

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXVI No. 10
November 2011

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel's mission is to witness
to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community
and the world through discipleship and service.**

My Walk in Faith ...

My Walk in Faith started the day I was born. Being born into a strong Christian family, those values were instilled in me from day one. I was one of six children (being the baby until I was 9 – then my little brother took that title away from me!).

I grew up on a farm outside of Deshler, across the road from our church – and that church was like my second home. Sunday morning church services and Sunday School, choir practices, Junior Lutherans, Catechism and Summer School. My best friends were my “church friends” so I was happy to attend anything knowing we’d all be together.

In addition to my family, I was very blessed to have had many other people that influenced my faith throughout my growing up years. Of course, there were my Sunday School teachers who were responsible for a lot of my “faith learning.” But one of the most influential people was Pastor Ballas. He had a way of getting through to me that no one else did. He was my Pastor, Catechism instructor, Summer School teacher, next door neighbor, and mentor. If he said it, I knew it had to be true. And if there was something I didn’t understand, he always

explained it in terms that made it seem so simple. After my father died of a massive heart attack when I was only 13, Pastor Ballas took me under his wing and also became a father-figure to me. We had a lot of heart-to-heart talks, and he made sure I was taken care of. I looked up to him like he was my father. I owe so much to him. He helped steer me in the right direction on my Walk in Faith. Unfortunately, he died before I was able to tell him just how much he meant to me. But I like to think that he knew.

When I was 17, my mother met a man and started dating – much to my horror. My older siblings thought it was great; however, I was not at all happy about the situation. We were getting along just fine, and my little brother and I had adjusted to not having a father. I didn’t need a stranger coming into our lives and trying to take his place. So, to put it simply, I wasn’t very nice to him and it was very uncomfortable at our house for a while. Then my older siblings decided it was time to take the matter into their own hands and sat me down, and in simple terms, told me how selfish I was being. They finally got through to me, and I gave her my blessing. They were married in December of 1976. If only I had know then that this man was

going to be one of the biggest influences in my life! Never have I met a man with a stronger faith than Eldon. He was the most loving, caring, honest, generous and genuine Christian man I have ever met. He refused to call us his “step-children” – we were his kids and that’s all there was to it. He treated me like his own daughter, and 5 years later I asked him to give me away at my wedding. He cried the whole way down the aisle. Just watching the way he lived helped to strengthen my faith. The fact that God gave me 2 wonderful fathers in my lifetime made me know that he truly loved me and cared about me. I was very, very blessed. In 2001, Eldon died after a very short illness. Watching him take his last breath was the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life. I miss him every day.

My mom went through the loss of 2 husbands, but she was a real pillar of strength. She is my rock. When life gets tough, her faith gets stronger. She has taught me that there is nothing life can deal us that we can’t handle with God’s help. We just have to know enough to ask.

Pastor and Pat Updegraff also had a big impact on my Walk. I looked up to and respected them both and considered them good friends. When that whole episode took place, I wasn’t sure I wanted to continue being a member of Emanuel. But we stuck it out, and I’m so glad we did. We are so blessed to have Pastor Castello and Angela, and they will now continue to walk

along with me! I have learned so much from both of them.

I have been very blessed with a wonderful husband, 3 sons and a daughter-in-law. From the day Marv and I met in high school (standing next to each other in choir), music has been a big connection for us. I had sung in church choir since I was little, but it wasn’t until I met him that I really understood the significance of music in our lives. Praising God through music is so spiritually fulfilling, and it has played a large part in my walk in faith. From the day our kids were born (even in the womb) they have been exposed to music of all kinds, and they all have a passion for it as well. From singing in choirs, to singing or playing in bands, to singing at church, weddings, funerals, to musicals, to majoring in it in college – music plays a huge part in our family.

Marv and I have tried to instill our faith and values in our kids, and I feel we have succeeded. I am still learning every day, and hopefully they are, too. My walk in faith will continue until the day I die, when I can finally make my home in heaven and let all those who went before me know how much impact they had on my life!

Peder Eide, Christian song writer, says it the best – *“God is Good – All the Time. All the Time – God is Good.”*

Julie Mt. Castle

A stanza for Veterans Day

As we remember America's veterans on November 11, we would do well to read again the third stanza of Katherine Lee Bates' America the Beautiful:

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self
Their country loved,
And mercy more than life!

