

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

As I've related to some people, when Jim told me that he was seriously considering going into ordained ministry, I felt like it was a direct-dialed person-to-person call only for him, and I wasn't even allowed to listen in on the extension. I grew up in parsonages as a Methodist P.K. (Preacher's Kid), and I had no plans to live that life in adulthood. I knew that Jim had toyed with the idea of becoming a pastor off and on throughout his youth, but that was before we met or married or had a baby!

He was, at the time, working at his "dream job" – as store director of Peaches Records and Tapes in Toledo. Our daughter, Becky, was only 10 weeks old when we decided to take a vacation "out west." We put 5,000 miles on our new little Buick Skylark, driving out west to the Grand Canyon, through Bryce and Zion National Parks, and then on up into Yellowstone and back across the midwestern prairielands and back to Toledo. Two days after my 24th birthday, we had pulled along a rocky wall of Zion National Park and stopped for me to nurse Becky when Jim said, "You know, I'm thinking of doing something else with my life. I mean, I just can't see myself

selling records when I'm 50 years old." Foolishly, naively, trustingly, I asked, "Something else? Like what?" He very calmly answered, "I'm thinking of going to seminary and going into the ministry." And, like a good, supportive wife....I cried! Like I said, I grew up in that life, and I had no plans to live it as an adult!

Now I have never been one to be able to say that I've heard God speaking to me or that I've known that I am just where God wants me to be or doing just what God wants me to do. Of course, I hope and pray that I am. But to declare without a doubt that I am living absolutely according to God's will? I just can't say that for sure. I couldn't then, 30 years ago when Jim started seminary, and I can't now, almost 26 years of ordained ministry later.

But I do know how very blessed I have been and am now. And I am fully aware of what a privilege and a gift it has been (and still is) to share in people's lives as we do.

Somehow through those years, I've found my way (and am still finding my way!) in my faith and in our life together in the faith. Opportunities and situations have presented themselves, and I've been able to say, "Yes, I think I can do that" or, at least, "I'd like to try that." Leaving family, friends, and all that has been near and dear and familiar to me, "I've discovered new "family" and dear friends in our churches in southern Indiana, southwestern Minnesota, southern Ohio, and now northwestern Ohio. Through mission trips, youth gatherings, and hunger events, I've been welcomed and felt "at home" along the flooded Ohio River; in the

sweltering summer sun on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota; in Atlanta, New Orleans, and St. Louis; in Tanzania and in Mexico; in Chicago and Baltimore, Bismarck and Denver. And whenever I've doubted or been afraid, I've been calmed and comforted by knowing that God is there with me, because He promised He would always be.

Where else could I be now but at Emanuel—"God is with us"?

Card Castello

Membership News

Funeral Michael A. Kruse, son of Robert Kruse and great grandson of Olga Kruse, died suddenly on February 27; his funeral was held on March 3 at the Church of the Nazarene. Pray for God's comfort for his family.

WE APPRECIATE HEARING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY NEWS (BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, ETC.).

We would like to include your family's birthdays in our birthday prayers on Sundays, in which case we would need those names and dates. We would also like to know the names of all those family members serving in the military.

Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust *ELCA Proposed Social Statement*

A proposed Social Statement on *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* and the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policy* have been released. They deal with, among other issues, same-gender relationships in regards to the blessing of relationships and whether to approve Lutherans in same sex relationships for ordination.

The entire documents may be read at www.nwos-elca.org or www.elca.org. The documents will be reviewed by the Conference of Bishops March 5-10.

The statements will be discussed and acted upon at our Churchwide Assembly August 17-23, 2009 in Minneapolis as well as at our Synod Assembly May 15-16 of this year.

Thursday, April 23 has been set aside as a “Day of Prayer and Reflection” on the documents. Lay and rostered leaders are invited to come to one of 3 sessions: 9:30 a.m. - noon; 1:30 p.m. 4 p.m.; or 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Findlay (935 West Bigelow Avenue - 419.422.2641) for a time of “conversation and consolation” in regards to the documents.

