

# Good News

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A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Volume XXXVI No. 11  
December 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.**

## *Christmas Services*

- |             |            |  |         |
|-------------|------------|--|---------|
| December 18 | 9:00 a.m.  | (ONE SERVICE)  | Cantata |
| December 24 | 7:00 p.m.  | Children's Program (30 minutes of pre-service music)             |         |
| December 24 | 11:00 p.m. | Candlelight Service (30 minutes of pre-service music, communion) |         |
| December 25 | 10:00 a.m. | Christmas Day Worship (one service, communion)                   |         |
| December 31 | 7:00 p.m.  | New Year's Eve Worship   |         |
| January 1   | 10:00 a.m. | New Year's Day Worship (one service, communion)                  |         |

## *Stopping by Emanuel on a Snowy Evening*

*(with sincere apologies to Robert Frost)*

Whose lives these are I think I know  
Who gather here to worship so  
And share with all the love of God;  
His grace and peace and love to show.  
You all must think it rather odd  
As, with this limping verse, I trod  
And try, in some way, to express  
Our thanks and give you each a nod.  
It's difficult, I must confess,  
To summarize here, more or less,  
How much we love you each and all  
and how much by you we are blessed!  
For seven years now with this call  
(time flies, and it has been a ball!),  
A family we've grown to be  
That lifts us up whene'er we fall.  
In May, it meant the world to me  
To feel your love and sympathy  
As Mom's life here on earth was done;  
His love and mercy I could see.  
We share a mission just begun  
Each day to try to touch someone;  
As we are Jesus' hands and feet,  
We press on, and His "race" we run.  
You've welcomed strangers here to eat;  
At services you've helped to greet;  
The cards you send; the smiles you share--  
These little things are no small feat.  
So, onwards, upwards! Show you care.  
Reach out to others. Keep in prayer.  
"As you shall sow, you also reap."  
Go spread the gospel everywhere.  
Our heartfelt gratitude is deep.  
The blessings of his Season keep.  
In heavenly peace may you now sleep,  
In heavenly peace may we all sleep.

**Joy to the world from the Castellos!**

*Season's Greetings and Love,  
Pastor & Carol*

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- I write to you today to express my gratitude for your support. Your gifts to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship support over 240 missionaries working hand in hand with our global neighbors in 50 countries around the world.

Your gifts make it possible for missionaries like Karen Anderson to provide public health care in Santiago, Chile. Your support allows Pastor Kevin Jacobson to preach and develop leaders within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname.

We can only do our work because of the ongoing support we receive from people like you. Together we are making a difference and for this, I give thanks.

-The Rev. Twila Schock, Director, ELCA Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals

## Ushers needed!

Ushers are especially needed for the 10:30 worship hour. If you would be willing to help out, please talk to Ken Lange or call the church office.

## *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 have moved all handicap parking to the back door during construction and ask our able bodied members to leave those spaces available near the doors for those members who will most benefit from them.

*from the Congregational Life Board*

*Caring/Donation Corner for November  
Project: We Care "Angel Tree"*

We have applied to "adopt" 45 kids for Christmas this year, and we are still awaiting all of our assigned families (we have 9 so far). Our "Angel Tree" will be located in the overflow area of the sanctuary. Decorated with paper angel "ornaments" (they will be numbered and/or "color-coded" to help ease the sorting of the gifts for delivery), each "angel" will list a boy or a girl with age or family with the number of family members and a gift suggestion, taken from the family's application form. Please choose a gift (or MORE than one!) that you are willing to buy, wrap, and "label" with the paper angel, and return it underneath (or by!) the tree no later than Friday, December 16. Each child will receive at least one new outfit (appropriate sizes are specified) and another gift or two. Every child in the same family will receive the same number of presents and each family will receive a holiday meal or a Chief gift card for such.

Please wrap your gift and "label" it by lightly attaching the angel. Chief gifts cards do not need to be wrapped; simply enclose in an envelope and "label" with the angel.

The junior high KFC kids will be going shopping on Sunday, December 11. If you would like to contribute to this, please feel free to give your donation to Carol Castello.

