

VOICE OF EMMANUEL SEEDS OF HOPE!



Volume 4, Issue 50
DECEMBER 13, 2023

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:

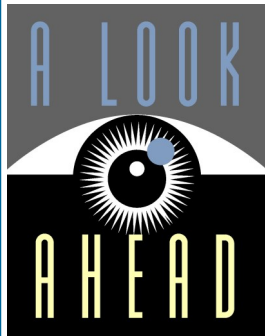
As the body of Christ,
fed and nourished
through worship, we
are called to serve all
people, through the use
of our gifts to proclaim
God's justice, mercy
and love.

*Our Vision: Striving to
Thrive with Vitality!*

Highlights of December 12, 2023 Congregation Council meeting:

- * For the month of November 2023, offerings exceeded expenses by \$9,011. For the year-to-date, offerings exceed expenses by \$18,118.
- * A row of large Leyland Cypress trees between the playground and alleyway were removed by the City of Lincolnton. The property committee had given the City permission to remove them. They were obstructing the electrical transmission lines and also encroaching on the playground. A street light in the alleyway was also fixed by the City of Lincolnton so as to illuminate the playground area better at night.
- * The Stewardship Campaign has been a great success. 58 families and individuals made commitments totaling \$247,664. This represents 78% of our 2024 spending plan needs. Many increased their commitments from the year before. Some made their first-time commitments. If you have not turned in your commitment you may still mail it, bring by the church office or place in the offering plate at worship. Your generosity is greatly needed and greatly appreciated.
- * We need all "hands on deck" for this Saturday, December 16 at 9:00 am to clean the sanctuary, north wing and fellowship hall. These areas need a good cleaning due to lots of use. With enough people we can be finished in an hour. It will be nice to have a clean church for Christmas.
- * The Council approved the Young Professionals Steering Committee using our parking area for vendors for the Apple Drop on New Years Eve. The Apple Drop is a family-oriented event in uptown sponsored by the City of Lincolnton.
- * Steve Lounsbury, Ruth Murphy and Ben Robinson were honored with a certificate and a "Faithful Servant" ink pen for their four years of serving on Congregation Council.
- * Emmanuel's Annual Congregational meeting was scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2024. It will be immediately before worship. Yearbooks will be distributed on that day and members of the Nominating Committee will be elected. Reports to be included in the Yearbook are due by January 15, 2024.

Continued on Page 2



December 17

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

- * 2024 Officers of the Council and Congregation were elected by the Council Members. Appointments to several committees and boards were also made. They include the Mission Endowment Committee, Lutherhaus Board of Directors, Personnel Committee and other Committee chairs or coordinators. Thank you to all that are willing to serve.
- * Installation of the 2024 Council Members and Officers of the Congregation will take place during worship on January 21, 2024.
- * On Sunday January 7, 2024, as part of worship, we will have a Farewell and Godspeed for Pastor Leonard and Rita Bolick for the closure of their ministry at Emmanuel. A covered dish luncheon will follow after the worship service to celebrate their time with us.



Shirley Barnes, Polly Bryant, Kathy Cromer, Laura Cromer, James Gantt, Suzette James, Glenn Mosteller, Trudy Perkins, Jim Sain, Paula Turner, Joan Warren, Rick Norine and family (cousin of Barbara O’Neill), Evelyn Cochrane (neighbor of Susan McConnell), 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), Bill Gibbs Jr. (Amy Brown), Ken Smith (brother of Kathy Cromer), J.L. Morris (Susan Boyd), Jay Puckett (Carol Wise), David Richter (Barbara O’Neill), Lenard McIlveen (brother of Marianne Doehling), Vinnie Viscarello (son-in-law Dot Swart), Quaid Mincey (Jennifer Huskey)

With joyous hearts we say “thank you” for your Christian love through your calls, visits, cards, food, acts of kindness, and especially your prayers! We are so blessed!

*Gratefully,
Glenn and Barbara Mosteller*





The young pastor was excited when they asked him to preach one Sunday in prison, but he was also very nervous.

On the day he arrived at the prison, he was greeted by a large group of prisoners waiting to hear him. As the young pastor walked and stood behind the pulpit, he said, "Good morning. It's so good to see you here!"

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

Who was the son of Jonah?

