

December 2011

Volume 6, Issue 12

The Evangel

Emmanuel Lutheran Church



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Worship Schedule — December 2011

Sun Dec 4	8:45a 9:45a 11:00a	Praise Service Sunday School Traditional Service
Wed Dec 7	7:00p	Advent Mid-Week Service
Sat Dec 10	6:00p	Christmas Program
Sun Dec 11	8:45a 9:45a 11:00a	Praise Service Sunday School Traditional Service
Wed Dec 14	7:00p	Advent Mid-Week Service
Sun Dec 18	9:00a 10:00a	Sunday School Combined worship service Congregation meeting follows
Wed Dec 21	7:00p	Advent Mid-Week Service
Sat Dec 24	7:00p	Christmas Eve Service
Sun Dec 25	9:00a 10:00a	Sunday School Combined worship service
Sat Dec 31	11:00p	Watch Night Service (unconfirmed)
Sun Jan 1	9:00a 10:00a	Sunday School Combined worship service



From the Pen of the Pastor



Quiet, quiet, QUIET! This is a constant in my head during this season of the year. There is so much NOISE during this particular holiday season. And it's not just the commercialism, it's the accrual noise. It's a wonder we can hear ourselves think. It begins with thanksgiving and the bustle of shopping and cooking the meal. If you are fortunate, you will have a meal. If you are really fortunate, you won't have had to cook it. If you are a part of the average masses, especially women, you will have had to cook something. Then the cooking. Pot and pans clanging, refrigerator doors opening and closing, the oven door opening and closing and the occasional bowl breaking. And then there are the words not repeated here (#@#*&#) when the cake is flat or the dressing is runny or the rice is burned.

Soon after an awesome and calorie filled meal, we who have been expecting it all along, are bombasted with black Friday and holiday deals. We either participate and join the hordes of loud and eager shoppers or, we

watch them on television. Either way, we cannot avoid the bustle and the NOISE.

Now the house and the church must be decorated for Christmas. Although the tree fell off the top of the car on the way home to get it into the house. More words, because the lights are not all working. Children race back and forth in curiosity and delight. Ornaments are exclaimed over. Voices are raised in loud conversation as to how the tree must be decorated and where it is to stand. Noise.

Gift shopping, holiday crowds, shopping list, Christmas cards; it is relentless! And there is so much noise.

And then, it is all done. The Christmas pies are cooling. The cakes are ready. The ham is just right and all the holiday trimmings are there. And then, it is time for the Christmas Eve candlelight service at church. I remember as I traveled to church how quiet the streets have become. All the lights are shinning in and around the homes along the way and there is a sense of peace and stillness. I remember as I traveled, the stars twinkling in the heavens and I wonder if that is how the heavens must have looked to those shepherds tending their flocks. How quiet it must have been. And then, on that quiet night, comes an

angel of the Lord, and a great light, the glory of God shinning all around. An angel, bringing the good news of great joy; for unto us a child is born, unto us a savior is given.

As we sit in the sanctuary, as the candles shine like stars, and as we sing, the familiar hymns we have all sung every Christmas, and as we consider all the glory of the Lord, a peace is felt, a quiet, still peace, a quiet wonder at the gift of the Christ child.

And our hearts burst with thanksgiving and praise; He is come! He is born!! Glory to God in the highest and peace, now, to His people on earth.



News to Share

WOE Monthly Meeting

The Women of Emmanuel will meet Wednesday, December 7, at 6pm.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee will meet this Tuesday, December 13, at 7pm.

Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee will meet this Thursday, December 15, at 7pm.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, December 20, at 7pm.

Caregivers' Support Group Meeting

The Caregivers' Support Group will meet Sunday, December 11 at 10am in the fellowship house.

Bible Study

We will have Bible Study on December 8th and will suspend Bible Study until the first Thursday in January, January 5th. We look forward to seeing you at Bible Study on December 8, 2011 and January 5, 2012.

December Coffee Hour

The December Birthday Club will host coffee hour on December 18th. Contact Loette Osby (770-485-5429), coordinator.



Transition Team Update

The Transition Team is continuing to meet monthly with Transition Pastor Beverly Shaw. Keeping in mind that Pastor Shaw's position is part-time, the Transition team feels that she is doing an exceptional job for the congregation of Emmanuel.

Congregation Meeting

There will be a congregation meeting on Sunday, December 18, immediately following combined worship service at 10am. All members are asked to attend this very important meeting.

Advent Services

We will have weekly Advent services on Wednesday evenings at 7pm beginning December 7th. Pastor Beverly will bring the message each week.

ELCA Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering will convene on July 18, 2012. It will be held in New Orleans, LA. If you have a high school student who is interested in participating, please see Pastor Beverly or Jacqui El Torro.

Seeking Church Council Members

All those interested in serving the Emmanuel community by working on the Church council, please see Curtis Anthony or Pastor Beverly.

WOE Annual Outing

At our last Women of Emmanuel meeting it was decided that our annual outing would be to Explorations in Antiquity Center in LaGrange, Georgia. It was also determined that we would car pool to LaGrange to hold down the cost.

