

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXVI No. 4
April 2011

**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 ...

My religious upbringing was in the Methodist Church. I was baptized, attended Sunday school, sang in the youth choir and attended church services.

When I was 6 years old my father passed away. At age 16 my mother remarried and 6 months later my stepfather passed away. These were tragic events in my life. Even as young as I was I knew God had given me a wonderful gift in my mother. She didn't complain about her lot in life. She worked a full time job and sometimes two part time jobs. She had three small children to raise and did it without complaint. She taught us the value of being a family and about unconditional love and that God doesn't give us any burdens we can't bear. *1 Corinthians 10:13 No testing has over taken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.*

On Valentine's Day 1992, I thought I was going to have to endure something I wasn't sure I had the strength to endure. Our oldest son, David, was in an automobile accident. He was taken to

St. Vincent's Hospital in critical condition. As we drove to Toledo, I was praying frantically that David would be okay. The more I prayed the more frantic I became. We were almost to Toledo when I changed my prayer. I asked God to give me the strength to face and accept whatever David's injuries were. Almost immediately I felt much calmer.

We were met at the hospital by two emergency room doctors, a nurse and a priest. The doctors explained that David had suffered a traumatic closed head injury and was in a coma. His left elbow was severely fractured and the femur of his left leg was fractured. He had suffered fractures to every bone in his face. He could not breathe on his own even with the tracheotomy they had performed to transport him to Toledo. Also, due to the trauma he had a blood disorder. He had no internal injuries and his heart was strong. But because of his breathing problem not allowing enough oxygen to his brain and the blood disorder he could not survive.

When David had arrived at the hospital the Priest had administered the Last Rites. They didn't think he would last until we arrived. David did not

have a Living Will, If he had they would have only done measures to keep him comfortable until he passed away. They put him on a respirator and moved him from the emergency room to trauma recovery ICU.

They let us see David and had us meet with a counselor. She told us not get our hopes up that he would live because if he lived he would be a 25 year old man with the mentality of a 5 year old. Also, very few marriages could endure the stress of having such a family member and our other children would not be able to cope with having a mentally impaired brother. In all likely hood our family and friends would not stand by us for an extended period of time. The day just kept getting worse!

When you sit in a waiting room for an extended period of time, you have a lot of time to think and pray. One minute I was praying that David would live and the next I was telling God if he gave me the strength I could accept David dying.

Sometime in the middle of the afternoon David's primary care doctor came to us with news. They had changed the tracheotomy tube and David could breathe on his own. They still would keep him on the respirator to insure he got enough oxygen to the brain. They had done blood lab work at given intervals and the last four times the report came back as normal. He could not explain why and he had not seen this happen before. David was still critical but now they would start caring for his other injuries. We could visit him for 5 minutes out of every 3 hours. Thanks be to God! We had hope!

The first week David survived two surgeries to repair his elbow and leg. We also had one very long day when he took a turn for the worse and they didn't think he would survive. David was in trauma recovery for 10 days, usually they kept patients only 4 days. During this time the plastic surgeon asked for a picture of David so could determine how much reconstructive surgery

would need to be done to his face. He determined that although his facial bones showed fractures the basic structure looked good. He would let the fracture heal and let the swelling go down and take another look.

David never needed any surgery. When they moved David from trauma ICU to surgical ICU, they decided that because in all likely hood he would be in a comma for an extended period of time they should surgically insert a feeding tube. It was a real disappointment to me because it meant the swelling in his brain wasn't going down anytime soon.

David was at St. V's for 4 weeks. During those weeks I learned how quickly people in like circumstances can bond. There were two other automobile accident patients brought into St.V's on Feb.14th. A 17 year old girl named Jennifer and a 36 year young man named David. Jennifer didn't have a head injury but she had very critical internal injuries. David had an open traumatic head injury; his brain had been exposed to the air. We weren't in the waiting room for very long that first day, when we started a conversation with Jennifer's grandmother. She asked if she could put David's name on a prayer chain that originated on the east coast and across the U.S. someone prayed for your loved one every minute of every hour. I was amazed! We needed all the help we could get.

One day my sister and I were in the waiting room when the other David's wife came in. She sat at the table next to us and we visited. We were the only people in the usually busy room. A team of 8 doctors came into the room to talk to her. We knew this wasn't going to be good news. I knew we should leave because of her privacy, but I couldn't leave her there alone. The doctors told her they were going to remove all life support from her husband. She said she had faith that God was going to heal her husband. They were sorry, but they didn't. She asked if they would give her time to bring her two young daughters to

the hospital and would they allow the girls to see their father? They agreed to wait 24 hours and against their better judgment the girls could see their father. We did the best we could to comfort her and I knew but for the grace of God they could have been talking to me. Later that afternoon she brought the girls into ICU and they prayed beside their father's bed. The next day he was responding to treatment and all talk of removing life support was over. Prayer is powerful!

