

# VOICE OF EMMANUEL

## SEEDS OF HOPE!



### Seeing Our Neighbors Anew

In April 2022, congregations in a Lutheran Services Carolinas' Circle of Welcome worked together to relocate a family from Afghanistan to Hickory, NC. Two months into the marathon of resettlement, after *Eid-al-Fitr* celebrations for the end of Ramadan and the birth of a new baby, they gathered in a city park picnic shelter to celebrate World Refugee Day. This event drew families from Syria, Pakistan, India, Catawba County—and of course Afghanistan—and it was a kick-off for a three-night Vacation Bible School program for Circle congregations. The ecumenical, intergenerational VBS drew on a Lutheran World Relief curriculum, "Seeing Our Neighbors" that was designed for congregations engaged in efforts to support Ukrainian refugees. Leaders tweaked the resource to deepen our conversations about God's call to welcome Afghan evacuees to North Carolina.

Gathering at the partner church, Northminster Presbyterian, participants joined in a meal before breaking into program groups for adults and children. The adults engaged in *Visio Divina*, an exercise in "divine seeing" that utilized images of the evacuation and resettlement in conjunction with a study of Matthew 25: 31-49. Each evening invited those gathered to think about ways to welcome the stranger, help the sick, or feed the hungry—essential care for neighbors near and far.

Children heard stories from Jewish, Muslim, and Christian perspectives that elaborated on being good neighbors. And, like any good VBS program, arts, games, and plenty of play kept the children engaged. Pastor Jill Isola of the host church commented that one of her favorite moments was hearing children swinging and shouting "It's a mitz-vah!" from a children's book they read about doing good deeds. Six- and eight-year-old Madeline and Ella Tomberlin, members of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Hickory, said that their favorite part of the week was playing games about being neighbors. Their mother, Jessica, really enjoyed getting to know some of the other members from the Circle of Welcome including the Afghan children. She said that the opportunity "pushed me to get out of my comfort zone and interact with people beyond St. Andrew's. The focus of the VBS on welcoming the stranger definitely spoke to me."



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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!

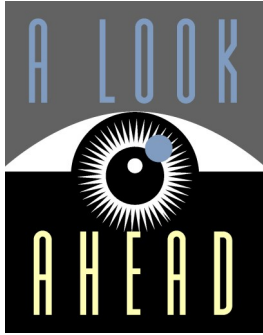
**Information  
submitted for  
publication must  
be received by  
Tuesday of Each  
week.**

**e-mail to  
lifewithemmanuel  
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**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 31st

This week's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life.

Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

Getting out of comfort zones can be challenging for Lutherans who revel in the familiar and rejoice in tradition, but doing so is important for building empathetic communities. Whether displacement occurs due to war, regime change, environmental disaster, occupation, or eviction, not much is more discomfiting than being displaced from one's home. As the Hickory Circle of Welcome congregations experience the discomfort of language barriers, cultural differences, and limits on available assistance, may all people of God learn through such encounters about the ways God is calling us to see and love our neighbors.

Story Attribution:

Pastor Christy Lohr Sapp, St.  
Andrew's, Hickory



# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS



*Lincoln County is now at a high transmission  
rate for the new variant of COVID-19.*

*Please stay safe out there!*





During a Lutheran worship service a man began to be moved by the Spirit. Out loud he said "Amen!" People around him were a little disturbed.

Then louder he said, "Hallelujah!" A few more people were becoming disturbed.

Louder still he shouted "Praise Jesus!"

An usher moved quickly down the aisle. He bent over and whispered to the man, "Sir! Control yourself!"

The man exclaimed, "I can't help it. I got religion!!!"

To which the usher responded, "Well you didn't get it here!"



We are still looking for help with the streaming of live services.

Jadon has been wonderful helping with services on Sunday. He is now off to college and we are in need of a couple of back up people to help when I am not able to be here.

