



Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XLV No. 4
April 2020

**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.**

Dear Members & Friends of Emanuel,

The Apostle Paul presents a tremendous testimony to the resurrection of Jesus. Then he talks about us, "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) With those words ringing in our ears, let us think about some of those changes.

Before the resurrection the cross was known only as an instrument of horrible death, rough wood soaked with human blood. So terrible was that form of execution that the Roman Empire prohibited the crucifixion of Roman citizens. Crucifixion was only for slaves and enemies of the Empire. But today, on this side of the resurrection, we wear crosses as jewelry, a thing of beauty, for all around the world the cross is seen as a symbol of hope, and a reminder of God's love for us.

Before the resurrection, for most of the world, the grave was looked upon as the final chapter, the end of everything. But because of Jesus' resurrection, we can rejoice today that beyond death is where life really begins, and it will never end. That does make you wonder doesn't it, why we spend so much time worrying and fretting about material things? Dale Evans once said, "I spent most of my life searching for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Then I finally found it at the foot of the cross."

The Bible speaks about the breath of life we have and then it is gone. There is no promise that when we exhale that we will inhale again. Life is brief! Sometimes when I shave in the morning, I look in the mirror and think, "My, I look old, but with a good night's sleep, maybe I'll look better tomorrow." Then I hear a still, small voice saying, "Don't count on it. This is the best it's going to be!"

That is rather discouraging, isn't it? Time is slipping by. It's going so fast that it's hard to hold on to anything, isn't it? On one side of the resurrection, time is brief and uncertain. Especially today as we find ourselves struggling with COVID-19 and the many changes taking place around us. But on the other side there is Jesus and all eternity and that changes the whole purpose, meaning and scope of life and our lives. May the Easter message, "Jesus lives!" bring you hope and change your life.

Let us live "Under the Banner of Christ" together and share His Peace, Comfort, and Courage to live life abundantly in these ever changing times with confidence and faith.

Pastor King

April Schedule at Emanuel

Many, many changes are happening around us especially as we put into practice physical separation and social distancing. Church Council met the evening of March 16, 2020 to decide how we will move forward together. It was not an easy decision. So as of today, March 17, 2020, Emanuel Lutheran Church will discontinue all church activities in our building and that includes, Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Lenten Services all practices, kids club, Soul Food, Bible Study, etc. Maxine will only be in the church office to answer questions by phone, email or texts. Please do not stop by the office in person. The doors will be locked.

Please feel free to contact Maxine, Angela, S.A.M. Jeannine or Pastor King if you have questions.

Our worship will look different as we work on sharing sermons, prayers, and spiritual support with the members of Emanuel. We will still plan to build our Lenten Banner and share messages based on "Living Under the Banner of Christ." We will be looking at how we might communicate those messages through online resources, Facebook live, Emanuel Lutheran Church Webpage, Skype, Youtube, Zoom, as well as mailings to those who do not have internet capability.

The church council will review on March 30, 2020 via a group text how we will proceed after Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020. There will be no Easter breakfast and we will be letting you know whether there will be Easter Worship at the church.

Watch for these online:

Sunday March 22, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. The Fourth Sunday of Lent "Living Under the Banner of Christ: The Suffering Servant!" John 12:20-33/ Mark 15:16-20 SAM Jeannine Grimm

Sunday March 29, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. The Fifth Sunday of Lent "Living Under the Banner of Christ: As Each New Day Dawns!" John 2:13-22/ Matthew 26: 31-35, 69-75 Pastor Dennis King

Sunday April 5, 2020 - 9:00 a.m. Passion/Palm Sunday "Living Under the Banner of Christ: Jesus Christ is Lord!" Mark 11:1-11/ Mark 15:25-32 SAM Jeannine Grimm

Thursday April 9, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday "Living Under the Banner of Christ: Jesus the Lamb of God!" John 1:29-41/ John 3:14-21 SAM Jeannine Grimm

Friday April 10, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday "Living Under the Banner of Christ: Jesus the Poured Out One!" Mark 11: 1-11/ Mark 15:25-32 Pastor Dennis King

Interim Team Update

I'm baaacck, although this isn't quite the homecoming I'd been anticipating! Rick and I had a lovely time in Florida, visiting 3 new state parks and revisiting some familiar favorites. It was a bit cooler than other years, yet warmer in that we were able to visit with a greater number of friends than usual and to meet some new fellow Lutherans for remarkable worship! I got to collect air plants for children's messages and lots of illustrations for upcoming (short) sermons. Pastor Dennis and I talked frequently; we've been yoked in ministry over the last two years and have found that our gifts complement each other, especially if we communicate a lot! As point pastor, Pastor Dennis set our schedule so that we would alternate leading worship on my return---and I was/am excited about the Lenten series that he has crafted.

