

# ∞ The Envoy ∞

March – 2016

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## Trees of Life

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*“Then the LORD God said, ‘See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’— therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.” ~Genesis 3:22-24*

Have you noticed that there is a tree sprouting leaves in the Founders’ Room? At the beginning of this Lenten season, I sent Abigail out into the church yard and the park across the street to find me some sticks that could be used for a prayer tree during our mid-week Lenten prayer services. She came back hauling what looked like a tree. It was a limb that had fallen from one of the trees in the park during one of our windy winter storms. It was so big that we actually had to cut part of the bottom of it off so that it would fit in the Founders’ Room. It became our “Family Tree.” Every week during our Lenten prayer services, people were invited to visit four prayer stations. There was a confession station, where worshippers could write their confessions on a piece of paper, offer their confessions to God, and then dispose of the confessions as they saw fit, often tearing it up, and throwing it in the trash, trusting that God had heard their confession and given them forgiveness, relieving them of the burden of it. There was a station where they could write a prayer request or thanksgiving in response to a scripture verse from the evening’s worship service. There was a meditation station, where people could meditate on an icon of Jesus, lit by candlelight. And there was our Family Tree, where people would write their prayers on leaves that they could hang on the tree, prayers for their family, their friends, the family of the heart, or for their church family. The Family Tree

went from being an empty tree branch, to being filled with leaves of varying shades of green, every leaf bearing a prayer. Every once in a while I look at the prayers on that tree. I see on-going prayers of people's hearts and of our community. I see the prayers of children who are just learning to write, shaping the letters they have just learned into the names of the people they love, mom, dad, sisters, brothers, grandparents, friends. I see the prayers of people with struggles in their families, lifting them up to God. And, in the five weeks we have been sharing our prayers on our Family Tree, I see answered prayers; signs that God is at work in our struggles and worries.

One of the images that is used to describe Christ in the Bible and in church tradition, is the image of a tree. Jesus, who was killed on the wood of a tree, is understood as the tree of life, who restores to his people the eternal life that was taken from them when the way to the tree of life was barred and the gates of the Garden of Eden were shut behind them forever. During Holy Week we gather around the tree of the cross, remembering Jesus' death and resurrection, that frees us from the entangling vines and thorns of sin and death and that grants us eternal life. Jesus is the tree of life, who feeds us with himself, who shelters and comforts us, who gives us shade when we need rest on our weary way. Jesus is the tree of life, who hears our prayers and answers them.

A blessed Holy Week to you all.

In Christ,

*Pastor Amanda*



## We Remember in Prayer

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Tim Kidder  
Adam Wee  
Terri Loomis

Carol Pitman  
MJ Ekstrand  
Nicholas Thompson  
Dorothy Soderlind

John Martin  
Leo  
Katherine

Hans & Ursula Dimpel  
Pastor Rick Schlak  
John Foster  
Helen Hultman

The family of Britta Stanton as they grieve her passing.

## Remembering Our Shut-ins

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Alice Schillberg, Lillian Gustafson, Ingrid Bamber, Joan Fogarty, & Dorothy Soderlind

## Those in the Armed Forces

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Sean Howland, Steve Axelrod

## Thank You Notes

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Norwood Ecumenical Community Food Pantry, thank you very much for your recent donations of food, from your Souper Sunday celebration. The Pantry continues to be busy, serving over 250 families. We are most grateful for all your help.

Sincerely,

Eileen Hickey, Corresponding Secretary

## Small Group Corner

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### *Sow the seeds of friendship and reap bouquets of happiness*

Over the years I have asked some of our Small Group members what keeps them interested and involved in their group year after year. Here is some of the feedback I received:

- Friendship
- Learning
- Love
- Support
- Prayer
- Fun
- Acceptance
- Christian Community

Spring is almost here and it is the time to welcome new beginnings, a time to invite others to share with us the blessings of belonging to a “Small Group”, a place to discover not only friendship and community but a place to discover yourself. Through our small groups at Emmanuel people have come to know one another better, to support each other, to pray together and connect with one another.

If you belong to a small group invite someone, whether they are a longtime member of Emmanuel or a newcomer to visit your group. Offer to go with them to the meeting because sometimes it is out of our comfort zones to walk into an established group alone. Our small groups will continue to grow because we are willing to tell our stories and invite new members.

Another happening this spring is our new “Teerific” Golf Group. More information is coming soon. If you did not have a chance to sign up at the Fall Festival let Britton Warner know you are interested or sign up at the Small Group Table in the Hallway across from the office.

Happy spring,  
*Heather*

## Book Group

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### March's Small Group of the Month is The Book Discussion Group



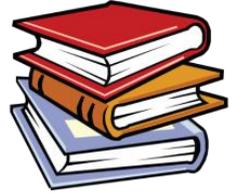
The Book Discussion Group meets the third Friday of the Month at 7:30 pm in the Founders Room. Book choices for the next three months are:

March 18<sup>th</sup> "The Nightingale" by Kristen Hannah

April 15<sup>th</sup> "All the Light You Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr

May 20<sup>th</sup> "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd.

