

# The Evangel

E M M A N U E L L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- From the Pen of the Pastor
- Peanut Butter Drive
- Hunger Walk
- Youth of Emmanuel



## Youth is Served!

In this issue we will focus on the Youth of Emmanuel (YOE) and upcoming events being planned for them. In spotlighting the YOE, we don't want to leave out those who have worked hard to put together those events we have had so far. As the saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child"; we also must recognize those grandparents, aunts, uncles, educators and of course the parents who play a vital part in the growth and development of the Youth of Emmanuel. In our midst, they will go from childhood to adolescence to adulthood and we can nurture this process with pride.

As a church community we can certainly step up and continue to play a part in the village helping to raise the Youth of Emmanuel. We need to commit to giving the YOE the tools to take Emmanuel Lutheran Church into the future. We must commit to sponsoring programs and events to keep our youth engaged and involved.

As newsletter editor, I commit to always featuring news in our Youth Corner to let everyone know what the Youth of Emmanuel are doing. We want to hear what you are doing Youth of Emmanuel and have a vested interest in your future!!!

March  
REGULAR WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE  
8:45AM—Praise Service  
9:45am—Sunday School  
11:00am—Worship Service

# FROM THE PEN OF THE PASTOR



**Pastor Beverly  
Interim Pastor**



This is the season of Lent and that means many things to many people. For some, it is a somber time; a time to dwell on the coming passion of our Lord. For others, it is somber but a time to share in the passion of Christ by "giving up" something they really love for the duration of Lent.

Others use Lent as a time to discipline themselves, to control those urges in life that cause one to wander away from a life in Christ.

Then, there are others like myself, who see Lent as spring, a beginning of new life for all of God's creation. It is my time to look at myself, see my lacks and savor the opportunity to begin again.

For me, it is a time of great satisfaction and joy because I am assured once again of my deliverance in Christ. I can leave the old me behind and bring forward a new me.

A fresh start with God. A new creation.

It begins with a contrite heart. I know that I have not been or done my best. I know that I have not loved God with my whole heart or my neighbor as myself. Many times, I have not even tried. I have sought what was beneficial to myself and called it achievement.

I have seen hungry beggars and considered them pathetic. I have seen people in need, ignored them and call myself busy. I have looked upon the oppressed and then looked the other way. I have been put to the test many times and many times, I have failed.

But I will begin again. I will go before the Lord and ask for another chance. He will not require a burnt offering or all my money. All He will ask for is a contrite heart one in which He may dwell. All He will need is a new and right spirit within me so that His work can be done. And I will open up my heart and myself, this broken vessel, and allow Him to come in.

This is my Lent. It is a celebration of what God has done. As He has offered up Himself for me, so will I make my whole self available to Him.

It is my opportunity to be restored, to have the joy the Lord intended for me. To give Him all the glory He deserves for what He has done for me.

I thank you, O Lord, for another chance.



## News to Share

### Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, March the 8th at 7:00 pm.

### Church Council Meeting

The monthly meeting of the church council will be Tuesday, March the 15th at 7:00pm.

### Flower Calendar 2011

The Flower Calendar for 2011 is in the Narthex. Cost is \$40.00/\$25.00 minimum donation. There will be no flowers during Lent which begins on the 9th of March. Flowers will return to the altar on Easter Sunday.

### Bible Study

Bible study will begin on the 5th of May at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to study God's word so that we can live God's way.

### Thanks, February Birthday Club!

Thanks to the February birthday club for hosting the coffee hour. A special thanks to Christine Davis for coordinating the activities!

### Exercise Class

Exercise class began on Saturday, February 26th at 1:00 pm. Gail Anderson from the Search Your Heart Team of Morehouse School of Medicine is leading the class. Please come and get fit for better health! Contact Rose Lewis if you have any questions.

### Social Ministry Meeting

Are you looking for a ministry to be a part of? Social Ministry is currently recruiting members to join our team! Some of the projects taken on by Social Ministry include the Hunger Walk, Angel Tree and Habitat for Humanity. We also send flowers to church members who are hospitalized or those who have lost a loved one. The Healthcare Initiative is another way we minister to the church family. Please contact Jacqui El Torro or Liz Wills if you have an interested in being part of the team. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday Service will be on the 9th of March at 7:00 pm. Lenten services will follow each Wednesday at the same time.

