

The Emmanuel Envoy

February 2018

In October, we administered a congregational survey, called the CAT, the Congregation Assessment Tool. Last Sunday, February 4th, we held a meeting between the services to share the results of the CAT with the congregation. This article, and the page behind it (Executive Summary) are a summary of the CAT results.

The first thing that we have to celebrate is our excellent response rate to the CAT. 114 people at Emmanuel took the CAT, which is more than 100% of our average worship attendance number for 2016, which was 102. That indicates a high level of commitment to our congregation among many of our members.

The CAT indicated that there is a high level of satisfaction with our church among its members 85% of the survey respondents indicated a high level of satisfaction with the church, especially in the areas of worship, leadership, a pastor who helps move mission forward by bringing out the best in everyone, communication, and a sense that being a part of the church community gives meaning to their lives. The CAT also indicated that there is a high level of energy at our church. Because the satisfaction level with the church is high that energy is positive energy.

Between the high level of satisfaction and the high level of energy identified in the CAT survey, we were in the “transformational” quadrant of a chart that is used as part of the CAT assessment. Being in the “transformational” quadrant means that we have the capacity to move forward in positive ways to help our church to continue to be a vibrant community of faith and to help us, as a community of faith, effect positive change in the world around us.

The CAT identified three priorities as top priorities for our members across all age groups. They were:

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Expand outreach ministers that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons).

Our focus on those first two priorities was not unusual, but our congregation’s focus on priority three was unique. Because of that, we were encouraged to focus on that priority as a way of establishing our identity for ourselves and in our community.

One critical success factor that our CAT identified for us was the fact that we need to work on our cohesion. We have many people and many groups in our church doing meaningful work and sharing meaningful fellowship, but we need to work on creating a sense of community mission and fellowship to be truly successful in achieving our other ministry priorities.

As a follow up to the CAT, you are invited to share with the Forward Leadership Team your ideas about priority three. What does it mean to you to: Expand outreach ministers that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)? There are forms in the hallway for you to share your thoughts about this question (you can put your answers in the box provided) and there is also a form on the website home page where you can answer the question electronically if that is more convenient to you. Please share your response to that question on or by Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

The CAT results are very exciting, and I am looking forward to moving forward with you!

In Christ,
Pastor Amanda

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Congregation Assessment Tool was recently administered in your church. 208 persons were invited to participate; of these, 114 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results. For a complete readout, please review the Vital Signs report that was sent to your church. A summary of that report is provided below.

Overall, approximately 85% of your members are clearly satisfied with things in the church. This, along with other information, indicates that the church has options which include growth, expansion, replication, and external impact. Whether any of these will be realized depends on the choices made.

Not every question is of equal importance to members. When asked how satisfied they are, members tend to focus on the issues addressed in the questions below. When they feel more positive in these areas, they tend to feel more positive overall.

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are

- **The worship services at our church are exceptional in both quality and spiritual content.**
- **Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.**
- **Our Pastor helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone.**
- **Our Pastor communicates with people in a way that keeps us informed and connected.**
- **Being part of this church community has given new meaning to my life.**

Conversely, when your members feel less positive about the areas above, they tend to feel less satisfied with their experience in the church overall.

Every church exhibits patterns in its life that contain strengths and potential weaknesses. Your church has potential strengths related to inclusiveness and advocacy. Potential weaknesses include a tendency to intellectualize every issue and difficulty in establishing identity and vision.

As members look to the future, their top four goals are

- **Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.**
- **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.**
- **Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)**
- **Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.**

In comparison to other churches, three goals that are unusually strong for your church are

- **Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society. (i.e. homeless, immigrant, transient persons)**
- **Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.**
- **Expand the international mission of the church with both financial resources and personal involvement.**

These may warrant attention from the leadership even if they are mid-level priorities. All the information in this report should be explored and validated in further conversation.

Survey data is not the end of a conversation but the beginning.

