried.

**Old Business:**

- Nominations were discussed to replace 3 council vacancies. Ad has been placed for Youth Ministry Leader.
- Misconduct policy and the by-law revision: Dianna, Pete, Karl, and Win will be meeting with Pastor Dan about the by law revision. Chris Wolf, Marilyn Angst and Pastor Dan will be looking into the misconduct policy.
- Nov. 15, 2020 will be the annual Congregational meeting. This will be at 10:45 and will be held virtually. Pastor Dan and Lynne will work on getting the ballots out for voting. There is a polling feature on ZOOM that will be looked into as well.

**Committee Reports:**

**Call Committee:**

- This committee has not been meeting at this time.

**Cemetery:**

- Report submitted by Karl Monroe. Workday at the cemetery was held on Oct. 10, 2020. Clean up day will be Nov. 7, 2020. Walk through scheduled Monday Oct. 12 at 5:00 pm with mowing company chief Joe Siekonic, Jr. for review and expectations for quality at current rate.

## EMMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES (Continued)

### COVID Re-Opening Committee:

- Report submitted from meeting on Oct. 6, 2020. Weekly indoor SPOKEN worship service with communion to begin Sunday Oct. 11 at 9:00 am. Up to 36 can be accommodated in sanctuary and 47 in FH. Numbers include staff.
- Weekly online traditional and contemporary services to continue. Lynne will take reservations for indoor worship up till 3 pm every Thurs. She and Pastor Dan will assign seats on Fridays.
- Each individual will be asked a set of screening questions and have their temperatures taken prior to entering the building. Usher will then direct the member to their assigned seat. Ushers will dismiss members after the service is over. Physical distancing with wearing of masks required. Currently have ~10 volunteers for screening and ushering. Pastor Dan will review procedures with volunteers on a Sunday am prior to start of service. Dianna will assign volunteers. Will review attendance on an ongoing basis in case it is determined that an additional service may be needed.

### HR Committee:

- Pete plans on meeting with the HR Committee and do a ZOOM meeting with employees of the church.

### Men's Group:

- Meets every Monday night and continue working on reviewing the letters of Paul. There are approximately 7 men in the group.

### Outreach:

- Dianna received a Thrivent action card for \$250 and is looking for volunteers to help with filling Sunday School bags to be picked up by families at the church.

### Property:

- Justin Fallenstein met with Paul Davis company to look at the mold present at the church and this company was able to remediate this situation with a significant financial savings for the church.
- Paul Honett continues to look at the flood issue, some of the drains are too high, they will be trimmed.
- Paul and Karl are looking into getting diagrams of the church for all structures.
- Karl and Justin will continue to look into the UV lighting for the air circulation cleaning with Sullivan and other possible companies. Justin will also assist with this task.

### Women's Group:

- Report submitted. Women's group met on Sept 28. and made plans to do something special for Thanksgiving for church Seniors. More planning will be performed on Oct 19 meeting.
- Also, the group will make further plans to do something special for children of the congregation and maybe work with Meals on Wheels for Thanksgiving.

**Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be November 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Winn Miller and seconded by Chris Wolf. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Butz  
Council Secretary



## Email Addresses and Phone Numbers

To help communication work more effectively, the church would greatly appreciate it if you would notify us of any email address changes or if you move to the use of a cell phone number as your main contact.

