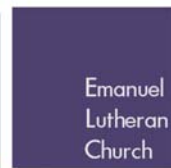


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**Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
*A Member of the New England Synod of the  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
 a "Reconciling In Christ" Synod*



**March 2009**

# Visitor

## From the Pastor

*My Dear Sisters and Brothers of Emanuel,*

Following up on last month's message about restoring biblical literacy to the people of Christ, we have two new offerings to present.

One is a Bible study sponsored by the Reconciling in Christ Mission Team. This study meets after late service on Sundays. It has already begun, but will continue through March 29. You are welcome to join us even if you have missed one or two sessions. This study is focused on the issue of hospitality and full welcome, with an emphasis on the place of gay and lesbian people in our fellowship. Though this may seem to be a very concentrated topic, I assure you that it will help us all develop a much more thoughtful way of reading Scripture. I encourage your attendance.

The other initiative we will begin on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. The ELCA has a daily Bible reading plan that will get us through the entire Bible in one year. Several of us have decided to do this together. We will read on our own, following the pattern developed by the ELCA. We will meet roughly monthly to discuss our questions and learning. We can publish the first get-together in the weekly updates and worship bulletin. Of course, you can do this without coming to the monthly sessions, but we think the chance to talk together will be very important to our understanding. Any translation of the Bible will do, but a good study

Bible is recommended. I'd be happy to recommend a few versions for those who are interested. If you are not able to find the daily reading plan, simply call, and we can get it for you.

A third effort during this coming year will be to have most mission teams become comfortable with doing a brief, Bible-based devotion at the beginning of each meeting. I have developed a simple, short form for this that will not take much time from the agenda of the meetings, does not require any biblical expertise, and will facilitate the familiarity of the team members with Scripture. Most importantly, it will ground the work of all teams in the book that has served as the cornerstone of Church life for 2000 years.

Remember, too, that our Thursday morning Bible study continues at 10:00 am, and my Pastor's Perspectives are walking through the whole Bible, book by book each month. I'd be happy to send anyone prior months if you missed them.

If none of these seem to fit what you need, I can assist you in finding other ways to begin to re-connect with the Bible. This is really very important if we are to be a vital family of faith for years to come.

*Yours In Christ,  
 Pastor Scott Cady*

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## Council Highlights

The February meeting of Emanuel Council began with devotions. Discussion of the Book of Faith was concluded with an example study from the book.

Jim Hamilton, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses in January, due in part to an annual pledge being paid in full that month. Other expenses that were higher than usual were snow removal and computer costs.

### Motions / Resolutions:

The following motions were approved by the council:

- Appointment of Carl Benson and Joyce Brown as co-Financial Secretaries and Don Anderson and Jim Hamilton as co-Treasurers
- Approval of Carl Benson and Joyce Brown as signatories on the Peoples Securities and Jim Hamilton and Don Anderson as signatories on the Vanguard Account.
- Appointment of Karen Fedorchack to the Housing Corporation Board
- One Sunday a month, take a collection for Samaritan Fund, to be seeded by individual members of the Council.
- Election of Douglas Blake as President of the Council
- Election of Joseph Jauss as the Vice President of the Council
- Election of Lynne Gustafson as the Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee
- Resolution that Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church on 60 Church Street make provisions for deceased members' families to have their loved ones ashes sprinkled on the front lawn and a marker be placed in their memory.
- Resolution that the council appoints a subcommittee to explore the possibility of constructing a columbarium.

### Discussion:

A letter was received from one member regarding the issue of making staff salaries public, which was an issue raised in the annual meeting. After lengthy discussion, the decision was made to forward the results of the discussion to Mutual Ministry.

Jonathan Reuning-Scherer gave notice of his intent to sell the homes at 5 and 9 Laurel Street. By contract, Emanuel has the right of first refusal on the sale of the homes. At this point, the Housing Corporation has indicated that they are not interested in either property. The Council decided that Emanuel cannot purchase the properties, and so has authorized Jonathan to proceed with the sale of the properties.

Pastor Cady brought up in his report that the Samaritan Fund as it stands may be inadequate to support the needs of the Congregation in the present economic situation. After discussion of various ways to increase the Fund and administer it a motion was adopted.

A member has expressed interest in the sprinkling of their ashes at Emanuel. Lynne Gustafson presented details of what would be required to allow sprinkling of ashes or the storage of ashes at Emanuel in a columbarium. Council adopted the resolution that Lynne provided.

Eric Heinrich updated the Council on the status of the Boy Scout Troop that Emanuel sponsors. Discussion continued on the possibilities of coordinating service projects with them and the need for a member to be the liaison with the Troop.

Lynne Gustafson made a presentation on a methodology for performing strategic planning called "Results Accountability", which came out of the meeting of the Strategic Planning Process Working Group.

