



ON THE ROAD

A BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION

MAY 20, 2011

PASTOR'S 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members of Emmaus,

Declining membership, worship attendance, and financial support...smaller core of people indicating willingness to serve on Sunday mornings...challenge to find nominees for elected leadership positions...increasing median age...

What's going on in the church?

I would answer the question, first, by saying that there's a lot of good going on in the church! There is the weekly assembly around Word and Sacrament. There are wonderful relationships among people of the congregation. There are opportunities to study, learn, and grow in faith. There are numerous opportunities to serve in the church and through the church locally and beyond.

I would answer the question, secondly, by saying that our rapidly changing culture is challenging the norms of how the church functions today. Whether political, economic, technological, or religious, the church is being challenged by these changes to examine its core values and how it responds. We may not like the changes, but, to use a currently common phrase, "It is what it is."

So, how is Emmaus Lutheran Church responding? I prefer to perceive this not as a problem but as a challenge that leads to opportunities for the church to clarify how it lives the gospel in the context of a changing culture. Rather than despairing of current trends in the church, we need to consider what they mean and develop strategies to address them.

We have a fine organizational structure in place to do the mission and ministry of Emmaus. But organization sometimes takes on more importance than the faith lived through the church. If people are not responding, we need to take a hard look at the structure of our ministry to determine ways that we can more effectively be a vital congregation in a changing context.

How can we be the best stewards of the resources we have to do the mission and ministry of Emmaus ~ our faith, our staff, our building, our financial and human resources? It takes prayer, effort, time, and energy to seek answers to these questions. But I'm confident that the Emmaus family has what it takes to discover how God is calling us to respond to the challenges of the changing culture in which the church is planted.

What's going on in the church?

I believe the power of the Holy Spirit is stirring us to discover what God is doing in the church of today!

In Christian partnership,

Pastor Steve

TANGLED BLUE IN CONCERT
Wednesday, May 25th—7:00 pm

All are welcome to enjoy an evening with **Tangled Blue**, a musical duo from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Their music is a unique sound that incorporates Latin and electronic percussion as well as acoustic and electric guitars. Hearing these troubadours in concert with their infectious melodies and stories is an experience the listener won't soon forget. Tangled Blue is the featured music at the May Holden Youth Weekends this year. A free will offering will be received.

EVER-YOUNG SENIORS

Emmaus retired folk and friends are invited to "kick-off" summer with a day trip to enjoy iris and peony gardens in the Willamette Valley just north of Salem! This Friday, May 27th, departing from Emmaus at 9:00 a.m. with lunch at a restaurant. Van rental and gasoline cost will be divided among participants upon return.

PENTECOST

Sunday, June 12th, begins the longest season of the Christian Church Year with the account in Acts 2 of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the gathered crowd. The remainder of the Church Year is called *Time after Pentecost*, when the biblical readings challenge us to grow in our understanding of how we experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit personally and through the Church. The color for the day is red, recalling the power of the Holy Spirit through the image of tongues of fire. You are invited to wear something red and bring red geraniums that you can then bring home to plant, reminding you of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS

This will be the fifth summer that we have gathered for one worship service at 9:30 a.m. Many of you have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to worship with those who normally worship at a different hour than you during the school year. The first Sunday of one worship service this summer will be this Sunday, May 29th.



PENTECOST BRUNCH

Following worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 12th, you are invited to a catered brunch in Elgaard Fellowship Hall to celebrate our **Joyous Journey of Faith!** You will soon be receiving a letter in the mail with details.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

SUNDAY, MAY 29

9:30 am — Holy Communion
10:30 am — Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY, MAY 30

Office Closed—Memorial Day

TUESDAY, MAY 31

8:30 am — Pastors' Text Study
1:00 pm — Prep @ The Dining Room
5:00 pm — Serve @ The Dining Room

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

9:00 am — Elva's Raiders
10:00 am — Bible Study
7:30 pm — Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

9:00 am — Staff Meeting
9:30 am — Library Committee
7:00 pm — Social Concerns Ministry

FRIDAY—SUNDAY

Oregon Synod Assembly @ Hilton

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

*6:00 pm — Oregon Festival Choir: Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall

Prayer Calendar: Week 3

*Community Event at Emmaus

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EMMAUS

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

FISH

9:30 am — Holy Communion
10:30 am — Coffee Fellowship
*4:00 pm — Bernie Robb Recital: Sanctuary &
Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

8:30 am — Pastors' Text Study
9:00 am — Emmaus Quilt Makers

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

9:00 am — Elva's Raiders
10:00 am — Bible Study
7:30 pm — Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

9:00 am — Staff Meeting
9:30 am — Naomi Circle

Prayer Calendar: Week 4
*Community Event at Emmaus

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP...

144 ENVELOPES

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the "144 Envelope" fund raising program. If you took an envelope, and haven't returned it, please drop in the offering by May 31st. If you would like to contribute, but your envelope is gone, please take a blank one and make any donation that fits your budget. Your monetary support, of any amount, means a lot for this trip and the young people are grateful.

CANS & BOTTLES

We're making a special effort during May to get lots of cans and bottles recycled. And we'll be glad to pick up any if you'd rather not bring them to church yourself.

YARD SALE

Donations will be accepted, beginning June 13th, for the Yard Sale on June 18th. While you're shopping that day, you can also get your car washed. So come, get rid of your old stuff, find some new treasures, and go home in a clean car.

DAY CAMP

It's time to register your kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors for Day Camp! This is a joint effort of Emmaus, Central, and United Lutheran Churches that will take place the week of June 27 – July 1 at Central (18th and Potter) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day (9:00-noon on Friday). It's for all kids having completed kindergarten through 5th grade. Pick up a registration form in the Gathering Place at church or call or e-mail the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Families with pre-school children are encouraged to participate in Vacation Bible School ~ another joint effort of Emmaus, Central, and United Lutheran Churches ~ the week of July 25 – 29 at Emmaus from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. each day. Children having completed kindergarten are also welcome; they may participate in Day Camp or Vacation Bible School at the discretion of parents.

MISSION STATEMENT

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH IS A
FAMILY
OF GOD'S CHILDREN,
RESPONDING
TO THE GRACE OF GOD, WHICH
UNITES
US IN JESUS CHRIST BY
SERVING
THE LORD WITH GLADNESS.
EMPOWERED
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE
ADDRESS THE NEEDS
OF GOD'S CREATION BY MAKING
JESUS CHRIST KNOWN.

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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541-344-1086 (FAX)

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00 AM-1:00 PM

BULLETIN DEADLINE:
10:00 AM THURSDAY EACH WEEK

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, MAY 27