

# Next Sunday, February 19th, is our *Fling Wide the Door...INSPIRATION SUNDAY!*



## FLING WIDE THE DOOR Embracing All In Christ

Our Volunteer Inspiration Team has been working faithfully behind the scenes to create Inspiration Bags for every household of Emmanuel. We want it to be a big Sunday, filled with excitement and vision for our future together as we work to answer God's call to ***Fling Wide the Door.***

Included in these bags will be your invitation to the ***Fling Wide the Door*** All Congregation Event on Friday, March 24th from 5:30 to 8:30 at our Mooring Line Drive campus.

Be sure to join us for a catered meal and an informative presentation about the scope of the campaign. No commitments will be made at the event.

Also included in the bag you will receive next week is a book of stories, authored by the disciples of Emmanuel. Our members share reflections on where they've experienced the joy of generosity in their lives. In addition to the storybook, you will also receive a copy of our Campaign Prayer and the lyrics for the hymn ***Fling Wide the Door*** that inspired our theme.

Please place these in a prominent place in your home and pray daily for Emmanuel and our communities, the campaign, and our hard-working volunteers.



If you are not in worship next Sunday, we will make every effort to keep track and mail your bag to you. We know that catching people coming and going from our many services can be difficult, so be sure to seek out your bag.

## *Fling Wide the Door...Embracing All in Christ Campaign Prayer*

Most gracious and loving God,

Thank you for the people that make up Emmanuel... ***“God with Us”*** Lutheran Church, here in Naples, Florida. We are grateful that you shower us with blessings that touch the lives of so many. As we Fling Wide the Door to embrace all in your name, may our response to your grace be one of generosity and welcome.

We thank you for the Spirit’s guidance of Emmanuel Academies as we Reform Theological Education for All. We rejoice and express our gratitude for leading more than 50 students on three continents to our seminary and empowering each to invest in themselves for the benefit of their neighbors and the world. We give thanks for the faculty members who curate learning experiences for each seminarian’s context.

We pray that Emmanuel Park Church continues as the Eastside door, open to our neighbors in Collier County. We pray that we as Christ’s ambassadors continue to reflect God’s grace so people know they can walk through the open door and into a community that bears the love and the wounds of Jesus.

We lift up the people of Emmanuel Community Church who provide a welcoming place for people of all cultures and ages. We give thanks that your love comes in all languages.

You call us to make disciples of all nations baptizing and teaching all that you have taught us. We come before your throne of grace asking that your Holy Spirit bless and enrich our educational ministries at Emmanuel so that disciples are formed and strengthened in the faith. Help us to grow deeper in your word so that we might serve you and our neighbors more faithfully.

We pray all these things in the Name of Jesus, trusting that he will indeed hear our prayer and guide our footsteps as one church, multiple communities.

Amen

### **Step 2: Seek in Prayer God’s Will for Your Giving**

What do we tend to do when the church asks for our support? The common tendency is to consult our spouse, our budget, our bills, our income, our tax situation, our investments, our accountant, etc., and then determine what we can afford or spare.

Instead, we should as Christians seek to discover what God’s will is for us in our giving. A Christian pledge can really only be made on our knees, seeking God’s will in fervent prayer. Prayer is an integral part of the Christian life. The decision on how much to give should not be made without seeking first in prayer what God would have us do.