## Christian Virtues

By Pastor Scott Cady

### The Christian virtues of gentleness, respect, and kindness

Churches are very unusual entities. They are like families, but also like clubs. They are like schools, but also like businesses. They are like social service agencies, but also like monasteries. Congregations are close, but also voluntary. They have urgent missions to achieve, but also the gift of patience and perseverance.

Here at Emanuel, we have much work to accomplish, and many assets to put to God's purposes. Sometimes, when many people of great skills and passions work diligently side-by-side, our varied perspectives on how best to do God's work can create a bit of friction. Ironically, it would be easier to brush off tensions and personal offenses if we did not care about the mission or if we did not care about each other. Because we do care, and care deeply, it is possible for our differences to create tender wounds.

Christ cares intensely for us. We are to care intensely for the mission. In between, let us make sure to take good care of one another, giving as little offense as possible, asking forgiveness when we do offend, and offering forgiveness freely when asked. Our words wield a powerful force. Speak with honesty and passion, but remember that the one spoken to is no less than your sister or brother in Christ, a treasure of incalculable worth. May God's peace be with you all.



**Blood Pressure Screening**  
**2nd Sunday of the month,**  
**between Services in the**  
**Parish Nurse's office**  
**March 8th**

## From the Parish Nurse

By Lynne Gustafson

In November of 2008, Vivian Severson was the guest speaker at Ruth Circle. Her subject was Reiki. She explained that Reiki is a Japanese "hands-on" technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. It is based on the concept that everything in the universe is made up of energy and the "life force energy" that flows all around us is drawn in by the body nourishing the cells, organs and glands. When one's energy is depleted, unbalanced or the flow is restricted by stress and "holding", injury, illness, etc, one is more susceptible to discomfort, further illness and disease. When one's energy is restored, free-flowing or balanced, one is more likely to feel relaxed and the body's own innate healing abilities are "jumped-started" and utilized for healing.

After Vivian described Reiki, we all benefited from a demonstration. We sat in chairs and the practitioners' hands were placed along the energy centers and pathways starting at our head. During the demonstration people reported feeling warm, gentle tingling or deep relaxation. At the completion of the program, we discussed the possibility of offering Reiki to the congregation.

Starting March 1, 2009 and continuing on the first Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon, we will be offering Reiki in the Youth room. Childcare will be available. Anyone interested may make an appointment by calling Vivian either at home at 643-8591 or on her cell at 860-985-7511. The cost is a suggested \$10.00 given to Emanuel Lutheran Church Good Samaritan Fund. This fund has been established as a discretionary fund for the Pastor to use to help people in need.

What better way to reduce your stress or relieve pain and muscle tension, heighten your sense of well being and increase your energy; and at the same time support our community in need.

## March Scripture Readings

### March 1st

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

### March 8th

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

### March 15th

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

### March 22nd

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

### March 29th

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

## Stewardship

By Micki Zelesky



### IT'S NOT EASY BEIN' GREEN!

When Kermit the Frog began singing that in the early 1970s, it was not all that easy bein' green. Granted, he was singing about his skin color, but the movement for bein' green from an environmental standpoint was just beginning to gain strength. The first Earth Day was established in 1970, and it is estimated that more than twenty million Americans participated.

Much has taken place during the 39 years since, and the environmental movement has, at times, taken a back seat to other serious issues. Now, however, Americans seem to be much more in tune again with the need to recognize the damage being done to the earth and ready to take steps to decrease our "footprint" or individual ecological impact. Just as Kermit came to terms through his song with bein' green, the Stewardship Mission Team wants to help raise awareness of the joys of bein' green and helping to care for God's creation.

The SMT has set aside Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> as a time for Emanuel to emphasize praising God for our precious gift, building awareness and assisting in recycling household goods. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will host a "GREEN" coffee hour (aren't you curious?), during which we will collect these items and distribute them where they will be recycled for other uses:

- Printer cartridges
- Eyeglasses
- Cell phones
- Light bulbs (compact fluorescent only – the new kind of bulbs)
- #5 plastic (not normally collected at curbside)
- Batteries (except car)
- Towels, twin sheets and washable blankets – in any condition (clean, please). Those in good shape go to MACC shelter; worn go to veterinary clinic.
- Books, including cookbooks, textbooks, children's books, books on tape, videotapes and DVDs (no encyclopedias, magazines or catalogs)

Note: Collection bins will remain in Luther Hall through Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Earth Hour

By Pastor Scott Cady



Earth Hour is an hour late in the day on March 28<sup>th</sup> when people will be turning off lights and other appliances for one hour. This discipline does several things: it saves money and carbon emissions. It gives families time to enjoy each other in quiet and candlelight. It helps us focus on the growing need for environmental healing and stewardship of the Earth. Communities around the globe will be going dark in observance of Earth Hour.

