

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 have attended Emanuel Lutheran Church for all 47 years of my life. I was baptized, confirmed, married and probably will have my funeral at Emanuel, but I don't think I've ever been as close to God as I am now. I don't know if I would call this letter a "walk of faith". Maybe it should be called "Disconnected ramblings from a clumsy Christian". I heard the term clumsy Christian used on the radio the other day, and it really hit home. I go through life bumping into sin from day to day, and, for the most part, find my way back to the path of the Lord.

If I do have a "walk of faith", I guess I should thank Ron Schink for that. There are many things we do that we call ministries, but the ministry I enjoy most is being a member of the church bell choir. I was a member of the bell choir during my catechism years and then a few years after that, during high school. After high school I got a job and tried to work second shift while going to Northwest State during the day. After a while of that hectic life, church never really seemed to fit into my plans. I don't know how long I didn't attend, but it was Ron who

asked if I would like to come back and play with the adult bell choir. I've been ringing ever since. I owe a lot to Ron for getting me back to church and helping me to find my favorite ministry for God. I am also very thankful for Hugh allowing this ministry to carry on.

I am very thankful for what I have. I have two loving parents who had me baptized and brought me up in church and taught me the Ten Commandments. I am thankful that my parents weren't "drop off and pick up" parents. We attended church as a family. I have an older brother, a loving wife, a sweet mother-in-law and two beautiful daughters who all have been blessings from God. I just hope my life on earth lasts long enough to enjoy watching my daughters grow up to have loving families of their own, like the one I already have.

Now for the rambling part. I have been through many ups and down in my life and I have had many questions for God. Some of which I think have been answered, and many of which I think will be answered when He feels the time is right.

If someone were to ask me if I were a Christian, I would answer, yes. There are times I wonder, am I? Am I really a Christian or am I just playing the part? I try to do the things that I feel Christ would want me to do, but am I really? I feel that I fail miserably and I continue to ask God for forgiveness. I need constant reminders that Christ is my savior and I need His forgiveness. For assurance, I could show you three things that I always carry with me: a small wooden cross given to me by the church, a small medallion with a cross cut-out of the middle with the words "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son", and a marble with the golden rule etched around it. Now I'm down to two things, since I have lost my marble. (Yes, I know what you're all thinking!) I try to live life by the golden rule and treat people the way I would like to be treated. Sometimes, it doesn't always work out that way.

Over the past couple of years, I think the music at Emanuel has been more moving and uplifting than ever before. As I play some of the songs with the bell choir, it makes me proud to call myself a Christian and am moved by what we are playing. But when we ring, I question whether the congregation is just hearing noise, or are they hearing music? Is our ministry really reaching out? Is the applause because we were successful in reaching out or because we finally finished the song? There are certain songs we play that send shivers down my spine just from feeling the joy of the song and the meaning behind it. That is what we are trying to send to whomever we play for. It took me several attempts before I could sing and play "Here I Am Lord" without crying. Listen to the words, not just the music, and you try not to cry.

I also know that if I have to listen to Marv Mt.Castle sing songs in church, I'm going to have to buy stock in Kleenex. He just has a way of bringing the meaning of the words of the song to life and tears to my eyes!

I will always remember something my grandfather used to say every morning. He used to recite Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". I know my grandfather believed and lived that in his life. I only hope I can live my life in faith as well as my grandfather did.

When I was six years old, I was diagnosed with type one diabetes. I didn't understand why God picked me. I don't know that I still understand, but I'm sure He had a reason. When people ask me how I can do all of those things I have to do, like prick my finger six or seven times a day, change the tubing for my insulin pump every three days, get blood tests every three months and eat only certain foods, I tell them I'm lucky. I can still do pretty much everything I desire to do. There are so many people that aren't as fortunate. There are children in the world who don't have food, or people who are missing limbs or are living in the streets. How can I feel ashamed or hateful for being diabetic? The people I feel sorry for are the ones who complain because they have to take pills every day.

