

VOICE OF EMMANUEL

SEEDS OF HOPE!



God Bless America

“There are three kinds of patriots: Two bad and one good,” theorized the Rev. William Sloane Coffin while preaching at Riverside Church in New York. “The bad ones are the uncritical lovers and the loveless critics. The good patriots,” he noted, “carry on a lover’s quarrel with their country, a reflection of God’s lover’s quarrel with the world.”

Even as we proudly sing that “this land is your land, this land is my land,” we confess that a) it’s all ultimately God’s land, not humans’, and b) the humans to whom this land was entrusted for its overwhelming history were/are the indigenous peoples. It became “ours” (whatever THAT implies) by conquest, genocide, and assimilation and became prosperous on the backs of people ripped from other homelands and traded as chattel in the slave industry.

We also confess that “all men created equal” didn’t include slaves until 1863 and didn’t acknowledge women’s right to vote until my Grandmother Smith was 32. Certain unalienable rights did not apply to Japanese citizens in the early 1940s or again, African Americans in the Jim Crow South. One of our greatest causes for celebration this holiday week is the freedom to vote, advocate, and work for legislation to change the injustices that did not and do not equally offer and protect the freedom we all seek and treasure.

In his book titled *Credo* Coffin asks, “How do you love America? Don’t say ‘My country, right or wrong.’ That’s like saying, ‘My grandmother, drunk or sober;’ it doesn’t get you anywhere. Be honest. Say what you believe and feel, but always to build up, not tear down.” That is to say, we are, unavoidably, political creatures. Martin Luther, whose name our church bears, knew nothing of democracy, but he did assert that we all have one foot solidly in the ultimate kingdom of God while the other foot is firmly and unavoidably planted in the kingdom(s) of this world. For us as Lutheran Christians, this dichotomy is a referendum on the very first commandment of having our priorities and allegiances in proper order. Even our (1950s and beyond) pledge of allegiance says “one nation under God”—not the other way around!

It’s also helpful and intriguing to note that the citizens of this country who in 1776 declared independence from Britain and 13 years later codified that in a constitution could easily have established a “Christian nation” but instead quite intentionally avoided that as well as the suggestion of a theocracy in general. Jefferson, who had a Christian heritage but personally did not believe that Jesus was God, included explicitly in his “fair experiment” the prohibition of a “state church” as existed in most of Western Europe. We were to be guided by principles and ideals, most of them clearly borrowed from the secular Enlightenment which placed humans, not



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Voice of Emmanuel Seeds of Hope!

ELC Seeds of Hope

is published weekly to
keep members and
friends together during
there time of physical
distancing!

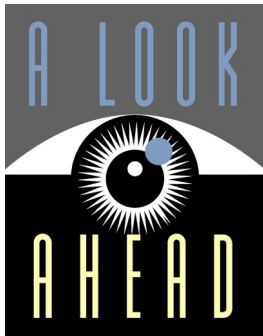
**Information
submitted for
publication must
be received by
Tuesday of Each
week.**

**e-mail to
lifewithemmanuel
@gmail.com**

Mission Statement:

As the body of Christ,
fed and nourished
through worship, we
are called to serve all
people, through the use
of our gifts to proclaim
God’s justice, mercy
and love.

*Our Vision: Striving to
Thrive with Vitality!*



July 10

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

God, squarely at the helm of the universal ship.

So how is this experiment going? The jury is still out—and should be worried, at that—lo, these 200+ years later. As Lincoln scribbled on an envelope in his 1863 Gettysburg Address, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure." Freedom is a risky proposition. I'm tempted to believe, as with money, power, etc., that I enhance my freedom by diminishing yours. The way of Jesus is radical in that it dares suggest implicitly that nobody is free unless all are free.

Jesus risked reaching out to all people in love, inclusion, welcome, and value—Gentiles, Jews, slave, free, male, female, eunuchs; (i.e. non-binary), righteous, established, excluded, unclean, sinners—and we killed him for it.

Both "kingdoms," in Luther's language, God and government, have community at the core and therefore require responsibility and accountability for the welfare of others. Luther wrote in his famous treatise, "The Freedom of a Christian," that 1. "A Christian is a perfectly free, Lord of all, subject to none," followed immediately by 2. "A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant, subject to all." Whether it's from Britain, or from sin, death, and the power of the devil, freedom always pursues the good of community, meaning all.