Emanuel will host an Earth Hour worship from 7-8:00 pm on Saturday, March 28. This service will be quiet, and reflective. It will use candlelight, some meditative readings, a brief homily, some calming music, and silent time. It is our hope that participants will then return home to have their family Earth Hour from 8:30-9:30 pm.

Please join us, and bring a friend.  
Carpool if possible.

### Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to Spring ahead!  
**Sunday, March 8th**



*Bein' Green*  
*Continued from left column*

On Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., there will be a church service to praise God for His blessings provided by our earth and to reflect on how we are called to be stewards of it. It is planned to be a service of quiet music, a few meditative readings, a brief homily and time for silence, all to candlelight.

Following the service, we are asking members to recognize Earth Hour from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in their homes. This is a global effort calling upon every individual to turn off his/her lights for one hour. In 2008, even such places as the Sydney Opera House, Golden Gate Bridge, Rome's Colosseum and the Coca Cola billboard in Times Square went dark. Some of our SMT members participated in 2008 as well and found peace and quality family time in reading together by candlelight or playing board games. You can learn more at [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org), as well as view a video of 2008 showing the lights being dimmed around the world.

Please join in our efforts to be stewards of the earth. As Kermit sang after accepting his color, "It's beautiful! And it's what I want to be!"

## Family Ministry

From Tara Arner

### Faithtrek

The children of Faith Trek are involved in the fourth rotation of the Peace in the Temple series. This month we will also begin our Easter rotation.

We are still in need of Lesson Leaders for the remainder of the year. If you would like to help, please see Tara Arner or you can sign up on the board near the Community Room.

### Little Lutheran Landing

The three and four year olds at Little Lutheran Landing will be learning stories in the New Testament.

### Christian Education Survey & Forum

The Christian Education team would like to invite you to actively participate in the direction of our Sunday School program. We are finishing up the sixth year of our six year rotational program. In the next few weeks we will be asking for your input in survey form. Towards the end of March or early April we will be holding a forum. Let's hear your thoughts about the future! Look for the date and time of the forum in the bulletin.



### July 13 – 17, 2009

Vacation Bible School is only a few months away! This year our theme will be **Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light.**

We are looking for decorations to go with our theme such as inflatable alligators, firefly lights, green or blue material, blue cellophane, fishing nets or other fishing equipment (the older looking the better), and lanterns. Just picture a Louisiana bayou! If you can provide us with any items, we would appreciate it. Please label any items that you would like returned with your name and phone number.

We are also starting to make a list of those people who are interested in joining our Crocodile Dock team as **Station Leaders** and **Crew Leaders**. For more information or to sign up, please contact Tara Arner at 643-1193 x 304 or tarachrised@yahoo.com

### Early Communion

On Sunday, April 5 we will be holding an Early Communion class. Our theme this year is, "Come Lord Jesus". We will begin with a light lunch right after second service followed by fun workshops.

If you would like to join us, please sign up in the office or on the bulletin board near the Christian Education office by March 22.

## Mission Teams

From Cindy Hall



### Communion Practice

The spring reminds me of the first time that Curtis received communion. It was a warm Easter morning. For many years we brought Curtis with us to the altar during communion for a blessing and he never indicated that he was aware of what was happening. Usually, we were just pleased to get back to our seats without him experiencing an outburst. Having autism, we knew that taking Curtis to a formal class to "understand" the meaning of the sacrament would be difficult, never mind being able to have him verbally express his thoughts on the matter. Having autism, we also knew he understood so much more than he would ever be able to tell us. But Curtis felt welcome at the Lord's table. Curtis knows that he can come and receive as a baptized Christian with the full assurance of God's love and grace without having to express his understanding through words. When Curtis reached out that Easter morning to receive the bread, it told us that he knew this holy place was there to welcome and love him.

Every baptized Christian is welcome to receive the sacrament of holy communion at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Young and old gather together at one table. Christ comes to us through the bread and wine just as he came to us in the waters of baptism. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. We do not fully understand the mystery of how God uses water, bread and wine to give us grace.

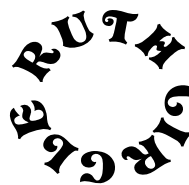
We simply come trusting God's promises.

The whole body of Christ comes to the table to be fed and receive strength and forgiveness of sins.

In the early church a baptismal candidate communed immediately after baptism. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has restored the intent of this practice by recommending that children be communed as well as adults. *The Use and Means of Grace* is a published statement from the ELCA on the practice of word and sacrament. (1997)

Learning about our faith is a lifelong process. Families are strongly encouraged to bring children during Lent to a formal education experience on the practice of holy communion. This event will be held on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon in Luther Hall. Please call the church office today to sign up.