David was transferred to St. Francis Rehabilitation Hospital on March 17th. They were the only facility that would take him because he had no skills such as swallowing, coughing, etc. The first couple of weeks they evaluated his condition. Their evaluation showed that he was deaf and blind and that some of his therapy would be delayed because of this. Thus began my relationship with the medical community at St. Francis. They looked at David's condition from a medical point of view and I looked at it from a common sense point of view. Common sense told me that David was neither deaf or blind. When David's eyes were open he just stared straight unless our 2 month old grandson was in the room. Where ever Joel was David watched him. If Joel cried David would frown. If Joel was out of David's view and cried David frowned. I related this to David's nurse and she thought it was just a fluke. When I persisted she decided she would show me how wrong I was. She placed a magazine on David's tray upside down. David turned it right side up. I told him if there was nothing on that page that was of interest he could turn the page. It took a minute but he turned the page. I was elated, she said it meant nothing.

I knew early on that this was all in God's hands. I had gotten in the habit of talking to Him on my drives to and from Toledo and Green Springs. I was so grateful for any little thing David could do. I didn't dwell on the things he couldn't do. I knew that no matter how discouraging things got

I would not turn my back on God or David. I just wanted some sign that there was hope. I was also asking okay God what's next?

Our next visit with David we took David a tablet and pen. I wanted him to write so that we could communicate with him. He couldn't speak because of the tracheotomy. He held the pen and positioned the paper as to write, but didn't. A couple of days later was our son Nick's birthday. We decided to celebrate at St. Francis so David could be there. I placed a card on David's tray and asked if he would like to sign the card for his brother. He held the card up as if reading the front and then opened it and wrote his full name. There was my sign.

The next week we had good and bad news. A swallow evaluation was done and they were going to try spoon feeding David. Bad news, David would never speak again. The trach tube had rubbed against his vocal chords and done extensive damage.. The feeding went well. A month later the neurologist agreed to the removal of the neck brace and the trach. David spoke and he said just what God knew I had waited months to hear "I love you Mom". His voice was weak, but he had a voice.

David had brain surgery in June to relieve the pressure on his brain. A shunt was put in to drain the fluid. This was a major decision for my husband and me. There was only a 50/50 chance it would help and it could make things worse. The neurologist felt if we wanted David to ever be "smart" again it was our only recourse. We decided God had blessed us thus far so we agreed to it. The surgery was a success and we saw improvement all most immediately. The permanent feeding tube was removed at this time.

David was restless, agitated and combative from the first day he arrived at St. Francis. It was always a puzzle to me how he was so still and calm at St. V's and so restless there. The first

night he was so restless that they had to restrain his good arm and leg to the bed. Sometime in the night he threw himself over the side of the bed and hung. He had to have 4 stitches above his eye.

His agitation was a real problem. He wasn't cooperative during his therapies. When I was there I could get him to cooperate. They asked me to come one day a week to sit in on his therapy. It was on one of these days that I overheard his nurses talking about his seizure medications. I was not aware that David had had or was having seizures. I was aware that it was not unusual for head injury patients to have them. When I questioned them about the medication I was told to talk to his doctor. I spoke with his neurologist. He said he had not prescribed the medication and to his knowledge David was not having seizures. He said they sometimes use those medications to control patients. He advised speaking to the psychologist and request he be seen by a psychiatrist. The finding of the psychiatrist was that David was taking 3 seizure medications all of which had side effects of agitation, combativeness and restlessness. She wrote an order for the medications to be cut back in dosage. Instead the resident doctor increased one of them and continued with the other two. I was so disheartened. David was getting worse and I so afraid he would seriously hurt himself. He was always trying to escape. He would try to get on the elevator and one day he rode his wheel chair down a flight of stairs. His Dad and I would sometimes comment that some day we would meet him on the highway headed for home in his wheelchair.

We requested that we be allowed to take him home for a weekends and they readily agreed. That went well. I talked to the social worker about any options we might have to reduce the medications or outpatient therapy. She said we had none.

When I left St. Francis that day I knew God had

not forsaken us but didn't have a clue what He wanted me to do. So as usual I talked to Him all the way home. When I got home there was a message from my sister. She had information about getting David into out patient rehabilitation at Medical College in Toledo. This was one of those be careful what you wish for; you might just get it sort of things! Here was our answer, but it meant David would have to come home permanently. Someone had to take care of his daily needs and they were many.