For more information please contact: Contact Chris Gradijan at [chrismgrad@verizon.net](mailto:chrismgrad@verizon.net)



## Women's Spring Retreat

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We are heading back to Craigville Retreat Center on the Cape the weekend of **April 9th & 10th**. I am delighted to tell you that trained **Spiritual Director, Gayle Kerr**, will be with us once again. The theme of this year's retreat is

*...and the Lord Will Lead You in Perfect Peace*

Perfect Peace!? Is that even possible when we live in a world where fear is a marketing tool, the airways are full of people yelling at each other, and it seems that kindness and compassion are on the world's endangered list? But peace is possible. Come away with us for our 2016 annual women's retreat where kindness, gentleness, laughter, hope and fellowship will be served up in large measure. We will explore the gentler side of life through Scripture, music, and nature and will put you on the path to God's peace once again.

Since my hours at work have changed, I'm not able to worship with you most Sunday mornings but if you have any questions or concerns about the retreat, you can always email me at [Lynnekrock@gmail.com](mailto:Lynnekrock@gmail.com) and I will get back to you. If you attend the first service, you can speak to Lorraine Lynch, Peg Flood, Sue Lawson, Joan Carlson, Janice McHugh, or Arlene Cegelis. If you worship at the 11:15 service, Nancy Gorton, Val Dutcher, Sheri Nikolassy, Judy Aliano, Sue Navalta or Heather Crisafulli

would be more than happy to answer your retreat questions. We'd love to see you add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board above the ramp heading towards the fellowship hall. As you'll see, there are plenty of folks to carpool with. We check in to our *own* house at Craigville around 10am Saturday morning and leave after lunch on Sunday.

Once you've made up your mind to join us, please write a check for **fifty dollars** to **Emmanuel Lutheran** to reserve your space. You can hand this to Lorraine Lynch (she's usually at the first service) or mail it to her at 19 Winthrop Street - Walpole - MA - 02081. You can also put your check in an envelope and drop it in the **Women's Retreat** mailbox outside of the Sacristy door and Lorraine will pick it up there.

Hope you can join us, *Lynne*

## Quilting 2016

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The “Emmanuel Piecemakers” are hard at work during this, our seventh, season of quilting. We are hoping to reach—or beat—a goal of 100 quilts by the time we wrap up our efforts at the end of March. At this point, there are 64 finished quilts hanging in the church, with 7 more waiting to be hemmed, and a dozen or so ready to be assembled. We have been blessed with some newcomers this year—and have been delighted to welcome many younger members to our work tables, including the entire Confirmation Class one Saturday morning.

We are in the home stretch at this point, with just two more Saturdays to go. The blessing of the quilts will take place on Palm Sunday (March 20). This year we will hold a raffle during the coffee hour (between services) on Palm Sunday. Tickets will be \$5.00 each and the winner will be able to select the quilt that he or she would like to take home that day from among all those hanging in the church. (All raffle proceeds will go toward the cost of shipping the quilts to recipients across the globe.) Thereafter, we will pack the quilts into boxes and use bar-coded labels that will give us the ability to track where our quilts are sent by LWR. We are hoping to find a local “in-gathering,” as we have in past years, so that we can avoid paying for shipping from here to the LWR warehouse outside of Baltimore, MD. When we use the “ingathering” approach for the transportation of our quilts, we are still

responsible for forwarding a check to LWR to cover the cost of shipping the quilts around the world, i.e., \$2.25 per quilt.

So, there you have it. Many thanks to all the women and girls who have worked so hard to make this another successful and enjoyable quilting season—and thanks, also, to those at home who have been living with fabric scattered everywhere, sewing machines and ironing boards set up for weeks on end, and colored threads all over the floor. The end is near..... and spring is on the way (really)!

On behalf of the “Piecemakers,”

*Susan Lawson*

P.S. If you will not be at church on Palm Sunday, but would like to enter the raffle, you are encouraged to ask a surrogate to buy a ticket (or tickets) on your behalf. Just remember to tell whoever is acting on your behalf which quilt you want!!

*Confirmation Students helping – March 12th*



## Spring Rummage Sale

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Emmanuel's Spring Rummage Sale will be **Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30**. The set up days are Wednesday and Thursday, April 27 and 28.

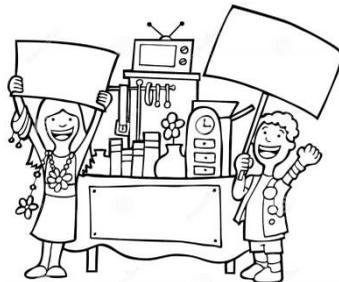


Please start collecting your good stuff to bring. We would love to have your extra clothing, linens, jewelry, knick-knacks, small furniture, sporting goods, toys, and books. *If you bring electronics, televisions, or monitors, please be willing to reclaim them if they do not sell. They **cost us money** to recycle and Savers and the Salvation Army do not take these items.*

The rummage sale proceeds help provide camperships for our youth and the purchase of some items not covered by the church budget. You can start to bring your contributions *after* church on **Sunday, April 24**.

We also need a lot of help to make the sale a success. We have our very faithful helpers each year, but we are getting older and could use some additional and younger help on Wednesday morning and Saturday afternoon. We would love to have some more male helpers, too.

