

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXVII No. 5
May 2012

**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 always enjoy reading "My Walk in Faith" by members of Emanuel. However, I must admit I hoped Pastor would never ask me to write about mine. I thought I did not have anything exciting or interesting to talk about. Since I was young, I have always thought of my walk in faith as my way of everyday life. The way I live and the way everyone else lives, too. So, here is a glimpse of my personal walk in faith.

I was born December 3, 1929 on a farm about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles west of Ridgeville Corners. I was the youngest of five children. A sister died at age 6 months, and a brother was killed at age 11. A colt kicked him while he and our other brothers were playing with it. At age six we moved a mile to the west on Route 6 (back then it was Route 34) to my grandfather's farm to live with and care for my elderly grandparents. They were not as old as I am now, but back then, I thought they were old! One drawback was the farm had no electricity, and we did without it for a few years.

I attended a one-room country school for four years. It was only $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from our house. I walked to school with neighbor kids, and I was glad I lived so close to the school. In fifth grade we rode buses to Ridgeville. Virginia Dillon and

Rupert Schweinhagen from Emanuel are my former classmates. I graduated in 1947 with 26 other classmates.

I have always lived on a farm. It is my way of life and part of my walk in faith. Farming has changed so much during my lifetime. My dad farmed with horses instead of tractors, and my mom helped him in the fields. During my early teens I drove the horses hauling hay to the barn. This was in the early 40's when my two brothers were in the military (WWII) and my dad needed help. Gas was rationed during the war years, so we seldom traveled anywhere. We also had ration stamps for many food items. I do remember we never lacked sugar as my dad grew sugar beets. He could get sugar from the company who bought his sugar beets. For entertainment my parents and I played board games and a lot of cards. Maybe that is why I still like to play cards!

After graduation I was an office worker for LaChoy Food products in Archbold. Then on November 7, 1948, I married Vernon Rohrs, a farmer. That was fine with me as I loved the farm. It was not easy back then to find a farm to rent, so as newlyweds we lived with Vern's

parents. In 1950 a farm came up for rent near my parents. It was right across the road from St. John's Lutheran Church. We lived there a year before the owners decided to move back to their farm as they did not like living in town anymore. So, we moved in with my parents. Our two daughters, Dawn and Faith, were born during this time. Eventually, Vern's dad heard of a farm for rent in Liberty Township. We moved to this farm on February 9, 1956, which was 56 years ago. Our landlord was kind and honest, and in time sold us the farm. I live on this farm today.

We enjoyed life on our farm. Our son, Kurt, was born one year after our move here. He helped his dad farm throughout the years. Just as Vern and I grew up with many kinds of farm animals, so did our children and even our grandchildren. We especially had lots of pigs and puppies. We farmed until Vern's illness made it impossible, and then Kurt took over farm operations.

Once all of our children were in school, I began working part time for the Sears Catalog Store to supplement our income. I initially hired in as extra help for the Christmas season, but it turned into a 20-year commitment. I made many friends during those years, and my friends, family and I still benefit from Sears' discounts due to my retired employee status.

I was baptized, confirmed and married at St. John's Lutheran Church located $\frac{3}{4}$ mile west of my childhood home. As a child we had at least 6 weeks of summer church school, and there was plenty of memory work, hymns, psalms and Luther's Small Catechism. At age 12 and 13 ,

confirmation age, we also went to church school on Saturdays. I cannot think of anyone in our neighborhood who was not Lutheran, so you can see why I thought everyone believed the way I did. You never missed Sunday School or church unless you were very sick.

Was my faith ever tested? I honestly say I do not know how to answer that question. I am sure it was sometimes. I just prayed and trusted God to give me the strength to do whatever it was I needed to do. I would like to say it is a different world now, but is it really? You get used to the situations, circumstances and behaviors which surround you as you grow up. God gave Vern to me. He also blessed us with 3 great kids, 10 bright grandchildren and 9 healthy great grandchildren. God comforted me through the death of my husband, and I know He will give me the strength and wisdom I need to go through whatever lies ahead. I think I have had a very simple life. I walk a mile every day on Road 11. During my walks I look around at nature. I pray and thank God for everything. I like to see the roadside clean. I think God likes to see it that way, too! I take an empty bag along to fill with trash. As a gardener and farmer, I know we only plant...God makes it grow.

