

**Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio**

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**Fourth Sunday in Lent — March 15, 2015**

*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.*

**LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship      WOV—With One Voice**

**\* Please stand as you are able**

**PRELUDE**    Harp selections  
*Lord, I Need You* -praise team

**Ringing of the Bell**  
(10:30) *Lamb of God* -Bell Choir/Living Spirit

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

**P** By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

**\* HYMN WOV # 649** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**\* GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *Let us pray.* God of all mercy, by your power to heal and to forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

(10:30) **Special Music:** *In Christ Alone* -Living Spirit

**FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4–9**

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against

you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:1–10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we

were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him

and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — <sup>9</sup>not the

result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\* LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**\* GOSPEL: John 3:14–21**

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

<sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not

condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**OFFERTORY** *(please remain seated)*

**HYMN WOV # 713** *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* (sing twice)

**SERMON**

\* **HYMN WOV # 748** *Bind Us Together*

\* **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

(8:00) *IN Christ Alone* -Living Spirit

(10:30) *Old Rugged Cross* -Bell Choir

**THE PRAYERS** *(please remain seated)*

A Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Brief silence.*

A Loving God, make your church bold proclaimers of the gospel, so that those who do not know the depth of your love in Christ will hear and believe. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Give us hearts filled with love for your creation, so that our words and deeds bear witness to the unending care you have for the whole cosmos. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Encourage nations to work together for the sake of all people. Break down barriers that prejudice has built up, and restore the dignity of every living thing. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Turn our hearts to praise as we are forgiven, healed, and freed from every evil that binds us. Shine your light upon us, so that nothing about our life in you is hidden. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Resurrecting God, we remember those who now worship at your throne, and with expectant hearts we await the day when all will behold you in glory. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

*Other petitions.*

P Provide respite and healing for all who suffer (*especially*). Hold all people in your expansive love, and restore wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

**\* BENEDICTION**

**\* HYMN** *Go Out in the World* -praise team

**POSTLUDE** *There Is Power in the Blood*

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**Altar flowers**

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ed & Donna Peper in loving memory of Sarah.

**Gospel Jam/Potluck — TODAY!!**

We are having a potluck meal at noon today, right after late church. It is a potluck, but if you don't bring anything, please **feel free to stay anyway** because there will be plenty of food!! The Gospel group will set up in the basement on the stage and perform there after - or while - we eat.

This is a fundraiser for the kids going to the National Youth Gathering in July. Please show them your support!

**Caring Corner — NOCAC PATH Center**

The Caring Corner for March is collecting items for the NOCAC PATH Center. (Partnership Assistance to the Homeless) in Defiance. Needed are : hygiene/toiletry items; towels and washcloths; sheets (twin and double), blankets, pillows and cases; laundry soap and softener; school supplies; and dinners/food items that can be microwaved. Also needed are spices, coffee, napkins, paper products and cleaning supplies for the soup kitchen at the PATH Center.

**Memorial Service**

Charlotte Wangrin passed away on Tuesday. As of this writing, her memorial service is still in the planning stage. Please remember her family in your prayers.

### **Healing Tree**

There is a bare tree in the sanctuary from now until Easter. This tree is a reminder of the barrenness outside this time of year. It also serves as a reminder of how empty our lives would be without Jesus.

Many people give things up for Lent. We encourage you to give up some time to perform extra acts of love during Lent: send cards, visit or call someone who needs company, be a volunteer, cook or bake something extra, etc. Maybe you could forgive a small debt, give up a hurt, make amends, let something go, say more prayers, be more thankful. Even children can be involved by doing an extra chore, helping without being asked, being kinder to siblings.

There are baskets of purple leaves by the doors of the church. We would like the congregation to bring our empty tree to life by writing these acts of kindness and forgiveness on the leaves and putting them in the offering plate. We will attach them to the tree each week. By Easter let's have a tree full of leaves!

### **Art Project**

The teenagers going to the National Youth Gathering will be working on an art project throughout Lent. Their work will be displayed in the sanctuary and will change slightly each week. Once the 10 projects have been completed at the end of March, they will be sold with proceeds going into the Gathering travel fund for these youth.