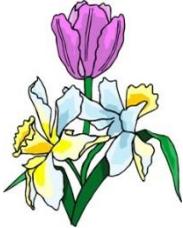
This really is a fun event where we enjoy a lot of laughter and food along with the work. It's a great time to get to know folks while we work together. Coffee, snacks and yummy lunches are provided all four days. If you have any questions, please speak with Arlene Cegelis or Anne Martin.



## Easter Celebrations

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Our celebration of the Resurrection includes the annual Easter Breakfast in Kask Hall after first service. Signup sheets for setup, cleanup and bringing food are in the hall outside the office. Please plan on coming; it's a wonderful celebration.



Flower Memorials are being received for the **Easter Garden** that will fill our chancel on Easter day. Please use the envelopes in the pew racks, returning them by Palm Sunday, **March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

## 50 Days of Easter – Ascentria book collection

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We have been invited to join Ascentria (formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England) in their *50 Days of Easter* program which will run from Sunday, April 3 – Sunday, May 15, 2016. Emmanuel has always prayed for others, fed others through the Norwood Food Pantry and the Synod Hunger campaign, met needs and wishes through providing clothing and gifts at Christmas, provided quilts for disaster areas and many other programs to help those in a larger community and the world.



Now we have a chance to feed the minds and hopes of children and teens in the Intensive Foster Care program in Brockton. As someone once said, "Reading is addictive and WILL change lives." We will be collecting books for children from birth to age 16. These can be new or gently-loved. If you would rather support us with a monetary donation to purchase some books, that would also be appreciated. Please look for more information to come and if you have any questions, please contact Helen Rezendes at 781-769-6383 or hlrwwd@aol.com.

## Tables – Up for Grabs!

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The Women of Emmanuel will be replacing the old tables that are in the Kask Hall closet with new lighter ones. There are about ten rectangular tables and a few smaller square ones. These are free. Please take them away. If you know someone that needs them, please let the office know and they can arrange a time for pickup.

## Stewardship Team 2016

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The Stewardship Team would like to thank all the givers in our congregation. If you attended the January Congregational meeting you heard that we had a strong financial year in 2015 with actual giving exceeding pledged giving. Because of your pledged giving for this coming year we were also able to increase our budget slightly in 2016 to give church staff a small salary increase and pledge 1% more to the Synod for mission work. We appreciate your generous and loving support of your church.

This year we hope to make stewardship more of a constant focus throughout the year and not just a year-end program of financial pledging for the next year's budget. This is your church and we hope you feel a personal commitment to God and your church family. While we need you to fulfill your pledge commitment we also hope to see you enjoying and participating in all your church has to offer by worshipping regularly, taking an active part in small group activities, helping with ministry teams and service projects, becoming a worship assistant, reading the Bible verses identified for Lent, coming to Bible study, bringing your kids to Sunday school, or chatting with people over coffee at Fellowship hour. There are many ways to choose to participate in your church. We hope to see you throughout the year! Thank you! The Stewardship Team: Betty Dickson, Peg Flood, Chris Gradijan, Kendra Lassen, Lorraine Lynch.



## Ascension Day Celebration: A picnic on a Thursday?

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So, what are your plans for dinner on Thursday, **May 5<sup>th</sup>**? If you don't have anything planned how about packing a picnic and coming to the park across the street from Emmanuel for an Ascension Day celebration. We'll have dinner together (ice cream cups be provided), have a brief Ascension Day worship time, and spend some time playing with things that go up!!! The Ascension Day celebration will be held from 6:00-7:30 p.m.



## Parking at Emmanuel

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Just a reminder, regarding the side door driveway entrance of our church. This is designated only for handicap parking or a quick drop off/pick up only. Since we share a driveway, we need to respect our neighbors. This is especially true during winter's snowy winter months.

**Parking on Sunday mornings** on Gardner Road, is limited now to the church side only. (South side), 8 am – 1 pm. This is a result of a meeting of the neighborhood and town.

Additional parking is available within walking distance of Emmanuel at the Winslow Medical office building on Chapel Street.

*Thank you!*



Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
24 Berwick Street  
Norwood, MA 02062

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## Ministers of Emmanuel

The members of our congregation, working and witnessing in the world.

### Church Staff

Rev. Amanda Warner, *Pastor*

Gabrielle Heath, *Minister of Music*

Diane Bragg, *Parish Administrator*

Alice Wuschke, *Administrative Assistant*

Arlene Cegelis, *Church Council President*

Beth Donovan, *Treasurer*

Kendra Lassen, *Financial Secretary*

Heather Crisafulli, *Coordinator of Newcomer & Small Group Ministries*

Janice McHugh, *Sunday School Coordinator*

Lorraine Lynch, *Visitation Ministry Leader*

### Church Office

Tuesday-Friday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

781-762-9457

[emmanuel@norwoodlight.com](mailto:emmanuel@norwoodlight.com)

[www.emmanuelnorwood.org](http://www.emmanuelnorwood.org)



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:45 - Traditional Worship
- 10:00 - Fellowship and Sunday School
- 11:15 - Contemporary Worship