



# Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

## January 2018 Newsletter



### **Mooring Line Drive Campus**

777 Mooring Line Dr.  
Naples, FL 34102  
239-261-0894

#### ***Sunday Services with Holy Communion***

7:45, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

#### **Alive Contemporary Service**

at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center

✠Email: [elc@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:elc@naplesemmanuel.org) ✠



### **Pebblebrooke Campus**

15205 Collier Blvd., Suite 201 & 202  
Naples, FL 34119  
239-213-0535

#### ***Saturday Evening Service***

5:00 p.m.

#### ***Sunday Bilingual Service with***

#### ***Holy Communion***

11:00 a.m.

✠Email: [frine@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:frine@naplesemmanuel.org) ✠

### **Church Office Hours: (Mooring Line Campus)**

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



#### **Our Mission:**

*A Christ-centered community where God's Spirit guides our lives as we worship, learn, love, share and serve.*

## Staff and Church Council

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### Our Staff:

**Rev. Steven E Wigdahl**, Senior Pastor - [pastorsteve@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:pastorsteve@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Rev. José Lebrón**, Associate Pastor for Mission Development - [pastorjose@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:pastorjose@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Jim Cooper**, ELCA Deacon, Youth & Family - [jim@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:jim@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Will Kittinger**, Resident Pastor - [will@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:will@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Ian McMichael**, Resident Pastor - [ian@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:ian@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Joyce Finlay**, ELCA Deacon, Music & Worship - [joyce@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:joyce@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Colin Hart**, Associate Director of Music & Worship Arts - [colin@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:colin@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Carol Hartman**, Parish Nurse - [carol@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:carol@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Dee Schleutker**, ELCA Deacon, Service & Outreach - [dee@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:dee@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Vivian Shea**, Business Administrator - [vivian@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:vivian@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Gina Fidler**, Engagement Specialist - [gina@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:gina@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Jennifer Ziegelmaier**, Publication Coordinator - [jennifer@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:jennifer@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Deborah Vacca**, Financial Secretary - [deborah@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:deborah@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Alex Tovar**, Maintenance Manager - [JABCleaning3@aol.com](mailto:JABCleaning3@aol.com)  
**Dennis Reustle**, Executive Director - [dennis@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:dennis@naplesemmanuel.org)  
**Frine Donadelli**, Administrative Assistant - [frine@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:frine@naplesemmanuel.org)

### Church Council:

The Church Council is made up of nine dedicated people who act on behalf of the church membership. According to Emmanuel Lutheran's Constitution, "The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

Please do not hesitate to contact a council member if you have any questions or concerns. They are here to involve all members of the congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support. If you would like to communicate with the members of the Emmanuel Church Council, you will find their names and e-mail addresses below:

#### Executive Board:

Peter Wasmer (President) - [pwasmer139@gmail.com](mailto:pwasmer139@gmail.com)  
Michael Puchalla (Vice-President) - [michael@collierhousing.com](mailto:michael@collierhousing.com)  
POSITION OPEN (Secretary)  
Ann Jones (Treasurer) - [annjonesinfl@aol.com](mailto:annjonesinfl@aol.com)

#### The other members are:

Carol Goodin - [carolgoodin41@gmail.com](mailto:carolgoodin41@gmail.com)  
Zetty Rivera - [zettyrivera@gmail.com](mailto:zettyrivera@gmail.com)  
Nancy Omonte - [fomonte@comcast.net](mailto:fomonte@comcast.net)  
Mark Fiebrink - [mfiebrink@gmail.com](mailto:mfiebrink@gmail.com)  
POSITION OPEN (Member)

### AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING:

#### Updates from the Monday, December 18 Council Meeting:

1. There was a great deal of discussion about the upcoming 2018 budget at Emmanuel (approval by Council will be at the January 15 meeting; subsequently a motion for final approval will be at the Annual Meeting). The Annual Meeting is on Wednesday, January 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center (please see article on page 1 of the Newsletter).
2. As a result of Hurricane Irma, Emmanuel will be getting a new roof in the near future.
3. The three Stewardship Sundays are scheduled for January 21, January, and February 4.
4. The Council was given an update on the Emmanuel Academies. More information will be shared with the congregation on Thursday, January 18, and Sunday, January 21 (following the 11:00 service).