But, now things are not as anticipated... *life* is not what we anticipated. Daily we hear news that the virus that causes COVID-19 can only be combated by social isolation which, of necessity, will change our interactions. It's going to be a difficult time. But we aren't going to go through this alone. That's one of the promises that Jesus made to us: WE WILL NOT BE LEFT ALONE. (John 14:18)

As we, together, go into this difficult season of fighting this novel virus, we go with the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. Pastor Dennis and I are committed to sharing the Good News with you in novel ways. We'll be communicating with the entire Emanuel family using

print materials and a greater presence online. We won't likely do it perfectly at first, but we'll pull on the gifts within the congregation and work together and our worship will become a work of love. Together, we will declare our Heavenly Father's faithfulness... and the promise of Easter to come!

SAM Jeannine

Emanuel Church Council Minutes for February 17, 2020

President Barb Hoffman called the meeting to order.

Denise Etzler led us with devotions about Love and Encouraging Each Other and also with prayer.

Secretary Loralee Jones read minutes from January 20, 2020. Denise Etzler made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Joe Knepley seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer Julie Kohout presented Council with the treasurer's report. Melinda Dachenhaus made a motion to approve the report. Carey Plummer seconded. Motion passed. Carey Plummer made a motion to put 25% of Pastor King's salary towards housing. Ryan Hoffman seconded. Motion passed.

Boards:

Board of Education - Information for Summer Camp went out to Sunday School students.

Finance - nothing to report.

Property - Joe Kohout made a motion to purchase from Earl Elling Plumbing and Heating a 3 individual furnaces for the price of \$17,115 and for it to come out of the Building Fund. Denise Etzler seconded. Motion passed. There is a bid for a kitchen update from Buckeye Building for \$28,586 not including electrical, flooring and dishwasher. It was decided to wait until we receive at least 2 more bids for the project. There was a quote to replace pew coverings from Sauders for \$19,870. It was decided to table the project. The elevator light is fixed.

Congregational Life - Caring Corner donations for March will go towards the kitchen pantry at the Filling Home of Mercy. Shrove Tuesday will be next Tuesday. On SOUPER bowl Sunday, \$145 was donated for World Hunger and Soul Food. On the first Sunday of each month the Sunday School children's offering will "sponsor" favorite animals through ELCA Good Gifts to help end hunger and poverty. The congregation will have the same opportunity on the fourth Sunday of every month.

Wednesday Lenten Offerings will be donated to Christmas Cheer, Filling Home, Genacross-Napoleon campus, Pillars of Success and Together We Can Make A Difference.

Doctrine and Worship - Went over the Schedule. Time for Easter Sunday Worship Services will stay the same as previous years.

Pastor King gave a monthly report.

Old Business - Each group takes care of letting members know if it needs to cancel due to inclement weather.

New Business - Catechism classes are on a regular curriculum. Phone issues are being looked into. Julie Kohout made a motion to accept Lindsay (Walker) Martin and Lisa Walker as new members from St. Paul, Bowling Green, Ohio to Emanuel, Napoleon. Melinda Dachenhaus seconded. Motion passed.

Carey Plummer made a motion to adjourn. Denise Etzler seconded. Motion passed. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Loralee Jones, Church Council Secretary

CALL COMMITTEE MEETING WITH BISHOP – MARCH 15, 2020

The Call Committee met with Bishop Beaudoin and Pastor King at 8:00 AM before our Sunday worship service on March 15, 2020. We greatly appreciate the Bishop meeting with us and conducting our worship service, and we appreciate Pastor King for making the arrangements for the Bishop to be with us.

We discussed briefly something that the Call Committee has known since the beginning of the call process-the fact that there is a very small pool of candidates from which to draw. To illustrate this point, the Bishop said that nationwide there are 65 ELCA synods. The number of ELCA seminary graduates this past year was 48. Our NWO Synod requested to interview two of these graduates, but both declined and decided to interview with other Synods (primarily in the South and West). In addition, the pool of current pastors seeking a new call is very limited.

