

# VOICE OF EMMANUEL SEEDS OF HOPE!

## *Letters from our Members*

### **Justice For All**

Recently the USA Women's National Soccer team has received much criticism on their indifferent reaction to our National Anthem compared to the team from Vietnam and their enthusiasm when their National Anthem was played. Most of the USA team chose not to sing along and many did not place their hands over their hearts during our National Anthem. This initially stirred up some resentment and negative feelings in me. I then thought about the Olympians, NBA and NFL players and others who have used that platform to demonstrate for social justice. They felt like it was the best opportunity to get their message across. I'm not sure if the women's team members were trying to do that or not although I know they have advocated for equal pay and equal rights in the past. Maybe they were just focusing on the upcoming match and the contrast between them and the Vietnamese players highlighted the issue with the media. I do know sometimes criticizing your country can be construed as unpatriotic but I also know that standing up for social justice should be a part of the fabric of this country. I am not writing to condemn or condone the USA team or others but to share my perspective and a little of my life experiences and how they influence me.

Soon after graduating from college, I served in the U.S. Peace Corps in a reforestation and soil conservation program in Guatemala. It gave me an education that growing up in North Carolina and a degree in Forestry at N.C. State could not. By living and working in Guatemala for almost three years I gained experiences and insight that has deeply shaped me. By learning of the history of Guatemala and Central America and witnessing it day in and day out I quickly learned (and it hurt) that the United States is not always the "good guys". Over many years we had supported brutal military governments and regimes that were contrary to our own pronounced democratic and social values. The late 1970's and early 1980's were difficult times politically in Guatemala. The military, paramilitary and right-wing death squads were ruling the country with an iron fist in fear of any opposition. Educators, Priests, Social Workers, Community Leaders and anyone trying to improve the lives of the poor were subject to be killed. Many people were. The atrocities were in the paper and on the radio daily, heard about through others and even personally witnessed. I remember seeing "U.S." on the Guatemalan soldiers' canteen holders and it made me deeply ashamed. I was overjoyed when President Jimmy Carter withheld military aid to Guatemala due to their human rights abuses. He brought human rights to the forefront of our foreign policies across the world.

The Guatemalan Indigenous people in the highlands where I lived and worked were my neighbors, clients, co-workers and my friends. I was privileged to get to know them and share a portion of my life with them. They were the poorest of the poor but rich in culture and community and welcomed me with open arms. I also knew I was privileged to have grown up in the United States in terms of relative abundance and opportunity. I was conflicted knowing how the United States had contributed to their plight as our foreign policy, over many years, had put our own self-interest both politically and economically over the welfare of these people and people like them throughout Central America. "Banana Republics" is not an endearing name but instead reflects a condescending and exploitive attitude the U.S. historically had toward these countries. On the other hand, I saw economic and humanitarian aid through food and various projects being provided by the United States. My presence, role and desire to be part of positive change was part of that aid.

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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!

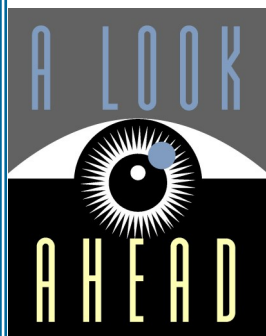
**Information  
submitted for  
publication must  
be received by  
Tuesday of Each  
week.**

**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!*



## August 6

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

After serving my two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer, I took a position as a Peace Corps trainer for new arrivals. One thing we had to do was sensitize the trainees to the dangerous situation in Guatemala. Saying the wrong thing to the wrong person could get you killed. I drove a couple of trainees to the airport who felt they could not deal with that situation and decided to go home. Many freedoms we have in the United States were non-existent there. Having the right to criticize government policies in the U.S. is a freedom that should never be taken for granted. However, in exercising this right it needs to be done with truthfulness and with aspirations of making our country better for all.

Yes, I love and admire my country and all the opportunity and the good it has provided. And yes, I abhor some of our past foreign and domestic policies. Obviously, there is still lots of room for improvement that we constantly need to address. I read now that crime and corruption are Guatemala's worst problems. Much of it is related to the illegal drug traffic fueled by drug use in the U.S. At the same time Guatemala is a major recipient of guns manufactured in the U.S. through private purchases.

