

VOICE OF EMMANUEL

SEEDS OF HOPE!

Gary Benny McConnell
(March 20, 1944 - July 23, 2023)

Gary Benny McConnell, age 79, of Lincolnton, NC, passed away on July 23, 2023, at his home surrounded by family and close friends. He was born March 20, 1944, in Lincoln County to the late Ralph Douglas and Ollie Wise McConnell.

Gary was a member of the 1962 graduating class of Lincolnton High School. He attended Appalachian State University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in 1967, a Master of Education degree in 1974 and an Educational Specialist degree in 1976. He served on the ASU Alumni Council, was an Advancement Board Member of Reich College of Education and was a member of the Yosef Club. Gary was an avid supporter of the Appalachian State Mountaineers football team and followed them to games around the country including their three National Championship victories in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

A lifelong educator, Gary began his career as a teacher in Lincoln County at Love Memorial School. He also taught at Cramerton School in Gaston County and was a counselor at East Lincoln Junior High before becoming the Assistant Principal there. Gary went on to become the Principal of Park Elementary School and then Lincolnton Junior High before moving to the Lincoln County Schools County Office where he served for 15 years as the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel.

As a devoted member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Gary served on the Church Council, taught Sunday School, was Youth Group advisor and sang in the choir for many years. He was also a Board Member of Lutherhaus, an affordable housing ministry for senior citizens supported by Emmanuel, for a total of 36 years, serving as its President for 29 years.

Active in Lincolnton Jaycees, Gary served as local President and District Director. He was also an Optimist baseball coach and was active in the scouting program at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Gary's greatest joys, however, were found as a husband, father and grandfather, and spending time with his close group of friends lovingly known as "The Groovy Gang". Their activities included tailgating at Mountaineer football games, ski trips in the High Country of North Carolina, attending concerts, relaxing at Cherry Grove beach, and traveling in various parts of the world. Devoted to each other for over 60 years, this group has



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**Voice of
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**ELC Seeds of
Hope**

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

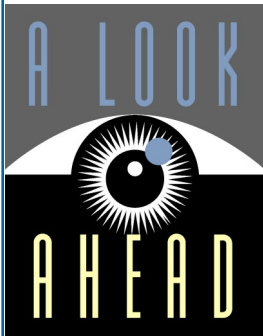
**Information
submitted for
publication must
be received by
Tuesday of Each
week.**

**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 30

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

formed a unique bond which continues to be enjoyed by their children and grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Gary was preceded in death by his brothers Douglas McConnell and Tony McConnell. Survivors include his beloved wife of 55 years, Susan Cline McConnell; son Jason McConnell of Charlotte, son Adam McConnell and wife Lisa of Matthews; and grandchildren Hayward Cline McConnell, Ewan James McConnell, Lila Jane McConnell, Ayden Danielle McConnell and Emery Ryan McConnell, and several nieces and nephews.

A service to celebrate Gary's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Lincolnton, NC, with the Rev. Dr. Leonard Bolick officiating. A reception for the family to receive friends will be held following the service in the church fellowship hall.

Memorials may be made to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 216 South Aspen Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092.





A middle-aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near death experience. During that experience she sees God and asks if this is it. God says no and explains that she has another 30 years to live.

Upon her recovery she decides to just stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation, tummy tuck, etc. She even has someone come in and change her hair color. She figures since she's got another 30 years she might as well make the most of it.

She walks out of the hospital after the last operation and is killed by an ambulance speeding by. She arrives in front of God and complains, "I thought you said I had another 30 years."

God replies, "I didn't recognize you."

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Which of the ELCA's 65 synods has the most congregations?

- a. Nebraska
- b. North Carolina
- c. Northeastern Ohio
- d. Northeastern Pennsylvania
- e. Lower Susquehanna



Ministry in Action - July - August

	July 30	August 6	August 13	August 20
Greeters	Jim Williams Betsy Williams	Edward Little Doris Little	Buzz Cherry Pat Cherry	David Bynum Johnnie Bynum
Lector	Ben Robinson	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury	Randy Zimtbbaum
Crucifer	Matthew Heavner	Mary Ellen Bridges	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little
Acolyte	Jennifer Little	Quinlyn Cornwell	Hannah Brooks	Mary Ellen Bridges
Communion Asst	Ruth Murphy	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury
Altar Flowers	John Lineberger	Available	Bob and Carole Lake	Available