### Hunger Walk 2011

The Atlanta Community Food Bank had their annual Hunger Walk on Sunday, March 13, 2011.

**Many thanks to Sandra Wills & Jacqui El Torro ( representing GAALA) who participated in the walk!**

Checks can still be mailed to the Atlanta Community Food Bank c/o Lutheran Services of Georgia, 1330 West Peachtree Street, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30309. Be sure and specify that it is a donation from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in the memo line on your check so that our congregation can get the credit. Emmanuel you can still contribute to the cause by sending in a contribution up to two weeks after the event. We must raise funds to combat hunger in our community and make the effort to kiss hunger goodbye!

If you have questions, please contact Liz Wills who is the Hunger Walk Team Captain for 2011. I can be reached at 404.645.5111

## More News to Share

### Jazz Verpers!



*"Create in me a clean heart, O God"*

*When: March 26, 2011*

*Time: 6:00p.m.*

*Where: Emmanuel Lutheran Church*

### Newsletter Submissions

If there's any news you wish to see printed in the newsletter, please feel free to send me your submissions. Emmanuel this is your newsletter. Please watch for future spotlights on Emmanuel members, a Youth of Emmanuel corner and our latest addition, the Literary Lighthouse. Reports from ministry teams, committees and special events are always welcome. Let me hear from you Emmanuel! I'm always looking for ways to making the newsletter better. Send any news you may have to Liz Wills at [lizrennt@yahoo.com](mailto:lizrennt@yahoo.com)

### Robyn El Torro

Robyn has been very busy lately! Look carefully at your March 2011 issue of **The Lutheran**. You will see a picture of our own Robyn El Torro. She has recently become actively involved with a group of our Synod's 18–30 year olds who call themselves **Southeastern Synod Young Adults Living Lutheran (SESYALL)**. The group met last summer to help with the flood cleanup in Nashville, Tennessee. Robyn has been named the chair elect/retreat planner for the group. For more information on **SESYALL** please visit their website at [www.sesyall.org](http://www.sesyall.org).

Locally, Robyn has become involved with a joint campus ministry serving the campuses of Georgia Tech, Georgia State, Agnes Scott and soon Emory University. The name of this ministry is the **House of the Rock** and they have started a new worship service specifically to attract young adults on Sunday evenings. They have created a video for more information about this exciting new ministry. To find out more about **The House of the Rock**, the link is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj-zNoIMdNA..> Check it out!

### Coffee Hour on March 27th

The Transition Team will host a Coffee Hour between the 8:45 and the 11:00 am services on the 27th of March. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall between worship services and enjoy some fellowship with members of the Transition Team! This is an opportunity for you to discuss your concerns with members of the Transition Team. Contact Co-Chairs, Louise Hamilton (678-261-0739) or Kimra Briscoe (404-699-7607)

## Search your Heart



Heart disease and stroke are major health risks for everyone. But African Americans are at especially high risk. How high, you ask? Consider this...

- Heart disease and stroke are the number 1 and number 3 killers of blacks
- Heart and blood vessel diseases (cardiovascular diseases) claim the lives of over 140,000 blacks every year.
- These diseases account for 33% of all deaths among blacks in the U.S.

Since October, Emmanuel has been involved in a program to try to address these issues. There are some things that can be done to reverse these statistics. The things that can be controlled include to stop smoking, control your weight, control blood pressure, control your cholesterol and to control diabetes. After the testing was done in October, we were given booklets and educational programs were done. If you were originally tested, you can still try to change your numbers for the re-testing in April. Even if you were unable to attend some of the classes, if you read your booklet and make some of the suggested life style changes over the next month, this should show some positive changes.