My father fought in WWII in the Marines as a gunnery platoon sergeant on the cruiser USS Columbia and the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga. In his 80's he finally opened up about some of his war experiences. In the latter part of the war the Saratoga was hit by Japanese suicide planes or kamikazes. He described with tears rolling down his cheeks the horror of the many young sailors and marines killed and injured and burned. He mentioned how many were yelling for their mamas as he tried to help. This brings us back to the National Anthem. It can be a platform for some to criticize and spot light some of our injustices as a country. Thank goodness for this freedom. However, for me, when the National Anthem is played, it is a time to show my gratitude. I may lip sync or sing low since I am not a good singer but I will always place my hand over my heart and show reverence in honor of my dad and those who serve and in memory of those who gave their lives and never got to grow old like me.

Let us pray for our leaders that our policies as a country bring justice and opportunity for all in America and for all across the world. Have our actions be pleasing to You. Soften the hearts of leaders across the world who disregard human suffering and strive only for power, dominance and wealth. Be with those who serve this country in our military and those who serve to help others. Bring peace, healing and justice to all.

In Christ's name, Amen.

*Ben Robinson*



A dentist came home to his wife excited about serving in the mission field using his dental skills. When she was against the idea, the dentist replied, "I am sure the Lord is calling me to do this."

The wife was skeptical. "How do you know the Lord is calling you to do this?"

"It's in the Bible. Psalms 81:10."

So she looked it up. I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

### ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Our lectern has a carved eagle with its wing spread. It symbolizes God carrying His people to safety on eagle's wing. Where does this image appear in scripture?

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Psalms
4. Isaiah
5. Revelation



Answer: 2, chapter 19, verse 4

As we progress towards Labor Day, it's time to consider joining Emmanuel's quilting ministry for Lutheran World Relief. We need anyone who would like to help with this worthwhile mission. There are several options for contributing – onsite in the Fellowship Hall as well as remotely, weekly or as your time permits. We need sewers and non-sewers.

Several years ago, I shared this video with our Quilting camp campers.

Please take a few minutes to watch: [Two women, two lives](#). I still find it inspiring. I believe it conveys the impact our ministry has on those who receive our quilts and also shows the fellowship shared and the commitments made by all who participate.



We hope you will join us in September.

Carole, Phyllis and Susan

## Ministry in Action - August

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Greeters	Edward Little Doris Little	Buzz Cherry Pat Cherry	David Bynum Johnnie Bynum	James Gantt Margaret Christopher
Lector	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury	Randy Zimtbau	Ruth Murphy
Crucifer	Mary Ellen Bridges	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little	Joe Rhyne
Acolyte	Hannah Brooks	Hannah Brooks	Mary Ellen Bridges	Julie Leonhardt
Communion Asst	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury	Vera Lanier
Altar Flowers	John Lineberger	Bob and Carole Lake	Available	Available

### Monthly Duties August 2023

Councilperson	Ben Robinson			
Altar Guild	Betty King	Vera Lanier	Rhonda Thompson	
Ushers	Rudy Rudisill (Captain)	James Gantt Guy Rudisill	David Bynum Steve Lounsbury	

Matthew 14:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

<sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

<sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

## Faith5 Corner by Bob Lake

### Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Share:** Share your highs and lows

**Read:** Matthew 14:13-21

**Talk:** Slowly reflect on the reading. We are all very familiar with this story. We heard it in Sunday School, seen it in paintings and drawings, and sang about it hymns. Many consider it to be one of Jesus' greatest miracles. Some say that the people in the crowd had brought food with them. And a few say that it is a miracle that the people of the crowd, many of whom were poor and needy, shared their food. What do you think? Is there a deeper meaning to the story? Is the story really about how God provides for us in abundance? Was Jesus, the Son of God, giving testimony to how God does and will provide for us?

**Pray:** Thank you God for providing for us that which we truly need in life. Thank you for the bread of life that nourishes us. Thank you for the living water of our baptism that refreshes us.