Even at my age, my philosophy is that there is so much more to learn and experience. I believe learning is a lifelong endeavor. I believe in God's grace. I am truly blessed, and I know that you all are, too!

Janice (Genter) Rohrs

Thursday night services continue until Thanksgiving
at 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be offered on the
third Thursday of the month.

Graduation

Congratulations to these young people who are receiving their high school diplomas this spring:

Justin Allison
Alan Bostelman
Clayton Burken
Casey Haase
Meredith Hoops
Theresa Peper
Nick Rohrs
Stephanie Ruby
Jennifer Schink
Laura Yaney

Please keep them in your prayers.

*Remember in your prayers our members in nursing homes
and assisted living facilities*

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

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz **Paul Panning** **Ted Titgemeyer**

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

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

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

Ruth Delaney

Glen Park Assisted Living (2429 William Diehl Ct, Defiance, OH 43512)

Burnice Agler

Van Crest Nursing Home (600 E. Joe E Brown Ave, Holgate, OH 43524)

Albert Duquette

Statistics

Sunday, April 1

attendance 111 + 158 (269) communed 103
Offerings \$ 7,358.75
 \$ 1,025 Building Fund
 10 World Hunger
 10 Good Sam Fd
 175 Lent

Thursday, April 5

attendance 138 communed 127
Offerings \$ 773.00
 \$ 25 World Hunger
 5 Building Fund

Friday, April 6

attendance 184
Offerings \$ 953.60
 \$ 25 World Hunger

Sunday, April 8

attendance 260 + 163 (423)
 communed 244 + 142 (386)
Offerings \$ 7,731.35
 \$ 185 Building Fund
 10 World Hunger
 10 Good Samaritan Fund
 2,000 mem Bldg Fd - Henry Langenhop
 373 Easter flowers

Thursday, April 12

attendance 17

Sunday, April 15

attendance 87 + 182 (269) communed 147
Offerings \$ 5,126.35
 \$ 655 Building Fund
 5 World Hunger
 25 Good Sam Fd
 827.60 mem for candles
 40 Bldg Fd in honor of
 Greg Ritchey & Kim Small

Memorial

New oil candles for the altar have been given by Gertrude Schuette and Ruth Ann Gray in loving memory of Arnold & Leota Schuette, Tony Schuette, and Chuck Gray. These will be dedicated on Sunday, May 6.

News from the community and the Synod...

- ✓ **The 7th Annual Hospice of Henry County Bazaar** is being held Thursday, May 12th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Napoleon American Legion on Glenwood Avenue. This year's bazaar also includes a chicken barbeque, raffle, plants, grannies attic, vendors, silent auction on Wednesday evening prior to the bazaar. Tickets are \$7.50 and pre-sale is preferred. If you would be able to assist with our fundraiser by donating items for the live or silent auction, craft items baked goods and pies or would like to volunteer to help, please call Hospice at 419-599-5612 or after hours, call Janelle Cline at home at 419-966-0598. All proceeds go directly to assisting Hospice patients and their families with rising cost of medications and respite expenses. Donations for the Live Auction must be received by May 1, 2012 in order to be included in the Bazaar booklet. Items for "Granny's Attic" (garage sale) are also needed and may be dropped off at the office during business hours. Thank You.

- ✓ **Putting Faith into Action.** On March 2, 2012 deadly storms caused considerable damage in Southern Indiana and in the Appalachian foothills of Eastern KY. Over 4,000 families have registered for help. Representatives from Lutheran Disaster Response and the Indiana District Disaster Response Team have indicated that 70-80% of those affected by the storms are uninsured or under-insured. The greatest need currently is for volunteers, money and housing/building materials.

