

# VOICE OF EMMANUEL

## SEEDS OF HOPE!



A couple of dozen bishops recently read the book by Gil Rendle titled *Countercultural* and discussed it at some length at last week's Conference of Bishops in Chicago. It's one of the more helpful and hopeful books regarding the future of church, including institutional church, that I've read in some time.

If I were to boil down how I heard his message, it seemed to me to be similar to several scriptural texts—especially apocalyptic ones—in which the hearers found their faith life as they understood it either on the verge of collapse or even after collapse. That word was simply, “Hang in there. We are in the world but not of the world (countercultural) as the church. God is still up to something and about to do a new thing.”

What was new and has me pondering whether it's just wishful thinking or actually so is Rendle's assertion that no culture can survive without institutions. He is careful to distinguish institutions from organizations (which come and go), but institutions, he says, aren't merely tolerable but necessary for the survival of culture—i.e., finding a way forward together with at least a minimum agreement as to what the rules are for the common good. The biggest enemy in recent generations is the rampant prioritization of the “I” to the detriment of the “we.”

Rendle believes that we are at a profound juncture that, if one studies history, one can somewhat predict. While I have (perhaps incorrectly) understood postmodernism and post-Christendom to be the death of all things institutional, Rendle points to several points in history (with the 1870s being the most recent) for which culture descends into complete chaos and subjectivity—the deification of the “I” and demonization of institutional norms that squelch the “I,” and fueled by deconstructionists who may be sincere but have no replacement plan. Hey, I can take a computer apart, but I don't know how to put it back together.

The good news, says Rendle, is that thus far when cultural institutions have become so disjointed and distrusted (and perhaps corrupt) in self-preservation, while the result could be chaos or cultural annihilation, it also drives people back to corporate values and norms and institutions that carry and perpetuate them. Rendle makes a good and hopeful case similar to that of the hymn, “Canticle of the Turning.” The world is about to turn. The pendulum has reached a precarious apex and is on the verge of swinging the other way. Desperate voices on either end of the polarized spectrum are trying in vain to “win,” but it is the simple word of the Gospel,



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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!

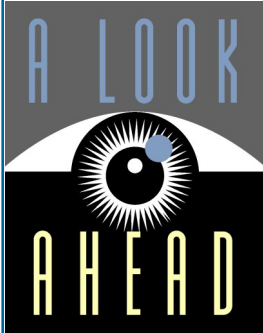
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Tuesday of Each  
week.**

**e-mail to  
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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!*



October 8

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

counterculturally, to which people will be drawn. Common good can never be achieved at either end of the culture wars spectrum but only in complexity. There is no utopia on either end of that spectrum. The book of Acts shows us that from the beginning, the countercultural church has itself—think Peter and Paul—not been of one mind but has found common values as the way to move forward.

I'm not really doing justice to the book in this simplified (and through my own filters) synopsis, but again, I can't help but think Rendle is on to something. So as Rendle urges, I say to you, "Hang in there. Don't be afraid to speak a countercultural word that is the Gospel." That is our identity and truth and hope, whether the culture responds affirmatively or not. But institutions, human and fallible though they are, are necessary. When the culture wars dust settles and we've grown weary of all the ways church strives to be "relevant" in cultural terms, we will find our stride and purpose and hope again as church by continuing to tell—and enact—the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Walking with you,

*Jim*

NC Synod Bishop



This Sunday, October 8

We will have Fellowship hour starting at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

We have coffee and pick ups for breakfast.

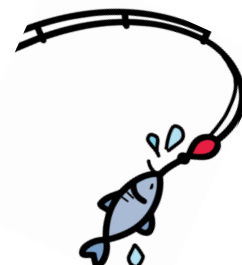
Hope to see you there!

## Heavenly Humor

A boy came to Sunday School late. Knowing he was usually very prompt, his teacher asked, "Johnny, is there anything wrong?"

"No, ma'am, not really," he said. "I was going to go fishing, but my daddy told me that I needed to get on up and go to church." The teacher was very impressed and asked Johnny if his father had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing.

"Yes ma'am, he did," Johnny said. "My daddy said he didn't have enough bait for both of us."



## ?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

Reverend John Bachman was a prominent Lutheran pastor in Charleston, SC. He helped found Newberry College and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. He was also well known for being what?

1. Archaeologist
2. Composer of hymns
3. Historian
4. Naturalist
5. Physician



Answer: 4

WE NEED CANDY!!!!  
LOTS OF CANDY!!!!



It's Better to Give than receive  
Says Gracen as she hands out candy

If you would like to donate a bag of candy for Evangelism for our Drive Thru Trunk or Treat! On Tuesday, October 31. Emmanuel is one stop of four for our downtown give away.

Emmanuel will also be collecting canned foods for Christian Ministry for the month of October.

**On Wednesday, October 25 at 5:30 PM** Shannon will be filling the candy bags for the upcoming Downtown Drive thru Trunk or Treat!. Lots of help needed. Last year we had 300 bags of candy and ran out early.

Emmanuel has been asked to hold a Truck or Treat for Battleground Elementary School. The school is providing the candy. The event will be held in their parking lot after their Family Information Night.

