

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
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**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...

I was born August of 1962. I was blest with a Lutheran baptism and confirmation and a mother that never let me miss church or Sunday School.

After graduating from high school I became a farmer, but I think I was born a farmer. Being a farmer is another blessing. With working in the field all day I have a lot of time to dwell on my faith, to pray and talk to God, asking him what I need to do with farming, family and life in general. People ask me, how can you be a farmer? I answer with patience, faith, and trust in God. You do your part and leave the rest to God. It is something that I understand but if you're not a farmer, you may not. I give all the credit to God. There are so many stories in the Bible with the planting of seed and life of the seed and what it goes through in its life and what we have to face in our lives - planing, nurture, harvest.

In 1987 when I met Shelly and started dating, we would go to church with her grandmother. That turned out to be one quality in a woman I was looking for - how could I go wrong.

In 1992 I was working in a factory on a catwalk, lost my footing and fell 23 feet, breaking pelvis, wrist and elbow, and that was a blessing. A blessing? It could have been so much worse. I believe an angel held me as I fell. I ask God many times why, why, why? I think it was an eye-opening event for my faith. You realize what life, faith, love is all about.

My wife and I started a family in 1993 and are blest with two great children and are trying to give them a good base for their faith.

Another blessing is our church family. They all have had a very strong part in my life. And our pastor is fabulous; he brings it to me at a level which I can understand and grab.

With all that said, my faith is a work in progress, just like the life of that corn plant.

Alan Storch

Statistics

Sunday, January 22

attendance 110 + 109 (219)

Offerings \$4,403.80

\$ 160 Building Fund

5 World Hunger

25 Good Samaritan Fund

250 Partners in Educ

Sunday, February 12

attendance 71 + 102 (173) communed 88

Offerings \$5,637.18

\$ 490.00 Building Fund

230.00 World Hunger

35.00 Good Samaritan Fund

415.68 SOUPer Bowl of Caring

Sunday, January 29 (one service)

attendance 180

Offerings \$3,412.00

\$ 130 Building Fund

10 World Hunger

Sunday, February 19

attendance 94 + 126 (220)

Offerings \$4,526.25

\$ 255 Building Fund

75 Good Samaritan Fund

Sunday, February 5

attendance 118 + 110 (228) communed 105

Offerings \$25,520.55

\$ 20,825 Building Fund

105 World Hunger

10 Good Sam Fd

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- The beautiful sanctuary was reflected in the music that the Napoleon Community Band presented during its holiday Pops Concert in December. Many people from beyond the congregation were able to enjoy the music and fellowship we offered at Emanuel. Thanks for allowing us to present our concert in the church for the residents of Henry County and Northwest Ohio.

-Sincerely, Tom Jenny

Something new!

You are now able to check out Pastor Castello's sermons on YouTube!
Thanks to Douglas Hoffman for posting these!

On the radio

Our 10:30 services will be broadcast at 10:30 on Sunday mornings
during the month of March on WNDH 103.1 FM.

Henry County Solid Waste Events

The Henry Count Solid Waste District will be hosting two events this Spring:

1) Help Clean the Roads in Henry County by volunteering for the 15th annual Henry County Litter Round-up in April, 2012. For more information concerning this litter prevention program, please call the HC Solid Waste Office at 419-256-7343 and register by March 31st.

2) Support your favorite Henry County School by supporting the Electronic Recycling Fundraiser event on March 31, 2012. The schools will be recycling old computers and other outdated/obsolete electronic equipment. Bring anything with a power cord EXCEPT TVS and LARGE APPLIANCES to your local school between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Schools participating include Patrick Henry, Holgate, Napoleon and Liberty Center. Questions: call the HC Solid Waste Office at 419-256-7343.

from the Congregational Life Board

Caring Corner for March — LWR Personal Care Kits

THANK YOU to everyone who helped stock the shelves of the St. John's Episcopal food pantry with your generous donations in February. Emanuel is truly blessed with gracious givers! You've responded so wonderfully to the requests for local efforts that we're looking further away this month and collecting items for the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief:

“Starting with a Bath” When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world.

The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone the encouragement to start anew, starting with a bath. You can share God's grace and love by providing that simple comfort. Here's how:

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (maximum 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging *
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

* *Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

You don't need to donate everything for a kit; just donate any of the items that you find on sale! These kits will be compiled for the Women of the Church's delivery of the kits in the fall.

Time and Talents

Please remember to fill out your “Time & Talents” sheet! These green sheets are available at each entryway and can be returned in the offering plate or to the church office. Your church and your Lord need you! How can you serve??

Emanuel tackles hunger as Giants win SOUPer Bowl!!!

Emanuel correctly predicted the outcome of the SOUPer Bowl and collected a Giant victory with \$414.68 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (\$315.05 for the Giants; \$99.63 for the Patriots) and 108 canned good items for the St. John's Episcopal food pantry. Thank you for tackling hunger locally and throughout the world!

(Continued on next page)

*Don't just give up – give **More** for Lent*

Lent, the 40 days of self-examination and repentance before Easter, is a time for us to renew our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to recognize God's abundance expressed in the sacrificial death of Jesus. As a common Lenten discipline, many Christians give up something during Lent. This giving up or fasting usually lasts for the six weeks until Easter.