### **Newsletter deadline**

The deadline for the April newsletter is noon tomorrow! Please be sure all your meetings are on the calendar by that time.

### **Soundboard operators...**

If you would like to learn to operate the new soundboard, we will be having several training sessions. You can come to the balcony during any of the Lenten services and sit with the soundboard operator to watch and learn. If these times do not work for you, there will be training sessions after each of the March 29<sup>th</sup> services. If you learn better by doing, you are welcome to join the soundboard operator during the March 29<sup>th</sup> church services instead of waiting until after the services to learn. Please don't be intimidated – word is that this soundboard is easier to use than the old one.

### **Re-cycle bulletins**

Early service worshipers: if you plan to throw away your bulletin when you get home, please leave it here, instead, for others to use. Thank you! If you like to refer to it during the week, however, please continue to do so!

### **This Week**

#### **Today**

- Noon Potluck Gospel Jam in the basement
- 2:00 p.m. Dartball tournament at First Lutheran, Stryker

#### **Monday**

- Noon Newsletter deadline
- 6:00 p.m. Board of Education
- 6:45 p.m. Executive Board
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council

#### **Wednesday**

- 3:15 p.m. After School Club
- 3:15 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> grade catechism
- 4:30 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> grade bells
- 5:00 p.m. Soul Food
- 5:30 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> grade catechism
- 6:00 p.m. Choir (basement)
- 7:00 p.m. WORSHIP
- 8:00 p.m. Emanubells
- 8:00 p.m. 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechism
- 8:30 p.m. Living Spirit

#### **Thursday**

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 7:15 p.m. WELCA Executive Board

#### **Friday**

- 6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

#### **Saturday**

- 3:30 p.m. Schroeder/Shollenberger Wedding

### **Thursday morning Bible Study**

You are invited to join our group of people who meet every Thursday morning at 9 a.m. for a very interesting and thought-provoking Bible study. You are guaranteed to learn something new or to see something you always “knew” in a new light!

### **March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

The theme of this year is “Can Do! Like You!. Lutheran Ministries of Mercy (Filling Home and Luther Home of Mercy) encourages everyone to focus on peoples’ abilities and similarities rather than their differences.

### **Soup and Pie Luncheon**

The Lutheran Home at Napoleon Auxiliary is having a Soup & Pie Luncheon today, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the Alpine Village Dining Room, 1032 S. Perry St. Matching funds will be provided by Thrivent Financial. Proceeds will benefit the residents of the Lutheran Home at Napoleon.

Immediately following the Soup & Pie Luncheon, there will be a “Winter Blues Bluster” event. The speaker will be David Medved, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student at the University of Toledo. He will present information on normal changes in mood vs major depression, dysthymia, and seasonal affective disorder (SAD).

### **Easter flowers**

Be sure to order your Easter flowers on the enclosed insert. The deadline to order is Sunday, March 22!

### **Serving Today**

Pastor James L. Castello

Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes

Readers - 8:00 Ruth Hershberger 10:30 Bonnie Palamara

Sound Board - 8:00 Ryan Hoffman 10:30 Kevin Good

Acolytes - 8:00 Seth Tonjes & Tyson Reynolds

10:30 Morgan Ashbaugh & Halle Good

Ushers - 8:00 Dave Schwab, Bryce Reynolds, Casey Callaway, Shelly Storch

10:30 Bob Ivancso, Bill Panning, Tom Schroeder, Denny Ehlers

Altar Guild - Marilyn Fretz & Joleen Brubaker

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

### **Volunteers needed!**

Readers are needed for the early service on April 5, 19, and 26, and for the late service all month. Sound board operators are also needed for the late service during April. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office if you are willing to help out!

### **Statistics**

3/04 (94) Tithes and Offerings \$751.00

3/08 71 + 106 (177) communed 94 Tithes and Offerings \$6,280.00 (\$640 Bldg Fd; \$7 World Hngr; \$250 Together We Can... ) Simply Giving 3/02-3/08 \$755 Gen Fd; \$145 Bldg Fd

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“Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car.” -Garrison Keillor

“My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.” -Abraham Lincoln

And to quote Martin Luther...

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

“You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.”

“Music is the art of the prophets and the gift of God.”