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, at 5:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

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### We know you have questions about Emmanuel Park & Emmanuel Academies

#### We want to keep you well-informed!

*Come learn what these ministries are all about*

Thursday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00 PM or Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> following the 11 AM Service

Pastor Steve will make a presentation in the Church Sanctuary with Q&A and refreshments to follow. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about our Park on Oil Well Road, the Academies, and all that God is doing through Emmanuel and in our community!

We want our congregation to be well-informed, so please be sure to join us on one of these dates and RSVP to Gina Fidler at [gina@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:gina@naplesemmanuel.org) or by calling the church office at 261-0894.

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### EMMANUEL LUTHERAN TO BE VISITED BY ELCA'S PRESIDING BISHOP!

**(Preaching 9:00 & 11:00 on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>)**



The Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, will be preaching at Emmanuel on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at both our 9:00 and 11:00 am services. Elected as the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor of Music Education from the College of Wooster.

Ordained in 1981, Eaton served three congregations in Ohio before being elected bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod in 2006 and re-elected in May 2013.

Eaton's four emphases for the ELCA are: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. These four emphases are fundamental to identifying who the ELCA is.

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The **Annual Meeting of Emmanuel Lutheran Church** will take place on **Wednesday, January 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center**. At the meeting the Proposed 2018 Spending Plan will be shared, as well as a review of other reports from the many ministries of our congregation and synod. There also will be an extensive report, describing our ministry at our Mooring Line Drive site, as well as our mission and outreach at our Pebblebrooke and Oil Well Road sites. As our Constitution provides, you will also have opportunity to vote for new members of the Church Council. (Associate Members and friends are welcome to attend the meeting. However, the ELCA Constitution allows voting of those who are full-time members). **Hors d'oeuvres will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Child care will be available during the meeting time.** The Annual Report will be ready for distribution on Sunday, January 21, so those who are interested can review it prior to the Annual Meeting.

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**Lifetouch will be coming Jan 30 - Feb 3 to update portraits for our new 2018 Directory. We are looking for 10 - 15 people who will greet members at the time of their portraits.** It is a fun way of meeting people within our church family.

*Please call Jennifer at 239-261-0894 if you are interested in helping or if you need to schedule your appointment.*



## Tuesdays with Emmanuel - Family Life Center - 4:30-6:00 p.m.

January 9



***"Delivering Human Services to People in Need"***

Speaker: Samuel M. Sipes,  
Chief Executive Officer Lutheran Services of Florida

**Tickets:**

\$10 for individual lecture; \$40 for entire series of 5 lectures

Lutheran Services Florida, which is based in Tampa, was established in 1982 to assist in refugee resettlement in Southeast and Central Florida. Today, LSF has 1,300 employees who oversee more than 60 Programs including Refugee and Immigration, Guardianship Service, Youth Shelters, Head Start, Counseling Services, Disaster Response, Sexual Abuse Treatment, Teen Court, Ryan White AIDS, Welfare, Foster Care and Adoptions, Charter Schools, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

January 16

***"Missions: From Paternalism to Partnership"***

Speakers: Doug Seebeck, President and CEO of Partners Worldwide

Jack Van Der Ploeg, Board Member



Partners Worldwide is a global Christian network that uses business as the way to help end poverty. Since 1997, Partners Worldwide has helped thousands of individuals and families out of poverty through a global network of Christian business organizations which serve over 80,000 small businesses in 27 countries. Partners' Strategic Plan includes (a) Relationship Mentoring, (b) Biblically-based Small Business Training, (c) Access to Financial Capital, and (d) Advocacy.

Doug Seebeck is a visionary leader who has spent half of his 39-year career in global economic development abroad. He is the founding president and CEO of Partners Worldwide, a global Christian network that uses business to end poverty. Through partnerships with local community institutions, Partners Worldwide provides mentoring, training, access to capital, and advocacy tools to entrepreneurs in over 30 countries around the world. Seebeck is also a founding member of PW Entrepreneurs, a social-venture capital fund investing in high-impact global enterprises.

In his co-authored work *My Business, My Mission*, Seebeck shares stories and lessons learned from inspirational business leaders around the world. He holds a B.S. in Agronomy from Washington State University and an M.A. in Leadership Studies from Azusa Pacific University.