This Lent, don't just give up something, but give more and share gifts of gratitude that express in a tangible way what God has done for you. If nothing else, give more time to sharing God's love – send cards to people on the prayer list; invite a friend to our worship services on Sunday and/or Lenten Wednesday; introduce yourself to someone you don't know by name even here in our Emanuel "family"; help with "Soul Food"; volunteer at a non-profit organization whose work you support; etc.

Perhaps you will decide to throw your spare change into a bowl each day or each week, then donate that as an "extra" gift at Easter. Maybe you will collect "found money" – those stray coins you find on the sidewalk or in the parking lot or maybe even in a long-forgotten coat pocket. One idea I've read is to save aside any five dollar bills you receive as change whenever you purchase something; I like to think of that as "Lincolns for Lent".

Your simple Lenten "discipline" could culminate in an Easter gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Emanuel's Good Samaritan Fund, or some other ministry or "cause" that is dear to your heart.

Soul Food "Stirrings"

We have "expanded" our hours to accommodate our growing numbers, serving now from **5 to 6:30 p.m.!** Please bear with us as we "juggle" our cooking times to be sure we have plenty for the "latecomers" as well as the "early birds". You may notice unfamiliar faces at Soul Food as we reach out more as a community meal. Please welcome any visitors; introduce yourself and help them through the line; sit with them and talk with them. "As we have done it to the least of these, we do it also to Him!"

Free Basic Tax Filing in Henry County

If your household income is \$60,000 or less, you could qualify for free tax filing. One of the Benefit Bank Counselors can assist you with filing your 2011 Federal State and School District taxes.

No fees or charges – e-filing available!

Henry County Emergency Management Agency
1845 Oakwood Avenue in Napoleon
Fridays, beginning January 27 through March 16
Call 1-800-686-2964 to schedule an appointment

Membership News

- Births* Kyle & Kari Zachrich became the parents of Landon Thomas on January 27.
Anthony & Erica Godsey became the parents of Carson Rick on February 1.
Matt & Katie Diem became the parents of Linley Charolette Diem on February 10.
- Funeral* Mia Miller passed away on January 17 at the age of 93. Her funeral was at the church on the 20th. Please remember her family in your prayers.

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.

Please take note:

Volunteers are needed for **readers and sound board operators** for this year! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex

♪ Notes from Angela ♪

Choir

Thank you for all the beautiful music in February. A reminder that all through the month of March choir practice will be held in the basement from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. This is a change due to Lenten services! We will continue to work on the Good Friday cantata, "Tapestry of Darkness," along with our other songs on the schedule.

Choir songs for March include an old hymn, "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus", and another favorite, "In the Garden". We will sing "Come Take the Body of the Lord" during communion.

After School Club

Thank you for singing and ringing in February. We have three new bell songs arriving this month! The children have been working on music for Palm Sunday, and they are really excited to be singing with the adult choir. They are working on a two-part song with the junior high youth. Also, they will start preparing a spirited number for confirmation.

Living Spirit

Living Spirit practice will be held in March after worship on Wednesday evenings. We will be singing several songs on Wednesday, March 7 during worship, and on Sunday, March 18 one song at both services.

Emanubells

Emanubells will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays in March at 6:00 p.m. This is NOT a change!

Lent Worship

Worship services will be held every Wednesday during Lent at 7:30 p.m. Our focus will be on Mark 12:30: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." There will be special music each week, with a different church member sharing a message.

Website/DVDs

Remember to check our website for information about things that are happening at Emanuel. There are always DVDs available from Sunday morning and Lent services.

Radio

Emanuel's 10:30 service will be broadcast live on WNDH radio in March.

Lent is the spring housecleaning of the soul.

Worship participants in March

Acolytes

8:00 - Bryce Reynolds & Stephen Yunker
10:30 - Mitchell Walther & Alex Andrews

3/7 - Charlee Glick & Madison Ashbaugh
3/14 - Mitchell Walther & Alex Andrews
3/21 - Kenli Dachenhaus & Alie Hernandez
3/28 - Meghan Skeens & Grace Rowland

Altar Guild

Susan Mabee & Lauren Helberg

Lay Assistant

8:00 - Ruth Hershberger
10:30 - Marv Mt.Castle

Sound Board

8:00 - Jeff Sharpe 10:30 - Kevin Good

Ushers

8:00 - Lee Weirauch, Dave Schwab,
Leo Clausen, Kevin Gerken
10:30 - Terry Walther, Rupert Schweinhagen,
Chris Peper, Tom Jenny



March 4 - Larry & Lois Wiechers in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary
March 11 - In honor of Keegan Schroeder's 12th birthday
March 18 - Bob & Esther Dennie in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary
- Sosebee family in loving memory of Shirley Casteel
March 25 - Herb & Ramona Koppenhofer in honor of their 64th wedding anniversary

Open dates:

April 8	September 2	November 4
July 1	October 14	December 2
August 12		

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. *****