Monthly Duties July 2023

Councilperson	Cathy Lounsbury			
Altar Guild	Susan Boyd	Cathy Lounsbury		
Ushers	Stephen Lounsbury (Captain)	Ben Robinson Jody Rhyne	Randy Zimtbbaum Keith Saine	

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Faith5 Corner by Bob Lake

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

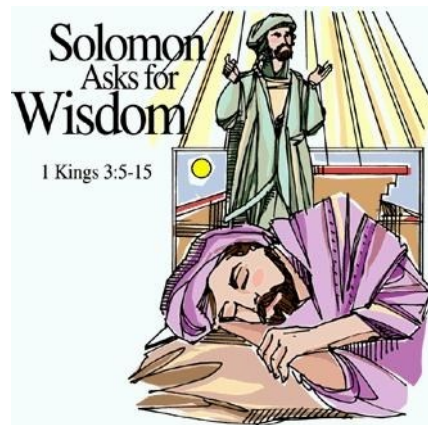
Share: Share your highs and lows

Read: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Talk: Slowly reflect on the reading. Have you ever said to yourself, “If I were king, I would ...”? What would you ask for? Riches? Long life? Vengeance on an enemy? This encounter with God came very early in Solomon’s reign when he was just a teenager. Do you think he was overwhelmed by his new responsibilities? Did he seem humble? Was he thoughtful about his new position? Solomon only asked God for wisdom. Given some of the teenagers you have known, do you find this remarkable? Do you think that perhaps the Prophet Nathan did a good job in helping to raise Solomon? Is there a lesson here about how to raise children so that they will please God?

Pray: Thank you God the lessons on how to live life that are sprinkled throughout scripture. Help us discern what wisdom is. Help us fight off the temptations to seek things such as riches and vengeance. Instead help us seek only that is pleasing to You.

Bless: “_____, you have scripture to show you want please your God”