Doug lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan with his beloved wife of 35 years, Gail. They have five children and three grandchildren.

Jack VanDer Ploeg, a retired business man who volunteers to work with small businesses to help them grow and provide employment for the unemployed, is currently working with volunteers in 10 cities in Haiti with a goal of adding 100,000 jobs by 2020.

January 23

***"The Blessing of Clean, Safe Water"***

Speaker: Dick Moeller, Founder Water to Thrive

Water to Thrive is a faith based non-profit, headquartered in Austin, Texas. It is dedicated to spreading awareness of the global water crisis while raising the funds needed to construct water wells for those who desperately need them in rural Africa. Since its founding in a Sunday School class at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church in April 2008, Water to Thrive has funded more than 750 water projects in Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda. With the caring hearts of donors and supporters, Water to Thrive is transforming more than 450,000 men, women, and children with the blessing of clean, safe water.



January 30

***"ECHO - Fighting World Hunger Through Biblical Principles"***

Speaker: Jo Dee Hanssen,

Development Officer ECHO - Educational Concern for Hunger Organization

ECHO is a global Christian organization honoring God by empowering the undernourished with sustainable hunger solutions. For over 36 years, ECHO has been helping thousands of missionaries, development workers and organizations around the world to better access vital information and other resources needed to improve food production for small-scaled farmers and gardeners. During the past year, ECHO conducted training in 25 countries for approximately 3,000 missionaries, development workers and small-scaled farmers. The ECHO International Headquarters is located at a campus in North Fort Myers, Florida.



February 6

***"Let My Heart Be Broken"***

Speaker: Marilee Pierce Dunker,

Ambassador and Daughter of Founder of World Vision



World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God. The work of World Vision is to "pull up the roots of poverty and plant the seeds of change." During 2016, World Vision helped over 15.4 million disaster survivors and refugees; transformed the lives of 4 million sponsored kids; impacted 1.7 million jobs; and brought clean water to 4.6 million people.

Marilee Pierce Dunker is a traveling ambassador for World Vision and the author of four books including "The Audacity of Faith", which focuses on the many partnerships her father, the founder of World Vision, had with missionaries and churches around the world, laying the foundation for the World Vision we know today.

## Grace Place Puts Faith Into Action



### Providing Pathways Out of Poverty By Educating Children and Families

When Jorge first walked onto the Grace Place campus, he had no idea that those steps would change the lives of his entire family.

Jorge needed to learn English, and was looking for help preparing for his citizenship exam. He was worried sick, since he had only three years of formal schooling in Guatemala, his birth country. As Jorge spent time on our campus, he realized his entire family could benefit from Grace Place's comprehensive family literacy programing.

Jorge's wife, Mariana, and their two preschool-aged children enrolled in our Bright Beginnings program soon after. When Mariana began, she was anxious and exhausted caring for her children. Through Bright Beginnings, Mariana gained confidence as a mother and learned to be her children's first teacher. Now, Mariana is thriving and so are her kids. They will enter kindergarten next year, completely prepared.

Jorge not only passed his citizenship exam, he earned a promotion at work thanks, in part, to his growing command of the English language. Jorge credits his Grace Place English and citizenship teachers for his success. We credit Jorge for his hard work.

Mariana and Jorge have built a platform from which their two children can launch their lives. As their family strives, our School Age programs will help ensure that their children become the first in their family to graduate high school and enter college. It may seem an impossible task, but it is very likely that they will succeed with the foundation they have laid at Grace Place.



On behalf of the Grace Place Church Council  
you are cordially invited to join us for an

# OPEN HOUSE

come tour our new buildings and learn more  
about our educational programs.

Tuesday, January 23  
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 25  
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Grace Place for Children and Families  
4300 21st Ave SW  
Naples, Florida 34116



### Serving Others Ministry Team - Looking for New Members!

Are you interested in learning about our team? Would you like to explore how you could be involved with Emmanuel Lutheran Church and support our faith based Ministry Partners at the same time? If so, contact Mark Fiebrink, the Serving Others Ministry Team Leader. His email address is [mfiebrink@gmail.com](mailto:mfiebrink@gmail.com). His cell phone number is (276) - 791-2647.



