

# VOICE OF EMMANUEL SEEDS OF HOPE!



*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ  
(Galatians 6:2 NRSV).*

Since the global pandemic was declared in March 2020, many of us have endured extended emotional and psychological anguish. That experience may be dramatically worsened by the ugly realities of racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia or poverty. Our anguish has taken the form of sadness in isolation, anxiety in uncertainty, grief over loss, stress over economic challenges and worry over events beyond our control — including the tremendous impact of the crisis on our children. This pandemic threatens our mental health just as much as our physical health. For millions of us adults living in the United States, receiving the vaccine and the hope it brings has alleviated our unease, sorrow and grief.

This past year has provided some of us with a deeper understanding of and empathy for the ongoing mental health challenges endured by our neighbors, friends and family. During Mental Health Awareness Month, especially, our church intentionally recognizes the anguish our siblings in Christ experience daily — pandemic or no — and the fear many of them feel about sharing their stories.

As a church we also acknowledge the true depths of these invisible illnesses. Our children, neighbors and friends grappling with mental health issues need to know that God does not love them any less. They need to hear that they, too, are embraced by God's unfathomable love.

Our church cautions against judgmental words and actions that might suggest to someone that their faith is not strong enough or that their outlook on life would improve if they would change certain behaviors. Praying, socializing and exercising are great activities that can help someone get out of a slump or move past a painful episode. But this is not always the solution for moderate or severe depression, bipolar depression, anxiety or even grief. Telling someone they aren't doing enough to be happy creates a sense of stigma that they are not living "correctly." We need to listen so that our words of care and compassion guide others to the help they need. We need to support people in their struggles, walking side by side in partnership with them through the good days and the bad.

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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!

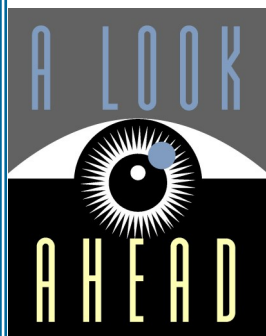
**Information  
submitted for  
publication must  
be received by  
Tuesday of Each  
week.**

**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!*



October 1

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Dear church, God loves us all. No matter how we are grappling, we are not alone; God is with us. Throughout May and beyond, we must seek ways to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness and continually love everyone compassionately as a child of God. We must embrace the benefits of therapy and encourage the use of medication when necessary in supporting and sustaining mental health and wellness. We must also work to ensure access to affordable mental health care for all people, especially those living in poverty or in historically marginalized communities.

Our faith teaches that caring for health is a shared endeavor. Being the body of Christ means carrying one another's burdens; it also means placing our burdens in God's hands and admitting to a caring person close to us that we need help. This is true no matter how great or small our anguish may be.

In Christ,

*The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton*

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[“The Body of Christ and Mental Illness”](#)

[Suicide Prevention Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry](#)



### More Bible Riddles:

How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman? By his net income.

Who was the smartest person in the Bible? Abraham. He knew a Lot.

Who was the straightest person in the Bible? Joseph. Pharaoh made him a ruler.

At what time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.

Why didn't Noah go fishing? He only had two worms.

What animal could Noah not trust? The Cheetah.  
(Cheater)

Where's the first mention of laxatives in the Bible? In Exodus, the part when "Moses took the tablets and went into the wilderness."



### ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

How did St. Peter die?

1. Beheaded in Rome
2. Crucified in Rome
3. Crucified upside down in Rome
4. Drowned at sea leaving Rome.
5. In his sleep, in prison in Rome



Answer: 2 for sure and possibly 3

## Ministry in Action - October

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22
Greeters	Leon Harmon Elaine Harmon	Dan James Suzette James	Randy Zimtbaum Sue Zimtbaum	Julie Leonhardt Katelyn Leonhardt
Lector	Ben Robinson	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury	Randy Zimtbaum
Crucifer	Jennifer Little	Matthew Heavner	Mary Ellen Bridges	Available
Acolyte	Quinlyn Cornwell	Hannah Brooks	Jennifer Little	Judy Shuford
Communion Asst	Randy Zimtbaum	Ruth Murphy	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little
Altar Flowers	Available	Available	Available	Available

### Monthly Duties October 2023

Councilperson	Shannon Mitchem			
Altar Guild	Cathy Lounsbury	Rhonda Thompson		
Ushers	Steve Lounsbury (Captain)	Rudy Rudisill Jody Rhyne	Randy Zimtbaum Ben Robinson	

Matthew 21:23-32

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

## Faith5 Corner by Bob Lake

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Share:** Share your highs and lows

**Read:** Matthew 21:23-32

**Talk:** Slowly reflect on the reading. Jesus liked to teach by asking questions and telling parables. It is interesting when you know the answer to Jesus' question, but the learned men of His time did not know the answer. You have, of course, an advantage. Jesus tells the parable of the two sons. Jesus asked, "Which of these two did the will of his father?" What is your answer to the question? Do you prefer people who do what they said they would do? If you were a parent, which son would you be pleased with? Jesus adds that despised people believed in John the Baptist, but the chief priests and the elders did not believe John. Are your actions based on some authority figure? Or do they flow from your baptism? Are they inspired by Jesus the Christ?

