



Dear Fellow Redeemed:

Norman Rockwell employed his gift of artistry in interpreting life for at least two generations of Americans by way of his unique cartoons. In one of his last illustrations, he pictured large numbers of people passing by the open door of a beautiful church. The people were pictured with heads down and downcast eyes.

Apparently all they saw was a narrow strip of sidewalk stretching endlessly out before them. Ironically enough, over the door of the great church were the words: "*Lift Up Thine Eyes.*"

The late Hubert Humphrey was so impressed with what Rockwell had done that he wrote an article and entitled it "Four Words to Remember."

I'd like to suggest that we, too, need to remember them: "*Lift Up Thine Eyes.*" It is so easy to start plodding along in life with heads down and eyes downcast seeing only the narrow ribbon of sidewalk stretching out before us. Thus, I am thrilled at the call of this month which suggests that we lift up our eyes in thanksgiving and praise.

We are entering that which in many respects is the most beautiful season of the church year. Thanksgiving will soon be celebrated and then close on the heels of that festive event will come Advent and then the glory of Christmas.

"*Lift up thine eyes.*" ...We need something about long this time of year to get our eyes off the sidewalks and into the heavens. May our frequent

worship together do just that during this month of Thanksgiving!

Confidently believing,

Rev. Dan L. Siedenburg  
Intentional Interim Pastor

### **November Is Stewardship Month**

Every day of every month provides opportunities for service to the Lord and each other with our Time, Talents, Treasures and Testimony.

However, we setting aside three Sundays in November (8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>) to highlight our ministry here at Holy Emmanuel and to focus on being faithful stewards.

During worship on our 3 Stewardship Sundays we will hear Bible Based Messages which will guide the development of our hearts and minds to become even more dynamic and productive "Stewards" for our God and each other.

#### **The Stewardship Life**

Part I: Generosity

Part II: Contentment and Integrity

Part III: Living the Stewardship Life

**NOTE:** Personal and family financial pledging will take place at worship on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Please continue praying** for our congregation as we look toward the future and as we display our faithfulness and support for God's plan at Holy Emmanuel.

**A Reflection** ...By Pastor Dan  
In the beautiful poetic language of "*The Song Of Solomon,*" the Old Testament writer gives us a glimpse of the way God desires to view His garden. He calls His chosen people, His bride, the church (you and me) His garden. (4: 12-16)

Then in powerful romantic language the writer draws for us a word picture of the great pleasure and delight that God drives from His garden of herbs and spices, fruits and flowers. He longs for it to be a rich source of satisfaction to Him who loves and tends us with His everlasting diligence and care.

Sometimes, however, He is greatly disappointed. There is no fruit. Or it there is, it is sparse. Despite His most diligent endeavors, there seems at times to be a dearth of production.

We praise God that, in general, this cannot be said of the Holy Emmanuel congregation. During this year there has been much evidence of fruit production in our ministry together. However, during the little time that remains in this calendar year each would yet do well to take a look at that segment of the garden which is "us individually." Has there been abundant production in the plot where we are, or, is there evidence of feeble growth and sparse flowering?

May we all experience anew, during these last days of 2009, a rich sprinkling of His good seed within us that we may all know a bit more of the joy and glory which comes by way of our fruit bearing.

**More Stewardship Notes**  
**From the**  
**Board of Stewardship**

**God's Gifts**

"We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be:

All that we have is Thine along,  
A trust, O Lord from Thee."

It is obvious that there is nothing we can give to the Lord that is our own. Our bodies, our mental faculties, our individual talents and abilities – these have been given to us by God.

The food we grow comes from seed created by the Lord, planted in soil provided by the Lord, nurtured by the warmth and light of the sun given by the Lord, and watered by the rain sent by the Lord.

The goods and produce we manufacture with our hands and machines are made possible through abilities given by God, just as Moses reminded the Israelites. *"but remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth ..."* (Deuteronomy 8:18). The benefits from our occupations are blessings received from God. God gives us the abilities, and we have the responsibility to use His gifts with energy and wisdom. God makes our income and wealth possible.

When we contribute to our church, we are simply returning to God what He has already entrusted to us. *"What do you have that you did not first receive?"* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:7). We have nothing to give Him that is our own. If God in His wisdom determines to give us much, much will be expected of us (Luke 12:48).

