

PASTOR'S YEAR-END REPORT FOR 2011

A PORTION OF WHAT WAS PRESENTED AT THE JANUARY MEETING

*When a church is **sensitive** to the needs of its members and friends it can become a place of caring in the world – one structure dealing with the whole person while other institutions increasingly specialize. The church on the corner – in our case on the corner of Berwick and Gardner – is therefore very important. The reason is that it is the place where people interact as whole beings – blessed, guided and protected by the God of creation. At work we join a family of sorts. We can regularly have breakfast at the local coffee shop with friends. We can live in the finest of homes with a wonderfully caring family, but who deals with the whole person? Historically it has been the church. No other institution is like it.*

Those words (with a few additions of my own) are from Alan K Waltz, but they resonate with me as the one who leads our family gathering week in and week out. When we are sensitive to one another, when liturgy is planned with people (young and older in mind), when care is given to not only what we do, but who we are as God's children, then the church becomes a very unique and special place in our world.

I celebrate with you the fact that Emmanuel **has been and is** such a special place. It has been made so not by my efforts or the leadership of the church council or the various ministry teams that annually carry out our responsibility to the world as we serve in Jesus' name. No, I celebrate that Emmanuel is a special place where the whole person is dealt with for two reasons: 1] It is what God has created us to be. 2] It is what you have made of this church by your warm/loving care.

Looking back on this past year, it is clear to me that there have been an incredible number of times when we have cared for one another as whole people. Everything from birth to death has been part of our lives. The paschal candle has burned at the first service of Easter reminding us of Jesus' victory over sin, death and evil. It has burned at the baptisms of our children and it has been present as we marked the passing of beloved ones. All of which makes our church that kind of special caring place that I hope we all value.

So, I want to say thanks! Thanks for the many times you have taken the time and given the energy to care for one another. Thank you for the times you have shared with us (birthdays, baptisms, marriages). Thanks for telling us of your sad times and difficulties. And, thanks for caring for me as your pastor and lending your support as I seek to be the shepherd among you.

OUR MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE 2011 - 2012

God has entrusted the gospel to what the Bible calls earthen vessels
 - human beings like you and the members of our church staff.



Earthen vessels make good carriers. They can be filled and emptied again and again. However, they need care in their handling, for without care, they can be upset, their rims chipped, parts broken and the gospel treasure lost.

Our "MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE" is responsible for helping our paid staff members fulfill their calling to carry the gospel message of Jesus Christ to those they serve. We provide each staff member with support, loving care, and encouragement as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities as leaders within our congregation.

The MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE is made up of persons from the congregation who have been specifically identified, invited and appointed by the congregation council to this mutual ministry.

They are: Chris Alberg (chair), Kara Avelar, Harald Ruda, Rebecca Sol, Christiana Gerstner, Chris Gradijan

If you have any questions about how our staff members are ministering among us, or have encouraging comments you wish them to hear, please talk to one of us. We will listen carefully to you and help you deliver your message to the members of our church staff.



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REMEMBERED IN PRAYER DURING DECEMBER/JANUARY

Susan	David Lane	Audry Davies	Terrance Steward	Julie Shepherd, family & friends
Pat	Deb Porter	Joan Fogarty	Lillian Gustafson	Gerald & Donna Corcoran
Jennette	Holly Bland	Britta Stanton	Sheri Nikolassy	Lonnie & Kirk Schroeder
Chris	Tony Porter	Bernie Boger	Jennifer Brooks	Paul & Miriam Johnson
Linda	Curt Balduf	Stephanie Zaia	Maureen Thompson	Bernie Byrnes & Fridel
Denise	Bobby	Betty Keeshan	Bethany Nikolassy	
Mae	Nicole	Sydney Wright	Walter Arkerson	
Joan	Kelley family	Catherine Cassidy	Beth Keeshan	
		Bobby Reeves	Ruth Helen Banghart	

Families of: Allan Shaw, Carl Hultman, David Erikson, David Rando, Catherine Cassidy (Suzanne Neuman's mother), Walter Arkerson, Keith Benson

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Britta Stanton, Alice Schillberg, Lillian Gustafson

IN THE ARMED FORCES

Sean Sullivan, Rick McGowan, Steve Axelrod, Dave Meaney,
Sean Howland, Mike Kent

MUSIC MINISTRY

Hi, everyone,

I've gotten such a warm and wonderful welcome from the people of Emmanuel that I have hardly felt like the "New Kid" at all! I've thoroughly enjoyed my first three months, and it's been a pleasure talking with so many of you about how important music is to you during Worship. I have already heard some great ideas from people about some things we can try in the future, so stay tuned!

