

EMANUEL CHURCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PASTOR

*“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,
and to God the things that are God's.”*
(Matthew 21:22)

Jesus' words in Matthew 21:22 are in response to the question of Christians' obligation to pay taxes. Looking at the full context of Jesus' words, the questioners were attempting to draw Jesus into a political confrontation that would land him in jail. Jesus' response astonishes the Pharisees who had “laid a trap for him.” Jesus could not be baited and his message, like his mission, is clear.

A historical journey and look at the church, will reveal that in every instance that the church failed to heed Jesus' words and became embroiled in politics (inside and outside the church) the situation resulted in corruption, violence, bloodshed, and turning its back on God's teachings and commands. Too often pitting Christian against Christian. Too often, instead of standing for Christ and his teachings, Christians have acted out violently and murderously against those whom Christ would consider the “lost sheep.”

Regretfully, over the years the church in America has come to reflect the culture of politics. Today we live in an America that is politically divided — ideologically, morally, religiously, and socially.

Are we, as Christians, going to stand firm in our beliefs and faith— that our hope is “sure and certain” in Christ Jesus and God's promises for our future? Or are we going to shout, threaten, and attack those who Jesus' has called us to share the Good News with?

Do not be wise in your own eyes but fear the Lord and shun evil (Proverbs 3:7).

EMANUEL WOMEN

1 Month – 2 Missions

During the month of October, Emanuel Women will be hosting a **Dignity Drive**. We are collecting brand new underwear and socks in all sizes for both adults and children, along with feminine hygiene products. These essential items will be shared with those in need in our community. More information is available on the table in the Narthex. We invite you to join us in this effort by contributing items and keeping those we serve in your prayers.

FROM THE PRAYER GROUPS

A Praying Life Seminar

Based on the book *A Praying Life* by Paul E. Miller

Join us October 17–18 at Walnut Hill Church for a powerful seminar focused on deepening your relationship with God through prayer.

Cost is \$35 for individuals and \$60 for couples. Young adults ages 12–18 can attend for free!

Registration information is available in the narthex. Seating is limited, so register soon!

YOUTH GROUP FROM MICHELLE & JOSH

Happy Fall Emanuel Family! The Youth Group has begun! We had a great kickoff party for the kids filled with pizza, games and plenty of treats! Our first Wednesday with the kids was wonderful. We had about 14 middle school kids and 23 high school kids. Lots of new faces this year too. We are going to be doing the Seamless Study. It is a great overview of the bible and will help thread it all together in one seamless story. With so many new members this will be a great way to give a base of the bible before diving deeper into different sections. We are looking forward to a great year ahead.