

The Parish Helper

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
540-546 West Walnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

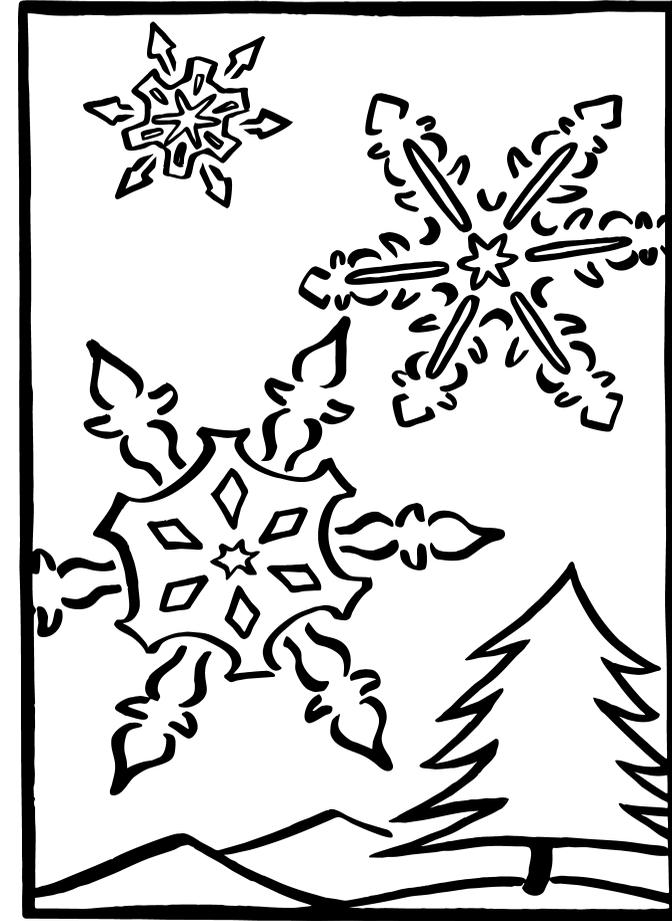
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The Parish Helper

Emmanuel Lutheran Church



February 2019

The Rev. Kurt S. Strause, Pastor
Pastor's email: pastor@emmanuellancaster.org
Emmanuel Office: 717-397-6195
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Website: www.emmanuellancaster.org
Valerie Lefever Hughes, Director of Music

From the Pastor's Desk

Did you receive as a Christmas gift one of those DNA genealogy testing kits? I'm sure you've seen the ads on TV of someone saying something like, "I thought my family all came from Germany but then I discovered I'm really 21% Polynesian, 14% Eastern European, 18% Native American, and 47% Irish." Genealogy testing kits were one of the most popular gifts to give adults this past Christmas and sales have increased over the past several years.

I haven't done the testing yet, but I have done some family genealogy research. Mine has been rather easy since both my mother's and father's sides of the family never moved around much. There's no one famous in either family. They were all farmers or laborers in Berks and Juniata counties.

I can understand the desire to know more about one's family, either through genealogical research or genetic testing. For the most part we are a nation of immigrants; either voluntarily or involuntarily. Native Americans face their own unique challenges because their families experienced extreme stress when European settlers first arrived. Many family lines are a jumble and mish-mash of people marrying and having children across national and ethnic origins. We want to know who we are and where we come from. We seek an identity that transcends belonging to a single nation because your family was here before there was a United States (native Americans) or you came from somewhere else.

I believe our family genealogy is not the most important is not the most important identity we have, however. An episode from the life of Jesus helps illustrate this:

"Then (Jesus') mother and brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'" Mark 3:31-35, parallel Matthew 12:46-50, Luke 8:19-21

Jesus may sound harsh towards his family here, but he's saying something incredibly important. He doesn't count family of origin as the most important identity in life. He points to those who are gathered around him, listening to his teaching and those "who do the will of God" as members of his own family.

This means that Jesus' family, which is his Church, will always transcend familial, ethnic, national, and cultural communities and groups. We find our first and most important identity in being joined to the death and resurrection of Christ through baptism. This identity can never be tested using a DNA kit, nor can it be researched on a genealogical website or in a dusty archival library. We belong to Christ and are counted as members of his family because we are baptized and we continue to gather around him listening to him and doing his will, no matter how imperfectly or incompletely.