God gave – this is the reason for our being and our giving. He gave His all – Jesus Christ so that we might have abundant

life. We find this life by losing our lives in total commitment to God through Christ.

Stewardship is an open hand to receive God's gift of love and an extended hand to share it with others. Your willingness to share your time, talent, and treasure is the measure of your gratitude and commitment to Christ. During this Thanksgiving Season, may God help all of us live with an attitude of gratitude for who God is and what He has done and continues to do for us.

**Stewardship Focus in**  
**November**

During this month of November, we bring our attention to how we are doing as Christian stewards. This month, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. What a perfect time to think about all the good things God has done for us. He never leaves us or forsakes us. His mercies are new every morning.

We, as a church, look at all the ways so many of you have used the life, the time, the gifts and talents God has given you. We thank you! You are important to the work God has given us to do here at Holy Emmanuel--in this time and place. Know that you are appreciated by your church and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Know that when you give and participate, you encourage others in countless ways. More importantly, God is pleased with you because of your faithfulness to Him. You will not lose your reward. On November 8, please enjoy some refreshments offered by the Stewardship Board between the two worship services.

Pastor will be leading us in a series of sermons November 8, 15, and 22, as well as having

the worship services focusing on Christian stewardship. We hope you will be able to attend all three Sundays.

November 22 will be Pledge Sunday. Please bring your pledge card with you to church that day to bring to the altar with your offering. We will be mailing you a letter and your pledge card prior to that Sunday. Please, prayerfully, ask God how you should use your life--time, money and talents for Him in 2010. Do you need to increase the time and money you give to your church? We humbly suggest you consider, again prayerfully, by faith, an increase of 1% of your income for next year. This is just a suggestion. Maybe God wants you to increase yours more than that. Maybe you are already doing enough. Only God can let you know. Our goal as the Board of Stewardship is to see at least 50% of you turn in pledge cards this year. This will help in planning for our ongoing and new ministries.

In the mail, you should have received a devotional/Bible study book entitled, "Financial Counsel from God's Word". We hope you use and enjoy the book. We suggested November 1, as the day to start reading it, though you could begin any time. It has 14 daily devotions with three short Bible studies in the back of the book. We think the information is timely and will certainly help you with some good Biblical counsel on handling your money.

God bless you in all you do for Him.

# Attitude of GRATITUDE

The Thanksgiving holiday reminds us that we should always be grateful for the many blessings God provides. Keep a special gratitude journal, and write in it often to keep an attitude of gratitude.



## What you need:

- Paper (8½" x 11" sheets, plain or lined)
- Stapler
- Stickers
- Crayons or markers

## What you do:

1. Fold several sheets of paper in half.
2. Staple the pages together on the folded crease.
3. Write "Attitude of Gratitude" on the cover.
4. Decorate your journal with stickers and drawings.
5. On the inside cover, write "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).
6. Use your journal daily as a reminder of your blessings and as a guide for when you say prayers.

## Church Council Update

The Church Council in conjunction with the Intentional Interim Task Force established a task to "Increase the culture of prayer at Holy Emmanuel". I would encourage every member to diligently pray that God would guide our congregation during this interim period and lead us as we seek the future direction he has ordained for Holy Emmanuel.

## Goals for Intentional Interim Ministry

The Intentional Interim Ministry Task Force met on October 7<sup>th</sup>. President Seitz was unable to attend so his assistant for Missional Formation, Mike Zimmer, conducted the meeting. The Task Force agreed to combine goals 2 and 5 and selected Open Arms Families as the target audience. Specific tasks were developed under each of the goals. These tasks as documented by Mike Zimmer and modified by the council are included below.

The Task Force will have a joint meeting each month as part of the council meeting. The next Task Force meeting with MN South is schedule for Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

I thank the individuals below who have volunteered to serve on the Task Force. I would again encourage all Holy Emmanuel members to prayerfully consideration if their gifts would benefit this effort and please let me know if you would like to join the task force.

## Intentional Interim Ministry Task Force

John Carlson  
Ray & Dee Dolny  
Lois Kovach  
Loraine McKay  
Mel Michalik

Dale Moreland  
Scott Ramsdale  
Phyllis Schadewald  
Pat Squires

## New Bell Tower

The Planning Commission approved the bell tower design on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Bloomington City Council subsequently approved the design on September 28<sup>th</sup>. T-Mobile is not planning to begin construction until next spring in order to avoid the extra cost of building in winter. They will apply for a building permit next spring and hopefully complete construction early next summer.