## Financial Secretary Report for October 2020

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<b><i>Giving Accounts</i></b>		
100 - Regular Offering	20,556.25	238,747.42
<b>Total Regular Offering</b>	<b>\$20,556.25</b>	<b>\$238,747.42</b>
110 - Plate Offering	84.00	1,647.25
<b>Total Regular &amp; Plate Offering</b>	<b>\$20,640.25</b>	<b>\$240,394.67</b>
122 - Easter Offering	0.00	2,610.00
123 - Holy Thursday Offering	0.00	180.00
124 - Initial Offering	0.00	581.00
125 - Lent Offering	0.00	1,619.00
126 - Palm Sunday Offering	0.00	614.00
<b>Total Special</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,604.00</b>
130 - Miscellaneous Income	35,070.00	35,722.00
131 - Flowers	300.00	1,315.00
132 - Bulletins	0.00	248.00
133 - Easter Flowers	0.00	296.00
136 - Church house	0.00	7,155.00
<b>Total Misc. Offerings</b>	<b>\$35,370.00</b>	<b>\$44,736.00</b>
<b>Total Reg. Misc. &amp; Spec</b>	<b>\$56,010.25</b>	<b>\$290,734.67</b>
200 - Building Offering	2,946.00	38,472.83
220 - Improvement Offering	178.00	1,627.00
<b>Total Build &amp; Imp Offerings</b>	<b>\$3,124.00</b>	<b>\$40,099.83</b>
138 - Use of Church Facilities	0.00	50.00
140 - Snow Removal	0.00	183.00
146 - Music Ministry	0.00	625.00
250 - Kitchen Fund	0.00	14,315.92
376 - Memo - Roy Hoch	0.00	260.00
377 - Memo - Rose Wolf	0.00	490.00
378 - Memo - Lucille Shook	0.00	330.00
379 - Memo - Richard McDonell	0.00	25.00
380 - Memo - Carol O'Donnell	0.00	150.00
381 - Memo - Raymond Hoch	0.00	449.00
410 - Social Ministry Offering	170.00	1,524.00
412 - Bath Area Food Bank	35.00	1,859.33
420 - World Hunger Offering	128.00	1,781.00
460 - ELCA Good Gifts	0.00	500.00
471 - Bishop's Retirement Luncheon	0.00	30.00
475 - God's Work. Our Hands.	0.00	220.00
500 - Christian Education	0.00	55.00
510 - Sunday School Offering	0.00	75.75
540 - Youth Conference	0.00	461.67
600 - Cemetery - Grave Service	1,000.00	4,000.00
710 - Hershey Park	0.00	739.00
720 - Iron Pigs	0.00	139.00
<b>Total Giving Accounts</b>	<b>\$60,467.25</b>	<b>\$359,097.17</b>

### Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2020

Total General Fund Income	\$ 258,091.
Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 232,907.
Income over Expenses	\$ 25,184.

A detailed Treasurer's Report with expense listings can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## Giving During this Time of Social Distancing

Canceling any of our services will affect us financially - so we encourage you to continue your giving even while we are apart. Those already enrolled in Simply Giving (now Vanco Electronic Giving) are all set. There are several options for the rest of us:

1. Mail in your weekly/monthly contributions  
(3175 Valley View Dr. Bath PA 18014)
2. Drop your offering at church - there is now a lockbox in the downstairs parlor vestibule. The vestibule door is unlocked Mon-Fri 9am - 3pm.
3. Use **Text+Give** (See details below)
4. Vanco **Give+ Mobile App** (see directions below)
5. Give via the "Donate" page on Emmanuel's website.

## Options for Electronic Giving

You can now donate directly from Emmanuel's website ([www.emmanuel.org](http://www.emmanuel.org)). Click on the "Donate" page and follow the prompts. You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations from a credit card or your bank account. The donations are processed by Vanco via their secure site.

NOTE: If you already have an account set up for Text+Give or Give+Mobile, use that same login on the webpage - all the information will transfer automatically.

### Give+Text

Have you tried our text giving option? In a matter of seconds, you can make a weekly offering or respond to a special appeal.

To give, text the dollar amount to **610-463-0435** and follow the prompts.

### Give+ Mobile App

1. Download the app from the App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android). (Search for Vanco Give+)
2. Search within the App for "Emmanuel's Evan Lutheran" or search by our zip code (18014).
3. Select our church which will become your default church.
4. Follow the directions within the app to set up an account. Or you may give as a guest.

## Vanco Electronic Giving (Formerly Simply Giving)

We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program (from Vanco). It's convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for the church. Please contact Bob Bennett or call the church office (610-837-1741) for details.

# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
29 Advent 1 8:00 AM Online Traditional Service 8:45 AM Coffee Hour - Zoom 9:00 AM Spoken Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 AM Online Celebration Service		30 7:00 PM Men's Group - Old FH		1 7:00 PM Evangelism Workshop		2 5:00 PM Girl Scouts		3 7:00 PM Worship Comm Mtg. - Zoom		4		5	
6 Advent 2 Deadline for Mittens, Hats, Etc. 8:00 AM Online Traditional Service 8:45 AM Coffee Hour - Zoom 9:00 AM Spoken Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 AM Online Celebration Service 6:30 PM 1st Year Cat Class		7 10:30 AM Ladies Study Group - FH 7:00 PM Men's Group - Old FH		8 1:00 PM Needlecrafters at S. Walker's 7:00 PM Evangelism Workshop		9		10 7:00 PM Church Council - Zoom		11		12	
13 Advent 3 Poinsettia Orders Due 8:00 AM Online Traditional Service 8:45 AM Coffee Hour - Zoom 9:00 AM Spoken Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 AM Online Celebration Service		14 10:30 AM Ladies Study Group - FH 7:00 PM GWOH Women's Group 7:00 PM Men's Group - Old FH		15		16 5:00 PM Girl Scouts		17 7:00 PM Evangelism Workshop		18		19	
20 Advent 4 8:00 AM Online Traditional Service 8:45 AM Coffee Hour - Zoom 9:00 AM Spoken Worship - Sanctuary 9:30 AM Online Celebration Service 6:30 PM 1st Year Cat Class		21 7:00 PM Men's Group - Old FH		22 1:00 PM Needlecrafters at S. Walker's		23		24 Christmas Eve 3:00 PM Online Traditional Worship 5:00 PM Outdoor Candlelight Worship 7:00 PM Online Celebration Worship		25 Christmas Day Office Closed		26	
27 8:00 AM Online Service of Lessons and Carols (no communion) 8:45 AM Coffee Hour - Zoom		28 Office Closed 7:00 PM Men's Group - Old FH		29 Office Closed		30 Office Closed		31 Office Closed		1 New Year's Day - Office Closed		2	

## 2020 Council Members

**Angst, Marilyn**  
610-440-0817 \*  
© 484-666-8711

**Bennett, Bob** (Financial Sec.)  
bob21645@aol.com  
610-262-9576 \*  
© 610-216-2358

**Butz, Kristin**, Secretary  
scrapqueen1108 @  
protonmail.com  
484-241-8285

**Coccetti, Pete**, Vice President  
Pcoccetti@hotmail.com  
© 610-417-2845 \*

**Fallenstein, Justin**  
Mountainroadlandscaping  
@gmail.com  
610-428-4102

**Fried, Jane**  
springtownpost@aol.com  
610-703-9117

**Getz, David**  
getzsl@verizon.net  
610-759-2526

**Honett, Paul**  
honettp@gmail.com  
610-462-5266

**Miller, Winfield**  
winzcinabloo@gmail.com  
570-778-3446

**Monroe, Karl**  
Karl.Monroe@rcn.com  
© 484-894-2136 \*

**Dianna Schoenen**, President  
finaldianna@gmail.com  
© 610-360-3846

**Siegfried, Bob** (Treasurer)  
bobsiegfried51@gmail.com  
© 610-597-0241\*

**Wolf, Chris**  
cswolf0317@gmail.com  
© 610-554-0140



### Stars and Promises Christmas Concert with Peter Mayer

In the first-ever ELCA event of its kind, ELCA World Hunger presents an online Christmas benefit concert featuring Peter Mayer, a longtime Lutheran and the lead guitarist for singer Jimmy Buffett. The concert will premiere on the ELCA Facebook page on Dec. 9, at 8 p.m.

The concert is a gift to you this Advent season, a way for us to thank you and provide a place for you to gather online with the church community as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. Donations to ELCA World Hunger are encouraged and will support our church's work to respond to hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries. Register now to receive a free Peter Mayer Christmas album download, created just for this event!