At E.L.C., there are many opportunities to praise God through music, and I want to let you all know that there is an open invitation to share your talents with our congregation. Have you ever played an instrument, even long, long ago? Dust it off! We'll find a simple hymn and work on it until you're comfortable. Do you like to sing, but "not in front of people?" Consider attending some Thursday night rehearsals (7:30) with our choir, and learn the anthems with us. You may find that you would like to join us in the loft on Sunday morning. Are you not a "sing out loud" person, but you look down at your feet during the praise songs and notice that your toe is tapping? Come shake a maraca or a tambourine with the praise ensemble during the second service. If you love music, but you're not sure *what* you'd like to do, come talk to me, and we'll get creative.



I've had lots of help easing my way into life at E.L.C., and it's made a big difference in my experience here. If you're considering sharing your talents but haven't taken that first step yet, *you* will have help expanding your comfort zone to include music in your personal worship experience. I'm happy to give you extra help learning a song, or to accompany you on piano, or to guide you to find a place to share your talents during Worship.

Please e-mail me any time with questions or ideas about music at E.L.C.!

♪ Gabrielle Heath,
gab.heath@yahoo.com

Did you know that 73 more people attended the Christmas services at Emmanuel in 2011 than in 2010?

THANK YOUS AND MESSAGES...

Hi Pastor Saling,

Thank you so much for letting us set up a table for our school's Microfinance Club at the Advent Fair. We were able to raise a lot of money for a great cause! (also: please give a big thank you to Mrs. Saling for helping me coordinate it.)

Sincerely, Anna Donovan & Emily Leader

Dear Emmanuel Members:

Thank you so much for the lovely basket with all the wonderful goodies. Also, thank you Pastor, for the visit and communion.

Best wishes, Ingrid Bamber

Dear Pastor Saling-

The family of Billy Hughes cannot thank you enough for the spiritual guidance you provided in our time of mourning. While our hearts are saddened by Billy's loss, we thank you for making this difficult time a little easier. Your spiritual council makes it a little easier to remember that God is ever present in our lives, even in death.

Thank you, Linnea Richardson & family

To the Congregation:

Thank you very much for the bountiful baskets of "goodies" which you sent to me over the Christmas holidays. They were heavily laden with wonderful selections of items anyone would like. They would fill anyone's taste of enjoyment, they added to the holidays enrichment. I missed the period of church attendance with all of you.

Thank you one and all. I'd love to say I'll see you shortly but I know it isn't so.

Truly yours, Curt Balduf

P.S. A special "Thanks" to Valerie. She's a great gal!

Dear Pastor Saling and Congregation,

Words cannot express my deep gratitude for the kindness and caring that this congregation has shown to me in my time of need.

Thank you, Pastor, for your personal attention to Allan's service. Many have expressed their views of the thoughtfulness, warmth and kindness that you showed. It was a beautiful service.

To my friends on the kitchen crew (Anne, Chris, Arlene, Helene and Jean) thank you for your hard work at a busy time of the year and for caring.

Thank you for Allan's special Christmas basket.

Thank you Emmanuel Lutheran Church!

Sincerely, Chris Shaw

Dear Pastor,

My family and I want to thank you for your kindness and caring over the years with our Mom, visiting her at Sunrise, and helping us through this difficult period since her death with the lovely wake, funeral, and graveside service.

We also want to thank Ms. Heath, the organist; the church choir for their lovely funeral music; and the wonderful ladies who helped with the merry meal after the funeral.

Mom cared deeply for her church and all of the congregation and she would be deeply gratified to know all the help you all gave in remembrance of her. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Kristin Hansen Haroian & the Hansen family

Thank yous have been received from the **Friends of the Mentally Ill, Inc., Heifer International, New England Synod Seminarian Scholarship Fund** (students moving through candidacy process), and the **Neponset Choral Society**. Please see the bulletin board in the church hallway for these letters.



A special thanks to Greg Rapp for his donation of additional poinsettias for decorating our church for Christmas. Please be sure to visit the **Village Green Nurseries** in Norwood and Norfolk when you are in the market for plants, flowers, shrubs, and other gardening needs.