**Pray:** Thank you God for caring about our belief in you and our doing your will. Help us to always follow your ways even when following may be difficult. We know that you are forgiving and merciful. We know you will be please with us if we try to follow Jesus' teaching.

**Bless:** "\_\_\_\_\_, if you believe in God and try to follow Jesus' teachings, God will reward you."



Every night in every home



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







Lord  
Hear our  
Prayers

Shirley Barnes, Polly Bryant, David Bynum, Kathy Cromer, Trudy Perkins, Jim Sain, Paula Turner, Joan Warren, Rick Norine and family (cousin of Barbara O'Neill has ALS), Evelyn Cochrane (neighbor of Susan McConnell), Sherri Beam (friend of Julie Leonhardt), Drew Milholland (Pastor Mike), Jane Smith (mother of Kathy Cromer), April Wellman (Susan Boyd), Rosa Guerra (Susan Boyd), Rob Gregor (Susan Boyd), Anita Cable (mother in law Ashley Peaslee), Charles Ferguson (son-in-law Judy Blanc), Doug Norwood (Dara Jarrett), Bill Gibbs Jr. (Amy Brown), Ken Smith (brother of Kathy Cromer), Tom Pellum Caren (Kirk Herbertson), Julianna Rhyne (grand-daughter Rusty Rhyne)

Hello Emmanuel Lutheran Church Family!

You may not know that I am in Boy Scouts of America and am currently working on my Eagle Scout project. I have been an active Scout since the first grade. My Eagle Scout project entails leading a team of other scouts in a project to clean up an eyesore in an area in front of North Lincoln High School's field house.

The project includes placement of a metal sign designating the field house which will be installed over an inoperable light post/concrete base. This area is currently an eye-sore for the school. The sign will help opposing teams and coaches by denoting the area as the "North Lincoln Field House" which will make the area not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing. I will also be removing grass and landscaping the area with river rock. Several Eagle Scouts have worked in other areas around the school over the last 5 years and my project will build on that work.

I have raised almost \$2,500 but I am \$1,400 short of my goal. I am asking my church family, if so inclined, to assist me with the financial need through donations.

My mother, Laurie Heavner, will be assisting me with the accounting aspect of logging donations. If you choose to donate, please send your check to me, Matthew Heavner, at 1500 Weatherwood Drive, Lincolnton, NC 28092. The check can be made out to me for the appropriate accounting. If it is easier, you can also choose to use Venmo by choosing my mother's account, @Laurie-Heavner. Please use "Eagle Scout Donation" in the description field.

For questions, feel free to reach out to me at my mother's phone number: 704-996-9352 (this is also the number used for her Venmo account).

I appreciate the support that my Emmanuel family has given me during our many past youth fundraisers/activities and during my faith formation as a child of Emmanuel.



*Matthew Heavner*

Scout **PROJECTS**



*What a wonderful time at the annual Church Picnic.*

*What a beautiful place to have good fellowship with our church family!*







EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
216 S Aspen St Lincolnton, NC 28092

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Alex Rhyne	10/01
Sissy Burgin	10/03
Jeffrey Leonhardt	10/03
McKennley Doehling	10/05
Anthony Doehling	10/06
Laura Dunston	10/08
Toni Hatch	10/09
Jessica Baker	10/10
Kenneth Pales	10/13
Dara Jarrett	10/14
Morgan Brown	10/15
Paulette Rudisill	10/16
Steve Hallman	10/17
Karen Herrera	10/17
Carol Wise	10/17
Billy Brown Jr.	10/23
Patrick Hance	10/23
Jonathan Brooks	10/24
Tara Smith	10/25
James Gantt	10/26
Dwight Hawn	10/26
Betsy Williams	10/26
Amy Brown	10/27
Meghan Brooks	10/28
Mitch Brooks	10/28
Chris Hance	10/28



### October is Emmanuel's Month to collect food for Christian Ministries.

We will be collecting food for Christian Ministries throughout October. This has been a very hard year on Christian Ministries. The cost of food and utilities has gone thru the roof and they are having a hard time keeping up. Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

If you are unable to bring canned foods, monetary donations are always accepted. On the Other line of your check just write CM October.



Seeds of Hope

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*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.