## Church Events



Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd at 12 noon in the **Community Room**. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided by the committee. Pastor Cady will be leading us in a bible study. We look forward to

seeing our members who can no longer attend our evening meetings.

### BOOK CLUB NEWS

Emanuel's Book Club meets on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Library.

**March 1, 2009**

*The Shack* by William Paul Young

**April 5, 2009**

*The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peeling Society*  
by Mary Ann Shaffer & Michael Henry Heim



**YOU are cordially invited to attend  
A weekend retreat at  
Koinonia of Vermont!  
April 24th-26th**

A group of participants have met and planned the theme and schedule for the retreat at Koinonia. We will be arriving at the Blue Gentian Lodge after dinner on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the retreat will be based on the book, The Faith Club and discussions involving faith in action and prayer. If you do not have a copy of the book "Faith Club" speak to either Sylvia or David, or you can order a copy at "Amazon.com". We will attend a worship service at the Weston Priory on Saturday evening, as well as have time for fellowship, singing and shopping, perhaps at the Vermont Country Store. The retreat will end after lunch on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. All of the meals are included. Per person cost includes: double occupancy lodging, Koinonia registration fee, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on Saturday, Breakfast, Lunch on Sunday and VT State taxes. The cost per person is: \$155.00. A \$55 deposit is required with your registration anytime before April 1st. Final payment is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. All checks should be made payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church with "Annual Retreat" in the memo line and given to either Sylvia Hellstrom or David Halmers. We are looking forward to this time together and would love to welcome some more participants. Please contact Sylvia Hellstrom at 649-6306, or David Halmers at 875-9423, if you are interested in joining us.

**March 7th  
Brunch with Philip Grover,  
Executive Director  
11:00 a.m. Panera Bread  
179 Deming Street, Manchester**

No sign up. Come as you are, pay as you go.



**HEIN FRY  
LECTURE  
SERIES** March 22nd  
2:00 p.m. at Emanuel  
"Does This Text Have a Future? Eschatology  
in Lutheran Biblical Hermeneutics"  
Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore

### NEW TIME - NEW DAY!

**Prayer Shawl Gathering  
Tuesday, March 10th  
9:30 a.m.**

**Music Room in Luther Hall**

All are welcome to join us and coffee will be provided. If you have any questions, contact either Doris Johnson at 871-1498 or Norma Wirta at 875-5163.



**Earth Hour Candlelight Service  
Saturday, March 28th in the Sanctuary  
7:00-8:00 p.m.**

This service will be a reflection on the stewardship of the Earth.

### **Wednesday Moms' Faith Group**

They meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the library from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Child care is available in the nursery. They are discussing the book Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?. They will be starting a new study in April, the topic is TBD.

### **Sunday Women's Faith Group**

With the meeting on Sunday 2/15 they have decided to take the Faith Group in a different direction. We are going to be using short term (1-3 session) studies. The meeting between studies will be devoted to informal community building. This will allow attendees to attend intermittently based on their schedule. With that in mind, women of the congregation are invited to the next meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Marti Eddy's home, 70 Otis Street, Manchester. Please call Marti at home (860) 643-8222 or (860) 305-0743 (cell) for directions or questions. Information on the next study will be available in the newsletter and weekly announcements.

# Caring Commission



## March Birthdays

75 years old and older

Robert Harrison	March 10th
Rosemary Hokanson	March 10th
Frederick Hughes	March 11th
Lorraine Johnson	March 12th
Lydia Wogman	March 12th
Cecil Young	March 13th
Charles Bodemann, Jr.	March 25th
Robert Henrickson	March 29th

## PASTORAL ACTS

Funerals  
Lillian Bushey



## Thank You Notes

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church,

*I hope you will let your congregation know how much I appreciate their support of the MACC food pantry. We have been so busy I haven't kept up with my thank you notes.*

*Everyone has been so generous that we have been able to keep up with the 50% increase in usage of the pantry. Thanks so much for all you do!*

*Peace & love, Dale Doll*

My dear Emanuel Friends,

*Thank you for your cards and kind expressions of sympathy on the recent death of my mother. She was an amazing lady. Our family was blessed to have had her in our lives for so many years--ninety-nine plus.*

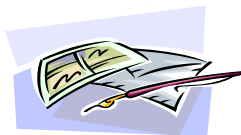
*Fondly, Marge Andersen  
(and Rod, too)*

To the dear people of Emanuel,

*Thank you all so much for your love, gifts, and assistance on the day of my Mother's Memorial Service at Emanuel. Mom's "other family" surely was there!*

*Thanks, too, for your sweet notes to Dad. I keep delivering them to him.*

*All my very best wishes and Love,  
Kristin Ahlness*



## MACC Charities now owns Inspirations Gift Shoppe on East Center Street in Manchester!

To celebrate, now through 5/9/09 MACC is offering its **Member Churches 50% off an entire order** (one time offer/one flyer per person)