Remember you have the power! Some things you can do are:

- Know your risk factors and change those that are within your power
- Know the signs and symptoms of heart attack
- Know the signs and symptoms of stroke

This program was presented by The American Heart Association in collaboration with Morehouse School of Medicine. If you have any questions about any of this content, I can get the answers for you. Remember the next testing date is April 3, 2011 @ 10:00 am. Please contact Christine Davis at 404.696.3736 for more information.

## Ethics of Eating Seminar

On the 6th of March in the Fellowship Hall, Donna and Tommy Wise presented a Temple Talk which dealt with developing an awareness of the food that you eat, where it comes from and what is involved in getting it to your table. They shared with us a Powerpoint presentation which featured the information that was presented at a retreat held by the **ELCA**. Donna and Tommy had the pleasure of representing Emmanuel at the **ELCA World Hunger Ethics of Eating** retreat which was held in Ft Myers, Florida on the 27th–30th of January of this year.

Much information was brought back that could not be presented in the two hours set aside for the presentation. Those present engaged in an interesting discussion which caused us not to be able to view all of the materials Donna and Tommy brought to share with us. For those desiring to know more about this topic, please visit the following links for more information :

- ◆ You can read about the **ELCA's** latest social statement on genetics, faith and responsibility, including considerations for genetically modified organisms or GMOs: [www.elca.org/genetics](http://www.elca.org/genetics).
- ◆ Below are links to articles and a video about the Atlanta protest of Publix by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers mentioned during the Ethics of Eating seminar. The ELCA World Hunger Task Force is one of their primary supporters.
- ◆ Please visit [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=ZoyLfx6RNIk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ZoyLfx6RNIk) (which is the link for the video) and visit <http://ciw-online.org/dotherightthing/day4.html> (which contains the link for the article).

## Call Committee Update

### The Call Process

The Call Committee has been diligently working and has completed the Ministry Site Profile. This extensive document paints a picture of our Church's past, present and future expectations of our congregation. This document will be the primary tool used by the Synod and congregation to identify prospective candidates to be called as Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

The next step in the call process is to obtain Church Council input and approval of the Ministry Profile which is scheduled on March 15, 2011. Upon approval by the Council, the Ministry Profile will be presented to the congregation for final approval. The profile will then be submitted to the South-eastern Synod for inclusion in their data base to match potential candidates in their applicant cadre with our profile.

Candidates are put into the applicant pool from the following sources:

1. The Synod's database
2. Candidates from outside the Synod database may be added but they must submit an application and be approved by the Synod.
3. Congregations may submit names to the Synod; however, they must have Synod approval.

Once the applicant pool is updated, the Synod will send us a list of candidates who match our Ministry Profile. The Call Committee will interview the candidates and recommend name(s) to the Council. The Council will then meet/interview and recommend name(s) to the congregation for final selection.

Your Call Committee members are: **Robyn El Torro, John Gibson, Nancy Hall-White, Alice Hamilton, Pamela Williams-Phelps and Reuben Wilson.** We solicit your prayers and ask for your support during this call process.



## News to Share

### LutherRanch

#### LutherRanch Contributions

Please remember that Emmanuel's \$9,000 total LutherRanch contribution is due by December 31, 2011. When making the contribution, be sure to indicate "LutherRanch" in the note section on your check.

### Financial Report for Emmanuel Lutheran Church

	Spent	Budgeted	Received
January 2011	\$14,464	\$22,347	\$23,635
Year To Date	\$14,464	\$22,347	\$23,635

Submitted by : Marianne Pieper

### Peanut Butter Drive



On behalf of The Family Life Ministries of East Point, Georgia once again Emmanuel Lutheran Church supported this worthy cause. A final number will be released soon but we provided more than **200 jars of peanut butter!** Many thanks Emmanuel as always for your support

Marsha Goerss



## Spotlight on YOE (Youth of Emmanuel)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is revitalizing our youth ministry. We are working in conjunction with other area Lutheran Churches including St. Mark, St. Paul and Atonement to build a thriving youth ministry.

This ministry will be centered on four areas: Worship, Service, Fellowship and Mountaintop Experiences.

