

Emmanuel's

# Emphasis: Weekly Edition

Preceding Sunday, December 27, 2015

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

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Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 6 AM - 2:30 PM (unless otherwise noted.)

Issue #: 4-151227

## Special Stories of a New Year

### Ways to Start Off the New Year

According to historians, the celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year's Day.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Modern-day New Year's customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God's many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year's Day.

Published in The NEWSLETTER Newsletter: [January 2009](#)

### Making a Difference

Rose Mary Hart has been a letter carrier in rural West Virginia since 1969. In an interview for a magazine, she said,

"For my first seven years as a letter carrier I tried to do the job as efficiently and promptly as I could. But in 1976 I [met Jesus] and now I enter into my work differently. I have started to listen to people on my route in a new way. I have begun to share their pain and joy. When I listen, I can hear their turmoil inside. I hear domestic violence. I've even broken up a few fights. I've seen latchkey kids sitting out on their steps in 10 degree weather because they forgot their key. I hear the frustration of working mothers. They come out and talk to me. Sometimes I don't even have time to think about a response. But I do what I can, and sometimes word comes to me that something I said was heard. I just walk down the street, but I think I made a difference."

Quoted by Bob Olmstead, First United Methodist Church, Palo Alto, Calif. Published in The NEWSLETTER Newsletter: [July 1998](#)



# Ed Opps i.e. Christian Education Opportunities

## Sunday Morning Ed Opps

Join on Sunday mornings for:

### **J.A.M.** for children through age 12.

Following the Children's Sermon, J.A.M. leaders will escort the kiddos down to the Fellowship Hall for crafts, games, songs, and a snack. Children will return to the Sanctuary just prior to Holy Communion.

### **Prayer Pieces Book Study**

**Sunday mornings at 8:30 in "The Gallery."** We will be reading several of the stories from The Book of God by Walter Wangerin, Jr. during Advent and into the New Year. This is the Bible as you have never read it before - told with passion and depth. We are beginning with the story of Mary. Please come join us whether you "knit or not." It is available through Amazon - paperback for \$15.70 or on Kindle for \$5.99. Contact **Carol Nelson** with questions at [cjnelson@lcsc.edu](mailto:cjnelson@lcsc.edu).



## Sunday's Scripture Segments

Scripture readings for this Sunday,  
December 27, The First Sunday of Christmas, are:

### **1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

### **Luke 2:41-52**

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

**Sermon Title: "Jesus puts one over on scholars." - Pastor Dave Daugs**

Do you want to hear more about all the great ways Emmanuel is "Unleashing Our Passion for Compassion to Moscow, Idaho and Beyond?"

Sign up to receive our newsletter, the "Emphasis: Weekly Edition!"

You can receive this informative weekly publication by email, snail-mail, or visit our website, and view it online at [emmanuelmoscow.org](http://emmanuelmoscow.org)

Contact the church office with questions. [emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com) or 208.882.3915

**2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE HERE** and ready for you to pick up. You'll find them in the Bridge area. If you don't find a box with your name on it, let us know in the office. We will get you one. Thanks!

**LUTH YOUTH IN THE NEW YEAR!** Last day of winter break-time for a FUN DAY! Mon, Jan. 4, 1-4 PM, at ELC. Questions? Contact **Lisa Allen** at [emmanuel.luthyouth@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuel.luthyouth@gmail.com).

**MIGHTY YOUTH PLAY DAY!** (PS-Toddlers) Thursday, January 7, 12:30 - 2:30 PM. Questions? Contact **Lisa Allen** at [emmanuel.luthyouth@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuel.luthyouth@gmail.com).

**MARY CIRCLE** - MARY Circle usually meets the first Monday of the month. The group will meet on Monday, January 4, 1:30, PM, at Good Samaritan. Questions? Call **Dorothy Schnaible**. 882.1292.