America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

THANK YOU!

- I appreciated being remembered by receiving the angel night light. Also, the cards received while recuperating in the Lutheran Home. Pastor Castello's visits meant very much to me.
-God bless you all, Evelyn M. Carlile
- Thank you for the recent donation of school supplies to our school. There were numerous students who benefitted from your generosity. We appreciate your dedication each year to the education of children in Northwest Ohio.
-Stephen Seagrave, Principal, Liberty Center
- Thank you so much for all the donated school supplies. They have been all put to good use. It is nice to have community support for the kids.
-Thanks again, Patrick Henry Middle School
- Thank you for the bookbag and all the wonderful school supplies in it. We truly appreciate your kindness and will put the supplies to good use. Thanks again!
-Heather Wanless, Secretary, Deshler Elementary School
- Thanks for the thoughts, cards and prayers during my recent surgery and hospital stay. Also thank you for the afghan Pastor delivered and for Pastor Castello's visits and prayers.
-Julian Gerken

Lutheran Home Auxiliary "Tree of Lights"

Monday, December 5

You are invited to join fellow Christians with your "helping hands and loving hands" by honoring/remembering a loved one with a name on the ribbon to help decorate the "Christmas Tree of Lights" at The Lutheran Home in Napoleon. There are forms on the bulletin board by the church office to fill out and mail with your donation. Deadline is November 28.

Organ Donation

November is Organ and Tissue donation month. Please take a moment to pray for the 112,000 men, women and children who are desperately awaiting life-saving transplants in the U.S., and for the families who have generously given life to others through organ and tissue donation. For more information, call Life Connection of Ohio at 800.262.5443. To join the Ohio Donor Registry, visit www.DonateLifeOhio.org.

from the Congregational Life Board

Caring/Donation Corner for November

Caring Corner for November will be **Christmas Cheer**. This would include any non-perishable food items and/or health & beauty items such as body soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. Thank you for your continued support for our Caring Corner. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Project We Care

Emanuel will again be participating in Project We Care this year. The tree will be up shortly after Thanksgiving. More information will be in the Sunday bulletins.

CROP Walk

We had a beautiful day for this year's Crop Walk. Eleven people and 2 "Lutheran" dogs participated in this year's walk and \$1,100.00 was collected. Thank you goes out to the participants and to those who made donations toward this cause.

Reformation Sunday potluck

We will be having a potluck on October 30 following the congregational meeting. We invite all to come and join in the fellowship. In observance of Reformation Sunday, we thought it would be interesting to see how many red food items we can have at the potluck.

New members

We will also be recognizing our new members to Emanuel on Reformation Sunday and we invite those new members to be honored guests at the potluck.

Salvation Army Ringers

We need Salvation Army bell ringers. We will be volunteering November 19 at Wal-Mart from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. There are 6 different shifts to choose from and we invite adults and jr high to sign up. At least one adult must be at each door or 2 jr. high or high school students at each. Below jr. high are also invited but must have an adult with them. This happens rain or shine, so you need to dress accordingly. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board. Please consider volunteering and for those high school seniors, it may count towards your community service hours.

Membership News

Births Congratulations to:
Kurt & Kristy Landversicht on the birth of Emma Kate on October 15 in Lexington, Kentucky. Proud grandparents are Richard & Susan Landversicht.
Andy & Becky (Castello) Aelker on the birth of Lucas James on October 15 in Fremont. Pastor & Carol Castello are the proud grandparents of Lucas.

WE APPRECIATE HEARING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY NEWS (BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, ETC.).

We would like to include your family's birthdays in our birthday prayers on Sundays, in which case we would need those names and dates. We would also like to know the names of all those family members serving in the military.

All Saints Sunday

Celebrate with us the lives of all believers who have died in the faith and our own ancestors and relatives. Members of our congregation who have died in the preceding 12 months will be remembered by name in the prayers on this day:

Jim Hustwick
Arthur C. Rohrs
Henry Langenhop
Sarah Peper

Lenora Satchell
Arthur Lange
Elinor Brown
Jeff Eickhoff

Esther Fouts
Marge Gathman
Paul Bressler

God's precious saints

A man mourning the sudden death of his young wife wondered, "Where was God when Jenny died?" Unable to sleep one night, he turned to Scripture and read Psalm 116:3 (NIV): "The anguish of the grave came upon me: I was overcome by trouble and sorrow." The man's anguish echoed the psalmist's.