Pastor King has suggested, and Bishop Beaudoin strongly reinforced, that we make some revisions to our congregational profile that was completed in November 2018. Both gentlemen agree that we have a vibrant, energetic, and outreach oriented congregation, and that we should do more to emphasize this in our profile. Although it is contrary to our nature, we should brag ourselves up in order to differentiate ourselves from other congregations. We have already begun the process of revising our profile, and this will be completed by the end of March.

We would like to bring one final topic of discussion to the attention of our Emanuel family. Thus far our search for a new pastor has been a top down process, meaning that interview candidates have been passed on to us from the Synod. Bishop Beaudoin made it clear that the call process can also work in reverse. If anyone on the Call Committee, or a member of the congregation, is aware of a pastor whom they think might be a good match for Emanuel we can pursue that individual THROUGH THE SYNOD. If a member of Emanuel has someone in mind in this regard, they must first approach a Call Committee member with the name of the individual IN CONFIDENCE. DO NOT SPEAK WITH THE PERSON YOU HAVE IN MIND. The Call Committee would then give consideration to this individual and, if approved by the Committee, pass the name along to the Synod who would then contact the prospective candidate to see if there is an interest in pursuing a call to Emanuel. The Synod would then interview the candidate and, upon approval of the Synod, pass that pastor's profile along to the Call Committee for our review and possible interview. If anyone has a question about this process please contact a Call Committee member.

As always, we thank Emanuel for their patience, prayers, and support. Call Committee members: Karri Ashbaugh, Kelli Burkhardt, Beth Jenny, Laura Klein, Holly Mohring, Bill Panning, Brian Plummer, Rupert Schweinhagen, Angela Tonjes, and Gary Bostelman, Chairman.

Notes from Angela - Angela Tonjes

Choir

Thank you for the beautiful music in March, including Ash Wednesday. You all worked hard to learn several new numbers for these services.

Watch for texts, emails, or phone calls for updates on the April rehearsal and worship schedule.

Living Spirit

Thank you for leading the worship service in March, your songs were so uplifting. The use of instruments on some songs really added a special touch.

Watch for texts and emails for updates on the April rehearsal and worship schedule.

Bell Choir

A lovely piece of music was played for a Wednesday night in Lent, thank you.

Watch for text updates from Bill about future practices and the worship schedule.

Emanubells

Thank you for the wonderful songs you prepared for March!
Bill will send texts about practices and schedules in April.

Catechism Bells/Acolytes

The catechism bell choir did a fantastic job on the song that was prepared for Lent. Thanks to the acolytes who shared their prayers on Wednesday evenings as well. The students carried on a tradition that was started by Pastor Castello many years ago.

After School Club

The children have been learning new songs every month including "Be Careful Little Ears" and "His Banner Over Me is Love." They love reviewing the sign language for the Lord's prayer, including their favorite hand sign for the word evil.

Thanks to Julie Callaway and her sister, Terri, for helping with ASC when Lori was in Hawaii. The kids loved making a tulip craft and playing egg games!

There is no ASC when school is cancelled.

Lent Worship

Emanuel extends a great big thank you to Pastor Polker for leading Ash Wednesday and Lenten services this year! A great amount of planning and preparation went into each Wednesday service.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is April 5 this year. On this Sunday before Easter, we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Palm fronds are used for decoration.

Palm trees are mentioned thirty times in the Bible and all parts of the tree can be used. The tree gives fruit (dates, coconuts, acai berries) and produces for up to seventy years. Coconut shells are used for jewelry, lampshades, and rope. Leaves are used for roofing, hats, and furniture. The trunks are used for flooring, siding, and sugar. The tree has oil used in lotion, and wax used for candles that seal documents.

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, and is observed by Christians as a remembrance of the Lord's Supper. "Maundy" is a Latin word for "command." At the Last Supper, Jesus commanded his disciples to love and serve one another.

This year, Maundy Thursday falls on April 9.

Good Friday

Good Friday falls on April 10. On this day, Christians around the world solemnly honor the suffering, crucifixion, and death of Jesus.

Easter

Easter is always the first Sunday following the first full moon after March 22. In 2020, the first full moon after March 22 will be on the evening of April 7, so Easter falls on April 12.