*If you would like a copy of the flyer needed to redeem the 50% off, please contact the church office at 643-1193 or access the link directly on Emanuel's Weekly Update.*

## Your help is needed at the Easter Vigil and Easter services!

There is a need for **communion assistants:**

- 2 at the 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil
- 4 at the 11:15 a.m. Easter service

There is a need for **Greeters:**

- 11:15 a.m. Easter service

If anyone is attending these services, would you be willing to serve? Please call or e-mail the church office, 643-1193 or emanuel@snet.net



## Palm Sunday—Palms



Emanuel's Palm Sunday decorations this year will include large individual Fan Palm strips which "adhere to a high standard of environmental stewardship and social responsibility."

The supplier states that a portion of the sales will be donated to non-profit organizations benefiting environmental and humanitarian efforts in the US. The supplier provides several hundred jobs to people in one of the lowest economic regions of the US, as well. The Altar Guild hopes that you will wave your palm strip with us all on April 5th as we begin Holy Week.

## Scholarships Available

MassMutual is offering scholarships to high school seniors in Hartford County who are planning to attend college in western Massachusetts or Hartford County and pursue a career in business, financial services or information technology. Through its MassMutual Scholars – Career Pathways Program the company has made available 40 renewable scholarships worth up to \$5,000 annually.

Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial needs. The deadline to apply is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Only online applications will be considered. To apply or for more information, visit the Web site: [www.communityfoundation.org/massmutual](http://www.communityfoundation.org/massmutual)

# Conversion

By Crystal Hall

**[After Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus...] And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized.**

**Acts 9:18**

We say that we want to help the poor, but do we *really*? I thought that I was compelled. When I attended my first Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference in Washington DC, I had a conversion moment. I knew that the way I lived out my faith would never be the same. My life had been going in one direction and took a complete U-turn. During those few days I knew, that on some level, I would spend the rest of my life on the side of the poor. My rationale for going to the developing world, for volunteering, was that I wanted to put a face to the statistics. I wanted to engage with people, not just read about them in glossy NGO brochures. I felt that if I was truly going to advocate on behalf of the poor (or if anyone was going to take me seriously) that I needed to spend time on the ground, to witness what it really means to confront the daily realities of poverty. Frankly, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I said I wanted to help the poor. Do I really have any idea what that statement means? Am I ready to be converted yet again? That is something about which I'm not so sure...

NGOs, government agencies, and churches (among many others) have institutionalized development work. This is both a very good and a very bad thing. There is a constant emphasis on numbers and results. In "NGO speak" development happens through baseline studies, action and business plans, M & E (monitoring and evaluation), and statistical analysis. The process is clinical and dehumanized. Agencies no longer deal with human beings but with "the poor," "the marginalized," "the disadvantaged," "the [insert appropriate adjective here]." People become objects. It is so much more comfortable, palatable, and safer to objectify a person than to enter into their lives, in the same way that it is so much easier to mail a shoebox full of semi-useless items overseas than it is to think about systematic socio-economic inequality. We praise Mother Theresa, because she selflessly gave her life to serving the poor, but we murder Archbishop Oscar Romero because he asked why people are poor in the first place. Romero was murdered because he threatened the status quo in a radical way, in such a way that people were willing to kill him.

People say all the time that they want to help the

poor by volunteering their time and donating their money to charity. It's a fashionable, socially acceptable, résumé-building, even noble thing to do. (And it looks great on university applications.) The wealthy give to charity by attending lavish dinners and golf tournaments. To the world this is "helping the poor." The entire process is sanitized. The typical charity event involves no interaction with people that are poor, the people that will be scavenging the dumpsters after the event. Even those experiences that are interactive, like volunteering at a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter, give the volunteers the luxury of leaving at the end of the day, to return to the comforts of their daily lives.

Justice is not such a popular, socially acceptable concept. It points to our hypocrisy, the dichotomy between "helping the poor" and sharing in the lives of the poor, coming down on the side of the poor. That is a concept for which people are martyred, one of the very things for which Jesus was crucified. Jesus was always hanging out with the "wrong" people. Who are the sinners and tax collectors of our day? The homeless man on the street corner, the drug addict in the alley, the physically and mentally disabled that act out in public, the illegal immigrant working in a restaurant kitchen, the HIV positive person rejected from her church... What philanthropist is willing to do a photo-op with a homeless person? We have to ask ourselves, who is the absolute last person we would want to be seen in public with? Those are exactly the people, the people on the margins, that Jesus would be spending his time with now.