We are scheduled for the walking tour at 12:30pm and the Biblical Meal at 2:00pm on Saturday December 17th. The cost for the meal is \$30.00 per person which includes the tour; there is also a Bread Making Class at an additional \$10.00.

Thanks November Birthday Club

Thanks to the November birthday club for coffee hour November 27. Special thanks to Deborah Childress for coordinating the event.



Christmas Play



Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year.

We would like for as many of our children as possible to participate. (All Ages!)

They will perform the play "Little Star" at the combined 10am service on December 25.

Pat needs to hear from the children who will be able to participate by Wednesday, December 7, so that she can adjust the script and issue parts.

Please email Pat Williams at melrosepmk@bellsouth.net or phone her at (404) 758-5100.

Women of Emmanuel



Greetings All,

November proved to be another busy month for the Women of Emmanuel, while we did not share a Thanksgiving meal with students from the Atlanta University Center as planned, the entire Emmanuel Family supported:

Two families from the tutorial program with Thanksgiving Dinners

Fifteen families from Woodson Elementary School with Turkeys provided by Dr. Art Lewis

Supported the shoes for Africa Drive

The Thanksgiving meal served Rock of Ages Lutheran Church where A New Thing Christian Church serves the homeless and less fortunate each Wednesday. I received the following note of thanks and praise from Pastor Trina Petersen:

A tremendous THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the first A.N.T. Thanksgiving Meal. We thank Rock of Ages for allowing us to utilize their facility. And the outpouring of love from The Mighty ANTS, the GA-AALA community and the family of Emmanuel Lutheran was overwhelming. We had enough to serve 150+ plates of food to the Memorial Drive Community. Presentations of song, dance and live music added to the experience. Both the stomachs and the spirits of all who attended were filled. God continues to bless us that we may be a blessing. Go Mighty ANTS!

A New Thing Christian Church...

Where people don't just come to church...

They come to Christ

And become the church

Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise. Which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, She provides her supplies in the summer.

And gathers her food in the harvest. -Proverbs 6:6

Continued

Women of Emmanuel

Explorations in Antiquities Center, LaGrange, GA

Plans are underway for our annual Christmas time get away, this year we will carpool to Explorations in Antiquities Center in LaGrange, GA since several have asked me about the center I am including information found on their website. The trip is planned for December 17th at a cost of \$30.00 per person for the Biblical Meal.

Bringing Ancient History To Life

The Explorations in Antiquity Center in LaGrange, Georgia, is a living museum of life in ancient times. Through archeological replicas, Biblical meal presentations, lectures, and other personal experiences, ancient Middle Eastern life becomes real today.

Experience ancient biblical life and times as you:

- Step back into time as you sit in an authentic goat hair tent like the nomadic shepherds have lived in for thousands of years.

- See tombs like those in which Abraham and Jesus were buried and catacombs like those early Christians used for worship.

- Visit a village and city gate area to see what life was like 2000 years ago.

- Dine with the ancients as you share a Passover Meal much like that which Jesus ate at the Last Supper.

- Enter the Time Tunnel and learn about the worship practices of pagans, Jews, and Christians from 2500 BCE to 500 CE by exploring replicas of excavated houses of worship from Israel.

- Sit in the new Roman Theater, still under construction, based on ancient theaters around the Roman world.

These opportunities and so many more wait for you at the Explorations in Antiquity Center! We hope that your visit to our web site will be the first step towards your journey to visit us in person.

Follow the Shepherds Walks

DECEMBER 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24

Experience the events of Christmas in a new and unique way as you "follow the shepherds" from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and beyond. Walks begin at 6:00 PM each Friday and Saturday night and last about 45 minutes.

Reservations are recommended. \$10 adults, \$6 children ages 4-12. Please call 706-885-0363 for more information.

Christmas Under the Bethlehem Star

DECEMBER 9-10, 16-17, 23-24

Our Christmas Sound and Light Show, under the Bethlehem Star will inspire you. This multimedia event will include scenes from actual sites in the Holy Land, coupled with wonderful traditional music will make these nights a special celebration of Christmas.

Christmas Under the Bethlehem Star begins each night at 7:30. \$10 adults, \$6 children ages 4-12.

Please call 706-885-0363 for more information.

Our next Women of Emmanuel meeting will be at 6:00pm Wednesday, December 7th.

Have a very blessed Christmas Season,
Jacqui El Torro
Women of Emmanuel

News to Share



You are Invited!

Join your friends and neighbors in the Southeastern Synod as we gather for a Bible conversation about the Book of Ruth led by Dr. Diane Jacobson, ELCA Book of Faith Initiative Director.

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Shepherd of the Hills in Birmingham, AL - RSVP to 205-995-9673

&

Sunday, December 4, 3:00—6:00 pm at Good Shepherd in Woodstock, GA - RSVP to 770-924-7286



As congregations throughout the ELCA begin intentional conversations about what it means to be "missional", Dr. Jacobson offers this. "Being missional requires that we are biblically grounded and equipped. Gathered around Scripture we are best able to listen to God, to each other, and to our neighbors. In this workshop we will explore some of the ways that we as Lutherans can best gather around the Bible. We will study the Book of Ruth together, a particularly fine book for exploring the question of "Who is our neighbor?" We will also spend some time considering the challenges and opportunities before us as we endeavor to be a Book of Faith church, immersed in the Word."