Great divide continues to threaten our nation and our church, calling to mind both the days and the questions of Lincoln. Lutheran Americans are neither loveless critics taking potshots at government nor blind patriots who put country before God. Thanks be to God for the Gospel's freedom from self-lived out in love of neighbor, and thanks be to God for a nation that by design, if yet experimental, gives us all a voice and vote. May our identity as lovers always outpace—and even guide—our moments and causes for quarreling!

Walking with you,

Tim

NC Synod Bishop

thank you

Coach David Byrd from Lincolnton High School wants to thank everyone for the wonderful response he had to sponsoring kids for the football camp.

As usual, our wonderful church has made a difference in our community!

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Jesus often quoted or cited Old Testament prophets. Which of the prophets did he not cite in his words or deeds?

1. Amos
2. Hosea
3. Isaiah
4. Jeremiah
5. Malachi



Answer: 1. Amos

Heavenly Humor

For those who tire of excuses why people don't go to church, these are the reasons why I never wash:

1. I was forced to wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites - they think they're cleaner than others.
3. There are so many kinds of soap I could never decide which was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got boring.
5. I only wash on Christmas and Easter.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I'll start washing when I'm older.
8. I really don't have the time.
9. The bathroom isn't warm enough.
10. People who make soap are only after your money.



Ministry in Action - July

	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Greeters	Jennifer Little Nancy Pales	Heather Lackey Jan Huitt	Kenneth Pales Nancy Pales	Mary Rhodes Dara Jarrett
Lector	Ruth Murphy	John Cromer	Chuck Yoder	David Bynum
Crucifer	Nayshaun Holiday	Julie Leonhardt	John Cromer	Matthew Heavner
Acolyte	Hannah Brooks	Katelyn Leonhardt	Jennifer Huskey	Hannah Brooks
Communion Asst	Cathy Lounsbury	Steve Lounsbury	Beth Collins	Jennifer Huskey
Videographer	Shelly Caffey	Shelly Caffey	Shelly Caffey	Shelly Caffey
Altar Flowers	Available	Available	Available	Available

Monthly Duties July 2022

Councilperson	Cathy Lounsbury			
Altar Guild	Sue Zimtbaum	Alison Zimtbaum		
Ushers	Steve Lounsbury (Captain)	Ben Robinson Jody Rhyne	Randy Zimtbaum Keith Saine	

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Faith5 Corner: by Pastor Mike

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Share: Share your highs and lows

Read: Luke 10:25-37

Talk: Slowly reflect on the reading. Did anything grab your attention as you read the passage? Lawyers love the law. It is to the law that they dedicate their lives. So when a lawyer addresses Jesus about inheriting eternal life, Jesus refers him back to the law. What does the law say?

Jesus tells him to fulfil the law and he will live. Evidently the lawyer doesn't have any problem with the first part – loving God, but he wants clarification about his neighbor. What does he ask? Jesus tells him the parable we've come to know as the Good Samaritan. What is the message of this parable? What justifications might the priest have had for not helping? How could the Levite justify his inaction? How do we justify not offering assistance when we see people in need? The Samaritan is the least likely to have helped the wounded man, yet he not only renders aid, but continues to offer support even after he leaves. What does Jesus call the lawyer to do?

Interestingly enough, I'm wondering how the lawyer thought he had fulfilled the first part of the law – loving God with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind. He is trying to justify himself about his neighbor, but already has missed the mark of the first part. In how many ways do we place other things above God daily? Do we, can we really love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind? And if we can, then why don't we?

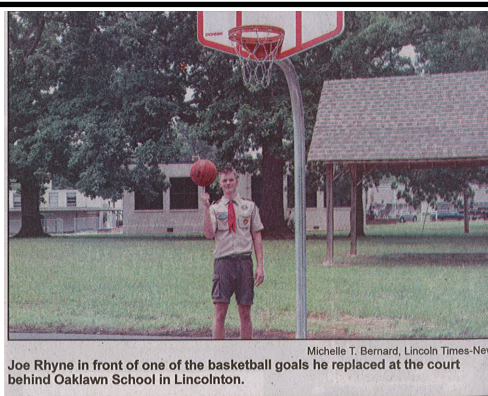
Pray: Gracious God, you are full of mercy and compassion. We are not whom you have called us to be. We have fallen short of your glory, turned aside from you and our neighbor. Forgive us and shed the light of your love upon the path of righteousness that we might follow you more nearly each and every day. Amen

Bless: “_____, God's mercy is your mantle .”