**LEAH CIRCLE** - LEAH Circle usually meets the first Tuesday of the month for devotions and a potluck lunch. The group will meet on Tuesday, January 5, at 11:30 AM, at Jeanette Johnston's home. (2515 Shelby Lane, Moscow.) Bible Study leader will be **Gen Long**. Questions? **Jeanette Johnston** 208.892.9549, or **Charlene Olsson** 208.882.1028

**PIECEMAKERS** - Help us quilt! Bring a friend! Have some lunch! Join us on Wednesday, January 13 & 27, at 9 AM, to help tie quilts, then share a potluck lunch with us at noon. We usually meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays. Contact **Gretchen Isakson** at 882.7289 or [gretchenisakson@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchenisakson@yahoo.com)

*"Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10*

**PALOUSE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** is nearing completion of their current project in Moscow and has requested our help cleaning up construction dust so the family can move in. If you are able to help January 16 or 23, please contact **Anne Peterson** at 509-336-1804.

**ATTENTION FAMILIES WITH PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN:** Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool is now accepting early priority registration for **Emmanuel Lutheran Church members** for the fall of 2016. We will open registration to continuing families in January and to the public in February. Registration forms are available on our website at [emmanuelmoscow.org](http://emmanuelmoscow.org) or by contacting the **preschool's director, Nikki Cox**, at 882-1463. Thanks!

**SAVE THE DATE...** Emmanuel's Day Camp/VBS is scheduled for June 13-17, 2016. Questions can be directed to **Janet Williams, Deb Marsh**, or contact the **church office**. 208.882.3915. [emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com).

**JOIN THE EMMANUEL "MEALS" PROGRAM!** If you would be willing to provide occasional meals, or if you or someone you know would like meal delivery during illness or recuperation, please email **Anne Peterson** at [shortiemom@live.com](mailto:shortiemom@live.com) or leave a message at 509-336-1804.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Senior member needs errand runner/care giver a few hours a week. Transportation required. Paid. Please contact **CindyMarie** in the church office for more information. 208.882.3915 or [emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com)

**IN "THE GALLERY!"** The creativity of **Andrea Fountain** is now on display. Go take a look!

**SUNDAY MORNING**  **ED OPPTS**

**Prayer Pieces Book Study** Sunday mornings, 8:30, in The Gallery. **All are welcome!**

**J.A.M. - Jesus And Me!** For children through age 12. Following the Children's Sermon. Children will return to the Sanctuary just prior to Holy Communion.

**Confirmation Class** For students grades 6 - 12. Next class is **January 3, 2016**, every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, with **Pastor Daugs** from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, in the 4 year olds classroom.

*Have a Safe and Happy New Year!*

# Quick List

## of Emmanuel Happenings...

### Please Remember In Prayer...

**Harlie Gunther.**

**Sue, Julia Keleher's** mother, in hospice care.

**Karan Morscheck, Norene Bennett's** niece, dealing with complications post repeat hip replacement surgery.

*Our Emmanuel Prayers & Concerns Sheet is printed the first issue of each month in the Emphasis: Weekly Edition. You can also pick up an updated copy every Sunday from the Prayer & Concerns Bulletin Display located in the Narthex.*

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Thanks to **Youth & Family** for hosting our 12/16 Mid-Week Advent Soup Supper! Yumm!

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Thank you to our **Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool students, parents, and teachers** for a wonderful Preschool Christmas Program last Thursday!

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Happy Birthday this week to:  
**Mitch Peterson, Jerry Giles, Ian Wendt, Gabriela Mack, Gail Grubbs, Kas Dumroese, Sally Vorhies, Jack Kelly, Nancy Ruth Peterson, Andrew Bender, Sarah Kimberling, Dwaine Marten**

Happy Anniversary to:  
**Irv & Janice Johnson**  
12/27/1968

**Mark & Turi Hoversten**  
12/28/1975

**Dean & Phyllis Vettrus**  
12/29/1960

**Ben & Katy Beard**  
12/31/1977

**Joe and Barbara Ausich**  
01/02/1965

# Quick List

## Calendar & Servant Schedule

Thank you for your service  
THIS Sunday  
December 27, 2015

Ministers:

The Congregation

Presiding:

Pastor Daus

Dir. Of Music:

Janet McIntosh

Organist:

Gail Grubbs

Altar Guild / Bread:

NA - No Communion

Acolyte:

Taylor McLuen

Altar Flowers:

NA

Assisting Minister:

Robbie Giles

Communion Assist:

NA - No Communion

Counters:

Carolyn Todd

Julie Spangler

Fellowship:

Marilyn & Jack Mastro

Ben & Shannon McLuen

Louise Mowrer

Steve & Carol Nelson

Greeter:

Paul & Kathy Kwiatkowski

J.A.M. Leader:

Carolyn Todd

J.A.M. Assistant:

Julie Spangler

Reader:

Barbara Taylor

Ushers:

Vern Kinnison

Cody Wendt

Noell Swearingen

Mitzi Houska

Craig Greenwalt

|                           |                |                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday Dec 21</b>      |                | PS: No School-Winter Break<br><i>Pastor Off</i>                                                                          |
|                           | 6:00 AM        | Weekly Publication Deadline                                                                                              |
|                           | 6:00 PM        | ELC PS Exec. Mtg (TBD)                                                                                                   |
| <b>Tuesday Dec 22</b>     |                | PS: No School-Winter Break                                                                                               |
| <b>Wednesday Dec 23</b>   |                | <i>Church Office Closed</i>                                                                                              |
|                           |                | PS: No School-Winter Break                                                                                               |
|                           | 5:00 PM        | Teen Council (Hall)                                                                                                      |
|                           | 5:30 PM        | Adult Choir                                                                                                              |
|                           | 6:45 PM        | Emmanuel Bells                                                                                                           |
| <b>Thursday Dec 24</b>    |                | <b>Christmas Eve</b><br><i>Church Office Closed</i>                                                                      |
|                           |                | PS: No School-Winter Break                                                                                               |
|                           |                | Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;<br>Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]                                                  |
|                           | 3:45 PM        | Adult Choir                                                                                                              |
|                           | <b>4:30 PM</b> | <b>Christmas Eve Worship</b><br><b>Merry Christmas!</b><br><i>Church Office Closed</i>                                   |
| <b>Friday Dec 25</b>      |                | PS: No School-Winter Break                                                                                               |
| <b>Saturday Dec 26</b>    |                |                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday Dec 27</b>      |                | <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b><br>Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;<br>Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52       |
|                           | 9:30 AM        | Worship Service                                                                                                          |
|                           | 11:00 AM       | Fellowship (Hall)                                                                                                        |
| <b>Monday Dec 28</b>      |                | PS: No School-Winter Break<br><i>Pastor Off</i>                                                                          |
|                           | 6:00 AM        | Weekly Publication Deadline                                                                                              |
|                           | 6:00 PM        | Emmanuel Preschool Board Meeting (Hall)                                                                                  |
| <b>Tuesday Dec 29</b>     |                | PS: No School-Winter Break                                                                                               |
| <b>Wednesday Dec 30</b>   |                | <i>Church Office Closed</i>                                                                                              |
|                           |                | PS: No School-Winter Break                                                                                               |
|                           | 5:30 PM        | Adult Choir                                                                                                              |
|                           | 6:45 PM        | Emmanuel Bells                                                                                                           |
| <b>Thursday Dec 31</b>    |                | <b>New Year's Eve - Church Office Closed</b><br>PS: No School-Winter Break                                               |
| <b>Friday Jan 1, 2016</b> |                | <b>New Year's Day</b><br><i>Church Office Closed</i><br>PS: No School-Winter Break                                       |
| <b>Saturday Jan 2</b>     |                |                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Sunday Jan 3</b>       |                | <b>Second Sunday of Christmas</b><br>Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;<br>Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9]10-18 |
|                           | 8:30 AM        | Adult Christian Education (Hall)                                                                                         |
|                           | 9:30 AM        | Worship Service                                                                                                          |
|                           | 11:00 AM       | Fellowship (Hall)                                                                                                        |
|                           | 11:30 AM       | Confirmation Class (4 year old classroom at ELC)                                                                         |
| <b>Monday Jan 4</b>       |                | PS: No School-Prof. Development<br><i>Pastor Off</i>                                                                     |
|                           | 1:00 PM        | Luth Youth FUN DAY! (ELC)                                                                                                |
|                           | 1:30 PM        | MARY Circle (Good Samaritan)                                                                                             |
|                           | 7:00 PM        | Youth & Family Meeting (Hall)                                                                                            |
| <b>Tuesday Jan 5</b>      |                | PS: Chapel                                                                                                               |
|                           | 11:30 AM       | LEAH Circle                                                                                                              |
|                           | 6:00 PM        | Habitat For Humanity Board Meeting (Hall)                                                                                |

# Feature: The Sounds of Preschool!

I hope you were able to attend the Emmanuel Lutheran Preschool Program that was held last Thursday, December 17, at 6 PM, upstairs in the Sanctuary. The children did a wonderful job singing! Here are a few program and pre-program photos!