Deadline for the January Informer  
articles is: Monday, December 14, 2020

## **God's Work, Our Hands Women's Group**

We had a very productive meeting on November 16 at 7:00PM. Deb Fisher started with a devotion on Evangelism, shared a personal miracle, opened it up for discussion to the group and then led the group in prayer. We packed up items for Meals on Wheels for Thanksgiving Baskets and for Homebound members for Christmas. Members made beautiful tissue covers, masks, placemats and blankets for Meals on Wheels recipients in the area. One member got her son involved in purchasing items for Seniors in our area and he really enjoyed it. Thank you to all who donated items, especially our needle crafters/quilters. We greatly appreciate it. Our next meeting is December 14 at 7:00PM. We will be further planning our children's Valentine Event for children. All are welcome.



### **Valentine Event for Children grades K-5**

hosted by G.W.O.H Women's Group

Children grades K-5 are invited Sunday, January 31, 11:00-12:30 in the Fellowship Hall for a valentine celebration of friendship, God's love and our love for each other. Please sign up so we can plan accordingly. We will be making Valentine's for our Homebound members, listening to a story, making crafts, making necklaces, participating in a movement activity, playing games and making masks. Each child will receive a goody bag to take home. Please RSVP by January 18, 2021. Hope to see you there.

### **Homeless Project for Winter**

The Outreach Committee is looking for people interested in spreading God's love, sharing our blessings and helping the homeless by making kits/meals for homeless people in shelters. Please call the church office or talk to Andrea Roberts if you are interested in helping in any way.

### **Boys and Girls Club**

The Boys and Girls Club of Easton, 210 Jones Houston Way, Easton is looking for volunteers on a Sunday to pass out donated food from Shoprite in Easton to the community. There are also other volunteer opportunities available. If interested please contact Dean Young, Program Director at 484-239-2075



## Thank You Note Received.....

Dear Paulette and members of Emmanuel's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Easton's Board of Directors, staff, and Club kids I thank you for your generous sustaining contribution in support the Club's after-school and summer enrichment programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We wish to confirm your contribution to the club via online donation in the amount of \$225.00 to the Boys & Girls Club of Easton, (BGCE), located at 210 Jones Houston Way, Easton PA 18042 was received by the BGCE on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

Your generosity and tremendous investment in the future of our Club youth is greatly appreciated!

We are grateful for your continued support as we strive to be faithful stewards of all that is entrusted to us as we seek to serve Easton's youth with a diverse and engaging range of structured activities and academic programs. Through the Club's after-school and summer enrichment programs we strive to keep youth in school, away from drugs and alcohol, and promote the adoption of lifelong healthy habits and lifestyles.

Your contribution will help us to seize every opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of the children and families in the community we serve.

My very best wishes to you and your family!

Should you have any question please feel free to reach out at your leisure I can be best reached at 484-239-2075.

Sincerely,

*Dean Young*

G. Dean Young  
Executive Director



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF EASTON**

**GREAT FUTURES START HERE!**

*A Partner Agency of the United Way  
Of the Greater Lehigh Valley*

## **Bear Creek Camp news by Michele Geiger, BCC Ambassador**

I recently had the opportunity to sit in on a virtual Bear Creek Camp update. Collin Grooms, Executive Director, talked about their plans for the 2021 summer camp season. They are hopeful that camp will be able to happen, but with changes and precautions. Their plans at this time include the following:

- Campers may be requested to quarantine prior to arrival
- Counselors will be asked to remain on the premises the entire summer, limiting their exposure to the 'outside world.'
- Camp will be Sunday through Friday; this will allow additional cleaning time prior to the arrival of the next group of campers and also allow counselors some additional down time for rest and relaxation.
- Pick up and drop off of campers will be contactless.
- In order to maintain distancing in cabins, the overall camp capacity will need to be reduced.