Doing genealogical research and knowing something about your family's origins can be fun and enlightening. Have you also researched when you were baptized? Do you know where it occurred and who was there? Who baptized you? You know you already belong to Christ and his family, but wouldn't be just as interesting to know the circumstances of where it all began?

ASSISTING ON SUNDAYS

February 3

Acolyte
Lector
Deacons
Ushers
Greeters
Spark

Tommy Hockenberry
Karl Soutner
Barbara Dirks, Mary Royer
Karl and Marilyn Soutner
Ellen Kerstetter, Betsy Weidler
BA Smith

February 10

Acolyte
Lector
Deacons
Ushers
Greeters
Spark

Ivan Shrom
Bob Miller
Bob Miller, Keith Frey
Mary Kay Mulcahy, Suzanne Burkholder
Bill Hannegan, Dan Smith
Gini Horn

February 17

Acolyte
Lector
Deacons
Ushers
Greeters
Spark

Tommy Hockenberry
Phyllis Strittmater
Ed and Lori Hockenberry
Phyllis Strittmater, Mary Royer
Robert Miller, Tom Santosusso
Mary Kay Mulcahy

February 24

Acolyte
Lector
Deacons
Ushers
Greeters
Spark

Faith Siegrist
Keith Frey
Tim and BA Smith
Mark Moffett, Bob Miller
Frank and Nancy Lynn
Mark Moffett

Usher captain - Gini Horn

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jan 2019</p> <table style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Mar 2019</p> <table style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1	2			
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First Sunday Coffee
~February 3~
following worship

Worship & Music Committee
is providing goodies
Enjoy some hot coffee before heading
out into the cold!

Adult Sunday School
 9:00 – 10:00 ~ Fireside Room
 February 3 and 10:
 . . . continuation of
The Protestant American Experience:
A Free Market for Faith

February 17 – March 3:
 a study of THE TRINITY



Spring Sunday School Offering

Learning Ministry Committee has designated the Winter Shelter in Lancaster to receive our Spring Semester Sunday School offering. Lancaster County Council of Churches, in partnership with St. Mary's Catholic Church at 119 S. Prince Street, provides warm sleeping space, showers and lockers for single women and women with children at St. Mary's from December 3 through April 7. This program replaces the YWCA program.

“Souper Bowl of Caring”

Helps the Hungry on the Day of the Big Game

While millions of people are enjoying this fun day many people will go to bed hungry. This year on Sunday, February 3th, Super Bowl Sunday, Emmanuel Youth are joining with thousands of other youth for the “**SOUPER BOWL of CARING.**” We will be standing at the back of the church collecting donations to help feed the hungry. Money will be divided between the **Food Hub of the Lancaster County Council of Churches** and the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal.**

Get ready for the big game, buy your snacks, but please also be generous for those who won't have adequate food that day.



Gutenberg Gabs

~ a book discussion group ~

Before We Were Yours

By Lisa Wingate

Monday, February 4-1:30 to 3:00

Hostess: Jo Kuhn

I cannot tell a lie....I love pie!

A nod to Valentine's Day and Washington's birthday.

Sunday, February 17

A meal of pies

in Sieger Chapel following worship.

See poster at the back of the church
For help with planning please sign up!



Savory and Sweet



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5 Deyana Monetta Cameron Ponzo

12 Fay Binkley

22 Justin Shane Long



Arusha, TZ Pediatric Hospital

We collected \$1,101.95 for the Pediatric Hospital in Arusha, TZ, where the Swanson's, the medical missionary couple we help sponsor, work. *Autumn Sunday School offering was \$250.43, noisy offerings in November totaled \$514.52, and the Christmas Market raised \$337. Thank you for your generous support for this project!*

From the Financial Secretary

⇒ **Contribution Statements for 2018** are available on the table in the rear of the church. Please pick up your copy at your convenience.

Financial Report

	December	YTD
General Fund Income	\$24,279	\$171,076
General Fund Expense	<u>\$18,250</u>	<u>\$171,076</u>
Difference	\$6,029	\$0



Deadline for the March Parish Helper is

Wednesday, March 13.

Please send all information to office@emmanuelancster.org