

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
1315 North Stevens
Tacoma, WA 98406
253-752-3571
www.emmanuel-tacoma.org

Dan Shaw, Lead Pastor
R. William Johnson, Visitation Pastor

Pastor's Message:

A NEW LIFE FOR THE NEW YEAR

"Out with the old and in with the new" - so says the ancient adage. That is, no more, antiquated, cobwebbed and outdated things. Out with it all! 2011 is behind us and we can truly label it as "old" now; faded, gone. Thus begins the annual quest to better ourselves and make resolutions for a "new" you in a "new" year without the baggage of the "old". What does that mean for Jesus, since he is quite old? There is even a hymn that refers to Jesus' life as the "...old, old story..." Consequently, do we throw away geriatric Jesus for the promise of a new year, perhaps even a new life?

According to God, however, the old things that are to be resolved away are those things that do not have a future. I may resolve to go on a diet and exercise diligently for all of 2012, and this is admirable, but that cannot promise you an *eternal* future, only a *temporal* one. There is no nutritionist or personal trainer that can promise you a meal plan or workout schedule that can enable you to live *eternally*. Therefore, everything of this world, and of our lives, is destined to become or already is, "old". There is only one thing that will remain perpetually new and promise you a future that is forever.

¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

Jesus, and his word, will always be eternally new. His story will never become old. His words have forever stamped on them, and that means always new! Hence, when our trust and love is placed where it should be, which is not on self but on Christ, then we too are indeed new! There is no such thing as an old person in the Kingdom of God. In that sense, it's akin to NeverLand and Peter Pan. The difference, though, is that Jesus makes you new through his cross and his word not by your imagination or efforts.

So, for this new year, do something for the first time that is TRULY new: come to church and have Christ claim you and banish everything that is old, and give you an eternal future. And trust him with your whole new heart when he declares "See, I am making all things new." (Rev 21:5)

Here's to a new future,

Pastor Shaw

What Lutherans Believe

The Family



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During this time of the year as we look forward to Christmas and as we prepare for this most wondrous Nativity of our Lord we will always remember the family gatherings that occurred over the years. The festival services on Christmas Eve and Christmas day were celebrated together with our families and friends. And those occasions would not have been complete without the sharing of a sumptuous dinner and the giving and receiving of presents. This year those traditions will continue as parents, children and grandchildren gather in churches and homes to sing and pray and hear again the mystery of Christ's birth. On that first Christmas in Bethlehem there was the Holy Family, Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus as well as a host of angels who announced his birth by praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace goodwill toward men." Then they were joined by the shepherds and soon after by the wise men from the east bearing gifts for the new born Messiah. Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Joseph and Mary and Jesus are most assuredly an example for all families to follow. The Holy Family had to flee to Egypt when they were warned about Herod's threat to kill Jesus. Later on they returned together to Nazareth where Jesus was raised the son of a carpenter.

In Genesis we are told that God created mankind in his own image. From the very beginning the distinction of genders was built into who we are as human beings. And Jesus said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined with his wife and the two shall become one Flesh." (Mt 9:5) Marriage is an institution created and blessed by God. And from marriage God has formed the families of parents and children to serve as building blocks for all human cultures. God has chosen to build families this way in order that our cultures may "be fruitful and multiply".

In Luther's Small Catechism we are reminded that "God's Name is hallowed wherever his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we live in harmony with it". Help us to do this heavenly Father!

Have a blessed and happy New Year,

Pastor Johnson



Soup Group:

We are going to re-introduce this important ministry. Please join us for some delicious soup at 11:30 am on Friday, January 20th.

If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please join us on Friday, January 6th at 11:00 am to help plan for the rest of the year.



BIBLE STUDIES AT EMMANUEL:

MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY

We meet every Wednesday morning at 9:00 am
Tower Lanes, 6323 6th Ave, Tacoma.

Contact person: Pastor Shaw at 752-3571

TUESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We will start again on January 11th with the book *Heaven is for Real*. This book is available for \$6.00 in the church office.

Contact Sherry Ryan at sherry_ryan@comcast.net or call 209-8723.

FAITH CIRCLE

Wednesday, January 11th at 10:30 am in room 202. All women are welcome.

Contact: Cathy Mattson 564-2101 or cathy_mattson@hotmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY "A JOURNEY INTO THE LIFE OF JESUS"

Please join Pastor Dan Shaw as he continues to teach a Bible study on the Gospel of John at the Education Hour at 9:45 am in Room 200. All are welcome and are encouraged to bring a friend.



CHOIRS:

Sanctuary Choir: meets on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm beginning January 4th.

Children's Choir: meets on Tuesdays, 5:00-5:30 pm beginning January 10th

Boxes for our Troops

We mailed 11 boxes for the troops in November. A big thank you to all the people who donated items to the troops and for the donations for the mailing. A special thanks to these people who helped with the packing: Stephanie Ramsay; Adam Lanier; Lyzie Graham and her friend, Miranda; Sam McLain; Jim Ellingson; Katy Patjens; and Alan & Paula Alpin.



Marcia Ellingson



Emily Dale earned her Master's degree in Archeology from the University of Nevada Reno on December 10th, 2011.

There was no Council Meeting in December, so there are no minutes to include in this issue.

GENERAL FUND
INCOME/EXPENSE SUMMARY
November 2011

General Fund beginning balance: November 1, 2011 \$11,340.32

Income:

Offerings and Donations	\$29,327.05
Overhead Reimbursement from Childcare	5,500.00
Less Mission & Benevolence	(2,952.71)
Total Receipts	\$31,874.34
Reimbursement, adjustments and transfers	\$ 52.50

Expenses:

Salaries	\$16,543.71
Payroll Expenses	3,622.76
Administrative Expenses	40.00
Operating Expenses	10,787.84
Total Expenditures	\$30,994.31

General Fund Ending Balance November 30, 2011 \$12,272.85

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ATTENTION: DEADLINE FOR THE ECHOES

The deadline for the February ECHOES will be Tuesday, January 24th. All articles are due in the church office or sent to Eileen Miles (gwelmiles@comcast.net) by the end of that day. THANKS!!!
Anyone interested in helping to put the ECHOES together and get ready for mailing, please contact Eileen Miles at 253-858-6397 or e-mail her at the above e-mail.

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