**Bless:** "\_\_\_\_\_, you have received God's true abundance."



Every night in every home



[www.faith5.org](http://www.faith5.org)

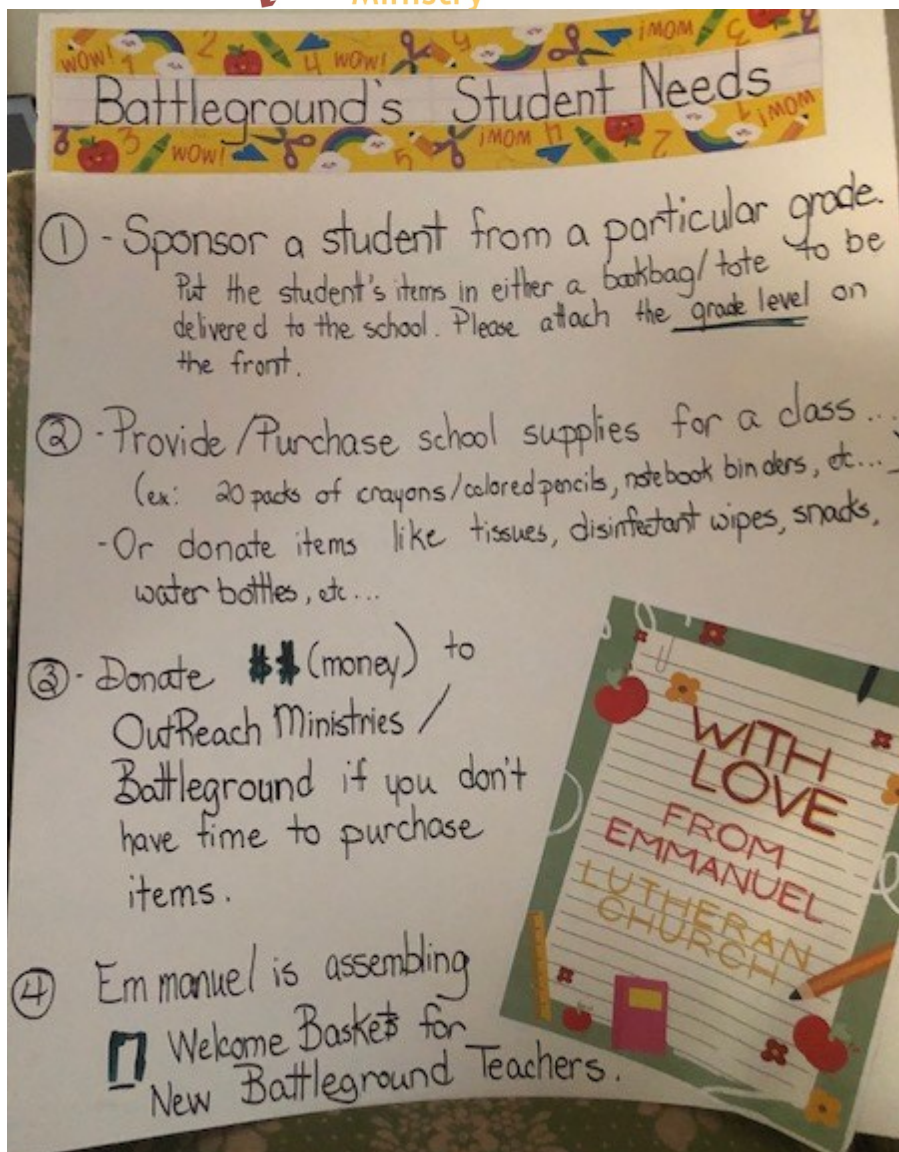






Lord  
Hear our  
Prayers

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), Susan Boyd, Jim Sain



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.**

**We will have an informal survey for starting Sunday School for Adults and Children**

# 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.



*We offer our Christian Sympathy to the family of*

*Lisa Jones*

*Sister of Tommy Hannon*

*Who passed away on July 28, 2023.*

*Please keep Tommy and Joan in your prayers during their time of loss. May God's loving presence surround them and the hope of the resurrection bring joy to us all*



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
216 S Aspen St Lincoln, 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 Doehling	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.

For those who cannot attend 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.



PSALM 146:2, NIV



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.