Reading on, he discovered verse 15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

"What does it mean by precious?" the man wondered. The footnote proved helpful: "Not in the sense of highly valued, but of that which is carefully watched over." The widower pictured God watching over his wife in her last moments. "That's where God was," the man thought with relief, "with Jenny the whole time."

May we, too, be assured that God truly cares for his saints — not only at death but also in life, through grief and into healing.

Remember our members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities with prayers, cards, visits.

Lutheran Home (1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon)

Paul Panning **Alfred "Petey" Ruetz**

Ted Titgemeyer

Alpine Village Assisted Living (1032 S. Perry, Napoleon)

Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410) **Herman Campbell** (#313)

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon)

Julia Arps (mailing address: 8271 Co Rd T Liberty Center, OH 43532)

Golden Center Living Center-Northcrest (240 Northcrest Dr, Napoleon)

Ruth Delaney **Alice Langenhop**

Church Office Hours

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
810 Scott Street, P.O. Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545 (419-592-2616) emanuel@bright.net
www.emanuelnapoleon.org

Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com

Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond

Congregation President - Gary Bostelman

Women of the ELCA President - Marilyn Fretz

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@yahoo.com)

Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes

Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink

Asst. Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning

Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle

Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring

Sunday School Superintendent - Angela Sosebee

Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman

Custodian - Jack Robbins

2011 Church Council

President - Gary Bostelman

President-Elect - Ron Wiechers

Secretary - Jenny Perdew

Treasurer - Julie Kohout

Doctrine & Worship Board - Holly Mohring & Terry Hershberger

Congregational Life Board - Terri Haase & Carol Castello

Board of Education - Jamie Glick & Julie Mt.Castle

Properties Board - Matt Mt.Castle & Jeff Sharpe

Finance Board - Martha Young & Loralee Jones

Worship participants in November

Acolytes

8:00 - Bryce Reynolds & Stephen Yunker
10:30 - Alex Andrews & Meghan Skeens

Lay Assistant

8:00 - Melinda Dachenhaus
10:30 - Laura Ellis

Altar Guild

Joyce Rohrs & Nicole Schink

Ushers

8:00 Lee Weirauch, Casey Callaway,
Lenny Sonnenberg, Ruth Hershberger
10:30 Matt Mt.Castle, Gary Bostelman,
Rupert Schweinhagen, Chris Peper

Altar Flowers

November 6 - in loving memory of Edwin Bahler by his family
- in loving memory of Vernon Rohrs by his family

November 13 - Chris & Maureen Peper

November 20 - Norm & Kathy Bostelman

- Lester & Marilyn Kruse in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 24

November 27 - Joe & Julie Kohout in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary

To reserve altar flowers...

Simply sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office. Our flowers are done by Ivy League Floral & Design Studio on West Washington Street. The cost is \$20. If you have *special* orders for your flowers (certain colors, a larger arrangement, etc.), they will be happy to serve you. Please contact Cori Ratliff at Ivy League for these special orders. If your order is beyond the \$20, please pay the shop directly.

***** We are recycling the used plastic containers that the altar flowers come in. They can be put in Angela's office. *****

Statistics

Thursday, Sept. 22 attendance 37 communed 33

Sunday, September 25
attendance 88 + 105 (193)
Offerings \$ 3,911.50
105 Building Fund
5 World Hunger

Thursday, September 29 attendance 30

Sunday, October 2
attendance 96 + 99 (195) communed 89
Offerings \$ 25,124.97
20,750 Building Fund
15 Good Samaritan Fund
5 World Hunger
20 Mem to Bldg Fd - Eldor Baden

Thursday, October 6 attendance 33

Sunday, October 9
attendance 78 + 109(187) communed 102
Offerings \$ 4,605.00
220 Building Fund
10 World Hunger

Thursday, October 13 attendance 25

Sunday, October 16
attendance 86 + 117 (203)
Offerings \$ 5,147.77
320 Building Fund
5 World Hunger
25 Good Samaritan Fund

Handicap Assistance During Construction

We need the congregation to be aware during construction that we will have members who have some mobility issues that will need help. This may include carrying them upstairs, but will mostly be simply helping them up the stairs, walking behind them, giving them a hand, etc. This includes before and after church. If we can all be vigilant about this, it will help greatly.