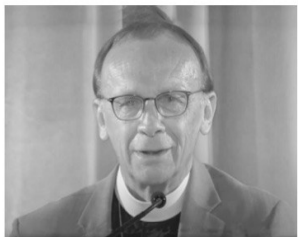
There are additional areas that they anticipate having to make modifications to and will be communicated when they have additional information. The staff of the camp are committed to make an effort to provide 2021 summer camp in ways that are safe, sustainable and enriching.

# SYNOD NEWS

## Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

### Moving Forward as Church Together

#### A Farewell from Bishop Zeiser



I want to say thank you to all who served the assembly as voting members. Your patience, your willingness to accompany this synod in a new direction, and your faithful participation to the end of the assembly are important components of this synod's strength, and sure signs that "We Are Church Together".

During Assembly 2020, it was especially encouraging to see such a gifted slate of nominees and candidates for the office of bishop. Thank you to all who were open to the stirring of the Holy Spirit by allowing their names to go forward in the balloting.

I have known Bishop-elect deForest for ten years, and I have worked with him as he helped envision, plan, and produce our last six synod assemblies. Now, he and I have been, and will be, working together to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. I know that God has given Christopher substantial gifts to serve in this office and to work with the Rostered Ministers and congregations of the Northeastern PA Synod. Just as I look forward to my retirement, I also look forward to Christopher's leadership as Bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

#### A Greeting from Bishop Elect deForest

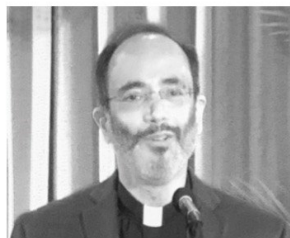
These are challenging times. I don't need to tell all of you what that means. But these are also times to give deep thanks. And to hold tight to the promise that Jesus is here, and Christ is coming. Advent. Christmas. Epiphany. Ash Wednesday. Lent. Holy Week. Easter. They are all coming. They will be here, soon. Not to bring us more anxiety and more things to do. But to bring us love, joy, peace, and hope.

This is also a time of opportunity: to heal, to grow, to dream, and to act. Working alongside Bishop Zeiser, I hope to hear from many different voices to seek their wisdom, guidance, expertise and involvement going forward. I'll be hearing from our Synod staff. From congregational leaders.

From other synods and their leaders. From other faith communities. And from the others who were nominated to this office of Bishop at last month's Online Assembly. And I can promise you that I will be praying, listening, and learning, in these days to come, to help us all discern how to be, and to act, and to remain: Christ-centered, Spirit-Led, and God-Reliant.

And so, I am here to commit to you that when I take office on January 1st, 2021, I will begin my tenure as your Bishop by taking a sabbath rest. I will not come into the Synod offices or do any work until Monday, January 11. No email. No social media. Only time for rest, with my family, and with our God. I want to start my time working with you as the most sabbath-rested servant-leader I can possibly be.

And then, after resting, let us return - refreshed, and ready to go where the Spirit is leading, centered in Christ, relying on God. We wish you blessings, love, joy, peace and hope, in this season and into this bright new year. God bless.



# Online Assembly 2020 - We Did It!

## Our Synod was the first in Region 7 to hold an online assembly, and it went really well.

Elections were held. Resolutions were adopted. Reports were received. Events were celebrated.



**Elections.** The process for electing a bishop was overseen by Mr. Ed Cool and by Mr. William "Bill" Horne II, Vice President of the ELCA, who also brought greetings and a report from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Pastor Christopher deForest was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod on the 5th ballot, with 260 votes. Pastor Ryan Hersch, of Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, received 222 votes. The other five candidates were Pastors Charles Grube,



Becca Middeke-Conlin, Nelson Quiñones, Susan Ruggles, and Martha Sipe.

Additionally, Pattie Corcoran, Joshua Fink, Pastor Gregory Frey, and Louise McLoughan were elected to the Synod Council either by their Mission District or by the Assembly; and Dr. Margaret Ann Rapp and Pastor Michael Ware were elected to the Synod Discipline Committee.