Shirley Barnes, George Boyd, Noah Denton (son of Mindy Brooks Denton), Polly Bryant, Kathy Cromer, Laura Cromer, Marianne Doehling, Page Doehling, Cecelia Driscoll, Paul Driscoll, Martha Duncan, Max Edwards, James Gantt, Betty King, Nancy McCoy, Trudy Perkins, Mary Rhodes, Jim Sain, Michael Wright, Pat Wilhelm, Rick Norine and family (cousin of Barbara O'Neill), Phil McIlveen (Marianne Doehling's father) James McIlveen (Marianne Doehling's brother), Evelyn Cochrane (neighbor of Susan McConnell), Terri Blake (friend of Susan Boyd), Randy Cherry (Brother of Buzz Cherry), Nancy Skeeters (in-law of Jenny Watson), Nan Muddle, Taylor Lawson (son of John and Tonya Lawson), Barbara Stillwell (sister-in-law of Rusty Rhyne), Tommy London (father of Tonya Lawson), Mickey Adair (aunt of Tonya Lawson), Sherri Beam (friend of Julie Leonhardt), Drew Milholland (Pastor Mike), Breanna Tapp (Jennifer Huskey), Tomi Pendleton (Dara Jarrett), Judith Dew (Marianne and Page Doehling), Dottie Vandenburg (Tonya Lawson), Glenn Mosteller Jr. (Glenn Mosteller), Van Davis (brother of Amy Brown), Dinah Barkley (friend of Susan Boyd)



Michelle T. Bernard, Lincoln Times-News
Joe Rhyne in front of one of the basketball goals he replaced at the court behind Oaklawn School in Lincolnton.

Way to go Joe!!

Local Boy Scout, and lifelong member of Emanuel Lutheran **Joe Rhyne**, chose an Eagle Scout project that will enrich a neighborhood in Lincolnton. Joe is a member of Boy Scout Troup 74, sponsored by Rhyne Heights United Methodist Church in Lincolnton. Joe decided to re-habilitate the basketball court behind the Oaklawn School in Lincolnton.

This project took Joe four months. First the cracks were filled in, then a fresh layer of asphalt was poured. Both goals were replaced. The total cost was approximately \$2,500 with a lot of the materials and labor being donated.

Joe has not officially received his Eagle Scout award, but all the paperwork has been submitted.



We are planning on re-starting our Christian Education programs this fall. Bob Lake is leading the effort.

If you have any ideas or wishes, or would like to help with the planning, please contact Bob or Pastor Mike



Join us as we Journey with John!

The 2022 NC Synod Summer Bible Reading Plan is set to begin on Sunday, July 3

Participate in Bible Study in four ways:

1. Subscribe to receive daily e-mails in your inbox. Choose 'click to join' in the footer of the synod's website, nclutheran.org.
2. Like and Follow the synod's Facebook page to see the daily posts in your newsfeed: facebook.com/NCSynod.
3. Download the PDF which includes all the readings. Find it on the ETB webpage: nclutheran.org/congregations/engage-the-bible/
4. New this year! Participate by listening to the Journey with John podcast series available from nclutheransynod.libsyn.com/ or wherever you get your podcasts.

The Summer Bible Reading Plan is brought to you the NC Synod's Engage the Bible Task Group (ETB): a Book of Faith ministry.



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
216 S Aspen St Lincoln, NC 28092

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Randy Zimbaum	7/06
Donnie Robinson	7/08
Todd Heavner	7/14
Jim Sain	7/14
Johnnie Gonzalez	7/16
Susan McConnell	7/16
Chris Hoffman	7/18
Mary Rhodes	7/18
Zach Zagorski	7/18
Andy Deal	7/19
Nayshaun Holiday	7/20
Joe Scronce	7/21
Rhonda Harrill	7/22
Robert Doehling	7/23
Denise Yoder	7/23
William O'Dell	7/25
Ashlyn Rhyme	7/25
Ashley Peaslee	7/27
Martin Eaddy	7/29
John Lineberger	7/29
Elizabeth Stone	7/31



Seeds of Hope

A PUBLICATION OF
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PHONE: 704-735-9033

Lincoln County Covid-19 Case numbers

As of March 23 the State and County are no longer reporting numbers

Lincoln County Positivity Rate as of June 25 - 21.58%

Lincoln County Positivity Rate as of June 4 - 27.53%

Lincoln County current cases as of June 25 - 158

Lincoln County current cases as of July 4 - 107



Newsletter Content
Contributors

Bob Lake
Ben Robinson
Pastor Mike
WELCA

Sunday worship, study and
fellowship opportunities

Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Service is live streamed on
Facebook at 10 am each Sunday
and will be posted to YouTube.