## Are you interested in representing Emmanuel at the EW-ID Synod Assembly this year in Boise?

Synod Assembly Delegates will be elected at our next Congregational Meeting in February. Please let a Council Member know if you are interested in serving!

### SAVE THE DATE for ASSEMBLY 2016

2016 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly  
Riverside Hotel - Boise - April 15-17, 2016

Churchwide Representative  
Christina Jackson-Skelton

WE ARE THE LORD'S: Our Journey With Christ

*For if we live, we live to the Lord,  
and if we die, we die to the Lord.  
So then, whether we live  
or whether we die, we are the Lord's.*

Join us as we gather to conduct business of the Synod, share in worship and explore Romans 14:7-8 in dynamic workshops, plenary sessions and programs. This year's Assembly will also feature the work of the Synod End of Life Task Force.

Initial registration packets will be available after January 15 - Registration Deadline is March 1



It's time to elect  
your Synod Assembly  
Representatives for 2016!

# Feature: Simply Giving!



- ***The Simply Giving<sup>®</sup> Program***

Through *Simply Giving<sup>®</sup>*, your offering is made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic donation – weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly – the option is yours.

- ***Benefits***

*Simply Giving<sup>®</sup>* is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your donations through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your donation is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings. But you're not the only one that benefits. Our congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping, and greater confidence in meeting our financial commitments.

- ***Who do I call with questions?***

Give the Church Office a call at 208-882-3915. We will direct you to our Financial Secretary to answer any specific questions you may have. Your Thrivent Financial representative may also be able to answer your questions.

- ***How do I cancel or change my authorization?***

Contact the Church Office at 208-882-3915.

- ***How do I participate?***

Complete the form on the reverse side and return it in person to the Church Office, or mail it to us:

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

1036 West A Street  
Moscow, ID 83843

**Questions? Contact us at:**

Phone: 208-882-3915  
Email: [emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelmoscowid@gmail.com)

# THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

EDITOR: CYNTHIA WOOLEVER—WWW.THEPARISHPAPER.COM

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## HOW MINISTRY TEAMS GET THINGS DONE

The pastor charged with recruiting teachers for the congregation's Sunday school classes expressed her frustration: "Every year it gets harder and I don't see that changing! I've tried every strategy and reached out to new people over and over again. At least I know one thing—what I'm doing isn't working." But one thing this leader and many others have not yet tried is a ministry team approach.

The biggest myth about mobilizing teams is that they can be created by gathering a few people together and naming them a team.<sup>1</sup> Leaders often wonder: Can a church add ministry teams without revising their present structure or bylaws? Yes! Churches that transition to a team-driven methodology add teams while reducing the number and size of their traditional committees. Although the church neither renames nor disbands all of its committees, those groups may meet less frequently.

### Unleashing the Power of Teams

Each ministry team is comprised of church members and worshipers who have not yet joined the church. Unlike committee appointments, ministry-team coordinators recruit for their teams throughout the year.<sup>2</sup> Anyone can be invited at any time to join a team. Being part of a ministry team offers in-service learning and a sense of belonging for congregational newcomers. Further, the governing board and committees do not assume micro-management control of ministry teams. Rather, they hold ministry teams accountable to their church's core values, beliefs, vision, and mission.

*Ministry-focused vs. constituency-focused.* Traditional, constituency-focused committees tend to be assigned tasks. Each member senses a responsibility to represent the constituency that appointed him or her. When churches establish committees (typically on an annual basis), members are elected or appointed to reflect the diverse views of the congregation. Thus, committee members relate to the leaders or group who gave them their charge and to those they represent. In contrast, ministry-focused teams seek

out individuals with the skills and talents needed to make the team work effectively. As a result, team members relate to each other and look for ways to best use their gifts to make a difference. In this way, the enthusiasm generated for ministry glues the team together.