For the Church Council,  
In His Service,  
Ron

## Children's Ministry Update

### Sunday School

"Give thanks to the Lord" not only in this month of Thanksgiving (November), but always. The children have been working hard in their classes every Sunday. I hope you have enjoyed having them sing every month. They enjoy singing their praises to God and all of you! They are now starting to practice for their Christmas program. Besides practicing on Sunday mornings, there will be two (2) Saturday rehearsals they year. They are on:

Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon followed by a pizza lunch

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Christmas Party.

Our theme this year is: "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" and will be performed at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

God Bless!  
Natalie Mylander

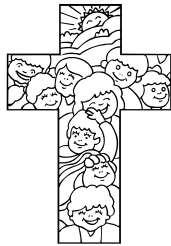
### Youth

The youth continue to be active and busy. We want to thank all of you who continue to support our youth. With your help we have "updated" our youth room. We have painted it and added a "WII".

We will continue to meet at Noon on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month including November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our next event will be on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be going to "Feed My Starving Children" after school, then out to supper and the come back to church for the Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Natalie Mylander



## Open Arms

### News

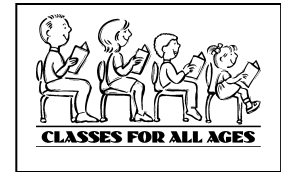
Come hear our kids sing at the 10:30 Service on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by our Fall Fellowship lunch.

We would like to invite all of you for a Thanksgiving lunch on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.

In His Name,  
Natalie Mylander

### Couple's Bible Study

The Couple's Bible Study that meets on the first and third Sunday of the month will begin a new study on November 1 called "3:16, Stories of Hope" written by Max Lucado. This study is based on John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". Timeless and powerful, these words proclaim a message of love, a source of hope, and a promise of life. One sentence, softly spoken nearly two thousand years ago, is just as relevant today as when Jesus first uttered it. If you are a couple please join us as we experience these words together. Our next study is Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. To ensure study materials are available for all who wish to attend this study or for more information please contact Rick Marko at (952) 896-0017 or rickmarko@live.com.



### Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

- **Class with Pastor** (Led by Pastor Dan in the Chapel).
- **Book of Acts** (Led by Randy Marko in the Accounting Room).

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Evenings 6:00 p.m.

#### Couples in Christ

- **"Building a Marriage that Really Works."**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Evenings (November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>)

#### 5:30 p.m. – Supper 6:00 p.m. – Bible Study

- **Parenting Class – "Discipline"** (Led by Randy Marko)

### Tuesday Mornings 10:00 a.m.

- **Book of Judges** (Led by Pat Squires at the Gables Apt. Bldg.)

### Wednesday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

- **Really Bad Girls of the Bible** (Led by Candy Frein in the Accounting Room)

### Thursday Mornings 10:00 a.m.

- **Crash Course on the Old Testament** (Led by Chuck Squires in the Accounting Room)

## **Teaching Moment from Your Christian Education Team**

### ***Followers with Footnotes***

I'm sure all of you at some time in your life have browsed the travel section of the newspaper looking for a great travel deal. Some of us might have even experienced a situation where that great travel deal ended up not being such a great deal after you read on a little further. The sale fare is in "big" print, but at the bottom of the advertisement is the "small" print with lots of conditions. Or, you make the call to investigate further only to find out that there are additional surprise conditions. You might have to fly over a certain day of the week, or there's a big penalty for any changes, or there are only a few seats at that price. It looks great for a while, but the added conditions change things a bit - conditions you hadn't counted on.

By the way, Jesus knows how it feels to call on us and find out about unadvertised conditions that we possess in our relationship with Him. In Matthew 19:27-29, scripture says, "Peter answered Him, We have left everything to follow You! What then will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "You who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for My sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

You see Peter wants to know what's in it for him to follow Jesus. What does he get out of it. Contrast that with his original commitment to Jesus in Mark 1, "Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of

men." At once they left their nets and followed Him." There were no conditions, no footnotes, but now Peter's concerned about houses, fields and closeness to his family.

Peter's not alone. His mind set here uncovers a troubling tendency in our commitment to Christ.