**Emmanuel ended 2017 with two momentous Habitat-related events:**

First, Pastor Will led the dedication of Emmanuel’s 47<sup>th</sup> Habitat house (right), a joyous occasion for a grateful family!



And later in December Rev. Lisa Lefkow, CEO of Habitat Collier announced at morning services that **Emmanuel had just provided funds for our 49<sup>th</sup> Habitat house!**

**Can we make it a total of 50 this year??**

No other congregation in Collier County has donated materials for 50 Habitat houses! We need \$50,000 to achieve that remarkable goal! Can you help out with a donation, large or small?

You can mail in your check or use the envelope in your pew. **Please make your check payable to *Emmanuel*, and indicate *Habitat*.** Or you can donate directly to Habitat by check or credit card.... and be sure to mention Emmanuel!

Thank you!

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**21st ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION**

Our information table at the Martin Luther King celebration gives us a chance to reach out to the Greater Naples community and an opportunity to interact with people with different backgrounds and experiences.



**WHAT:** Emmanuel information table at the Martin Luther King Day celebration.

**WHERE:** The band shell at Cambier Park

**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 15, a Federal Holiday. The parade gets to the park about noon, Activities start at 11 AM and wrap up around 2 PM.

If you would like to join us, call Nancy Nodell at 596-3710.



Thank you for supporting the Paper Bead Jewelry sales! We raised over \$900 to help Village of Hope Haiti on Sunday, December 10. All year, we have a group of women that meet every Wednesday at 1:00 PM to make paper beads and then create necklaces and bracelets. If you would like to participate, please contact Carol Duncan at 239-777-3213.

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**VOLUNTEERS -THE HEART AND SOUL OF ST. MATTHEW’S HOUSE**



St. Matthew’s House relies on the volunteers and the thousands of hours they give every year to make our mission a success. We couldn’t do what we do in support of our programs without these amazing people. Our volunteers unselfishly come together for a great cause to support those we serve in a spiritual, Christian, faith-based environment. If you would like to make an impact through your volunteerism, please contact Ronnie Sopena, Volunteer Coordinator, at [rsopena@stmatthewshouse.org](mailto:rsopena@stmatthewshouse.org), or Michelle Mendoza, Volunteer Coordinator, at [mmendoza@stmatthewshouse.org](mailto:mmendoza@stmatthewshouse.org).

## Emmanuel Park



Thanks entirely to our active mission stewards, Howard and Deirdre, Emmanuel Communities received a gift of approximately 500 trees from Keep Collier Beautiful (KCB) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for planting at Emmanuel Park! Dee Schleutker with Emmanuel Communities organized a planting event at the parsonage on Oil Well Rd. The trees are live oaks, cedar and slash pine. We are excited to watch these seedling grow alongside our mission development!



Emmanuel Park continues to progress forward. Now that we have entered the dry season our contractors are back to draining the lake. The purpose of this is to ensure the lake slopes are within County code. Once the sloping is complete the water will be allowed to fill the lake and the multipurpose field will be completed. While this is taking place we are also working with the irrigation contractor and electrician.

## Emmanuel Communities at Pebblebrooke

### *Kids Around the Well*

This is a new children's ministry program that started in November and presently meets at Dee Schleutker's home monthly to participate in community outreach programs. The children that participate in this ministry also attend our Emmanuel Kids: Monday Connection.

### *Community Outreach*

#### School Supplies



The Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, 15 people, 9 children and 6 adults, gathered at Dee Schleutker's home to assemble 200 bags of school supplies for two elementary schools in Immokalee and one in Naples. The school supplies were a donation from the Boys and Girls Club of Naples. Most of these children attend our Emmanuel Kids: Monday Connection.



#### Quilts

I would like to extend a very special Thank You to our **Tuesday Stitchers** who provided 32 quilts for children in Immokalee and 5 for children that attend an elementary school in Naples. Your generosity provided the gift of warmth and comfort this Christmas. *Kids Around the Well* wrapped the quilts and made Christmas cards for each of the 37 children that will receive the gift.



#### Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 9, *Kids Around the Well*, with their parents and some staff members from ECC and Emmanuel, brought Christmas joy to the residents of a local nursing home.