*Shared leadership vs. designated chairperson.* In teams, the leadership function is shared by team members. In the most high-functioning teams, every member considers him- or herself to be a leader. A consensus model of decision making works well because members feel free to act on their own sense of things. Whereas in a committee, individuals may feel the pull to represent the interests of a constituent group. Because the committee chairperson receives authorization from the church's governing board, he or she assumes responsibility for communicating the committee's decisions back to the board. In effect, an expansion of team ministry decentralizes congregational control.

*Motivating people vs. maintaining control.* Teams unleash the three factors that motivate people—autonomy,



THE ONE DISADVANTAGE OF ADOPTING A MINISTRY TEAM APPROACH IN YOUR CHURCH

mastery, and purpose. Delegating leaders, in the traditional committee model, give subordinates responsibility for decision making and problem solving. While delegation works in situations where people draw paychecks for their work rather than intrinsic rewards, Daniel Pink asserts in his book *Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us* that workers gain autonomy when they own independence over “their task, their time, their technique, and their team.”<sup>3</sup> Thus, ministry teams help satisfy the innate human need to be needed, help others, make a difference, share their God-given gifts, master skills and learn new ones, enhance self-esteem, and gain a sense of belonging and acceptance.

### Setting up a Team to Succeed

Creating an effective team requires intentionality and accountability. First, the team’s purpose must be clearly defined by the group. For example, if a team achieves its purpose, what will be the result or impact? What will be different because of the team’s work? Teams can get distracted and over time expand their task list. Teams that state their purpose in writing and have continuing conversations about their focus tend to avoid wandering away from their original assignment.

Second, what type of team is needed? Understanding the distinct work of three types of teams enhances the probability that members with the right gifts will be recruited.

- *Decision-making teams* take on big-picture issues like making choices about a congregation’s vision, identifying the goals that move the church toward its next chapter in ministry, or outlining strategies for building financial stability. Strategic planning or visioning teams are good examples of this type of teamwork that eventually is taken under consideration by the entire congregation.
- *Task-accomplishing teams* undertake specific assignments important to the church’s mission. For example, a task team may take on the responsibility of providing a free breakfast to community residents each weekday in the church’s fellowship hall. Task teams are evaluated by how well they carry out their assignments.
- *Self-directed teams* assume a great deal of autonomy to accomplish their goals. For example, church leaders know they need to review their policies with regard to the use of church facilities by community groups. A team is formed to con-

duct the review, gather information, and make recommendations about rental policies and fees.

Third, how many people make up a good team? Research indicates that five to seven individuals is about the right size. For instance, Amazon.com, which operates with teams, suggests that team size is optimal when “two pizzas” can feed the team. Team size operates independently of the size of the congregation. Even large congregations need to exercise discipline to keep teams in the two-pizza range.

Fourth, effective teams pay attention to the small issues. The following specific behaviors undermine a team when members fail to

- show up or arrive on time for meetings
- respond to emails, texts, or other communications in a timely way
- demonstrate commitment to the work or complete assignments on time
- share resources and credit for work well done.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, few teams operate effectively in a congregation struggling with dysfunction. A dysfunctional congregation is characterized by an absence of trust. Congregational leaders must earn trust and work to create trust within the congregation as whole.

### “Every Member in Ministry”

One congregation that uses the ministry team model adopted “every member in ministry” as their motto. By involving a high percentage of members in team ministries, the church grew several hundred new ministries. Congregations and other nonprofits are America’s largest employers. Volunteers show up for work in churches that “pay well.” The “salary” they seek is challenge, personal growth, opportunity to make a difference, and meaningful experiences and relationships. How well does your church pay?

1. Material drawn from John W. Wimberly Jr., *Mobilizing Congregations: How Teams Can Motivate Members and Get Things Done* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015). See also *Church Effectiveness Nuggets*, Vol. 23, “Fine Tuning the Organizational and Communication Engine,” <http://www.theparishpaper.com/sites/default/files/resources/Church%20Effectiveness%20Nuggets-%20Volume%2023.pdf>

2. Depending on team type, coordinators arise from the team or are recruited by church leadership.

3. Daniel Pink, *Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2009), p. 94.

4. William Dyer, et al., *Team Building*, 4th Edition (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007).



# servant SCOPE



What would **YOU** like to do?