**Where to donate: Lutheran Disaster Response, 810 Main Street, Caldwell, OH 43724
Indiana District Disaster Response, 1787 Klermer Ln, New Albany, IN 47150**

Thrivent Financial will supplement monies raised, \$1 for every \$3 donated, for both organizations up to \$15,000 each. Please be sure to denote Thrivent Financial on the subject line of checks to ensure matching dollars.

Sign up to volunteer: www.ldr.org or www.lutherancharities.org

The areas affected by this storm are some of the most impoverished in the nation. There are other ways that you and your congregation can help.

Other needs:

- Gift cards to Lowes and Home Depot for building materials
- Gift cards to Wal-mart and Kmart for household items
- Pots, pans, kitchen utensils and spices
- Bedding and quilts
- Cleaning supplies, school kits and health kits
- New socks and underwear
 - infant through 12 yards – send to OH address
 - adult – send to IN address
- Women's personal hygiene items

These items can be sent directly to the addresses above.

Specific request: *Bibles*
Families who lost everything also lost their Bibles. Bibles can be sent directly to Mary Woodward: 810 Main Street, Caldwell, OH 43724

- ✓ **Lutheran Men in Mission Spring Retreat** will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 18974 St Rt 12 Arcadia, Ohio on May 12 at 9:30 a.m. (Registration 8:30-9:30 a.m.) A homily and communion will be offered by Rev. Bob Cochran. The fee is \$10. Please send your registration to Richard Noll, Sec. LMM/NWOS, 2474 Twp Rd 159, Cardington, OH 43315. Ph: 419-864-1471 or email to ranoll47@gmail.com.

from the Congregational Life Board

Caring Corner

THANKS to all the “green thumbs” who donated garden seeds last month for our Caring Corner collection! May there be a bountiful harvest from your seeds of caring!

In May we will collect items for First Call for Help for their Crisis Stabilization Unit. The Congregational Life Board chose the following items from among their “Wish List”:

Dish towels	Paper plates	Plastic mixing spoons
Potholders	Plastic cups	Paper towels
Flipper spatulas	Books/magazines	Plastic silverware
Rubber spatulas	(recreational reading)	All-occasion greeting/note cards

Soul Food and Summer Soul

The regular “Soul Food” meals on Wednesday evenings will be winding down on May 9, but, for the second summer now, “Summer Soul” will continue our Wednesday evening meals, resuming on May 16. Serving will continue from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each week, and everyone is welcome! MANY THANKS to any and all of you who have helped with “Soul Food” in any way – helping with shopping, cooking, cleaning, bringing desserts and/or salads, welcoming community folks and others, etc. And please know that you are welcome to help with “Summer Soul”, too! Just talk to Kelli Burkhardt, Carol Castello, or Terri Sedam to offer your “heart and soul”!

“Citizens With the Saints” and the “100 Wells Challenge” at the ELCA Youth Gathering

The national ELCA Youth Gathering is taking place July 18 through 22 in New Orleans, Louisiana, with the theme, “Citizens With the Saints”, taken from Ephesians 2:14-20. And we again have a contingent of 10 youth and adult leaders attending from Emanuel! With the Youth Gathering in 2009, each youth was asked to bring “Jacksons for Justice,” an extra \$20 for an offering specified for ELCA World Hunger. I challenged our Emanuel Church Family then to send “The Jackson 5” to New Orleans – \$100 each instead of \$20 – and, if my memory serves me right, we sent \$1200 (even more than I had challenged!). Well...yes, that’s right! This time **I’m challenging us to send a well**. You could even call it an “EmanuWELL”! As explained on the Youth Gathering website:

“Every day, millions of women and children in developing countries walk several hours to collect water that is safe for their families to drink. Sadly, too often the water that they find is contaminated. Unclean water causes millions of people, especially young children, to contract preventable deadline diseases every year.

One in eight people still do not have access to safe drinking water, and more than half of the diseases in the world are caused by unclean water.

ELCA World Hunger is concerned about the growing lack of clean water, especially among people who live in poverty around the world and in the United States. Yes, there are people in the United States who don’t always have access to clean water.