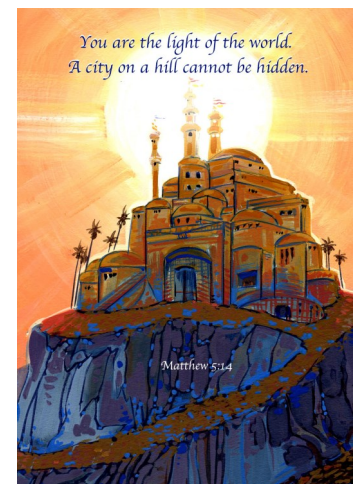
This is not an every Sunday duty. Mainly once a month when I play bells. Bells will be starting soon (September) so we have plenty of time to train you! Please contact me or Pastor Mike if you are interested.

### ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

The original source of phrase "City on a Hill" is?

1. St. Augustine
2. Jesus of Nazareth
3. Ronal Reagan
4. Jonathan Winthrop

Answer: 2, of course but the other three used the phrase.



## Ministry in Action - July / August

	July 31	August 7	August 14	August 21
Greeters	Mary Rhodes Dara Jarrett	Edward Little Doris Little	Buzz Cherry Pat Cherry	David Bynum Johnnie Bynum
Lector	David Bynum	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury	Jennifer Huskey
Crucifer	Matthew Heavner	John Cromer	Nayshaun Holiday	Katelyn Leonhardt
Acolyte	Judy Shuford	Quinlyn Cornwell	Jennifer Little	Judy Shuford
Communion Asst	Jennifer Huskey	Randy Zimtbaum	Cathy Lounsbury	John Cromer
Videographer	Shelly Caffey	Shelly Caffey	Shelly Caffey	Shelly Caffey
Altar Flowers	Lineberger	Available	Available	Available

### Monthly Duties July 2022

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

### Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”



## Faith5 Corner: by Pastor Mike

### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



Share: Share your highs and lows

Read: Luke 11:1-13

Talk: Slowly reflect on the reading. Did anything grab your attention as you read the passage? We spend our entire lives accumulating, and to what end? Truth be told, we can't take our accumulations with us when we go. It is passed down from generation to generation, or it is thrown away. And the cycle is lived out over, and over, and over again. When my parents died we were left a whole household of stuff. We are still going through boxes, 10 years later. Our kids have told us that they don't want our stuff, so please don't leave it for them to deal with.

Why do we cling so tightly to stuff? Does it really bring us joy? Meaning? Purpose? I am a pack rat. I like stuff, but the older I get the more I realize the words of Ecclesiastes 1:2, "Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity." My stuff does not enrich my relationship with God, and much of it has become an encumbrance. The more we have the more we need to protect it. Our stuff begins to own us, rather than the other way around.

What things do you need to let go of in your life? What things do you need to be free from? What will enhance the relationship that God has established with you in baptism? What do you really treasure in this world?

Pray: Holy God, you are our true treasure. Help us cast aside the things that would rise above you. Grant us wisdom and discernment that we might not be taken by false gods. Focus our hearts on the true treasure. Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Bless: "\_\_\_\_\_, you have been freed to find your true treasure."





Shirley Barnes, George Boyd, Noah Denton, Hannah Brooks, Polly Bryant, Kathy Cromer, Laura Cromer, Marianne Doehling, Page Doehling, Cecelia Driscoll, Paul Driscoll, Martha Duncan, Max Edwards, James Gantt, Betty King, Nancy McCoy, Nancy Pales, 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), 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)







EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Adam Long	8/01
Peggy Seagle	8/07
Anthony Eadie	8/11
Tonya Lawson	8/11
Pat Wilhelm	8/12
David Wise	8/13
Heather Lackey	8/15
Colleen Lounsbury	8/15
Betty King	8/18
Jason McConnell	8/18
Jim Williams Jr.	8/18
Emerie Stinson	8/19
Debbie Tapia	8/23
Allison Brown	8/25
Mindy Denton	8/25
Jennifer Little	8/26
Wayne Little	8/29
Michael Hance	8/31



### 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 July 18 - 29.73*

*Lincoln County Positivity Rate as of June 25 - 27.31%*

*Lincoln County current cases as of July 18 - 206*

*Lincoln County current cases as of July 25 - 218*



Seeds of Hope

A PUBLICATION OF  
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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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.