Early Communion Classes

Early communion classes will be held for all 5th graders and older who desire to receive Holy Communion before they are confirmed.

There will be three required sessions:

Monday, April 20

Monday, April 27

Wednesday, April 29

Each of the sessions will be from **6 p.m. - 7 p.m.** A parent or guardian is required to attend them as well.

Please let Pastor know if you are interested, have any questions, or if these times will not work for you.

Giving/Donation Corner

THANK YOU to all who donated to last month's collection for the food pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church here in Napoleon. A SPECIAL THANKS to those who "sponsored" a food box for Easter for our "adopted families" from Christmas!

Through the month of April we will be collecting items for the Market Basket Program of L.S.S. They are most in need of the following items:

Toilet paper	Cling wrap/Aluminum foil	
Tissues	Shampoo/Conditioner	Deodorant
Paper towels/napkins	Hand/body lotion	Trash bags/Baggies
Dish/Laundry soap	Bar soap	

P...R...A...Y...E...R.....C...H...A...I...N

The Prayer Chain is "connected" again! If you would like to be added as a "link" or if you have a prayer request, simply call Carol Castello at 592-0847 OR e-mail her at cjcast@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and "prayer-ing"!

The following is an e-mail received in the church office from our missionaries in Hong Kong, the LeMonds:

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a brief note to tell you that the LeMonds now have a website through which we can stay in touch with you. Here's the address: lemondworld.shutterfly.com. We hope you'll take a look and be in touch with us with comments and ideas for additions to the site.

Blessings and peace,
John and Barbara

Soul Food “Stirrings”

Soul Food Menu for April - check out the specials!

April 1 - help celebrate April Fools Day with a special menu:

Smoked swine with citrus gravy

Pomme de terre

Primeval forest stumps

Spiced Southern Belles

Piece de resistances

Grog, cow juice and rain runoff

(It's some of everyone's favorites, see if you can decode it!)

April 8 - Join us for a Traditional Seder Meal.

This was well received last year. It is a meal of food, prayer and fellowship. Servers will be the Catechism students.

Roast Beef

Chicken

Rice

Peas

Matzo ball soup

(There will be a sign-up sheet so we know how many to plan for.)

April 15 - I.R.S. Leftovers - OR - Poor Man's Steak

April 22 - Italian Night

April 29 - Chicken Divan (Robbins/Schwab Chicken)

May 6 - Pizza Night

May 13 - Grill-out Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

(as always, menus subject to change!)

Another “Soul Food” year is quickly coming to an end in mid-May. The good fellowship shared is the most important “ingredient” each Wednesday evening at “Soul Food”, so come enjoy it while you can! Volunteers to help are still always welcomed with these weekly meals – with shopping, cooking, salads and desserts, serving and/or cleaning up! “Soul Food” is for everyone, and no sign-up is required, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that's good for you, body and soul!

Notes from Angela

Hallelujah Chorus practice

The adult choir will be singing the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter Sunday, April 12 at the end of the 7:00 a.m. service. If you would like to join us in this classic by Handel, come to practice on April 1 at 6:45 p.m. or April 9 at 6:45 p.m. See Angela if you would like the music ahead of time.

Adult Choir

Rehearsals continue on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Please note: NO PRACTICE on Wednesday, April 8. We WILL practice on Thursday, April 9 at 6:30. See you there!

Rainbow Ringers/Cherub Choir

After School Club continues to meet on Wednesdays. The children are enjoying their new songs, ringing bells, and even doing some hand jive! Look for them to present a short program on a Sunday morning in May.

Thank you!

-to all who preached, made banners, designed bulletin covers, sang songs, played an instrument, or helped in any way during our March Lenten services. We were really blessed by you.

-to Chris Peper's Adult Sunday School Class. You were amazing and we WILL do it again.

There is talk of a national tour ...