### Emmanuel Kids: Monday Connection



We would like to **thank you** for your support of this week-day children’s ministry program. Presently we have 30 children registered for the program. The program begins each Monday at 5:30 with a meal. From 6:00-7:00pm we have an educational component, crafts and games, and First Communion classes for those who are interested. For more information regarding this ministry please contact Dee Schleutker, ELCA Deacon.

### Walking Group

Beginning Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> we will gather every Tuesday at 7:00 am, at Emmanuel Community Church, (Pebblebrooke Center) for a half hour walk together, followed by a time of stretching and prayer. Please bring a mat or towel for the stretching. For additional information please contact Dee Schleutker, ELCA Deacon.

### Morning Prayer

We invite you to join Pastor Jose at Emmanuel Community Church Monday-Friday from 6:00 am- 7:00 am for a time of silent prayer.

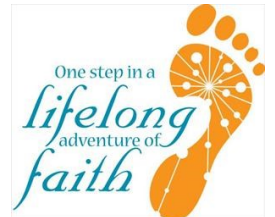
### Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, **February 6**, we invite you to bring your lunch and join Dee Schleutker, ELCA Deacon and our Resident Pastor Ian McMichael from Noon-1:00pm at Emmanuel Community Church, Pebblebrooke for the video lecture series, **Reading the Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation**. Each Tuesday we will begin the class with a 30-minute video lecture by Craig R. Koester, Luther Seminary. Following by a time of group discussion. For more information, please contact Dee Schleutker, ELCA Deacon.

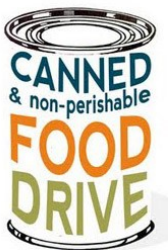
### Youth and Family Ministry



**Confirmation Classes** will begin on Ash Wednesday - February 14. It is the beginning/continuation of a 3 year program. If you have any questions or would like to join the class, please contact Jim Cooper at 239-261-0894 or email [jim@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:jim@naplesemmanuel.org).



**Souperbowl of Caring** will be held on February 4, 2018. The youth of Emmanuel will be helping the less fortunate in our community by supporting the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative. Our church together with thousands of churches around the country are using Super Bowl Sunday to help the poor and hurting. It has been an Emmanuel tradition now for 13years.



We are asking everybody to make a financial donation as you leave worship, along with bringing **5 CANNED FOOD ITEMS** from home. There will be a large bin in the breezeway and a table in the Family Life Center where you can drop off your items. The funds raised will go to three local organizations: Grace Place, St. Matthew's House and the Harry Chapin Food Bank. **THANK YOU!**



## Parish Nurse - Stephen Ministry



### Carol Calling:

Welcome 2018.....

A question for you for the New Year? Which is better for getting hands clean and germ-free: soap and water or hand sanitizer? The answer= soap and water! Wet your hands, lather up and rub your hands for 20 seconds, then rinse thoroughly and dry. This is the best method to reduce bacteria, viruses and parasites.

However, FYI, a sanitizer that is at least 60 percent alcohol is better than nothing if you cover your hands thoroughly, rub it in, and do not wipe it off.

Consumer Union, the policy and mobilization division of Consumer Reports sends us this message: "Consumers are key actors in the fight against antibiotic resistance, and personal choices are critical to whether the problem grows or diminishes". Here are their suggestions. Don't push your doctor to prescribe antibiotics- they are not helpful against viral infections. If you do need one, request a drug that is targeted to the bacteria causing your infection, rather than a broad-spectrum antibiotic. For more information on this subject, go to [CR.org/superbugs](http://CR.org/superbugs).

Australia's Black Dog Institute found in a large study, that those who did NO exercise were 44 percent more likely to develop depression than those who were active for just 60 minutes a week. Low-intensity moves such as walking were just as effective as moderate and high-intensity moves.

From Consumer Reports "On Health" January 2018....There are healthy convenience foods that can make eating well easy for us. Take advantage of canned or boxed tomatoes. They contain lycopene, an antioxidant found to reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers. Canned or pouched salmon is mostly wild-caught. Fisheries harvest during a particular season and the excess they harvest is funneled into frozen or shelf stable packages. Canned salmon costs less and is lower in calories and saturated fat than the farmed form. Precooked, peeled hard-boiled eggs supply protein and they are low in saturated fat. They also contain compounds that have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. As for the cholesterol in eggs, research has found that it is not likely to have a significant effect on blood cholesterol in healthy people. Beans are always a healthy option. They are a top food source of resistant starch, a prebiotic fiber that bacteria in the gut use to produce compounds which may help prevent colon cancer. Plus, the combination of protein, fiber and vitamins makes legumes nutrient-dense and filling. Be aware the sodium content can vary, so check the labels for the lower sodium choices.