Six months ago I thought that I was compelled. I thought that I knew what it meant to live with the constant knowledge that a person dies every four seconds from a preventable, poverty-related cause. But I was wrong. I was still operating in the charity paradigm. Have I ever been willing to be seen with the wrong people? What would everybody think? How would I feel? Would I have to think and act differently? Am I willing to be converted again and again? To admit that I am more of a Pharisee than I ever thought, because I'm so wrapped up in my own self-righteousness that I can't see the Son of God right in front of me? This is the kind of conversion that happens every day, as I realize more and more (and perhaps less and less) what sort of life a follower of Christ is called to.

article taken from Crystal's blog at: [www.rootedinlife.blogspot.com](http://www.rootedinlife.blogspot.com)

## From the Executive Director

Philip Grover

I'm a product of The Greatest Generation—"the greatest generation any society has produced." (If you haven't read Tom Brokaw's book, it's a worthy read that will probably jerk a tear or two.) Dad was a navy man during WWII, having lied about his age to enlist at the age of 16. After the war, dad drove a taxi cab in Portsmouth, NH. Mom packed sardines and manufactured cathode ray tubes. They became the greatest generation by doing what was necessary. That's intimidating, because I've never heard my generation called the second greatest generation. I mean, many would probably say we're not even medalists.

This season, the Council has been studying Opening the Book of Faith. It presents Lutheran insights for Bible study, in part based on the premise that everyone is a teacher and anyone can lead a Bible study. It asks that we "open Scripture ... join the conversation." This past month, within the context of the study of Moses and the burning bush, this question was posed: "Have you ever experienced what you might describe as a "call" from God." It's not terribly surprising how demure the Council members were in their responses. Most prefaced their responses with something like, "Well, my calling wasn't anything like Moses', but..."

Now, I have a recurring ouch-memory of the 1988 vice-presidential debates, when Senator Bentsen looked Senator Quayle in the eye and said, "I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy." Ouch! Ever since, I've been loath to make comparisons.

It can be intimidating to follow faithful men and women who volunteer their time and talent to so ably do God's work with their hands. Sometimes I dare not even say that the work I do is necessarily God's, although I sometimes play God on the television of my mind. In the book of Haggai, which most everyone knows by now is one of my favorites, the prophet encourages the returned exiles to rebuild the temple, one to replace the temple built by Solomon. When it's done, God asks: "Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? Does it not seem to you like nothing?!" (Haggai 2:3) Oh my goodness, it's God as some Yiddish bubbeh: 'Temple, you call *that* a temple. I've *seen* Solomon's temple, and that's no temple..."

But, He goes on to say, "my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear." And, after reminding us that all silver and gold is His, he promises to fill the house with His glory and says, "in this place I will grant peace."

I'm reading a book my friend Joy gave me for Christmas, Wide Awake: the future is waiting within you, by Erwin Raphael McManus. In it, he encourages the reader to create, to be so presumptuous (my word, not his) as to create the future, not to simply trust that if the Lord wills, it will happen. And, he spends some time working through the reader's fears: the perfectionist's fear, the fear of making a decision—right or wrong, the fear of not measuring up.

There are many tasks that need to be undertaken to create Emanuel's future, and it can be intimidating to follow faithful men and women who so ably do God's work with their hands. As mentioned in the Annual Report, my first months at Emanuel have been like working in a library in the sense that the people with whom I've met and from whom I've learned have volumes of experience to share—walking books with information waiting to be published. I'd like nothing more than to have the wisdom of each published in a volume on a shelf in the church office.

So, if you're feeling called to participate in Emanuel's ministry, I encourage you to spend some time in the library with those who can prepare you for your future, to sense God's Spirit with you and not to fear, to be so audacious as to recognize your calling as did Moses.



### 26th annual Foodshare Walk Against Hunger Sunday, May 3rd

The new Walk website is already up and running! We've worked hard since last year's event to improve it and hope you'll take a few minutes to donate online for the Walk today.

The Walk is a fun, family-friendly event that raises funds that directly support Foodshare and many of our benefiting partner agencies as we work to stop hunger in our region.