See what I mean about the disconnected and rambling parts? Here are just some parting thoughts and questions to ponder.

Why do we get so upset and angry when our favorite team loses? IT'S A GAME, defined as any form of play or amusement. Why do we find it so easy to get that fired up about a game, but we find it hard to get that fired up about our faith? Watch the sunrise the next morning, and it'll make you forget about that silly GAME!

Try to keep things in perspective.

When you think things can't get any worse, look around at what you have and pray for those who have it worse.

If someone wants to do something nice for you, don't argue with them. You probably can't

imagine the joy they may feel, just to see you smile.

Try to do at least one kind thing a day. It'll make you feel good, and hopefully someone else too.

Why do we feel bad when someone passes away and wish we had a chance to tell them that we loved them? Even though they probably know it, tell them while you have the chance!

Thank someone just for being your friend.

I only hope that one day, my faith might be as strong as the faith that Jim Hustwick professes. Given with everything that Jim has been through, his faith remains strong. He will always be "Fantastic", no matter what may come his way.

On the Christian scale of 1 to 10, I would probably rate myself a 3. I still have many downfalls and shortcomings, but I am trying to overcome them. I try to fail just a little less each day. I thank my parents and my family for loving me and accepting me as I am and for who I am trying to be.

One of my favorite parables is the parable of the cracked pot. A man carries two pots, one each on the end of a stick, carried over his shoulder to the river for water. One pot is cracked, while the other pot is perfect and carries a full ration of water to the journey's end. The cracked pot delivers only half. After two years of daily trips to the stream, the perfect pot is proud of his

accomplishments, while the pot with the crack is ashamed of his. One day at the stream, after two years of what is perceived as bitter failure, the cracked pot apologizes to his master. The master asks "why" the pot is ashamed. The pot replies "For the past two years, I have only provided you with half a load of water on the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work and you don't get full value from me, like you do the perfect pot. The pot's master explains, "On the way back to my master's house, I want you to notice the flowers along the path". On the return trip, the cracked pot is very pleased at the beautiful flowers along the path, but is still ashamed of the half load of water he has brought home. His master tells him "Didn't you notice the flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other side? I have always known about your flaw and planted flowers along your side of the path. Every day on the return trip you have nurtured these flowers with water. I have been able to pick these flowers and grace my master's home with their beauty. Without you being the way you are, this would not have been possible."

I know that I have many flaws, like the pot with the crack. I just need to do a better job at letting the Lord use my flaws to please God.

A very good friend of mine reminds me, "Satan attacks our minds, but God lives in our hearts". We should all have friends like that.

Bill Paring

Thursday night services

Weekly Worship/Bible Study will
begin on Thursday night,
March 27, at 7:30 p.m.

We need you! To do what?

To offer (oneself or one's service) for some undertaking or purpose, to give, bestow, or perform voluntarily: to volunteer a song. This definition of a volunteer fits exactly the need we have.

At the end of the Summer 2007 Thursday evening services, the Doctrine and Worship Committee was asked to consider extending the services throughout the year. The Committee has been working to start Thursday evening services beginning March 27 to go through November 20. Here is what we have been able to accomplish so far. The assistants are ready, the Altar Guild is prepared, and we have two organists who are willing to play for the services once a month each. That leaves 2 services without music!

If you are able to lead others in song, sing praise songs, play an instrument, provide appropriate recorded music, or whatever else you might be able to do to assist with the music for the services, please contact Pastor Castello, Tom Jenny, or Susan Landversicht.

Thank you!

- ❑ A big thank you to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bexley, Ohio, for donating 69 LBW Hymnals to Emanuel Lutheran. We have replaced some worn books and placed additional books in the long pews, the overflow, and the choir section. If you find other hymnals that need to be replaced, please notify Tom Jenny or Susan Landversicht.
- ❑ Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness in donating all the HBA items to the House of Ruth. Your generosity provides the women and children who come in to shelter with things they need and are grateful for.