If you are in Physicians Regional Hospital, please give the church office a call to let us know. We would be happy to visit with you.

If you would like to have a prayer added to the prayer chain, please contact Joyce O'Neill. You may contact Joyce at 239-566-3373 or email her at [KSONaples@comcast.net](mailto:KSONaples@comcast.net)



### STEPHEN MINISTRY - CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE



This is the motto of Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministry role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through difficult times in their lives.

We listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. In this one-to-one caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. If you or someone you know is facing difficulties and may benefit by the care of a Stephen Minister contact Carol Hartman at Emmanuel - 239-261-0894.

### STEPHEN MINISTER: DUNCAN CAMERON



Duncan Cameron is a 2017 graduate of our Stephen Ministry Program. He and his wife, Dianne, are the proud parents of 5 daughters and very recently their 10th grandchild was born. They began coming to Naples several years ago and joined Emmanuel 7 years ago. They remain seasonal members, spending 6 months a year in Naples. The other 6 months are spent in Bettendorf, Iowa where they have resided and worked for many years. Duncan started working for a beer distributor company many years ago and very rapidly moved up the ladder from a beginner to the manager of his company, the Anheuser-Busch and Corona Wholesale Beer Distribution Co. When asked why he decided to become a Stephen Minister he responded that his motivation was a deep desire to help people who were dealing with a difficult time in their lives. He felt he and his family had been richly blessed by God and felt called to share his time and experience with others. After completing the Stephen Ministry course he was soon assigned a Care Receiver whom he visits regularly, listening and sharing thoughts and supporting them as the person resolves their troubles. He indicated that his greatest personal reward of being a Stephen Minister so far has been to learn how to be a good listener and understanding how important it is to listen.

## 10th Annual Family Retreat Weekend - February 23-25, 2018

*Please join us for a wonderful time of getting away, friends and faith.*



### **This year's theme: *Lord teach us to pray***

This wonderful weekend is open to the entire Emmanuel Family... families, couples, singles, seniors and single parents. Everyone's invited.

Cedarkirk is a year-round camping conference center owned by the Presbyterians of Tampa Bay and Peace River. It is located on the Alafia River within 170 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and uplands. Cedarkirk is dedicated to providing a place for individuals and groups to have the opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in a natural environment. More information is available at their website: [www.CedarKirk.org](http://www.CedarKirk.org).

#### **Our Schedule:**

Friday Evening – Settle into your room and gather around at the Pavilion for campfire singing and s'mores.

Saturday – A day of “faith-filled-fun” activities with plenty of free time.

Sunday – We conclude our time together with a delicious breakfast and wonderful outdoor worship service.

#### **Registration:**

The cost is \$50 for a single person and \$100 for a family. This includes lodging, four meals and all program activities.

You can register with Jim Cooper. [Jim@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:Jim@naplesemmanuel.org).

***Please register by January 15, 2018***

***Don't miss this special time of rest, renewal and spiritual growth.***



#### **WHAT THE FAMILY RETREAT MEANS TO ME - by Nancy Omonte**

Reconnection with loved ones, nature and faith. These three words come to mind when thinking about Emmanuel's Family Retreat. I am an active member of ELC, wife and mother of two lively children ages 10 and 12! I also work full time in the Lee County Public Schools. About four years ago, we attended for the first time, and have now made it our family tradition.