**Worship.** Assembly worship was coordinated by Deacon Michael Krentz, who also composed a hymn "We Are Church Together" especially for Assembly 2020. Opening worship was a Service of the Word and included participants from around the synod, as well as a sermon by Bishop Zeiser. There was also music and prayer throughout the course of the Assembly.



**We Are Church,  
We Are Called**

50•40•10

**Celebrations.** A highlight of the first Friday evening was a video celebrating 50/40/10, the 50th anniversary of U.S. Lutheran churches' decision to ordain women, the 40th anniversary of the ordination of the first women of color, and the 10th anniversary of the ELCA's decision to officially ordain people in same-gender committed relationships. The Assembly also recognized major anniversaries of rostered ministers, especially those celebrating 50 years of ordained ministry.

**Vice President Kristen Edelman-Weiner's Report.** Vice President Kristen emphasized the importance of "Moving Forward as Church Together." Using the metaphor of an old tree line on her property and the efforts she made to revive it, Kristen acknowledged that new growth doesn't happen easily. It requires hard work; attention to caretaking; patience; the willingness to take risks and encounter failures; and above all, faith in God's promises and an optimistic hope in the future God intends for us.



**Because of COVID-19 safety concerns,  
Bishop-Elect deForest will be installed at a future date.**

Please visit the synod website at [godslove.org](http://godslove.org) for updates.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. [nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com).

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.

# Evangelism and Miracles

by Deb Fisher

What the Bible says about Evangelism:

*Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*

(Mark 16: 15)

*And I pray that sharing of your faith may become effective for full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.*

(Philemon 1: 6)

I remember being at a retreat and the leader saying, “We are often more comfortable sharing stories about our pets than to pause to talk about God.” Sometimes it may be difficult to open yourself up in that way. Maybe we are afraid of being criticized.

It has been my experience that if we share our life stories about how God has helped us through difficult situations with others, we can all be blessed. I think God smiles when we put ourselves “out there”.

At Emmanuel’s Church we have many people who believe in miracles and lived them. Maybe we need to share those stories with our new members and our friends. You will know the right time and place if you prayerfully consider how and when to approach it. Our testimonies of the little and big blessings in our lives can help others to see theirs.

My cousin’s grandson was kidnapped in Niger less than 2 weeks ago. His father is a missionary there. He was rescued in a military operation. Seal Team 6, along with other members of a joint operations force conducted the rescue. The US government was concerned that he could be passed to a terrorist group. Now he and his family are safe at their home base in Wilkes Barre. I call that a MIRACLE! We thank God for that blessing in our family.

A miracle could be right around the corner for you. Please share it by telling others.

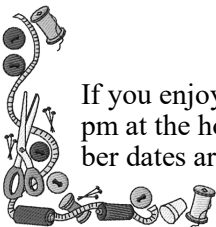
## Evangelism Workshop

Tuesdays, Dec. 1 & 8 at 7 PM, open to all who are interested in a long term deepening their Christian faith and learning to share it with others.

Later dates to be determined at a third meeting on Thursday Dec. 17.

Contact Bob Splittgerber for more information.

## Needlecrafters Group



If you enjoy needlecrafts please join us every other **TUESDAY** at 1:00 pm at the home of Susan Walker for stitching and fellowship. December dates are 12/8 and 12/22 . Contact Bette Walker for more info.

**All are welcome!**



During this time of social distancing when it is unsafe to gather together, we have a small group of dedicated women who are coming together online for weekly Bible study using **Zoom**. Gloria Wallery has organized the group and is the host for this platform. They meet on Thursday mornings at 10:30am and recently started studying the book of Romans. **Everyone is Welcome to join!**

The group has also been ministering to our homebound members by sending monthly cards/notes to brighten their days and remind them that we are thinking about them. If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Gloria at [\*\*gjwallery@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:gjwallery@gmail.com).

## When Jesus Returns

Hello Ladies of Emmanuels!