All "Angel Tree" gifts need to be brought to the church by Friday, December 16. Delivery to the families will take place on Monday and Tuesday, December 19 and 20, and we will, of course, invite them to worship with us here at Emanuel at Christmas and always. If you would like to help with the deliveries (the really fun part!), please see Carol Castello.

Bless you for sharing the joy of CHRISTmas in this way!

*Salvation Army Ringers*

We need Salvation Army bell ringers. We will be volunteering December 17 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.

## *“Here we come a-caroling...”*

Our “caroling caravan” will gather at the church at 1 p.m. (after Sunday School program practice) on Sunday, December 18, to spread some melodious and harmonious Christmas joy! All voices and bodies and ages are welcome, and we’ll plan to gather afterward back at the church for chili and hot chocolate! The more, the merrier, as we try to canvas the countryside until we’ve sung to you ALL...OR until our voices (and energies!) give out!

## *Alternative Gift-Giving for Christmas*

[www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)

ELCA Good Gifts makes it easy and fun to give meaningful “Make a Difference” gifts that further our ministry throughout the world! Check this website and /or pick up a catalog, and you’re bound to find a “Good Gift” that’s just right for everyone on your gift list! Love is a gift. Share it with others.

## *Membership News*

*Baptism* Evelyn Rynae Ruby, daughter of Stephanie Ruby & Josiah Wallace and born on August 13, will be baptized on December 11. Evelyn’s sponsors are Tiffany & Chad Rupp and Meredith Hoops.

Congratulations to Art & Leota Pedraza on the arrival of a granddaughter, Allyson Norma Marie Sexton, born to Ryan Sexton and Mandy Castorena on November 8, 2011!

### **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.

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.emanuelpoleon.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

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### **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

## *Children's Christmas Program*

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas is fast approaching and we are already preparing for the Children's Christmas Program which will be held on Christmas Eve at the 7 p.m. service. On Christmas Eve, all children need to be at Emanuel by 6:15 p.m. We invite you to come early and enjoy the pre-service music by Emanuel children that begins at 6:30 p.m. Children will return to the basement after the program and should be picked up there.

The first practice is being held on Sunday, December 18 at 11 a.m. (There will be only one service on that Sunday.) Our dress rehearsal will be held on Thursday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.

If you are not going to be in town and your children will not be participating in this program, please notify the children's Sunday School teacher or the After School Club leaders so we do not assign special parts to those not able to participate.

We look forward to another great performance by the children of Emanuel!

The Ridgeville Community Choir will present its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township, corner of Roads U and 16 in Henry County. Musical guests include the Northwesterners Barbershop Chorus, One Accord String Quartet and other local musicians. The Ridgeville Community Choir has included choir participants and musicians from throughout the four county area for 35 years. A free-will offering will be received.

## *Worship participants in December*

### Acolytes

8:00 Austin Damman & Alexandria Biederstedt  
10:30 Dalton Middleton & Madison Ashbaugh  
Chr Eve Ryan Kohout & Brock Brubaker  
Chr Day Alexandria Biederstedt &  
Madison Ashbaugh

### Altar Guild

Nanette Schwab & Susan DeMichiei-Mabee

### Lay Assistant

8:00 - 12/4 & 12/11 Terry Hershberger  
10:30 - 12/4 & 12/11 Karri Ashbaugh  
Christmas Day - Karri Ashbaugh  
NY Eve - Karri Ashbaugh

### Ushers

8:00 Tom & Barb Hoffman,  
Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt  
10:30 Ken Lange, Terry Walther,  
Tom Jenny, Kurt Rohrs

## *Altar Flowers*

December 4 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Leon Pauley

December 11 - Donnie Daman in loving memory of Orv

December 18 - in honor of Charlee Glick's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday

December 24 - Dille/Hoffman families in loving memory of Louise & Clem Hoffman

December 25 - Shirlee Mires-Fejes in loving memory of Phil & Lisa Mires and Nelson Fejes