GOOD FRIDAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE
Good Friday Vacation Bible School
Friday, April 6!

Volunteers are needed for all activities: crafts, music, snacks, etc. Please contact **Lisa Silletti** if you are interested in participating (781-762-6582 or lisa@norwoodlight.com). We will need a commitment from volunteers soon to ensure we can hold the program.

EMMANUEL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

It's not too late to reserve a place at this year's **spring retreat** on **May 5-6**. All women 18 years and up are welcome to join us at **Craigville Retreat and Conference Center on the Cape**. Trained Spiritual Director, Gayle Kerr, will again lead our retreat from Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch. If you have any questions, please speak with me in church or call (781-762-5441), or e-mail (lynnkrock@gmail.com). We always have a great time but it'll be that much better if you can be with us!



Lynne Krock

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

How your Pledge Helps: A Message from the Stewardship Team

The Stewardship team would like to thank the Congregation members for making pledge commitments during the fall stewardship program "Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love and Hope." We appreciate the response you made to our requests for pledges in the face of a continuing difficult economy.

PLEDGES

We would like to take a moment and explain the importance of your pledges in the life of the church. Each fall the Finance Ministry team prepares a congregation budget which funds the requirements of:

- the church physical building including heat, maintenance, and utilities (this year's heating oil budget is almost \$15,000);
- office supplies (paper, computer ink, copier ink and toner in support of worship)
- ministry team program needs;
- contributions to the Synod pays for important New England and global initiatives;
- and finally, staff salaries (pastor, parish administrator, secretary, musician and coordinator of newcomer ministry/small groups)

The budget is the financial reality of what it takes to operate our church each year to realize our mission.

Most of the church's income comes from member giving with a smaller amount coming from the rental of the building by the nursery school and community groups. The Stewardship team owns the important task of making sure we have income from giving to match our expense budget for the coming year. When we receive pledges, we know we can count on a predictable income stream to pay our budgeted expenses because our members are usually able to honor their commitments. When we don't receive a pledge from members, we look at past giving history to make an estimate of what these members might give in the coming year but must discount the resulting amount since no commitment for a specific amount has been made. In other words, we can place a greater certainty on receiving income from pledges than we can from non-pledged giving estimates.

Once the pledges are totaled at the close of the fall stewardship campaign and other giving is estimated, if our predicted income is lower than the expense budget we look for ways to slash expenses:



- building maintenance, heat, and utilities usually cannot be reduced much;
- the budgets of the Ministry teams are already very modest;
- that leaves staff salaries and the Synod contribution as the major sources of budget cuts.

The result of a salaries cut is that someone in our church staff may lose their job or have their hours reduced affecting our worship quality, services we offer to members; music; or our ability to attract new members and retain existing members. A Synod cut may result in Synod staff layoffs or curtail important New England or global outreach programs. Examples of Synod activities funded by our church pledge include 2012 mission trips to Honduras to build stoves, sinks and a new church building; the School of Lay Ministry (from which Lynne Krock graduated); the packaging of over 50,000 kids meals for South Shore food pantries; help for new churches, and churches in transition; assistance to Lutheran Social Services, Camp Calumet and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Check out the New England Synod website for more information: <http://www.nesynod.org/>.

Keep in mind that besides our Service Ministry projects like quilts, school kits and layettes, our contribution to the Synod is the major way we have a global impact on people that need our help.

When you make a pledge, we are able to avoid the uncertainty of estimated giving. We therefore can really count on you to pay for ministry, the church building, salaries, and Synod and ELCA mission.

If you have not pledged in the past please consider making a pledge so we know we can count on your giving.

Thank you,
The Stewardship Team



WELCOME/WITNESS



WE HAVE \$50 FOR YOU. GO AND DO GOOD DEEDS!

For many of us, talking about our faith is hard, especially out “in the world.” Sometimes we’re better at sharing our faith non-verbally by being generous with our time and gifts outside Emmanuel’s walls. This is a great way to tell the Good News of God’s love!

To encourage and support this very important witness through action, the Welcome Witness Team (WWT), in partnership with the Mission Endowment Committee (MEC), is sponsoring a **“REVERSE COLLECTION” during Lent 2012**. The basic concept is that members of the congregation will be given \$50 per person (only one per family) in order to do good deeds outside Emmanuel’s walls during Lent. On 2-3 Sundays after Easter they will tell the story, orally or in writing, of how they used the money. Up to \$2000 will come from the Mission Endowment Fund, enabling at least 40 persons/families to participate. We hope that individuals and other congregational groups will also contribute funds to the “reverse collection” pool so even more of us can take part!