- **Worship:** Bible Study, Vacation Bible School and other programs.
- **Service:** Community and service projects through Lutheran Services of Georgia and other agencies
- **Fellowship:** Activities that will give the youth a chance have fun together and to bond and form lasting friendships
- **Mountain Top Experiences:** Regional and national youth gatherings by the ELCA synod will give our youth an opportunity to meet and worship with youth from other parts of the country.

**Please keep the dates of these upcoming synod youth gatherings on your calendar!**

⇒ March 11-13, 2011 – “By Faith” All Georgia Lutheran Youth Gathering at New Ebenezer Retreat Center, Rincon, GA (30 minutes north of Savannah).

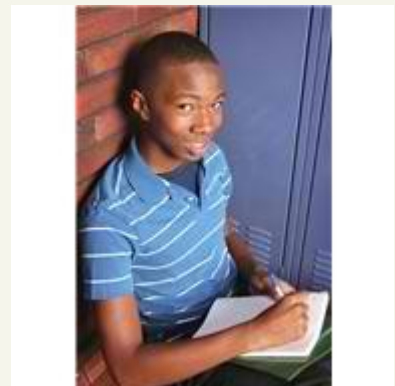
⇒ June 19-24, 2011 – “Affirm” is a six-day five-night youth event of faith, fellowship and friends sponsored by the ELCA Southeastern Synod at Berry College in Rome, GA.

⇒ July 18-22, 2012 – “Citizens with the Saints” 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. The 2012 Youth Gathering will invite participants to return to New Orleans to dwell together as “one new humanity,” remembering who we are in Christ and acting in response by forming faithful, wise and courageous leaders. For more information go to [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering).

Please encourage your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbors to participate in upcoming events and activities. And please do all that you can to support our youth ministry. Our youth have the future of our church in their hands and they need our help and guidance. We will keep everyone posted on upcoming events and activities for our youth.

## Youth Corner

**Acolytes for March** — let's take a moment to salute those Acolytes who will serve as helpers for the services this month. They serve a vital role in making sure everything runs smoothly whether its lighting the candles on the altar or helping with the distribution of communion. The acolytes for March are Rufaro Moyo, Udy Obot, Steven Patten, Justin Robinson, Brittany Southall, Narchadille Southall, Baili Wise and Kara Wise. Thanks, as always for your service!



## Youth Corner

**Baili Aliana Wise** is among nine students from Ridgeview Charter School who passed two difficult auditions to win a spot in the Georgia Music Educator's Association All State Chorus. The Ensemble performed with other talented students representing schools from across the state on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the Savannah Civic Center.

**Kara Ali Wise** was chosen to represent Ridgeview Charter School in the Rialto Theatre's All-Star Jazz Band led by conductor, Dr Gordon Vernick, Professor of Jazz Studies at Georgia State University. A traditional brass and percussion band typically without woodwind instruments, Kara's solo flute position was specially created for him. Here's a link for the article about Kara being chosen for the band!

<http://www.reporternewspapers.net/2011/02/24/ridgeview-band-students-picked-jazz-allstars/>





## Literary Lighthouse

This is a famous poem by Rudyard Kipling. Two of the lines are probably very familiar—they are above the door of the clubhouse at Wimbledon, “if you can meet with triumph and disaster...and treat those two imposters just the same” This poem seemed appropriate for this issue of the newsletter.

IF

by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
And treat those two imposters just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breath a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run -  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And - which is more - you'll be a Man my son!



## Literary Lighthouse

This is a poem often featured in graduation greeting cards. It is the companion poem to the Rudyard Kipling poem, "If". It has often been the verse featured in graduation cards given to female graduates. This poem also seemed appropriate for this issue of the newsletter in our salute to the Youth of Emmanuel.