**[www.foodshare.org](http://www.foodshare.org)**  
(search team Emanuel Lutheran Manchester)

# MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Healing Prayer at both services Nursery Care provided during both services <b>8:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:45 AM</b> Reiki-Youth Room <b>11:45 AM</b> RIC Bible Study-LH <b>1:30 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Worship-Sanctuary <b>6:30 PM</b> Book Club - Lib.	<b>2</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> 6:30 NYG - CR <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts - LH	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Beethoven-MR <b>12:00 PM</b> Ruth Circle-CR <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>6:30 PM</b> New Day Singers-SA <b>7:00 PM</b> Housing Corp. - Lib. <b>7:30 PM</b> AA Smile - LH	<b>4</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting - LH <b>9:30 AM</b> Moms' Faith Group - Library/CR <b>6:30 PM</b> Head to Heart - CR <b>8:15 PM</b> Brass Choir - SA	<b>5</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study-LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Informal Comm. Service-LH <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>7:00 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Bible Study-Youth Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir - SA	<b>6</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> MANA - LH	<b>7</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Concordia Council Retreat-LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Brunch with Philip Grover - Panera Bread <b>11:00 AM</b> Scandia - Youth Room
<b>8</b> Nursery Care provided during both services <b>8:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>9:45 AM</b> Blood Pressure Screening - Parish Nurse Office <b>10:00 AM</b> Finance Meeting - Library <b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:45 AM</b> RIC Bible Study-LH <b>1:30 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Worship-Sanctuary	<b>9</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts - LH	<b>10</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Prayer Shawl Team Mtg.-MR <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>6:30 PM</b> New Day Singers - SA <b>6:45 PM</b> Council Devotions- CR <b>7:00 PM</b> Council Meeting-CR <b>7:30 PM</b> AA Smile - LH	<b>11</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting - Library <b>9:30 AM</b> Head Start Policy Council - LH/Nursery <b>6:30 PM</b> Head to Heart - CR <b>7:45 PM</b> Emanuel Choir - MR	<b>12</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study-LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Informal Comm. Service-LH <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>7:00 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Bible Study-Youth Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir - SA	<b>13</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> MANA - LH	<b>14</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Endowment Meeting - LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Bonded into the Body-LH <b>2:00 PM</b> Stewardship-Quatrocelli home
<b>15</b> Calumet Sunday Nursery Care provided during both services <b>VISITOR NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> <b>8:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:45 AM</b> RIC Bible Study-LH <b>1:30 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Worship-Sanctuary	<b>16</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Creative Living Community - CR <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts - LH <b>7:00 PM</b> Property - Library <b>7:00 PM</b> Storytellers - Youth Room	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Beethoven Chorus-MR <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>6:30 PM</b> New Day Singers - SA <b>7:30 PM</b> AA Smile - LH	<b>18</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting - LH <b>9:30 AM</b> Moms' Faith Group - Library/CR <b>6:30 PM</b> Head to Heart - CR	<b>19</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Head Start - LH/Nursery <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study-LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Informal Comm. Service-LH <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>7:00 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Bible Study-Youth Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir - SA	<b>20</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> MANA - LH <b>6:30 PM</b> Scrapbooking Night - LH	<b>21</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Pedals, Pipes Pizza - Sanctuary/LH
<b>22</b> Nursery Care provided during both services <b>8:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:45 AM</b> RIC Bible Study-LH <b>1:30 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Worship-CR <b>2:00 PM</b> Hein-Fry Lecture Series - Sanctuary <b>6:30 PM</b> Sunday Women's Faith Group - Marti Eddy's home	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts - LH	<b>24</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>6:30 PM</b> New Day Singers - SA <b>7:30 PM</b> AA Smile - LH	<b>25</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting w/ Concordia - Library <b>6:30 PM</b> Head to Heart - CR <b>7:00 PM</b> Mutual Ministry - Library <b>7:45 PM</b> Emanuel Choir - MR	<b>26</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study-LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Informal Comm. Service-LH <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>7:00 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Bible Study-Youth Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir - SA	<b>27</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> MANA - LH <b>9:30 AM</b> Visitor Mailing - CR	<b>28</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Earth Hour Candlelight Service
<b>29</b> Nursery Care provided during both services <b>8:45 AM</b> Worship Service <b>10:15 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship Service <b>11:45 AM</b> RIC Bible Study-LH <b>1:30 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Worship-Sanctuary	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts - LH	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Beethoven Chorus-MR <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>6:30 PM</b> New Day Singers - SA <b>7:30 PM</b> AA Smile - LH	<b>1</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Staff Meeting - LH <b>9:30 AM</b> Moms' Faith Group - Library/CR <b>6:30 PM</b> Head to Heart - CR <b>8:15 PM</b> Brass Choir - SA	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study-LH <b>11:00 AM</b> Informal Comm. Service-LH <b>1:00 PM</b> MARC Teen Class - LH <b>7:00 PM</b> Christ Church CLG/Bible Study-Youth Room <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir - SA	<b>3</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> MANA - LH	<b>4</b>