Are you zoomed out or miss some human contact? Some ladies mentioned we should have a get together for a study. I have chosen a video made by a minister/speaker to help us understand the second coming of Jesus. It will be a two-week lecture and each video is about 40 minutes long which gives us time to discuss, learn or debate the information we hear, which in turn will help sharpen our minds to different views.

When: Mondays, December 7 and December 14, 2020 at 10:30am

We will meet in the fellowship hall where we can spread out. Remember to wear our masks and bring your Bible and a notebook/pen to take notes to help remember what we learned, The video minister/speaker will answer the questions on WHO? WHERE? HOW? WHEN? and WHY? about the second coming.

If after this meeting, you wish to continue another study we can discuss it further or just make this a two-week study only. Please text me at 484-282-0178 or email me at [\*\*gjwallery@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:gjwallery@gmail.com) or call Lynne if you wish to attend.

There is plenty of room to spread out with a good view. So mark your calendars today because I hope to see you there.

Gloria Wallery



## The Men's Group

All men are invited to join us for Bible Study on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in **Old Fellowship Hall**. Bring your Bible and a mask.

Online/In Person Worship Attendance for Oct. 2020				
Week of	Online Traditional. 8:00 am	In Person Spoken. 9:00 am	Online Celebration 9:30 am	Total
Oct. 4	60	(outdoor) (First Comm.) 30	60	150
Oct.11	45	(Sanctuary) 24	96	165
Oct.18	37	(Fellowship Hall) 22	68	127
Oct.25	31	(Sanctuary) 29	59	119
Average	43	26	71	140



## Funerals

**Clinton D. Easton**, 72, passed to his eternal rest on Thursday, October 22, 2020. A funeral service was held at Heintzelman Funeral Home on October 27, 2020. Pastor Dan Clayborne officiated at the service. Clinton's final resting place is Cedar Hill Memorial Park, Allentown.

## OH, THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS ...

You get up on a Sunday morning, look out the window and see nothing but white, or your street is a sheet of ice ... you wonder if Sunday School and/or the Worship Service has been cancelled because of this "inclement weather". To make sure:



1. Go to WFMZ Channel 69 & watch for Emmanuel's Lutheran, Bath on the crawl at the bottom of the screen
2. Check updated message on church answering machine at 610-837-1741
3. Check Emmanuel's website at [www.emmanuelsof.org](http://www.emmanuelsof.org)

# 2020 Christmas Homebound



Louise Diaz  
Gracedale  
T-6, A-2-3  
2 Gracedale Ave.  
Nazareth PA 18064

Doris Engle  
2638 Community Dr  
Bath, PA 18014

Edith Grim  
Hampton House - Apt. 513  
1802 Lincoln Ave  
Northampton, PA 18067

Anthony Hnatow  
Saucon Valley Manor  
105 Main St.  
Hellertown PA 18055

Glenn & Joanne Hower  
68 Oak Lane  
Northampton PA 18067

Vernon & Pat Mann  
4954 Cheryl Dr.  
Bethlehem PA 18017

Joanne Markulics  
465 Cherryville Rd.  
Northampton PA 18067

Dorothy Meckes  
Chandler Estate  
1569 Teels Rd.  
Pen Argyl PA 18072  
610-863-3479

Louise and Jack Miltenberger  
319 West Main St  
Bath, PA 18014

June Myster  
3823 Sycamore Dr.  
Northampton PA 18067

Joyce Smith  
Gracedale, T-6  
2 Gracedale Ave.  
Nazareth PA 18064

Bill and Sue Witmer  
Sacred Heart Sr. Living  
Room 105  
602 E. 21st St.  
Northampton PA 18067

Norman Zader  
Mrs. Bush's Pers. Care Home  
Rm. 9W  
P.O. Box 327  
Kunkletown, PA 18058

Ralphie Zellers - Room 231B  
Manor Care  
2029 Westgate Dr  
Bethlehem, PA 18017



## December Flowers

(\$25.00 per vase)