Easter is the most important and oldest festival of the church, and is the foundation of the Christian faith. In the eleventh chapter of John, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Thursday Evening Worship

Evening worship services are scheduled to begin in April after Easter. Watch for more information as details are decided.

Thanks

I would like to extend a personal thank you to Lana Sonnenberg for all the time she has spent repairing, sorting, and further organizing the banners. She enthusiastically said "Yes!" when asked to serve this way. The banners add such beauty to our worship space and we are determined to keep them in good repair.

Also, I really appreciate the check that I received from a member of the congregation. I was able to buy four new songs for the Rainbow Ringers. As the children have been ringing every month during the school year, these new songs will be a blessing!

Emanuel Lutheran Worship

Worship services at Emanuel serve a threefold purpose. First, they are designed to direct the minds and hearts of Christians to the Word of God that centers on Jesus Christ. Second, they send us back out into the world for another week with encouragement and instructions on how to live in a challenging and sinful world. Finally, they help preserve among us the teachings of our church body as we are a biblical Lutheran church with a clear confession of faith.

Following are the parts of a worship service and their explanations:

Prelude (always musical in nature): preparing oneself to come into God's presence through faith in God's mercy

Confession: being honest before God about our sin and the need for mercy

Absolution: mercy and forgiveness freely given by God, received by faith

Entrance Hymn: entering into God's presence through song

The Kyrie: asking the Lord in song for the mercy of forgiveness

Gloria in Excelsis Deo (hymn of praise): giving glory to God for his mercy, peace, and friendship

Salutation: pastor and members acknowledging their special relationship and blessing each other

Collect: a short prayer in which a theme for the day is put together or collected

Service of the Word: The part of the service where the true, inspired, and powerful Word is read, confessed with the mouth, and taught in its purity

The First Lesson: a reading from the Old Testament given by inspiration of God

Psalm: inspired words of Old Testament believers; psalm means "song," and at Emanuel the psalm is sung 1-2 times per month from September through May only

The Second Lesson (Epistle): a reading from one of the inspired letters written by the apostles who were witnesses of the resurrected Christ and commissioned by him

Gospel Acclamation: a short musical piece that precedes and introduces the Gospel of Christ

The Holy Gospel: a reading from the inspired and truthful records of the life of Jesus

Children's Sermon: a short message that brings the good news of Jesus to the youngest of our congregation

Hymn of the Day: usually reflects some aspect of the readings

Sermon: God's Word explained and expounded upon in its truth and purity

Hymn: the hymn after the sermon reinforces the sermon, or is a communion hymn for communion Sundays; it also gives the pastor a short break to prepare his/her mind for the rest of the service

The Creed: a concise, accurate, and bold statement of faith in the Triune God

The Prayer of the Church: prayers for the Church and the government, the afflicted and persecuted, our needs for this life, Christian wisdom, this congregation and its children, special requests and thanks, and facing death

Offering: Christians are called upon to support the mission and ministry of the church and help fellow believers in need; a musical selection is presented as an outward response of our faith in God

Offertory: the offertory is sung. In the words of David, we ask God to cleanse our hearts, to keep us in the one true faith and to grant us the full joy of salvation.

Holy Communion (offered twice a month at Emanuel): the sacrament is offered often for the comfort and strengthening of God's gathered people

Preface (sung): a reminder to set our hearts right and to give thanks for what the pastor is about to distribute

General Preface: tying our thanks to God to the season of the church year

The Sanctus (sung): praising the holy Triune God, especially the Son now coming to us

The Exhortation: the proper and necessary preparation in order to receive this most holy meal for our benefit

The Words of Institution: pastor repeats the words of Jesus by which his body and blood become truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins

The Lord's Prayer: the best prayer ever, given to us by Jesus

The Distribution: an awesome moment in which the body and blood of Jesus in the bread and wine are offered to and received by believing sinners; it is appropriate to have sung and instrumental music during the distribution to enable communicants to meditate on the great gift they are receiving

The Dismissal: a reminder from the pastor of what has been received and its benefits now and in the coming days

Post Communion Canticle: we stand with Simeon as he looked upon the baby Jesus, in awe of the profound mystery that the Father would give His only Son for the salvation of our souls. Having just received the Lord's Supper, we have truly seen God's salvation, which he prepared before the face of all people

The Collect of Thanksgiving: a prayer of thanks, requesting our faith and love increase

The Benediction: the blessing given to Old Testament believers and now given to us

The Closing Hymn: placed at the end of a church service to close it

Postlude: music played after the service has concluded. It is intended to continue the feeling of worship as the congregation leaves

Hymns

Why do we sing hymns during worship? Hymn-singing is one of the primary activities of Lutheran worship: it is the expression of praise and adoration through the offering of song to God. In Ephesians we read these words, "Address one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." There are over 1100 verses in the Bible that reference music.