- A. Amittai
- B. Isaiah
- C. Luke
- D. Nicodemus
- E. Simon Peter



Answer: E. Matthew 16:17



Congratulations to the new parents

Anthony and Becca Jenkins had a beautiful baby girl

*Eleanor Grace Jenkins
Born November 29, 2023
7 lbs. 10 oz. and 20 inches long!*

Ministry in Action - December

	December 17	December 24	Christmas Eve	December 31
Greeters	Milton Rice Linda Rice	Shannon Mitchem Mackenzie Mitchem	James Gantt Margaret Christopher	Edward Little Doris Little
Lector	Steve Lounsbury	Randy Zimtbaum	Chuck Yoder	Ruth Murphy
Crucifer	Julie Leonhardt	Jennifer Little	Nayshaun Holiday	Jennifer Little
Acolyte	Jennifer Huskey	Hannah Brooks	Hannah Brooks	Hannah Brooks
Communion Asst	Ruth Murphy	Vera Lanier	Cathy Lounsbury	David Bynum
Bible Bearer			John Cromer	
Torch Bearers			Mary Ellen Bridges Judy Shuford	
Banner Bearers			Ben Robinson	
Altar Flowers	Available	Available	Available	Available

Monthly Duties December 2023

Councilperson	Steve Lounsbury			
Altar Guild	Ruth Murphy	Sue Zimtbaum		
Ushers	Steve Lounsbury (Captain)	Leon Harmon Jody Rhyne	Ben Robinson Keith Saine	

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Faith5 Corner by Bob Lake

Third Sunday of Advent

Share: Share your highs and lows

Read: Romans 12:9-21

Talk: Slowly reflect on the reading. Paul pretty much summarizes how Jesus taught us to live and treat others. I counted twenty-four different instructions. Twenty-four instructions each worthy of a sermon or a Sunday school class. (Or, if you like twenty-four post-its.) Read the text again. Ask yourself the following: Which of these do I like the best? Which of these do I have trouble understanding? Which of these do I find hard to follow in my everyday life? And why do I find some of them hard to follow? None of us are perfect. We all have something we need to “work” on. Do you think Paul’s instructions can help us figure out what we are good at and where we need to improve?

Pray: Thank you Jesus for teaching us how to live our lives. Thank you, God for giving us scripture which we can turn to for guidance. Thank you for forgiving us when we stray from your teachings. Help to live the way Jesus, your Son, taught us to live. Amen

Bless: “_____, Jesus has taught you how to live your everyday life.”



Every night in every home



www.faith5.org





T
I
S

T
H
E

S
E
A
S
O
N



Church Clean Up before Christmas

*Saturday, December 16 in the Sanctuary
at 9 AM.*

*If we get enough help, this should just take
a little bit of time!*

Liven Nativity has been Cancelled

*Due to weather and poor
participation we are unable to
perform the Live Nativity this year.*

Please plan now for Christmas 2024!



Welcome
Our New
Members

*Sunday, December 17 we will welcome our new
members during service at 10 AM*

10 AM Service - 4th Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM Family Christmas Eve Service

8:30 PM Prelude

9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



*Sunday,
December 24*





*Sunday, January 7, 2024
As part of worship we will have a
Farewell and Godspeed for
Pastor Leonard and Rita for the closure
of their ministry. A covered dish
luncheon will follow after the worship
service to celebrate their time with us*



H
A
P
P
Y

N
E
W

Y
E
A
R

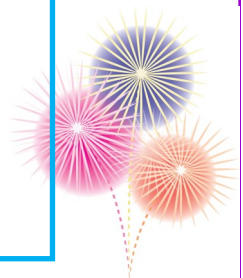
*Installation of the 2024 Council
Members and Officers of the
Congregation will take place
during Worship on
January 21, 2024*



Council Reports

*All reports are due to the office
by January 15th from the
2023 council members*

*The Church Office will be closed
Monday, December 25, 2023 for Christmas
And
Monday, January 1, 2024 for New Years Day*





EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
216 S Aspen St Lincolnton, NC 28092

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Shelly Caffey	12/01
Andy Cline	12/05
Johnnie Bynum	12/08
Pat Mitchem	12/10
Ann Brooks	12/11
Kathy Cromer	12/13
Ronnie Leonhardt	12/13
Cameron Denton	12/14
Mike Collins	12/15
Robert Cloninger	12/16
Lydia Humphries	12/17
Makenzie Mitchem	12/19
Sylvia Wallace	12/20
Ella Denton	12/21
Hayes Dunston	12/21
Tommy Hannon	12/21
Ruth Murphy	12/21
Monica Michael	12/22
David Bynum	12/25
Jeff Cornwell	12/27
Shannon Mitchem	12/27
Stephen Bassett	12/30
Jennifer Huskey	12/31



Seeds of Hope

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



Each year Emmanuel receives three special offerings (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter) that are designated for ministries or projects beyond the congregation. The Christmas Offering this year has been designated to **Christians Ministries**. If you would like to contribute, you may use your regular offering envelope, or the offering envelopes in the pew rack writing "Christmas 2023" on the other line or on your offering envelope.



*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.