***At least 6 cars are needed. Please let me know if you can help!***

## Ministry in Action - October

	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Greeters	Dan James Suzette James	Randy Zimtbaum Sue Zimtbaum	Julie Leonhardt Katelyn Leonhardt	Heather Lackey Jan Huitt
Lector	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury	Randy Zimtbaum	Ruth Murphy
Crucifer	Matthew Heavner	Mary Ellen Bridges	Available	Matthew Heavner
Acolyte	Hannah Brooks	Jennifer Little	Judy Shuford	Mary Ellen Bridges
Communion Asst	Ruth Murphy	Jennifer Huskey	Jennifer Little	Steve Lounsbury
Altar Flowers	Available	Available	Available	Available

### Monthly Duties October 2023

Councilperson	Jennifer Huskey			
Altar Guild	Betty King	Rhonda Thompson	Alison Zimtbaum	
Ushers	Steve Lounsbury (Captain)	John Cromer Keith Saine	Leon Harmon Glenn Mosteller	

Philippians 3:4b-14

*Paul reviews some of his credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the goal, eternal life with Christ.*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## Faith5 Corner by Bob Lake

### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Share:** Share your highs and lows

**Read:** Philippians 3:4b-14

**Talk:** Slowly reflect on the reading. According to his description Saul (Paul) was a good Jewish citizen. How well do you think he did in following the teachings of the prophets (think about passages such as Micah 6:6-8)? Do you think that after learning about Jesus, Paul's idea of righteousness changed? What is your understanding of "the righteousness from God based on faith" (verse 9)? Do feel that you have reached a spiritual goal or are you still striving in your faith? The risen Christ met Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus. If Christ Jesus saved Paul, do you think there is anybody He cannot save?

**Pray:** Thank you Jesus for caring about us. Thank you for Your Resurrection and for the righteousness from God based on faith.

**Bless:** "\_\_\_\_\_, for you can have righteousness from God based on your faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ."



I press on  
toward the goal to  
win the prize for  
which God has  
called me  
heavenward  
in Christ  
Jesus.

P H I L I P P I A N S 3 : 1 4

### Congregational Meetings Scheduled

Two Congregational Meetings have been scheduled immediately before the 10:00 am Sunday worship service on **November 5 and November 12, 2023**. The purpose of the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting is to take nominees for the 2024 Congregation Council from the floor. Nominees from the floor will be in addition to the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee's slate of nominees for the 2024 council are: Dan James, Bob Lake, Doris Little, Cathy Lounsbury, and Susan McConnell. These are all for two-year terms. There are five openings in 2024 for two-year terms. ***There is still a need for a nominee to fill a Council vacancy for a one-year term.***

The purpose of the November 12<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting is to elect the nominees for Congregation Council and to vote on the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan. Once the 2024 Proposed Ministry Spending Plan is approved by the Council it will be made available prior to the meeting through the newsletter and with printed copies in the north wing.

***All confirmed members of Emmanuel who have communed and made a contribution to the church during the 2023 year or the preceding year (2022) may vote.***



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 Pllum 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.



Scout PROJECTS

*Matthew Heavner*



Battleground students

These are the children of Battleground Elementary.

These are the children we support in our Outreach ministry.

This past week Battleground held its annual book fair. All week long, students are allowed to visit and view the hundreds of new books available for purchase. Not everyone can afford to buy a new book though. They certainly aren't cheap, but for a few, Emmanuel was able to help. Each teacher was asked to nominate a deserving student who might not be able to purchase a book on their own.....their faces when they found out their books have been purchased for them was priceless!

Emmanuel sponsored 24 students in this special project. What a blessing! but that's not all... In October, Battleground will be holding a PARENT/TEACHER FAMILY activity night. Emmanuel volunteers will be outside (in the parking lot) handing out candy. This will be a trunk or treat style activity. Heads up, I will be looking for those volunteers soon.

But this is just the beginning! So far, two months into the school year, we have helped to meet many of Battleground's needs. WELCOME TO BATTLEGROUND baskets were assembled for 17 new teachers. We fed the faculty and staff breakfast on the first day of school, celebrated birthdays with cakes and cookies, and provided lunch on a parent/teacher conference day. Students have also been supplied with filled backpacks, extra school supplies, and a special visit by Patty the Patriot who gave every student a piece of candy and answered many questions concerning Lincoln County history. Other needs like socks, underwear and clothing have been provided for needy students by Emmanuel's wonderful members.....but we aren't done yet. Remember those faces?

There's always more to be done.... always more ways to help! Don't ever stop helping ....ever stop asking, "what can I do?"

We are all God's children.

See the good. Spread the good.



Bailey



Olivia



Tyler





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



**LOOK**  
What's  
New!

**We will Bury the Preacher**

**Monday, October 9, 11:00 am  
in Fellowship Hall**

If you are interested in learning more about the beginning of our church and Lutheranism, Lincoln County's very own ANN DELLINGER will share her most interesting stories. Please join us. If you have any questions you may contact Doris Little.



PSALM 146:2, NIV



**Seeds of Hope**

A PUBLICATION OF  
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*Newsletter Content  
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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.