Liturgy

What is liturgy? Liturgy is the form by which Christian worship is conducted. The purpose of liturgy is to lead people to God and one another. Our liturgy is outlined in the LBW, which has been designed and approved by the ELCA.

The following comes from a letter written to a church:

"Please! No more new hymns. What is wrong with the inspiring hymns with which we grew up? When I go to church, it is to worship God, not to be distracted with learning a new hymn. Last Sunday's was particularly unnerving. While the text was good, the tune was quite unsingable and the harmonies were quite discordant."

This letter was written in 1890. The hymn that aroused the complaint: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."



Chicken and Rib Barbecue

Mark your calendars now. Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives is sponsoring a Chicken and Rib BBQ on Monday, April 20th, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. in the parking lot at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 810 Scott Street in Napoleon (please use the Scott Street entrance). For \$8, you may have either Chicken or Ribs with a bag of chips, applesauce, and a dinner roll or meat only for \$6. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time, but drive-thrus are welcome. To reserve your dinners, call Kelli Burkhardt at 419-579-0199 or email

togethernwoh@gmail.com or stop by Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives, 722 North Perry Street, during our hours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 to noon, Tuesday 3 to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Chicken and Ribs prepared by Port-A-Pit BBQ from Edgerton, Ohio.

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

Dear Pastor King... I would like to take a moment to thank you for allowing the Gideons to give a presentation at your church. It was a joy for me to have the opportunity to speak, and I was overwhelmed with the warm reception that you gave me.

On behalf of the Gideons of Henry Co., Williams Co., and the Gideons International, we extend a warm thank you for your continued support. As you well know, getting God's Word to the far reaching ends of the earth is paramount, and I feel confident that we accomplished this because of the Christian love that your church has for the spiritually lost.

With an offering of \$289.00 we will be able to purchase 57 Bibles or 240 Testaments. Thank you again.

We can only pray that precious souls will come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of the funds being raised and the Scriptures being distributed.

Thank you again for the kind introduction and the kind words you said about myself and the Gideon Association.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Randall L. Judy
Williams County Gideon Camp

Dear Church Ladies,

We all greatly appreciate all of the marvelous meals you guys prepared for us in the last 9 weeks. You ladies are truly amazing.

Sincerely, Teen Café

Membership News

Memorial Services:

Please remember in your prayers the families of these members of our Emanuel family who recently were called home by God:

Pastor James L. Castello, who passed away on Friday, February 21. His memorial service was held at the church on Wednesday, February 26.

Kathlean Ward, who passed away on Saturday, January 4. Her memorial service was held at the church on Monday, March 2.

Check out the youtube videos

Pastor Castello's Memorial Service and Sunday, March 15 Worship Service with Bishop Beaudoin

Remember our members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in your prayers and with cards, letters, and visits:

Lutheran Home (1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon)
Marg Lanzer
Alpine Village (1032 S. Perry St., Napoleon)



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

Laurels of Defiance (1701 S. Jefferson Ave. Defiance, OH 43512)

Van Crest Health Center (600 E Joe E Brown Ave, Holgate, OH 43527)

Orchards of Northcrest (240 Northcrest Drive Napoleon, OH 43545)



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Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring, Angela Tonjes
Parish Secretary - Maxine Eickhoff
Sunday School Superintendent -
Altar Guild Chairman - Julie Callaway
Custodian - Janitor Jack

2020 Church Council

President - Barb Hoffman

President-Elect - Carey Plummer

Secretary - Lorelee Jones

Treasurer - Julie Kohout

Doctrine & Worship Board - Melinda Dachenhaus & Joe Kohout

Congregational Life Board - Gayla Rohrs & Denise Etzler

Board of Education - Joleen Brubaker & Deanna McCabe

Properties Board - Ryan Hoffman & Joe Knepley

Finance Board - Kelli Burkhardt & Maxine Eickhoff