*Here's an idea! Make a positive impact on the Sunday experience of all who enter here!*

## serve as a FELLOWSHIP HOST!

*In Scripture, many great encounters between people and God happen around food. Abraham and Sarah prepare a meal for three guests who turn out to be angels (Genesis 18). God instructs the Hebrew slaves to eat a special meal together before their delivery from Egypt (Exodus 12); every year since, Jews have celebrated the Passover feast. Elijah is strengthened with food served by an angel (1 Kings 19). Jesus shares meals not only with religious leaders but with "sinners" (e.g., Matthew 9). Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples before his death has become one of the church's sacraments and a "foretaste" of the heavenly banquet to come.*

*When Christian families eat together, it's a holy time in God's presence, just as when the church shares Holy Communion — a true fellowship dinner!*

Each Emmanuel family helps out with Sunday Morning Fellowship Privileges on a rotating basis once every few months. A letter with the schedule and instructions is sent to each family as well as a reminder postcard sent a few days before your scheduled Sunday.

If you have not been asked to serve yet, or if you had previously asked to be removed from the rotation but would like to again serve, please let us know.

Great possibilities

'Happily for us, the fundamental Christian message concerns not what we ought to do but what God has done and what God is willing to do.

In fellowship with him and with others who are likewise trying to be like him, we can be lifted up above our native possibilities.'

- Hugh Martin

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There are many ways to be involved in the ministries at Emmanuel.

Just let us know what you hold interest in, what your gifts are, what you like to do! Your help is always needed and appreciated! Call us! 208.882.3915

## Our Kitchen!

What a glorious space!

*It is just missing one thing... SUPPLIES!*

There is an ongoing need for basic supplies to stock our wonderful kitchen.

When you are out shopping, what a delightful gesture it would be for you to pick up one or two of the following staples for our church kitchen:

- Paper Towels
- Paper Napkins
- Hot & Cold Cups
- Paper Plates
- Plastic Utensils
- Dish Soap
- Hand Soap
- Scrubbies
- Tea
- Coffee Filters
- Kool Aid
- Zip Lock Bags
- Coffee
- Hot Coco

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this ministry.

# A Blessing for New Year's Eve

What's your ideal New Year's Eve? For some it's a party with friends. Others prefer dinner and dancing or maybe a movie. Still others like a quiet evening at home.

Through the years I've spent that evening in several different ways. But in the past four years I've found something that's become an important part of the season, a thoughtful and meaningful way for me to start another year. If you're into partying, this may not be for New Year's Eve. But you might adapt some portion of it for use anytime in January.

A couple who are dear friends of mine and I developed a ritual we call "A Blessing for New Year's Eve." We spend the evening and overnight at their home or mine. We share a special dinner, preparing it together, savoring the wonderful expanse of time stretched before us. Good friends, good conversation, good food, good wine—what blessings.

For our blessing ritual, we begin with a prayer of thanks for the year ending, its moments of growth and transformation, its joys and also its pain and sorrow. We pray for guidance and wisdom for the coming year. We use Scripture verses and litanies that invite deeper awareness of God's presence in our lives. We each reflect and share, taking as much time as we want or need, using these questions for the year just ending:


- Give a name to your past year's journey and describe it.
- What were some of your epiphanies this past year?
- Name one blessing, one disappointment and one way you grew.  
We reflect on these questions for the new year:
- What name would you like for next year's journey?
- What hope and/or what fear do you have for this year?
- What gifts do you bring with you? What resistance?
- Who do you bring with you for support and strength?

We close our evening with a blessing for each other and with prayer. By then it's usually well after midnight. Restful sleep followed by a special breakfast begins a whole new year—one in which we seem more intentional and in which the three of us are more aware of the ways God is active in our lives and the world.

Taken from The Lutheran. Enewsletter, December 2004. A Blessing for New Year's Eve.  
[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article\\_id=5223](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=5223)

Happy New Year's!

Featured in THIS issue, # 4-- 151227, of the "Emphasis: Weekly Edition:"

- Special Stories of a New Year
- The Sounds of Preschool
- EW-ID Synod Assembly 2016
- Simply Giving
- The Parish Paper
- A Blessing for New Year's Eve
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  - “Quick List” of Emmanuel Happenings
  - “Servant SCOPE”