Prayer Concerns List

Daniel Carow	Jack Gradijan
Rhoda Moyo	Betty Dickson
Helen Hultman	Hans & Ursula Dimpel
Robert Flynn	Kirk Schroeder
Harriet Merl	Chelsea & Isabella
Nick	Paula & Ken Hilston
Jan	Bob Carlson
Thomson Family	Aidan Siera
	Chuck Chaney

Remembering Our Shut-ins

Ingrid Bamber and Richard Spencer

Those in the Armed Forces

Christopher Rando



Thank You Notes

I would like to thank everyone for remembering me at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The gift baskets were lovely, filled with goodies and cards from the Sunday school children. The Christmas carolers who came by to sing to me were a treat enjoyed by me and my neighbors. Thank you to the carol singers, Joy Peter for making the baskets, the Sunday School children for the cards, and Phyllis Kivi and the Weidenaars for delivering the baskets. It means so much to me to be remembered by my church. Sincerely,
Ingrid Bamber

It was wonderful to see so many carolers—my friends from Emmanuel, singing at my home. Thank you so much for bringing me some Christmas cheer. God Bless,
AnnMarie Blomquist

Dear Emmanuel,

Thank you so much for the care package! It could not have come at a better time—right before finals! It was so sweet of you to put the whole package together, and it was much appreciated.

Thank you again, Love,
Kelsey Sweeney

Dear Knotty Knitters,

What a surprise when Pastor Amanda visited me and brought along a beautiful rose prayer shawl. Thank you so much and so you know—I wear it most of the day and into the evening. It feels so good wrapped around me.

And yet another thank you for the beautiful Christmas basket of goodies. I peeked at the contents when Shirley dropped it by, but saved opening it for Christmas Day.

Thank you again,
AnnMarie Blomquist

Dear Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for all your support of the Norwood Alumni Choir these many years. We appreciate you offering your space for us to rehearse and continue to make good music together. We hope we can continue to partner with you for many more years to come.

Sincerely,
The Norwood Alumni Choir

Quilting has begun again in February



“The Piecemakers” are now meeting every Saturday morning in February and March, from 9 to noon. Fabric will be available in Kask Hall for those looking for material to work with. Anyone with questions can e-mail me at lawsue51@verizon.net or call me at 508-660-7459. All are welcome!

Good Friday VBS

Emmanuel will once again offer a Good Friday Vacation Bible School (VBS)

March 30, 2018

9:00 AM-12:00 PM (refreshments served)

There is no cost for participants for the program.

Through songs, games, art, and fellowship the children ages 4 to 14 learn about the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus and the promise of Easter.

We will need volunteers to help with the program, storytellers, arts & crafts leaders, games leader, song leaders, and group leaders.

As well, we'll need a team to provide snacks (kitchen helpers) and help decorate for the program.

We have a Good Friday curriculum and materials available. If you have questions, please contact *Lisa Silletti* at lisasilletti@gmail.com or 617-851-2627 (afternoons, evenings, and weekends).

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Let the Confirmation class make you dinner! The Confirmation class and their families invite you to a **Pancake Supper** on Tuesday, **February 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** We will prepare for the Lenten season with good food and good fellowship and by burning last year's Palm Sunday palms to make ashes for our Ash Wednesday services. There's a sign-up sheet outside Pastor's office!



Ash Wednesday Worship

We begin the season of Lent with two opportunities for worship on Ash Wednesday, **February 14th**. We will gather at 2 pm and 7:30 pm. The imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will be offered at both services.



Book Group Meets...

The Book Group will be meeting on Friday evening **February 16 at 7 p.m.** This month's book is *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom



It is a story of a southern plantation well before the Civil War (1790's - 1820's) as seen by the slaves, the owners and a white indentured servant girl.

Midweek Lenten Soup Supper & Worship – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer Services will be held on five Wednesdays during Lent.