Banners and Objects

The faces on the banners and objects on the table in March were ...

March 1: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (flowering plant)

March 8: Judas (thirty pieces of silver)

March 15: Peter (rooster)

March 22: Pilate (towel and basin)

March 29: Simon of Cyrene (cross beam)

Worship in April

April 12 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service

10:30 a.m. Easter Service with Holy Communion

April 19 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Humor Sunday

A fun service remembering the joke that Jesus played on death

April 16 Confirmation

We will be on WNDH radio in the month of April. Please remind your shut-in friends and neighbors!

If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped.

-Evelyn Underhill, 1875-1941

Thank you!

- ◆ I would like to thank everyone that attended the One Spirit concert here at Emanuel on Sunday evening, February 22. I was overwhelmed with the attendance. We collected \$321.25 in freewill offering. I donated \$100 of that to the other quartet members to help cover their travel cost for the evening. The remainder (\$221.25) was donated to Emanuel's youth for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in July 2009.

Thanks to the youth group for helping with the dinner and the clean-up, thanks to those who helped the group set up and tear down, and thanks to all who attended. Your support is very much appreciated! I'm hoping we can do this again sometime in the future

-Marvin Mt.Castle

- ◆ We want to thank you for the "Welcome" wall hanging and for all the prayers when I fell and fractured my hip. God Bless Everyone.

-Don & Carolyn Schmidlin

- ◆ I just wanted to thank you for the gift and all the letters and support we received during my mother's recent illness (Betty Middleton). We always enjoy hearing from our home church! Betty is doing much better - she came home on 1/23/09! She had a lot of complications due to her colon cancer surgery in September '08! Thank you again! God Bless.

-her daughter, Lori Middleton

Video Camera Class

DCTV offers camera and editing instructional classes. Each class includes four one-hour sessions. A certificate of completion is awarded at the end of each class. Classes are free of charge to residents of the Defiance area with a minimal charge for materials. Beginners Classes are Mondays - Camera at 7:00 p.m., Editing at 8:00 p.m. Advanced Classes are on Thursdays - Camera at 7:00 p.m., Editing at 8:00 p.m. They are located at the Arts & Media Center, 319 Wayne Avenue, Defiance. If you would like to attend and share a ride, please contact Douglas Hoffman.

WELCA News

Kathy Gerken, president

Spring is right around the corner and I, for one, am thankful for that. It has been a long and often challenging winter.

With the approaching season comes a time of reawakening and plenty of opportunities to renew and strengthen our relationship with God through Bible Study, Prayer, Meetings, and Worship.

All are welcome to attend any of the Circle Meetings, attend mid-week Communion the 2nd Wednesday of each month, and come to our WELCA picnic on June 4.

This year St. Mark's Lutheran Church in rural Defiance will be the site of the Spring Assembly on April 18.

God's Blessings to all of you!

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 9 - **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, April 10 - **GOOD FRIDAY**
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 12 - **EASTER**
7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Confirmation

Emanuel will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for 3 of our young members who have completed their catechetical instruction.

Blake Biederstedt

Tyler Nation

David Yunker

are now ready to affirm publicly the baptismal covenant God made with them in Jesus Christ and to take on greater responsibility with us in the mission of the church. The Rite of Confirmation will take place on Sunday, April 26 at the 10:30 service. Holy Communion will be offered as well. Please keep these young men in your prayers that they will continue to grow in faith in the Spirit as witnesses of new life in the crucified and risen Christ.

Club Christ

High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

Thanks to your unending and unwavering support, the generosity of the Congregational Life Board, the One Spirit Quartet and private donors, our Gathering-bound Youth are in good shape heading into the final fundraising season of the year!! We are still collecting media items and will plan the sale in April, after Easter. We are beginning our Gathering studies to help prepare our youth for their time in New Orleans, and the excitement is building! Thank you once more for all of your support and for hanging in there with us!! We could go nowhere without you!