Dr. Jacobson's visit is cosponsored by the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta (LTCA) and the Southeastern Synod Book of Faith Initiative.

"LSG" Moment

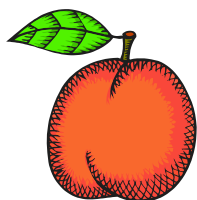
Being a twin herself, it was no surprise that April was drawn to the two youngest boys of a group of eight brothers and sisters. Jay, 2 and Trey, 3 are not twins but are close enough in age to be confused as such. On August 28, 2011, April, along with friends and family, celebrated the adoption of Trey and Jay. In attendance were two of their older siblings who are also placed in Foster Care through Lutheran Services of Georgia. "They reminded me of my sister" says April. An interview with a child with HIV and her foster mom on Oprah inspired April, then only 10, to commit to an education in Sociology as well as Nursing in hopes of learning how to properly care for foster children.

The journey has not gone without struggle; the two boys were both born prematurely and have faced developmental issues that required them to take physical therapy, which they have successfully completed. They are now in speech therapy, and April constantly notices their major accomplishments. Within the next five years, April hopes that the boys will be developmentally caught up with other children their age, have better communication skills, and will no longer require special needs assistance.

April's sister Alicia has been along for the entire ride; they attended all classes together and Alicia was supportive throughout the whole process. It's no secret that April treasures the bond of siblings, so she is committed to helping the four siblings maintain relationships. She has also shared that the foster parents of the older siblings are about to proceed with their adoption. In addition to maintaining her new family, April says she is open to adopting a little girl and encourages everyone to seek information about adopting.

This article was submitted by Marsha Goerss.

Peach Drop Performance on 12/31/11



Please come out to support Baili, Kara and their new band, The Frame, at the New Year's Eve Peach Drop in Kenny's Alley in Underground Atlanta on Saturday, December 31st at noon.

Thank you for all your prayers and support as they explore their musical interests. Our family is indebted to the Emmanuel family for all that you do to help guide them in the right direction.

Donna and Tommy Wise

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- 1st Wednesday at 6pm—Women of Emmanuel
- 2nd Tuesday at 7pm—Executive Committee Meeting
- 2nd Thursday at 7pm—Finance Committee Meeting
- 3rd Tuesday at 7pm—Church Council Meeting

November Worship Leaders

	Assisting Minister	Ushers	Acolytes
December 4	Christine Davis	Brock Brockington, Gail Robinson	Justin Robinson, Steven Patten
December 11	David Kapple	Edna Nicks, Alvoyd Nicks	Udy Obot, Rufaro Moyo
December 18	Pat Williams	Glen Johnson, Brock Brockington	Baili Wise, Kara Wise
December 25	James McCoy	Cliff Baldowski, Willis Culpepper	Brittany Southall, Narchadille Southall



December Celebrants

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Christeen Yerby | 14 - Lottie Goodwin |
| 3 - Ethel Blayton | 14 - Carol Brockington |
| 3 - Loette Askew Osby | 17 - Alice Hamilton |
| 4 - Zivalshe Moyo | 19 - Ruby Gay |
| 7 - David Norman | 22 - Robyn El Torro |
| 8 - Andrea Jordan | 24 - Oliver Wills |
| 9 - Logan Makenzie Parker | 25 - Carole Johnson |
| 9 - Elizabeth Wills | 28 - Zaria Marie Anthony |
| 10 - Deborah Childress | 28 - Bryan McClendon |
| 12 - Anya Phelps | 29 - Walter Osby |
| 13 - Arthur Lewis | 30 - Jasminn Evans |
| 14 - Katherine Brown | 30 - Steve Patten |





Emmanuel Lutheran Church Calendar of Events and Activities December 2011

Praise Choir Rehearsals—Wednesdays at 6:00p
Emmanuel Choir Rehearsals— Wednesdays at 7:30p



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7p Bible Study— Cancelled	2	3
4 8:45a—Praise Service 9:45a Sunday School 11a—Traditional worship service	5	6	7 6p WOE Monthly 7p Advent Service	8 7p Bible Study 7p Finance Comm.	9	10 6p Christmas Program
11 8:45a—Praise Service 9:45a Sunday School 11a—Traditional worship service	12	13 7p Executive Comm. Meeting	14 7p Advent Service	15 7p Bible Study— Cancelled	16	17
18 9:00a Sunday School 10a—Traditional worship service <i>Congregation meeting follows</i>	19	20 7p Church Council Meeting	21 7p Advent Service	22 7p Bible Study— Cancelled	23	24 7p Christmas Eve Service
25 9a Sunday School 10a Combined worship service	26	27	28	29 7p Bible Study— Cancelled	30	31 11p Watch Night Service (unconfirmed) New Year's Eve

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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“Where faith comes to life.”



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.