ELCA youth have the opportunity to support the clean water challenge by donating to the ‘100 Wells Challenge’ in conjunction with the Gathering. Just \$2,500 will build a well that can bring clean water to as many as 500 families at a time. The 100 Wells Challenge unites the hopes of Lutheran youth across the country to raise \$250,000 and build 100 wells or support water projects where they are needed most.

Think about how many times you rely on clean water during the day, and give what you can to meet his challenge....”

Please give this your prayerful consideration. Let’s send “EmanuWELL” to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! Let ours be 1 of those 100!

Take the Love of Jesus Along with You on Summer Vacation

We want you to pass along the love of Jesus from Emanuel this summer as you vacation with your family. Take Jesus in your Heart ... pick up a paper heart in the back or front entrance of the church. The hearts will be 8½ x 11 and be labeled with Emanuel's information. Take a picture of you and your family holding the heart and bring the picture back to post on the back door bulletin board. Then leave the heart in your hotel room, etc. for others to see how we share the love of Jesus from Emanuel. (Hearts will be available mid-May.)

Furnishings for Fellowship Room

We are asking for financial contributions to buy new furniture for the Fellowship Room, the room adjacent to the overflow area. Our plan is to furnish this room with parlor type furniture; perhaps a loveseat, a few side chairs, end tables and lamps. We'd like to make this room comfortable for welcoming new members, visitors, fellowship and families for a viewing or prior to a funeral. If you are interested in donating, please make your check out to Emanuel Lutheran Church and give it to Phyllis Kloos or Judy Hoffman. Also, if you have questions, see Judy or Phyllis.

Membership News

- Birth* Congratulations to Joe & Molly Knepley on the birth of a daughter, Tessa Lee, born on March 31!
- Wedding* God's blessings to Tyler Dennie and Joann Hartman who will be married by Pastor Castello on May 19th.
- Funeral* John Wenner passed away on April 11; his funeral was held at the Snyder-Wesche funeral home on the 14th. Please remember John's family in your prayers.

♪ *Notes from Angela* ♪

Choir

Thank you to the choir for all your beautiful songs during Lent and Easter. As always, our worship is even more meaningful due to your music.

There will be two rehearsals in May, on the 2nd and the 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will go over May's music and look ahead to fall music.

On Wednesday, May 16, the end-of-the-year party will be held at the home of Nancy Schink. Party starts at 6:30, and everyone is asked to bring spouse/friend/children and a dish to share.

After School Club

It is hard to believe that another year of After School Club is complete! I would like to thank all the children for their hard work practicing songs and for regularly participating in worship. We had an average attendance of 15 children each week, with several from outside our congregation.

Thanks much to Sue and Juanita for the snacks, Bible lessons, crafts, and games. The children love you!

May Special Services

Ascension Day, Thursday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Pentecost, Sunday, May 27 at 9:00 a.m. (wear red, white, or blue)

There will be patriotic music and we will also honor graduates this day.

Sunday Summer Worship

Beginning on Sunday, May 27, there will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. This will continue throughout the summer until Labor Day weekend. There will be communion on the first and second Sundays of the month.

God bless our Emanuel graduates: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

* * * * *

Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 17

7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion will be offered at this service.

WELCA News

Martha Young, President

Region 6 is having a “Spiritual Gathering” July 20-21, 2012 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg. More information and registration forms are posted on the bulletin board.

Make plans now to attend a Circle meeting. You are welcome to attend any one of them. There are two daytime and two evening circles.

Our next General Meeting, with a picnic, is on Thursday, June 7, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Remember to remember

One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

“That’s the day the swimming pool opens!” answered one eager boy. What he didn’t realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America’s democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom.

Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America’s best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 28.

Thanks, Mom

Dad came home to find toys all over the living room, dirty dishes stacked in the sink, clothes piled in the laundry room, beds unmade and kids still in their pajamas. The house was a wreck, like nothing he’d seen before.

Worried, Dad rushed upstairs to find Mom reading a book in bed.

“Are you okay?” he asked. “What happened?”

“You know how you always ask what I do all day?” Mom replied. “Well, today I decided not to do it.”

