

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Pastor James L. Castello

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost — September 6, 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 *Communion Meditations*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

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

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

* **HYMN LBW # 423** *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

* 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.* Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

^{7a} the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

² **Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,
for there is no | help in them.**

³ When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴ **Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

⁵ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

⁶ **who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.**

⁷ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

⁸ **the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares | for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.**

⁹ The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: JAMES 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹ My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ² For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³ and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶

But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷ Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸ You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a

brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,

what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
Shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
From common folk he called the twelve to be
Co-workers in his sacred ministry.

Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
To follow boldly and his work to share,
To help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
Declaring to the world his holy name.

* GOSPEL: MARK 7:24-37

²⁴ [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶ Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you

may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his

tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.
³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one;
but the more he ordered them, the more
zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were
astounded beyond measure, saying, “He

has done everything well; he even makes
the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

HYMN LBW # 558 *Earth and All Stars!*

SERMON

* **HYMN LBW # 397** *O Zion, Haste*

* NICENE CREED

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS *(please be seated)*

A With confidence in God’s compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

Brief silence.

A O God, we pray for the church. Give it the courage to translate faith into action. Guide

the hands and feet of the faithful to answer the needs so abundant in this world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for streams, pools, springs of water, oceans, lakes, and rivers. Protect all water sources that refresh and sustain the land, animals, and human beings. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for the world’s leaders, that they act for the good of all. We pray for all workers, those who can find no work, those who work in unsafe conditions, and those whose labor is exploited. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for this assembly. Make it a place of equality, welcome, and full inclusion. Empower us to live out radical hospitality. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A O God, we remember all who have gone before us and give thanks for their faith and their works. Give us the fortitude to carry on in the work left for us. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Other petitions.

P We pray for those who lack daily food, who are fearful, and who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Come and save them. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen

*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

TITHES & OFFERINGS *In This Very Room* -Choir

* OFFERTORY

A world in need now summons us To labor, love, and give;
To make our life an offering To God, that all may live.

The church of Christ is calling us To make the dream come true:
A world redeemed by Christ-like love; All life in Christ made new.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

*** BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

*** BENEDICTION**

*** HYMN WOV # 760** *For the Fruit of All Creation*

*** DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Hymn to Joy*

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**** NOTICE HOW MANY TIMES "LABOR" AND "WORK"
ARE FOUND IN OUR HYMNS TODAY! ****

Altar flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ron Dachenhaus by Janis and family; and by Gary & Jamie Bostelman in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Gluten-free wafers

Gluten-free communion wafers are available – please let the Pastor know before the service if you wish to receive these. Others will continue to receive the regular wafers. There are also glasses of white grape juice in the center of each wine tray for those who would prefer to receive juice.

Note:

We will return to our two-service schedule next Sunday, SEPTEMBER 13!

Worship services will begin at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.; and Sunday School will begin at 9:15. Thursday night worship at 7 p.m. will continue until Thanksgiving.

Birth

Jackson Jeremiah Bischoff was born on August 28 to Jeremiah and Alexandra Bischoff. Great grandmother is Phyllis Bischoff; and great great grandmother is Hilda Nye.

Sunday School Teachers needed!

Teachers, I believe, are the most responsible and important members of society because their efforts affect the fate of the earth. -Helen Caldicott, author and peace activist

We need a Sunday School teacher for our 1st and 2nd grade class. You do NOT have to teach every Sunday. You can share this class with another person. Contact Laura Ellis (419) 783-7862 if you are willing to help out with this important job!!

On the radio

Our services will be broadcast on WNDH 103.1 FM during the month of September at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. (This will be a recording of the previous week's service.) Tell your friends!

Caring Corner for September — Lutheran World Relief Kits *(see below)*

Lutheran World Relief Kits

On the Caring Corner table there are instructions on the different kits (Personal Care, Baby, Fabric, School). There are empty School Kit bags already made, so all you have to do is fill one. If you don't sew or cannot be a part of a kit-making project, please consider donating to the Women of the Church to be donated to LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund. For every \$1 you give, someone in need receives \$8 worth of essential personal items. The kits must be turned in to the Caring Corner table, and monetary donations must be made by October 4. If you have questions, please contact Julie Callaway 419/966-3824. Monetary donations can be turned in to the church office.