### IF (for girls) by Gail Baker Stanton

If you can trust yourself though others doubt you  
And conquer fears that limit what you dare  
So you can freely give to those about you  
The skills and talents that are yours to share;

If you can live, not for your pleasure only  
But gladly lend your gentleness and grace  
To warm the hearts of those whose lives are lonely  
And help to make their world a better place;

If you can balance dreams with practicality  
And deal in facts, but never lose ideals,  
If you can face the harshness of reality  
And find the truths that prejudice conceals;

If you can be courageous when defeated  
And humble in the face of victory,  
Or give your best until a task's completed  
However difficult that task may be;

If you can temper facts with understanding  
And seek to gently guide, not to control  
And neither be too lax nor too demanding,  
But keep in mind the worth in every soul

If you can strive, not caring who gets credit,  
And work at building bridges and not walls,  
Or hearing idle slander, just forget it  
And never fail to help someone who falls

If you can give your help without begrudging  
The patience, time and effort you impart  
Or look at others' weakness without judging  
And see, not with your eyes, but with your heart;

If you can take resources that surround you  
And use them in the way you feel you should,  
You'll be a woman....and all those around you  
Will be the richer for your womanhood!



# Emmanuel Lutheran Church Calendar of Events and Activities March 2011

Praise Choir Rehearsals—Wednesdays at 6:15p  
Emmanuel Choir Rehearsals— Wednesdays at 7:00p



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
			6p WOE Meeting			
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Regular Worship schedule		Executive Com- mittee Mtg 7p	Ash Wednesday			
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
Regular worship schedule		Church Council Meeting 7 p	Lenten Service @ 7p			Exercise class @ 1:00
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Regular worship schedule			Lenten Service @ 7p			Exercise class @ 1:00 Jazz Vespers @ 6:00
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
Regular worship schedule			Lenten Service @ 7p			

Congratulations to the following members and friends who are celebrating birthdays during the month of March.

- 3—Thomas Patten
- 7—Steven Patten
- 13—Todd Williamson
- 13—Donna Wise
- 18—Rufaro Moyo
- 22—Vallera Gibson
- 27—Rubie Momon

*If your name or the name of a family member is not included in the March birthday list, please notify the church office.*



## March Worship Leaders

### 1st Sunday (March 6)

11:00am

Ushers: Brock Brockington, Gail Robinson

Assisting Minister: Christine Davis

Acolytes: Justin Robinson & Steven Patten

### 2nd Sunday (March 13)

11:00am

Ushers: Edna Nicks, Alvoyd Nicks

Assisting Minister: Cliff Baldowski

Acolytes: Udy Obot & Rufaro Moyo

### 3rd Sunday (March 20)

11:00am

Ushers: Glen Johnson, Brock Brockington

Assisting Minister: James McCoy

Acolytes: Baili & Kara Wise

### 4th Sunday (March 27)

11:00am

Ushers: Cliff Baldowski, Willis Culpepper

Assisting Minister: Denise Ward

Acolytes: Brittany & Narchadille Southall

**EMMANUEL  
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**“Where faith comes to life.”**

Website address:  
<http://www.emmanuelatl.com/>  
You can also follow Emmanuel on  
Facebook!



Directions: Emmanuel is located approximately one mile inside I-285 near the I-285/Cascade Road exit on the corner of Cascade Road and Adams Drive.



## The Last Word

Just as an author includes acknowledgements at the end of a written work, I have to acknowledge all those who helped me with this month's newsletter. It turned out to be more of a challenge than I thought it would be. First of all, I had a minor mishap with my first copy when I thought it had been saved properly only to find out it had not been saved to my hard drive. I usually have at least two copies I am working on but imagine my consternation when I realized I did not have a copy! So I had to start all over from scratch remembering what I had planned for my layout for the month. It turned out to be fortunate, because news continued to pour in for me to include in this month's issue, so it all came together in the end.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it took a village to help me get this issue out to you, Emmanuel. You can even call it a family affair!

Thanks to my sister, Sandra Wills who tried to recover my lost copy but could not after I emailed my corrupted file to her. Thanks for trying, Sandra!

Thanks to my mom, Lucille Wills who provided me with the poem **IF (for girls)** by Gail Baker Stanton for the **Literary Lighthouse** this month.

Thanks to my dad, Oliver Wills who always proofreads what I hope is my final product and provides a fresh set of eyes to look over my copy.

But a special thanks to my Emmanuel Lutheran Church family who always provide me with newsletter content, month after month. It has been a joy to put it together. I hope you enjoy the newsletter as much as I enjoy putting it together.

Liz