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

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

Marge Gathman
Irma Overhulse
Alfred "Petey" Ruetz
Carl Bockelman

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

Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)
Minnie Meineke (#306)

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon)

Julia Arps (mailing address: 8271 Co Rd T Liberty Center, OH 43532)

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

Hildegarde Reiser

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Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Jack Robbins
Women of the ELCA President - Kathy Gerken
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@yahoo.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 - Laura Ellis-Kruse
Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara 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

News from around the Synod and the Community

Lutheran Men in Mission Spring Retreat

Don't miss the Lutheran Men in Mission Spring Retreat on May 2 at 9:30 a.m. (registration 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.) at Trinity Lutheran Church, 935 W. Bigelow Ave., Findlay, Ohio. Keynote speaker will be Charlie Ernst, coach of the 16-0 University of Findlay Oilers.

See the bulletin board near our church office for registration information.

Red Cross Bloodmobile — April

Wednesday, April 1, 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Patrick Henry High School

Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Harley-Davidson

Monday, April 20, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at AMVETS "Battle of the Badges"

Wednesday, April 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Henry Country American Red Cross (ARC)

Lutheran Homes Annual Meeting

Lutheran Homes Society is holding its 149th Annual Meeting of member congregations on Monday, April 20, 2009 at Providence Lutheran Church, 8131 Airport Highway, Holland, Ohio. The event will begin with registration, displays and a light buffet at 5:30 p.m., followed by worship and the annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will feature speaker Jeff Heitz, retired local broadcast journalist. A dessert reception will follow. For reservations, please contact Bev at (419) 861-4954 or email BApel@LHSOH.org by April 13, 2009. Emanuel's delegates are Steve & Phyl Kloos.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
February 22	100 + 98 (198)		\$ 4,371.75 Bldg Fd - \$190 * Bell Choir mem - \$50 World Hunger - \$25
February 25 (7:30 p.m.)	137	131	\$ 960.00
March 1	133 + 91 (224)	122	\$ 4,192.93 Bldg Fd - \$460 World Hunger - \$15 Good Sam Fd - \$115 CDs - \$11.18 Misc - \$28
March 4 (7:30 p.m.)	111		\$ 655.00
March 8	90 + 99 (189)	81	\$ 4,869.30 Bldg Fd - \$250 Good Sam Fd - \$50 World Hunger - \$15 Misc - \$112
March 11 (7:30 p.m.)	?		\$ 758.00
March 15	111 + 131 (242)		\$3,808.25 Bldg Fd - \$250 Good Sam Fd - \$120 World Hunger - \$5

* 2/22 \$50 memorial to Bell Choir - Nelson Fejes

clarification:

2/8 from Leo & Juanita Clausen - memorial

\$1,000 for National Youth Gathering high schoolers; \$500 for KFC & YCC
in loving memory of her parents Cyril & Agnes Bauer

Worship participants in April

Acolytes

8:00 Neil Storch & Henry Elling
10:30 Chandler Burken & Tyler Allison
April 1 - Sarah Yaney & Neil Storch
April 9 - Blake Biederstedt & Tyler Nation
April 10 - David Yunker
April 26 - Jacob Skeens & Henry Elling

Altar Guild

Sandi Borstelman & Peggy Snyder

Ushers

8:00 George Kryder, Art Lange,
Helen Lange, Tom Hoffman
10:30 Karl Wiechers, Larry Ashbaugh
Terry Walther, Rupert Schweinhagen

Lay Assistants

8:00 Ruth Hershberger
10:30 Laura Ellis

Altar Flowers

April 5 - Ben & Judy Michaelis - in loving memory of Barbara Michaelis
April 12 - in celebration of Alexandria Biederstedt's 11th birthday by her family
April 19 - in celebration of Neil Storch's 13th birthday by his family
April 26 - confirmation class
- Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt in celebration of their 18th wedding anniversary

Open dates on 2009 flower calendar:

June 7

November 1,15

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.