When you attend this retreat, you can expect to make a deeper connection with your family and other church members. We have campfires, organized activities and peaceful times with nature. You can unplug and truly enjoy time by yourself rejuvenating in the woods or connecting with new and old friends through small group activities. We enjoy the meals that are homemade, bountiful and fresh. At the end of the weekend, we all silently walk to the middle of the woods and have our Sunday Worship Service surrounded by trees and birds chirping. If you are looking for a way to reconnect as a family, couple or just yourself, I highly recommend this fun, yet peaceful weekend away in the woods! (*See above information to attend this year.*)

**FINANCIAL UPDATE** (as of November 30, 2017)

TOTAL INCOME FROM ALL SOURCES	Budget Year to Date \$1,701,422	Actual Year to Date \$1,491,265
TOTAL OVERALL EXPENSES	Budget Year to Date \$1,860,841	Actual Year to Date \$1,694,751
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	November 2016 473	November 2017 504



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, **the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.**

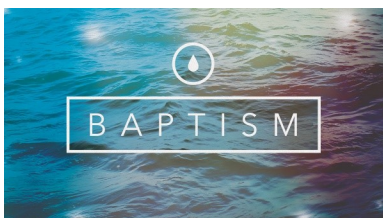
On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization. Emmanuel Lutheran Evangelical Church is one of those organizations. **So, if you shop with Amazon, remember to go through AmazonSmile and select Emmanuel Lutheran Evangelical Church.** *(Tell your family and friends to do the same.)*

*Last year we had \$300 in donations through AmazonSmile. We hope with more participation from the congregation that this number will increase in 2018.*

Emmanuel wants to remind you that we offer **electronic giving** as a way to **automate your regular weekly offering.** It's a convenient way of giving that will bring order and consistency to the way you give. You simply designate the amount, the frequency and the payment method. We also invite you to **consider using electronic giving for one-time gifts** including seasonal giving, year-end giving and donations to our special funds. **Getting started is easy.** *Visit online at [www.naplesemmanuel.org](http://www.naplesemmanuel.org), click on the Share tab/ online giving and click on Create Your Profile and Establish on-line giving. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history.* Of course, if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office.



## Baptisms



Shelby Ann Louise Schwartz - December 30, 2017

Camden Westley Dick - December 30, 2017

Casey Scott Dick - December 30, 2017

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February Newsletter deadline is January 20th.

Please e-mail Jennifer, [jennifer@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:jennifer@naplesemmanuel.org), with any information by this date.



## Some notes from your new Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts, Colin Hart:

Thank you all for your continued welcome into this vibrant, spirit-led community! My wife Emily and I have been blessed by so many of you, and look forward to continuing to nurture and grow those relationships. From the minute we stepped onto the Emmanuel grounds we have felt like family.

**Here are some upcoming events/opportunities we would love for everyone to be aware of and part of as you are able:**

\* The **Alive Band** is always looking for additional singers/instrumentalists to either join our regular rotation, or to feature as guest artists providing special music for the service.

\* We will be holding an **Earth Day Concert at Cambier Park, April 22nd 2018** with Creation Care workshops leading up to that event. More information will continue to be released as we move closer to the new year. Volunteers with a variety of different skill-sets will be useful in getting this program up and running.

\* I am also laying the foundation for a **songwriting workshop** where participants will learn to put their creative ideas into a fully realized song, and a summer youth musical theatre program.

\* If you are interested in any of these opportunities and would like to be a part of their development or receive more information, please feel free to contact me:

[colin@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:colin@naplesemmanuel.org)

[cphart42@gmail.com](mailto:cphart42@gmail.com)

(812) 345-0230

I am also, of course, always looking to improve the work we are doing here at Emmanuel, as well as seeking new ways to expand our Church's reach into and service of our community. So please feel free to run any ideas for how we can be better acting as Christ's hands and feet in Naples by me. Thank you again for all your support and love!

*– Colin Hart, Associate Director of Music & Worship Arts*



### SINGING IN THE CHOIR

The Emmanuel Choir is singing at church services throughout the season. If you enjoy singing, and enjoy having good fun and fellowship, the Emmanuel Choir is for you! Please come to one of our rehearsals, which take place at Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Denisen at 239-793-2254, or [ddenisen@hotmail.com](mailto:ddenisen@hotmail.com).



## Upcoming Events / Clubs

### Lit and Latte Book Club

Everyone in the community are invited to join our group. Please feel free to bring houseguests and friends, as all are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Kischer at [bkischer@yahoo.com](mailto:bkischer@yahoo.com). We meet in the WELCA room (above the church offices) monthly from **2:00-3:30 PM**. Please join us.