-God bless all of you! Diana Owens

Many thanks to our friends at Hope Services
who have been assembling our newsletters!

from the Congregational Life Board ...

GIVING/DONATION CORNER

Our monthly collection of donated items continues with a special project through the Synod Global Mission Board. From a letter form the Global mission Board:

“The need for school supplies for children in Africa is tremendous! A member of our Synod took school supplies with her to distribute while on a mission trip to Tanzania and tells the story of handing out pencils to a group of women parents, and one woman cried. When asked why she was crying, the woman said it was a cry of joy, because now she could break the pencil into 3 pieces for her children to use in school!

“We are asking for your help to fill a large container with school supplies that we will ship to Tanzania. It will take many tons of school supplies to fill this container! Please start now to collect lots of school supplies to bring or send to this year’s Synod Assembly and Cross Training Event in May ...

Thank you for your help!”

Items needed are:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Crayons | Protractors | Glue sticks | Chalkboard erasers |
| Pencils | Blunt Scissors | Pencil sharpeners | Staplers and staples |
| Chalk | Washable markers | Scotch tape | Solar calculators |
| Erasers | Making tape | Metric Rulers | Rubber bands |
| Safety pins | Compass | Baby washcloths | Paper notebooks |
| | Ink & stamp pads | Watercolor paint | |

REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES WITH PRAYERS, CARDS, VISITS.

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

Ruth M. Eickhoff
Marge Gathman
Irma Overhulse
Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

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

Carl Bockelman (#319)

Otterbein Portage Valley (Avalon by Otterbein, 3533 Rivers Edge Dr Rm 106, Perrysburg OH 43551)

Hildegarde Reiser

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Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Ted Rohrs
Women of the ELCA President - Nancy Schink
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@embarqmail.com)
Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink
Asst. Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning
Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle
Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring
Sunday School Superintendent -
Altar Guild Chairman - Andrea Hoffman
Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel
Custodian - Jack Robbins

Church Office Hours

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday

Church Council Highlights - March 17, 2008

- Lenten offerings totaled \$4,452.00 which will be equally divided between the following: World Hunger, Good Samaritan Fund, Henry County Transportation Network, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Thus, each organization will receive \$1,113.00. Council was pleased with the amount given through the Lenten offerings.
- Recipients of the Giving Donation Center for the next three months are the following: Tanzanian School Supplies (April), Sara's Garden (May), and NW Ohio Hospice (June).
- 44 plants were sold through the Easter Plant sale with a \$65 profit being realized.
- Plans have been finalized for the 5th Sunday Event to be held on Sunday, March 30, with a potluck following second service and Brookview BB chicken being provided. This 5th Sunday Event will also celebrate Holy Humor Sunday which is a very old church tradition.
- Doug and Judy Hoffman have been thanked for their help with the newly donated hymnals, including creating and applying new labels to the books, placing the hymnals in the choir loft and pews, as well as recycling the worn hymnals.
- Preparations have been made for the Thursday evening services to begin on March 27. Communion will be celebrated on the third Thursday of the month. Volunteers are needed to lead the singing for these evening services.
- The Worship and Doctrine Board has been asked to prepare a list of items which would be considered appropriate as memorial gifts.
- Volunteers are still needed to assist with the video taping of the church services for viewing by people unable to attend church. More volunteers, equipment, and new video tapes are needed.
- The Northwestern Ohio Synod Convention will be held May 15 through 17 at Bowling Green State University, with the business meeting on May 15 and Cross Training occurring on May 16 and 17. The Cross Training will include special speakers, a variety of workshops, as well as various music events.