Rally Day — next Sunday!!!!

Rally Day is NEXT SUNDAY! Sunday School will begin at 9:15. There will be crafts, games, singing, and snacks. We are going to kick off our Sunday School year and "Count Our Blessings"!!!!!! We'll have a "Fun Day" lunch after worship services with a last-blast-of-summer hot dog feast followed by snow-cones! EVERYONE is welcome!!!

WELCA Missionary Fund

Donations are being accepted for the WELCA Missionary Fund. Please use the envelope mailed with your 2015 program booklet (or use any regular envelope, marking it "Missionary Fund"). You may also use your regular weekly offering envelope. Checks should be made payable to *Emanuel Women of the Church*.

Funeral

Pastor officiated at the funeral of Naomi Wernecke last Wednesday. Naomi was the mother-in-law of Lila Wernecke. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Card shower

Lenhart Lange's family is having a card shower for him on his 90th birthday on September 12. If you would like to send him a card, his address is:

Lenhart Lange
1711 Fernstone Terrace NW
Acworth GA 30101

Serving Today

Pastor James L. Castello
Worship & Music Coordinator & Organist - Angela Tonjes
Worship Assistant - Laura Ellis
Sound Board - Alexandria Biederstedt
Acolytes - Tyson Reynolds & Morgan Ashbaugh
Altar Guild - Susan Mabee & Sarah Yaney
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847) or cjcast@yahoo.com

Festival of Tables

The Festival of Tables will be held on Saturday, September 26, at the Filling Home Therapy Center Activity Room. Doors will open at 11:00 to give participants the opportunity to view all of the tables. The meal will be served at noon followed by entertainment and door prizes. If you are willing to serve as a table hostess, call before or by Tuesday, September 15 to Bonnie 419-533-5661. A hostess takes responsibility for choosing a theme, decorating the table for 8 and for selling 7 tickets, a minimum donation of \$15.00 to benefit children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Tickets available by pre-sale only, no tickets sold at the door.

Summer Coffee Hours

All are invited to attend our coffee hour after worship. Our host for this final coffee hour is the Soul Food Crew. Thanks to all who have helped in this fellowship time this summer!

NEEDED!!!

Sound board operators are needed for the 10:30 service for the rest of September. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or talk to Shelly Storch or Peggy Snyder. We need you!

This Week

Monday Office Closed - Labor Day
Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Soul Food
6:30 p.m. Choir
7:30 p.m. Living Spirit
Thursday 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Worship

Statistics

8/27 (68) 8/30 (112) Offerings \$4,384.57 (\$165 Bldg Fd; \$5 Wrld Hngr; \$20 After School Club; \$199.02 VBS) 8/15 \$75 memorials-J. Delventhal: \$10 mem; \$35 Bell Ch; \$30 Bldg Fd Simply Giving 8/24-8/30 \$105 Gen Fd; 20\$ Bldg Fd

Desperate for peace

During worship, our congregation “passes the peace.” More than a friendly greeting, this ritual is a symbol of Christ’s peace shared with us, for us to share daily with others. It also echoes Jesus’ exhortation that we be reconciled with others before offering our gifts in worship (see Matthew 5:23-24).

One Sunday morning, I sat behind a 9-year-old girl and her toddler brother. The boy was active and talkative, keeping his parents busy. As the pastor invited us to “share Christ’s peace with one another,” big sister popped up from her seat and offered to shake hands with everyone nearby, proclaiming “Peace!” to each.

As she tried this with her mom and brother, however, they were occupied with each other and wholly unaware of her efforts. Finally, I overheard her not inviting but demanding, “Mom! James! I want PEACE!” I had to smile, for the girl had voiced the desperation with which we all crave peace in the world and in our lives.

—Heidi Mann