We also need to move all handicap parking to the back door during construction and ask our able bodied members to leave spaces available near the doors for those members who will most benefit from them.

Any members who are willing, able and usually available to be called upon to help should let Doctrine and Worship (Holly Mohring and Terry Hershberger) or Pastor Castello know.

Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

Adult Choir

Thank you for doing such a good job last month with the specially requested song! Practices continue each week on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will spend the entire month of November working on Christmas music

Due to the community Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 23, practice time will be changed. Watch the bulletin for details.

After School Club

We are off to a great start this year with 11 children joining us each Wednesday after school. We enjoy learning new music, making crafts, and growing in our faith. We are excited to sing a favorite song in November about kindness and acceptance.

There will be NO After School Club on Wednesday, November 23.

Living Spirit

Living Spirit continues to rehearse each Wednesday from 8:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the chapel. Remember, we sing on the fourth Sunday this month, November 27.

No rehearsal on Wednesday, November 23.

All Saints Day

On Sunday, November 6, All Saints Sunday is celebrated. We will hand out white carnations that morning for members to place on the altar in remembrance of loved ones who have passed away this year.

Community Thanksgiving Service

The community Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 23, at St. Paul United Methodist Church on West Washington Street (by the post office). Worship begins at 7:30 p.m. Musicians from Emanuel will take part in the service.

Advent

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. We will begin lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. Once again, we will have Emanuel families helping with this.

The Advent wreath has four blue candles, symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love. The wreath itself is an image of everlasting life, the crown of Jesus, and a victory wreath. Lighting candles in the winter season of growing darkness reminds us to let the light of Jesus shine through us for the whole world to see.

Website

Be sure to check out Emanuel's website! We are changing and updating some things and worship times, and special occasion information can be found there (thanks to Kyle Miller for helping with this).

Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 26 at 9:00 a.m. We need help!

Looking Ahead...

Our services will be broadcast on WNDH in the month of December.

December 18, Christmas Cantata, one service at 9:00 a.m.

December 24, Christmas Eve, Children's program at 7:00 p.m.

Candlelight service at 11:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

December 25, Christmas Day, one service at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

December 31, New Year's Eve, service at 7:00 p.m.

January 1, New Year's Day, one service at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion

A Happy Thanksgiving to our Emanuel family from the Tonjes family; you are such a blessing to us all year long!

Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18-20

Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives

Together We Can Make A Difference is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting people of all ages in Northwest Ohio with basic needs and resources that are unavailable with any government assistance programs. They have assisted over 1100 different families in the 10 months they have been in existence and can always use your monetary donations to purchase needed items. You should know that 100% of any money they receive is used to help those in need. If you would like to help out in any way, please call Kelli Burkhardt at 419-579-0199. Any donations can also be left in the church office and we will deliver them. Please make checks out to "Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives".

WELCA News

-Marilyn Fretz for the WELCA Board

A couple of dates to put on your calendar. First date is November 20 which will be our Thankoffering Sunday held at both services. Second one is a change on the General Meeting for installation of officers and Christmas Program in December. It will be held December 6 and not December 1.

The Nominating Committee is still working on getting ladies for different jobs. Don't hesitate to say "Yes".

I hope you have been filling your envelopes or boxes for our Thankoffering services. We know you all have many, many things to be thankful for every day. If you don't have the specially marked envelope, you may use one of your own and mark it "Thankoffering" and put it in the offering plate on November 20.

Still attending Circle Meetings? They are very full of information and the fellowship is great.

Missionary Sponsorship

It's that time of the year again to be "thankful" and show our support to the LeMonds who are doing missionary work. The Maumee Valley Conference (which we Emanuel women are a part of) contribute to this sponsorship.

Please place your donation in an envelope marked "Missionary Fund" and place it in the offering plate. You have the whole month of November to show our support for the LeMonds doing a great job. Thank you, ladies, for your donations.