Dinner will be from 6:00-6:45 and worship will be held from 6:45-7:30. If you would like to bring soup or bread for the Soup Suppers, please sign up on the table in the hallway outside of the pastor's office.

Women's 2018 Spring Retreat

Just a little reminder to all of Emmanuel's women and their friends that this spring will mark the 10th anniversary of our Spring Retreat. To celebrate and to do something a little different, we will be staying at two houses in Eastham and using the nearby *Chapel in the Pines* for our work with a trained Spiritual Director. You may have heard, our friend Gayle Kerr will not be with us this year. I spoke with Gayle recently and she confirmed that she and Tom need to be at a family event in Atlanta. Gayle, Christy Saling and I are working to secure a suitable leader that will make this a very special retreat. As soon as I have more information and about a leader and this year's theme, I will share it.

For now, I would ask that you think about it...talk about it with some of the women who've already signed up, and mark your calendar now so that you can save **May 4th, 5th, and 6th** to be with us.

The next thing to do is add your name to the sign-up list on the bulletin board and finally make a commitment to being part of this very special retreat by writing a check out now for **\$50** to **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** (please put **Spring Retreat 2018** in the memo line) to hold your place. Then hand it to **Lorraine Lynch** at church or mail it to her at **19 Winthrop Street - Walpole, MA - 02081. Deadline to register is April 1st !!!**

This is going to be an amazing weekend, but it'll be even better if you're with us.

Peace & Blessings, *Lynne Krock*

Snow Cancellation Policy

I can always get to church, but there are times when it is not safe or community minded for other people to venture out to come to worship.

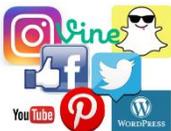


The reality is that the church of Jesus Christ can never be closed. As long as the people of God engage in prayer for their neighbors, especially those who are put at risk because of dangerous weather, the work and worship of the church goes forward. But, there are times when worship services can and should be cancelled.

This might not come up this coming winter (we can only hope), but if it looks like a storm is coming that will bring significant snow or other seriously dangerous weather to our area, then worship at Emmanuel will be cancelled.

I will let people know about a cancellation, by changing the phone message at church, sending out a mass e-mail, putting it on Facebook, and putting it on local TV stations. If you hear the words, "Blizzard expected Saturday into Sunday morning" this winter, chances are good that worship at Emmanuel will be cancelled! *Pastor Amanda*

Digital Ministry Corner



Emmanuel has an active Facebook page which contains a lot of information about upcoming events as well as interesting news across the ELCA. Make sure you like and follow the page!

Did you know that every time you like one of Emmanuel's posts it helps boost it which means you'll be more likely to see future posts? In addition, you can also tag Emmanuel in one of your pictures or posts, simply use the @symbol and then type in Emmanuel; this too will help boost Emmanuel's Facebook page, which helps

to make it more visible to our friends and neighbors.

Do you have any ideas on how we can enhance our digital ministry outreach? If so please send your thoughts to the office or email them to Rebecca Sol directly at beck.bear@verizon.net.

Altar Flowers For 2018

The 2018 Altar Flower Chart is now posted in the Narthex. To sponsor a Sunday, please sign your name and phone number. Our Flower Coordinator, **Helen Bonaceto**, will contact you regarding the dedication and payment. We appreciate all those who help to adorn the sanctuary on Sundays with fresh flowers.

Rummage Sales 2018

Please mark your calendars. The spring rummage sale at Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be **Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.** - AND our Fall one will be **October 26 and 27.**

If you have any questions, please talk to **Arlene Cegelis** or **Anne Martin**.

Invitation for women

The Jezebels meet on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Founders' Room. The group chooses a spiritual-based book to read to discuss at the next meeting. Depending on the size of the book, we may read a few chapters each month for discussion. The group is open to all adult women. If you are interested in attending our group, please feel free to drop in. You can also bring a friend. It is a great opportunity to connect with other women in or outside of the congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Janice McHugh buster718@msn.com or 617-543-5406.