Because 50% of Mission Endowment funds are to be used for missions of the ELCA worldwide, the MEC will provide information about possible ways to do good deeds internationally for those who are interested.

The guidelines for the Reverse Collection are:

- o Spend the money on someone other than yourself.
- o Feel free to pool resources with another person or family.
- o Do good deeds in the world beyond Emmanuel’s walls.
- o When possible, let others know you’re doing this as a member of Emmanuel.
- o Tell the story (orally or in writing) of how you spent the money.
- o Have fun!

The timeline is:

1/29-2/26 Congregational groups and individuals contribute funds.
(Please write checks to Emmanuel Lutheran Church; designate “Reverse Collection” for any contribution.)

3/04 & 3/11 Participating individuals/families receive \$50 apiece during worship. *(If you want to take part but are unable to be in*

worship those days, please contact Christy Saling – cesaling@netzero, 781-762-9057.)

3/04-4/01 Participants do good deeds and have fun.

4/15-4/29 Participants tell their stories.

See a description of a “reverse collection” in *The Lutheran*, November 2010, for all kinds of ideas! Copies of the article will be available in the office hallway during Lent.



PRAYER REQUEST BOX & CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN

There is a **Prayer Group** that meets on the second Sunday of the month ready to pray for various needs and concerns from the church, ministries, members and attendees. The Prayer Group respects privacy in matters of prayer and has placed this secure box outside the sacristy door for prayer requests. We invite your requests for prayer to be written on the cards provided and dropped into the box, which will be checked weekly. We will pray for your request during a period of 30 days, longer if specified in your request, including at our next monthly meeting. Please also drop us a note regarding prayers answered and praises due, or if to continue in prayer.

Please note that this box is not for requests for prayers to be made at the Sunday Services.



Additionally, **Emmanuel’s Prayer Chain** is available for immediate concerns and emergency situations for the church congregation and their families and friends. To ask for prayer contact the first “link” – Arlene Zolla at aaz.zolla@gmail.com or 508-668-6065.

If you would like to join the Prayer Chain or Prayer Group, please contact Arlene Zolla at 508-668-6065.

Thank you,
Emmanuel’s Prayer Group

Did you notice that Emmanuel’s average worship attendance was 139 in 2011? In 2010 it was 128.

THANKS TO ALL FAMILIES WHO LIT THE ADVENT WREATH



Last year's Advent wreath ceremony again included a place for families to come forward to light the wreath. Thank you to: the Alberg, Alley, Avelar, Crisafulli, Donovan, Lassen, Martin/Aliano, Neuman, Nicholson, Sol, and Stahl Families for adding meaning to our Advent worship services!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Thanks to our Sunday School students for presenting the Christmas story, to the teachers and assistants for their guidance, and to Dan Busler for the great pictures.







MINISTERS - THE PEOPLE OF EMMANUEL

The daily ministries of our congregation are carried out by the faithful members whose lives touch the world in diverse and wonderful ways. Your ministry is among them.

Staff of Emmanuel Church

Pastor – Edward B. Saling	pastah@norwoodlight.com 781-762-9057
Music Ministry – Gabrielle Heath	gab.heath@yahoo.com 508-697-8747
Parish Administrator - Linnea N. Keyes	linnea@norwoodlight.com 781-769-1024
Newcomer Ministry – Heather Crisafulli	heatherc@norwoodlight.com 508-533-2097
Parish Secretary – Katy Bland-Brooks	emmanuel@norwoodlight.com 781-762-9057
Treasurer – Beth Donovan	508-533-0593
Financial Secretary – Kendra Lassen	781-326-8485

Program Coordinators

Bell Choir Director – Kirk Schroeder	781-326-6883
Sunday School Coordinator – Janice McHugh	774-215-0839
Flower Memorial Coordinator – Helen Bonaceto	781-769-2630
Service Ministry – Susan Lawson	508-660-7459
Visitation Ministry – Lorraine Lynch	508-668-3657

Space prohibits listing all who serve Emmanuel Church. For a complete list of ministry chairs and program coordinators contact the church office.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

On the web at www.Emmanuel-Norwood.org
Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
e-mail: Emmanuel@norwoodlight.com ♦ phone: 781-762-9457