Unconditional commitment to Christ tends to become conditional. As our lives get more complex, as we accumulate more and accomplish more, we start to add little footnotes and conditions to what began as an "anything goes" commitment to Christ.

There was probably sometime in your life when you opened yourself up totally to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. You said, "It doesn't matter where I live, how much money I make, what position I get, what I wear, what I drive, who goes with me..." but that can, and maybe has changed for us. Now the Lord might be asking you to do something that might risk or change some of those parts of your life. Suddenly you're giving the Lord a contract with certain requirements: living in certain conditions, being near your family, keeping your position or some prized possessions, keeping a special person/relationship, being comfortable. You're saying, "Yes, Lord - but..." then you add your conditions. The word "but" cannot follow the word "Lord."

Jesus assured Peter he was losing nothing any more than the money you might invest in a stock whose price later goes sky high. In fact, Jesus promises a reward a hundred times more than any sacrifice you make. What a return! But that kind of reward is reserved for those who give Jesus a blank piece of paper, no

conditions attached to a contract.

Have you added footnotes and conditions to your once wide-open commitment with God? Get back to where you began - following Jesus in a total, anything goes, complete surrender.

### **Fall Fellowship Dinner Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a Fall Fellowship Dinner on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:30 service. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins and the November Announcer.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

### **Bake Sale**

#### **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Priscilla Guild will sponsor a Bake Sale on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

If you could donate baked items or jelly, please bring them by 9:00 a.m. that day. They must be wrapped, identified and priced. Thank you so much!

We will raffle a CD player at \$1.00/ticket. The drawing will take place that day at 1:00 p.m. You need not be present to win.

If you have any questions, please contact Gladys Lossow at (612) 729-8492.

## VEAP Thanksgiving "Build A Bag" Drive

VEAP hopes to distribute 4,000 food bags this Thanksgiving. They have asked Holy Emmanuel to donate 325 cans of corn that will be used to help "build" Thanksgiving meals for our neighbors in need.

Please consider donating cans of corn or you can write a check to Holy Emmanuel and mark it for "VEAP" and we will purchase cans of corn for you.

The last day to donate will be **Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please drop off cans of corn in the blue containers located in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please contact John or Sandy Carlson at (952) 926-0545.

Thank you for your continued support of VEAP food drives!

## Fun and Feeding Starving Children

Members of Holy Emmanuel will have the opportunity to package food for starving children in Third World countries on Monday, November 16 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This is a fun way to fellowship with members, and serve Jesus by feeding the hungry. Holy Emmanuel is looking to provide 30 volunteers at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan to package food. Feed My Starving Children is Christian non-profit organization that provided over 73.6 million meals to children around the world. You can sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. For those who need a ride at night, a member will provide transportation to and from your home.

For any questions, contact Scott Ramsdale at 952-898-3389.

## Know Someone Looking For An Apartment?

Through December 31, 2009, Devonshire Apartments at 10310 Devonshire Road in Bloomington is offering a \$300 donation to Holy Emmanuel for all 12-month leases that are referred by someone associated with the church (some conditions/restrictions apply).

Tell your family and friends to let you know if they hear of anyone looking for an apartment or email me for a flyer you can bring to work. Then tell the person looking to Carla Crawford a call at 952-884-1110 or email her at [ccrawford@prmc.com](mailto:ccrawford@prmc.com).

## Operation Christmas Child National Shoebox Collection Week

**November 16-23, 2009**

Look for Bulletin Inserts, Prayer Guide Bookmarks and posters coming soon!

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

SHOEBOXES AT HOLY EMMANUEL WILL BE COLLECTED through services on Sunday, Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please fill your shoebox with items listed below, bring your box to church labeled boy or girl & age group 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 (labels will be in narthex) and if possible, include a \$7 donation check to Samaritan's Purse or Operation Christmas Child to help with shipping expenses.

## GIFT IDEAS

**TOYS** - small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** - pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

**HYGIENE ITEMS** - toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

**OTHER** - Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

**A PERSONAL NOTE** - In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

### **DO NOT INCLUDE:**

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans

Thank you for your past generous support of Operation Christmas Child. Many children world wide will learn of the love of Jesus and accept Him as their Savior because of shoe boxes you are packing!

Please contact Carla Crawford for more information at 952-881-0657 or [ck12@hotmail.com](mailto:ck12@hotmail.com)

Thank you!