Every night in every home

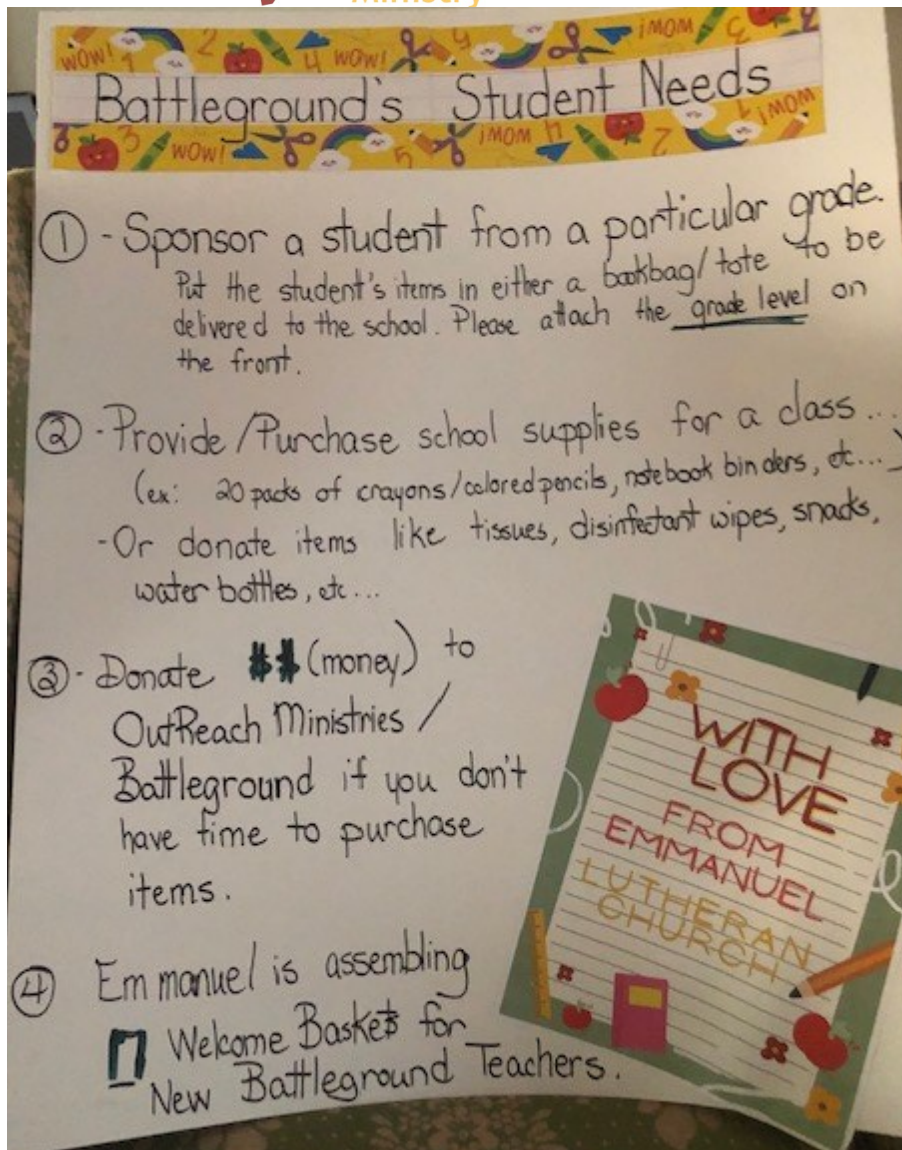


www.faith5.org





Shirley Barnes, Polly Bryant, Kathy Cromer, Laura Cromer, Max Edwards, James Gantt, Suzette James, Betty King, Nancy McCoy, Gary and Susan McConnell, Trudy Perkins, Jim Sain, Paula Turner, Joan Warren, Pat Wilburn, Rick Norine and family (cousin of Barbara O'Neill), Evelyn Cochrane (neighbor of Susan McConnell), Barbara Stillwell (sister-in-law of Rusty Rhyne), Tommy London (father of Tonya Lawson), Sherri Beam (friend of Julie Leonhardt), Drew Milholland (Pastor Mike), Jane Smith (mother of Kathy Cromer), Larry Clark (John Lawson), Wayne Dodson (Rusty Rhyne's son David's father-in-law), Anna Lineberger (John Lineberger), Judy Bullard (John Lineberger's grandmother) April Wellman (Susan Boyd), Rosa Guerra (Susan Boyd), Rob Gregor (Susan Boyd), Anita Cable (Ashley Peaslee), Charles Ferguson (son-in-law Judy Blanc), Doug Norwood (Dara Jarrett)



Sunday, August 6th

We will be having a coffee hour before church.

Please plan on joining us in the Fellowship Hall 9 AM on August 6th.

No Agenda, just a nice time for fellowship before services.

Sunday, July 13th



Blessing of Backpacks will take place on Sunday, August 13th. All children, youth and teachers are encouraged to bring your backpacks with you to worship so they can be blessed and that each person who comes forward feels the love and encouragement of this congregation.

First day of school for students is August 16.

Congratulations to the proud parents, Henry Saine and Ashton Taylor, whose daughter

*Bailyn Cait Saine
Born May 20, 2023*

*Congratulations to the proud grandparents
Keith and Lori Saine*



Congratulations to the proud parents, Brittany Doehling and A. J. Jones, whose daughter



*Leilah Rose Doehling
Born July 21, 2023
5 lbs 15 oz.*

*Congratulations to the proud
grandparent Marianne Doehling*





EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
216 S Aspen St Lincolnton, NC 28092

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Adam Long	8/01
Tonya Lawson	8/11
David Wise	8/13
Heather Lackey	8/15
Colleen Lounsbury	8/15
Betty King	8/18
Jim Williams	8/18
Emerie Stinson	8/19
Larry Blanc	8/20
Allison Brown	8/25
Mindy Denton	8/25
Jennifer Little	8/26
Hayden Doebling	8/28
Wayne Little	8/29
Michael Hance	8/31

Training for Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Training for the AED has been scheduled for Monday, August 14 at 12 noon in our fellowship hall. You may register for the training by placing your name on the sign-up sheet in the north wing or you may notify the office if you wish to attend. The AED is used on people in cardiac arrest. This training will be conducted by instructors from Atrium Health and will last approximately 1 ½ hours. If you are interested in this training and can commit to this time, please register. The number of instructors from Atrium will depend on the number who sign up. Registration is through August 6.

The training or only want a brief orientation on how to use the AED, we are looking at having a 20-30 minute orientation one Sunday after worship. This will be scheduled sometime after August 14.

The AED is on-site and is located in a wall cabinet near the elevator. We have a few people in our congregation who already know how to use it.



Seeds of Hope

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



Newsletter Content
Contributors
Bob Lake
Ben Robinson
WELCA
North Carolina Synod

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.