## Lay Minister Schedule for March 2009

Worship Assistants	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
<b>Greeters 8:45</b>	Mel & Sylvia Hellstrom	John & Linda Helmke	Bruce & Peggy Johnson	Len & Doris Johnson	Steve & Myra Johnson
<b>Greeters 10:30</b>	Doti Dienst, Kris Fournier	Carl & Linda Eckblom	Parker & Wendianne Grant	Don & Debbie Gunsten	Kurt & Linda Hassett
<b>Acolyte 8:45</b>	Andy Hart	Kent Zelesky	Rachel Hansen	John David Torstenson	Thomas Quinn
<b>Acolyte 10:30</b>	Tobias Boerner-Mercier	Emily Chromik	Chris DiBella	Ryan Davis	Katy Davis
<b>Assisting Minister 8:45</b>	Pete Baron-Krieger	David Bukowy, Jr.	John Helmke	Fred Hughes	Marina Halmers
<b>Assisting Minister 10:30</b>	Kim Boerner-Mercier	Joe Jauss	Brian DiBella	Eric Heinrich	John Helmke
<b>Lector 8:45</b>	Kent Zelesky	Megan Zelesky	Marge Andersen	Rod Andersen	Karin Buus
<b>Lector 10:30</b>	Kurt Bellhorn	Kim Boerner-Mercier	Mindy McVey	Danielle Fournier	Susan Hebert
<b>Communion Assts. 8:45</b>	Carol Kohl, Elsa Robinson	Bev Niemann Kaylee Niemann	John David Torstenson Rod Andersen	Pete Baron-Krieger Carl Benson	Joyce Brown David Bukowy, Jr.
<b>Communion Assts. 10:30</b>	Herb Lindahl Rich Lindahl Brittany Niver Paige Niver	Melody Ryan Bob Schmidt Marissa Shanbaum Sue Tracey	Gary Stough, Zac Stough Rowena Stough Kevin Uznanski	Nancy Whiton Mark Anderson Kristin Uznanski Chris Rothe	John & Kim Boerner-Mercier Donna Connolly Garrett Connolly
<b>Ushers 8:45</b>	Vyrjil & Karin Buus Kent Carlson Paul Margelony	Eric Haaga Mel & Sylvia Hellstrom P.J. Muniz	Len Johnson Pat Nelson Nelson & Elsa Robinson	Judy Anderson Keith Carriere Matt Heinrich Bruce Johnson	Vyrjil & Karin Buus Kent Carlson Steve Johnson
<b>Ushers 10:30</b>	Mark Anderson John Berk Dave Jackson Ray Purtell	Ron & Ruth Lehrach Richard Marsh Melody Ryan	Shawn McVey Dan Reel Jean Rothe Tom Schirmer	Mark Anderson Dave Jackson Dave Kent Ray Purtell	Bob & Sandy Coulombe Doug & Gail Porter
<b>Nursery Helper 10:15 w/ Monica Swanson</b>	Laura Hess	Stacy Baumgartner	Kim Boerner-Mercier	Cindy & Leah Kent	Linda Helmke
<b>Hospital Visitor</b>	Carol Kohl	Sylvia Hellstrom	Susan Plese	Len Johnson	Carol Kohl

## Worship and other events scheduled during Lent at Emanuel:

### Sunday, March 1

Healing Prayer at both Services  
11:45 AM RIC Bible study & lunch

### Thursday, March 5

10:00 AM Bible study  
11:00 Informal Communion Service  
followed by a soup & bread lunch

### Sunday, March 8

11:45 AM RIC Bible study & lunch

### Thursday, March 12

10:00 AM Bible study  
11:00 Informal Communion Service  
followed by a soup & bread lunch

### Sunday, March 15

11:45 AM RIC Bible study & lunch

### Thursday, March 19

10:00 AM Bible study  
11:00 Informal Communion Service  
followed by a soup & bread lunch

### Sunday, March 22

11:45 AM RIC Bible study & lunch  
2:00 PM Hein-Fry Lecture Series

### Thursday, March 26

10:00 AM Bible study  
11:00 Informal Communion Service  
followed by a soup & bread lunch

### Sunday, March 29

11:45 AM RIC Bible study & lunch

### Thursday, April 2

10:00 AM Bible study  
11:00 Informal Communion Service  
followed by a soup & bread lunch

### Sunday, April 5

**PALM SUNDAY**  
Healing Prayer at both Services  
11:45 AM Early Communion  
Workshop

### Thursday, April 9

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

12:00 noon Worship Service  
at Concordia  
7:30 PM Worship Service

### Friday, April 10

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

7:30 PM Worship  
Service

### Saturday, April 11

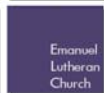
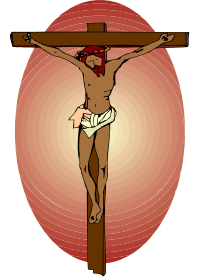
#### **EASTER VIGIL**

7:30 PM Worship  
Service

### Sunday, April 12

#### **EASTER**

8:15 AM Worship Service  
9:45 AM Worship Service  
11:15 AM Worship Service



### Emanuel Lutheran Church

60 Church Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
TIME VALUE — PLEASE DO NOT DELAY  
MAILED 2/25/09