**Dec. 6** - In honor of the 90th birthday of Elsie Edelman by Cindy and Gary O'Brien.

**Celebration** - Open

**Dec. 13** - Open

**Celebration** - Open

**Dec. 20** - In memory of father, grandfather and great grandfather Ricky Reph by The Haas Family.

**Celebration** - In memory of mothers Marie Beil and Elsie Moyer by Barry and Carol Moyer.

**Dec. 27** - Christmas Flowers

**Celebration** - Christmas Flowers

If you would like to sponsor flowers or bulletins for any of the open dates please contact the church office (610-837-1741)



If you sponsored altar flowers be sure to take them (if you want them) after the 9AM service on Sundays. If you won't be attending the service please contact the office to arrange for pickup.

## December Bulletins (\$6.00)

**Dec. 6-** Open

**Celebration** - In honor of all December birthdays by Gloria and Mike Wallery

**Dec. 13** - Open

**Celebration** - Open

**Dec, 20** - Open

**Celebration** - Open

**Dec. 24** - In honor of the birth of our Savior by Linda Floria

**Dec. 27** - In honor of the 1st wedding anniversary of Adam and Carolyn Geiger by Kurt and Michele Geiger.

**Celebration** - Open



Altar Flowers

2021 Sponsors Needed

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers for any Sunday in 2021 please call the church office (610-837-1741) or send an email ([emmanuelchurch@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelchurch@gmail.com)).

There will be 2 vases available to sponsor for each Sunday. Cost is \$25 per vase.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL 2020-2021



## ***Sunday School Is Arriving!***

***Prepare the Way!***

***Check your Mailboxes!***



Emmanuel's Church "In-Home Virtual Sunday School" has begun! We've mailed out the 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks of lessons for families to complete together – and here's how it will work:

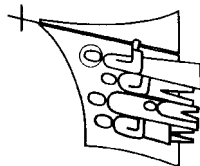
1. *Weekly packets are sent home to families who signed up.*
2. *The packets contain:*
  - \* *The Bible story of the week*
  - \* *Activities and discussion pamphlet to complete as a family*
  - \* *A link to a YouTube presentation of the Bible story*
  - \* *A way to earn a reward coupon to save up points for small prizes at the end of the Sunday School year (end of May)*
3. **Sign up** by calling the church office (610-837-1741) or emailing them ([emmanuelchurch@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelchurch@gmail.com)). Give the names and ages of the children in your family who are 4 yrs. old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

To get things started, we've sent packets out to children who have attended Sunday School regularly in the past. If you don't wish to receive them, let us know that, too. All our Sunday School staff is thankful that we've found a way to stay in touch with all of you. We hope you and your family will give it a try.

Call Paulette Obrecht  
(610-393-9713) if you have questions or comments.

Blessings and peace,

*Heather Bennett-Knerr*  
*Sunday School Superintendent*



Emmanuel....  
 God With Us  
 Emmanuel's Lutheran Church  
 3175 Valley View Drive Bath, PA 18014-9465

### **Emmanuel's Directory 610-837-1741**

The People of Emmanuel's Church  
 The Rev. T. Daniel Clayborne, Interim Pastor 774-239-6397  
 Beth McElroy, Director of Music 570-620-8580  
 Bobby Siegfried, Alt. Worship Music Coord. 610-751-0908  
 Lynne Ambrose, Secretary 610-837-1741  
 Gloria Wallery, Sexton 610-837-9250  
 Brian Baylor, Security 484-282-0178  
 484-330-9887

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 AM – 3 PM  
 E-mail Address Emmanuelchurch@gmail.com  
 Website www.emmanuelsof.org  
 Fax 610-837-8267

**Christmas Eve Services**  
**3:00pm** Online Traditional Christmas Eve  
 Worship with familiar carols and special music.  
**5:00pm** Outdoor Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight Service in the parking lot  
 (please call to let us know you are coming)  
**7:00pm** Online Celebration Christmas Eve  
 Worship with carols and special music.