Dates are: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14. You can get a list of the books from the church office.

**"Earth Day 2018: Water is Life"** is kicking off early with our first workshop "Ground Water is Life: The Impact of Hydraulic Fracturing." This free event will be hosted by Naples UCC at **5:30pm on January 8th**. Come learn from a presentation by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, and discover how to make a difference in Florida policy.



**Earth Day Event - Free Earth Day Concert!** Wide array of genres. **April 22nd, 2018**. Cambier Park, Downtown Naples. Music starts at 5:00pm. Info tables and activities for all. Come and go as needed! For more info contact Colin Hart: [colin@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:colin@naplesemmanuel.org) / (239) 261-0894



**WELCA** Circles will meet on the 3rd Thursday of January. More information to follow in the Star.



**Social Bridge:** We play Fridays at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested, please call Don Brown at 239-435-0043. We will begin play when we have enough response for at least 2 tables. We're a group of primarily Emmanuel members, but your friends and neighbors are welcome as well. We need couples (guy/gal – gal/gal – guy/guy) – and subs!

### WOMEN WITH WOMEN

All women who wish to explore the possibilities of new friendships together.

**January 17:** Brio's for lunch (noon) then walk around Waterside Shops - either meet at Brio's or carpool from Emmanuel

**February 21:** Holocaust museum and then lunch at MR. Big Fish - carpool at Emmanuel - meet at church at 9:30am or be at holocaust museum for tour at 10am

**March 18:** beading for Haiti sale - all services

If you have questions call Jeanette O'Connor at 239-594-8179 or Carol Duncan at 239-777-3213.



**Mah Jongg** is still alive at Emmanuel - join us on Fridays at 1:00 in the Stephen Ministry room on the second floor. If you have any questions, please call Carol Duncan at 239-777-3213.

The **Tuesday Stitchers** (quilters) meet every Tuesday morning in the Community Room from 9:30-1:30. New people are always welcome. No sewing experience required. For more information call Jane Hauck at 605-366-4338.



### Beading for Haiti Project Paperbead Jewelry

**YOU** can make a tremendous difference in the lives of the Haitian children at the Village of Hope! Come to Emmanuel, the **every Wednesday** from **1 pm to 3 pm** and learn to make colorful and stylish paper beads and to assemble them into gorgeous designer necklaces, bracelets, and earrings.

Interested? Contact Carol Duncan at 239-777-3213

Check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/beadingforhaiti](http://www.facebook.com/beadingforhaiti)

Village of Hope Webpage [www.villageofhopehaiti.org](http://www.villageofhopehaiti.org)



**Come join us every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.**

# Volunteers Needed

## MEMBER DIRECTORY

Lifetouch will be coming Jan 30 - Feb 3 to update portraits for our new 2018 Directory. **We are looking for 10 - 15 people who will greet members at the time of their portraits.** It is a fun way of meeting people within our church family. Please call Jennifer at 239-261-0894 if you are interested in helping or if you need to schedule your appointment.

## FLOWER MINISTRY

We are looking for two - three people to deliver flowers to some of our homebound members. The commitment would be once a month. If you are interested, call Carol Hartman at 239-261-0894.



## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS



Joyce is always looking for more **Worship Participants:** Greeters, Ushers, Assisting Ministers, Lectors, and Acolytes. If you are interested, we will train you—just email Joyce at [joyce@naplesemmanuel.org](mailto:joyce@naplesemmanuel.org).



**Get Involved  
in Worship**

## ALTAR GUILD

Would you like to help in one of the most important ministries of the church? **Join the Altar Guild!** Setting the Table for Holy Communion is a most rewarding experience—there is much more to it than meets the eye. If you would like to try it, contact Joyce or Diedre Milligan, head of the Altar Guild, at [nellefl@embarqmail.com](mailto:nellefl@embarqmail.com).

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee is looking for a couple new members to join their team. If you have interest in fundraising and have a passion for helping to build a lasting legacy of faith, you may be interested in becoming a team player on this committee. **Endowment gifts allow us to reach goals and dreams beyond the scope of the annual stewardship giving.** If you think you have interest please contact **Rick Boe**, chairperson at **239-949-6542** or send him an email at [rwboe@icloud.com](mailto:rwboe@icloud.com)

