

# *National Capital Area Emmaus*

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## **FROM THE NCA EMMAUS COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR**

One time a year the United States celebrates a day of national thanksgiving. This day of thanks, which we should celebrate every day, is observed on the fourth Thursday of November each year. While it holds historical significance, the general theme is a day set aside for us to reflect beyond our selfish needs and turn our attention to God and what he has done in our lives by enjoying a day of celebration and rest. Today most Thanksgivings are commemorated with a meal that results in a food coma bookended with plenty of couch time watching football, parades, or the National Dog Show. For me, Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays and I look forward to it each year. However, this is 2020 and like most things this year, Thanksgiving will be much different than the “normal.”



Families with gather together on Thanksgiving Day and will sit down to their tables and find it hard to be thankful. Chairs that are usually filled with family members or friends sit empty because they do not feel safe gathering together due to the risk to their health or because of loss. This pandemic has strained all of us both physically and emotionally and the impact lingers on as we continue to carry this pain.

## Community Lay Director Continued:

This year, I as we sit down at the table and give thanks for our meal and many blessings. I will be praying for each of you in our community.

*Father God, this year has been hard for many of us. The challenges we have faced this year have been overwhelming, and we cannot ignore the fact that these feelings linger as does the pain. But we remember you are a God who loves us, cares for us, heals us, and forgives us. In the lingering of sadness and pain give us peace. Help us find the time build the relationships that are so very dear to all of us in our community. We not only give thanks for this great meal but your salvation and the opportunity for eternity together. I pray we will all meet together again one day very soon.*

Amen

Chris Scholz

Community Lay Director



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## FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

### *Pastor Jose, Spiritual Director*

In our Emmaus community we have the privilege of showing God's love to the world in a unique and special way. And so Christ's answer to the Pharisee who asked Him what's the greatest commandment, is especially important to us. We all remember that in Matthews version of this story, Matthew 22: 34-46, the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus with this question, in essence asking what part of scripture is more important, what's the number one law? But Jesus doesn't fall for their trap instead He answers by asking what is the summation of the law? This is not just a Biblical question; it is not just a doctrinal question. It is a life question, a living question. How do you live your life? What code do you follow? I believe it is our focus on this question that makes our community unique and powerful.

As Christians we are called to love as God loves, perfectly, sacrificially, completely. We don't get to pick and choose who we are going to love or when we are going to love or even how we are going to love. We are called to love as Christ loved, Who gave Himself up for us. Let us be clear, Christ left heaven, came to earth as a baby, lived every step in touch with the Father's will and died that we might have life. This is the example of Christian love that we are called to emulate, love as God loves and as Christ demonstrated. A love that stops at nothing, a love that gives completely, a love that includes everybody.

In the second half of our scripture after Jesus has answered the question posed, He turns and asks the Pharisees a question. Jesus is trying His best to teach the teachers asking: <sup>41</sup> ... "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "*The Son of David.*"

<sup>43</sup> Jesus said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying:

<sup>4</sup> 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" '?

<sup>45</sup> If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" <sup>46</sup> And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

## Spiritual Director Continued:

Jesus says, look guys your own scriptures testify that the Son of God is coming from the house of David so why is it so hard for you to believe that I am the Son of God and that you need to listen to Me. Why is it so hard for you to love and reach out to your brothers and sisters with the same love God has already shown to you?



Put aside your interpretations, your personal beliefs about what My word says and listen to what I am telling you. Obeying the law means you have to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' Loving God means you love your neighbor as yourself, forgiving them 70 times 7 and loving God means you love your enemies.

For it is on these two commands that our life, and the life of our community, must be based if we want to be the kingdom of God that Christ has called us to be. God's kingdom starts with God, Who put love first, Who completed the law on the cross, and Who calls us to live His love. In our Emmaus community we need to live as Christ showed us how, by loving God completely, with all we are, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

In Christ,

Jose Saldana



## From the NCAE MD

Isaiah 49:13.

“Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.”



October Ultreya online was joyful. Edwin Darden blessed us all with sharing from his heart. Milton Zapata and the gang lead music, with Ed's talk song being "The Voice of Truth". The emphasis on the song being "Do not be afraid", "it tells me a different story", "this is for My glory" - such rich lyrics.

November music will be lead by Jerry Wills and Eric Teitelman. There will be a special treat with Hebrew lyrics in one of the songs. It will be a "Blessing"! This journey has kept us focused on Jesus and thinking of the NCAE community. If you have songs you prefer or would like to participate, please reach out to us. We are holding to the recommended social distancing guidelines. There are opportunities to serve in various ways. Huge thanks to all who serve the Lord by their commitment to making the recordings happen. You are a blessing! May you be richly blessed.

De Colores & Fly With Christ

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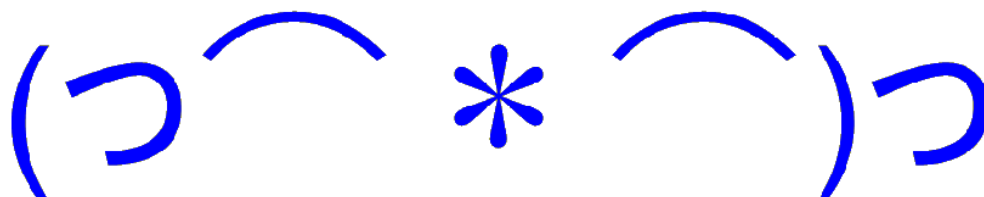
## COMMUNITY PALANCA

Three Cheers for Palanca ! We are so excited to carry on our love of Emmaus by helping with Palanca . We are ready to collect, organize and distribute Palanca.

Do you want to make palanca bags ? We have a pattern .

Join us on this Rainbow journey... As we share God's love .

Ruth Washburg and Becca Washburg



**November Ultreya**

**November 20, 2020**

Log in to <https://ncaemmaus.online.church>

**for the Virtual Ultreya!**

**Join the community in music, worship and prayer.**

**Virtual hugs and love from our music team and**

**others will fill your 4th day with JOY!**

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**Fourth-Day-Journal**  
**National Capital Area Emmaus**