Soul Food

every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming menus for April include:

April 2 - Pasta Night – Spaghetti and Pizza Casserole

April 9 - Chicken & Dumplings

April 16 - Poor Man's Steak, Mashed Potatoes

April 23 - Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes

April 30 - Beef Stew & Biscuits

May 7 - Grilled Chicken, Rice Pilaf

May 14 - Last Soul Food until fall = Emanuel's Men's Night – Grill-out Hamburgers & Hot Dogs;
Mohring's Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans

(Please note: all menus subject to change!)

Volunteers to help are always welcomed; come early to help cook – stay late to help clean! You needn't bring a thing but your appetite, or, if you're so inclined and able, salads or desserts are appreciated, too. As important as the food is the good fellowship that is shared each Wednesday evening during our time together. "Soul Food" is for everyone, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that's good for you, body and soul!

Membership News

Baptism Kayla Jo and Leah Kathryn, twin daughters of Brian & Deanna McCabe, will be baptized on March 30.

Congratulations to Barb & Steve Kenning on the birth on January 30, 2008 of her grandson, Adam, to parents, Rachael & Brian Cole in Ijamsville, Maryland. Adam has a brother, Colin.

Lynesa Isabel Shotz was born March 21, 2008. She is the granddaughter of Mike & Holly Hershberger, great granddaughter of Jim & Arlene Hershberger.

Please let us know of any family birth announcements, etc. so we can celebrate with you!

News from around the Synod and the Community

Home Town Heroes Dinner

The Henry County Chapter of the Red Cross is sponsoring a dinner to honor our Home Town Heroes on April 19, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Society for the Handicapped. The tickets are \$20.00 and are available at the Red Cross or from Rita Schweinhagen.

ELCA Draft Social Statement

The Northwestern Ohio Synod will be hosting a hearing for members to comment on the text of the Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality on April 5, 2008 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 22 North Second Street, Waterville. Roger Willer of the ELCA will be present to assist with this discussion. Assistant to the Bishop, Marc Miller will be the convener.

The Statement is available to members on the Northwestern Ohio Synod web site at www.nwos-elca.org. Pastor also has a copy.

Bloodmobile Dates

Wednesday, April 2, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Patrick Henry High School

Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Harley-Davidson Sales & Service

Monday, April 21, 12:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. – Battle of the Badges @ Napoleon AMVETS

Wednesday, April 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. – Henry ARC @ Chapterhouse (appointment only)

First Place Bible Study

The **First Place** Bible Study and weight loss program will begin a new session on April 7. This weekly faith-based weight loss plan can help you achieve healthy eating habits and keep your weight under control. **First Place** is a Christ-centered health program for women and men of any denomination. The meetings are held at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Hamler on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. Call Louise Baden at 419-274-2882 if you are interested.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
February 27 (7:30 p.m.)	98		\$ 568.40 Bldg Fd - \$25 World Hngr - \$10
March 2	130 + 94 (224)	116	\$ 5,798.45 Bldg Fd - \$605 Rainbow Ringers - \$50 World Hngr - \$30 Good Sam Fd - \$50
March 5 (7:30 p.m.)	110		\$ 623.75 Bldg Fd - \$10
March 9	104 + 112 (216)	91	\$ 3,345.55 Bldg Fd - \$95 14 for Christ - \$14 Good Sam Fd - \$55 World Hngr - \$5
March 12 (7:30 p.m.)	94		\$ 2,271.16 Easter flowers - \$396
March 16	140 + 150 (290)		\$ 3,696.32 Bldg Fd - \$150 World Hngr - \$25 Good Sam Fd - \$80

Worship participants in April

Ushers

8:00 Jack Ruby, Mike Mohring,
Ed Panning, George Kryder

10:30 Kurt Rohrs, Lavern Lanzer,
Marv Mt.Castle, Ben Michaelis

Altar Guild

Beth Jenny & Sandi Borstelman

Acolytes

8:00 Blake Biederstedt & Henry Elling

10:30 Tyler Nation & Justin Allison

Lay assistants

8:00 Carol Castello

10:30 Bill Panning

Altar Flowers

April 6 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Barb Michaelis

- in loving memory of Melle Landversicht

April 13 - in honor of Alexandria Biederstedt's 10th birthday

April 20 - Mel & Marg Lanzer in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary

- in honor of Neil Storch's 12th birthday

April 27 - confirmation class

- Irene Cordes in loving memory of Tom Cordes

- Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary

Open dates on 2008 calendar:

July 20

October 5

November 2

Altar flowers cost \$20. This amount should be placed in the offering plate and designated for altar flowers. Flowers are automatically ordered from Cattails. If you have a special flower, color or container request, Cattails can customize your arrangement. Price of the arrangement can be increased also. If you wish to make your own arrangements, you should notify the church office a couple weeks ahead of the designated Sunday.

Thanks to all those who purchased the 44 Easter plants that are beautifying our sanctuary this Easter!

Burnice Agler

in loving memory of husband, Russell

Bonnie & Sonny Babcock (2)

in loving memory of Christine Richholt Rath & William Richholt

Tiffany & Ed Biederstedt

in honor of Blake & Alexandria

Norm & Kathy Bostelman (3)

in loving memory of Margaret Fahy, Harold Bostelman, Otto Hahn; in honor of Lorna Bostelman & Esther Hahn

Casey & Julie Callaway (3)

In loving memory of William & Christine Richholt; in honor of Sonny & Bonnie Babcock; Jonathan, Hannah & Sarah

Herman Campbell

in loving memory of Annabelle Campbell

Leo & Juanita Clausen (2)

in loving memory of our parents, sisters, brother

Mary & Paul Cousino

in loving memory of son, Paul Spencer

Harold Delventhal

in loving memory of Mary Delventhal

Hazel & Maxine Eickhoff

in loving memory of Alvin (Ike) Eickhoff

Ruth C. Eickhoff

in loving memory of Norbert Eickhoff

Tom & Barb Hoffman (4)

in loving memory of Art & Estella Hoffman, Robert & Lulu Arps; in honor of Lauren, Ryan & Andrea Hoffman

Steve & Phyllis Kloos

in honor of Missy & Stephanie

Joe & Julie Kohout (2)

in honor of Erica & Ryan

Norm & Sue Kruse (3)

in honor of our kids & grandkids

Ken & Nancy Lange (2)

in honor of our daughters, Dawn & Suzette

Patsy McGinnis

in honor of my grandchildren Jodi, Amy, Austin & Katie and great grandchildren Ty & Tari

Mary Jo Moden

in loving memory of Mary L. Thompson; in honor of Kim, Rob & Chris

John & Maggi Mohler (2)

in loving memory of Daris & Marcella Mohler, Marie Sauer, Suzanne Lange Shumaker, Mary Hoefel, Ella & John Reiser, Hermenia Reiser, Lillian Reiser, Dwight Mohler

Rog & Deb Rex

in honor of Scott, Kelli & Mike

Jack Robbins (3)

in loving memory of Lester & Wilma Robbins

Don & Carolyn Schmidlin

in loving memory of loved ones

Dave & Nanette Schwab (2)

Rupert & Rita Schweinhagen (2)

in honor of Olivia Schweinhagen

Gary & Lila Wernecke

in honor of our grandchildren Brett, Nick, Devin, Gavin, Colin & Lilly

Mike & Gayla, Jessica, Laura, Sarah, Carl Yaney

in honor of Art & Denelda Rohrs

Confirmation

At the 10:30 service on Sunday, April 27, nine young men and women of our congregation will affirm their baptismal covenant. These young persons will be confirmed on that day:

JUSTIN JAMES ALLISON

ALAN CHRISTOPHER BOSTELMAN

CLAYTON MICHAEL BURKEN

MEREDITH ELAINE HOOPS

THERESA MARIE PEPER

NICHOLAS PATRICK ROHRS

STEPHANIE LYNN RUBY

JENNIFER CAROLYN SCHINK

LAURA LYN YANEY