### 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, Oct. 20 attendance 24 communed  
23

Sunday, October 23  
attendance 78 + 115 (193)  
Offerings \$ 4,083.50  
    145.00 Building Fund  
    5.00 World Hunger

Thursday, October 27 attendance 24

Sunday, October 30  
attendance 164  
Offerings \$ 3,434.00  
    125.00 Building Fund  
    75.00 Good Samaritan Fund  
    5.00 World Hunger

Thursday, November 3 attendance 24

Sunday, November 6  
attendance 130 + 107 (237) communed 119  
Offerings \$ 5,857.80  
    555.00 Building Fund  
    35.00 World Hunger

Thursday, November 10 attendance 20

Sunday, November 13  
attendance 80 + 123 (203) communed 94  
Offerings \$ 6,450.17  
    1,480.00 Building Fund  
    5.00 World Hunger

# Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

## *Adult Choir*

We have been busy practicing all the Christmas music for December. We will have rehearsals on Wednesday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. NO REHEARSAL on Wednesday, December 28.

All choir members are invited to the annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 21. Tom and Beth Jenny have once again graciously offered to host this year. Please bring a potluck dish and a spouse/friend. Party starts at 6:30.

## *After School Club*

A reminder, we will only have After School Club on Wednesday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 14. We'll see you all again on January 4!

We are practicing a candle lighting song to sing each Sunday of Advent. The children will be grouped together for duets and trios.

The children have been working hard on their Christmas songs. They will be singing on December 18 at the 9:00 a.m. Cantata, and on Christmas Eve at the children's program.

## *Junior High Youth*

Have you heard some of the songs that our junior high youth have been singing? We practice on Wednesdays as time allows. Look for them to sing about once a month.

## *Cantata*

The choir will present their annual Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 18. There will be ONE SERVICE that day at 9:00 a.m. Entitled "Ceremony of Candles", this cantata will feature choir, bell choir, children, candles, and music, music, music. This is our Christmas worship to God and our gift to our Emanuel family, so we hope you can join us!

## *Christmas Services*

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December 24	7:00 p.m.	Children's Program (30 minutes of pre-service music)
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January 1	10:00 a.m.	New Year's Day Worship (one service, communion)

## *Thank You*

I have many reasons to be thankful this holiday season. To those of you who...

...sang or rang or played an instrument or read lessons or  
participated in worship or gave a song suggestion or  
helped me in any way or sent a card or spoke kind words...

I thank you from the bottom of my heart. The Tonjes family is so blessed to be a part of this congregation. We wish you a Merry Christmas, and we look forward to a wonderful 2012 in worship of our Lord.

## **WELCA News**

**F**or the program at the General Meeting of the Women of the Church on December 6, we will be enjoying “Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Future”, and there will be some “group participation.” As part of celebrating Christmas present, you are asked to bring a gift for our “Angel Tree” families – child-size socks (for sizes 3-6 mos., 12 mos., 18 mos., 2T-5T, child’s 6-12 or men’s medium); these do NOT need to be wrapped! Let’s make it a “White Christmas” as we warm some toes with these gifts!

### *Mission Action*

**23 Quilts**

**29 School Kits**

**6 Personal Care Kits**

**4 Fabric Kits**

**4 Baby Care Kits**

were delivered to a drop off point in Pemberville in October. Thank you to everyone for their donations to Lutheran World Relief.

A special thanks to Dora Titgemeyer and Donna Meyers for the sewing of the school bags, the quilters, Carol Castello and the Sunday School children for their donations and help in assembling some of the School Kits.

## Christmas Poinsettias



The poinsettia sale will benefit Hospice of Henry County. All profits will directly benefit Henry County Hospice patients and their families.

The final day to order will be Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The plants will have 4 to 6 blooms and come in foiled pots. The cost is \$8.50; checks should be made payable to Emanuel Lutheran Church.

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(If no color is indicated, we will order red.)

COLOR PREFERENCE	QUANTITY
<input type="checkbox"/> Red	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> White	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Pink	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Jingle Bells (variegated red, white, and pink)	_____

Total Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

In memory of (deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of (living) \_\_\_\_\_