He was considered to be in the last stages of the coma. His cognitive skills (perception, reasoning, problem solving, decision making and attention span) were limited. He was incontinent so there were depends to change. His short term memory was affected. He needed physical therapy. He had limited use of his left arm and leg. He also had trouble walking because of balance problems. He still had some problems with swallowing. He could not be left unsupervised at any time.

There were other considerations also. How to get him to therapy in Toledo. Could I manage a 180 pound young man by myself to care for him during the day? What about my babysitting business? We needed the income to pay for the trips back and forth to therapy. Our freedom to come and go as we pleased would stop. The only thing I knew for sure was that if David was going to get better we needed to bring him home. Once that decision was made, everything else just fell into place. Medical College would take him 3 days a week for his therapy. My sister and brother-in-law offered to take him 2 days and I would take him the third. My niece and other sister offered to help by watching the children I babysat for while I took David to therapy and doctor appointments. The parents were willing to do whatever they could. Our family doctor agreed to help wean David off the seizure medications. I was counting on God to give me the strength to take care of David. He hadn't failed me so far.

The latter part of September David came home. He didn't start therapy at MCO until Nov. 1. I didn't want him to lose anything he had gained so twice a day we did his physical therapy. Each morning we worked on personal hygiene and his short term memory (remembering his age, date of birth, day of the week, month and year, what he ate for breakfast etc.). The children were a great help. They would play memory games with him and do their own exercises while I worked with David on his. At the end of each day I was exhausted, but so very encouraged that maybe we had made the right decision to bring David home.

After the first week at MCO the doctor in charge of rehabilitation asked to evaluate David. When he finished his evaluation he said "Mother, put this boy in a home and get on with your life!" I told him that was never going to happen and all I wanted was for to give David 1 month to see if he improved. If not, I would accept their decision to discontinue therapy. David was in therapy for 11 months. At one point that same doctor shook David's hand and said "David you have humbled me".

During this time at MCO David had surgery to remove the hardware that was holding his elbow together. They took out about 1/2 of it the rest was encased in calcium deposits. It was determined that nerves were also encased and he would never have use of his left hand. He held his arm at a right angle because the elbow would not flex. Today he has use of hand and his elbow will flex about 9 inches. David's final psychological evaluation stated he was of average intelligence, he showed no bitterness or

resentment as to his handicaps and he had a strong belief that God had a plan for his life that kept him working to get better. He walked with the help of a cane, but he walked. He still had some problems but nothing I felt we and David couldn't live with. They did caution that he probably wouldn't improve much more. They felt he had plateaued and for a head injury patient not much more could be expected. Five years later we were still seeing little improvements in David.

God gave me all the tools I needed along the way. It was God's love and that of my family that kept me from being depressed, discouraged and giving up when things were so bleak. Some friends and family and even clergy humored me, but they never really believed that David would get well.

Shortly after David's accident someone asked me why this happened to our family? I asked ,Why not our family? If we are Christians and we believe that if we call upon our Lord and Savior in time of trouble he will help us, then why not us? I have never once asked God why? Why has never been important to me. What was then and is now important to me is that I put the tools He gave me to good use. I pray my actions then and now were and are pleasing to Him.

I hope the love of God was and is shining through me. I hope I have been as kind to others along the way as total strangers have been to me.

Pala Her

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
Good Friday, April 22, 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae service

Easter

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

We are on the radio
for the month of April.

Thank you

- Thank you for the prayer blanket and for remembering me with your cards and prayers and Pastor's visits. Marie Panning
- Thank you very much for the hygiene products, paper products and food items that your church recently donated to us here at the House of Ruth. Generosity such as yours is a true blessing for us.
-Thanks again, Diana Owens, Center for Child and Family Advocacy
- To Pastor Castello & Emanuel members, Thank you for your prayers, visits, phone calls, cards etc. while I was a patient at Defiance and Toledo Hospital and at home. Also for the DVD's which were a real inspiration to me and some of the hospital personnel. A few nurses especially enjoyed the bell choir as they had been bell ringers at their churches. So a special thank you for that. Also for the afghan Pastor delivered and for the Christmas gift to Ron and me, the angel night light.
-Janis Dachenhaus
- As many of you know, I held a concert and luncheon here at Emanuel on Sunday, March 6 to raise funds for my trip to Africa in May. Because of your support and generosity, I was able to pay for almost the entire cost of the trip! I would just like to thank you all so much. Not just for this, but for all of the support you've given me throughout the years. You've helped me go to camp with scholarships for 11 years, allowed me to encourage other kids in our congregation to go to camp, supported me with my music, and not to mention assisted me in my spiritual growth. I am so grateful that I have all of you in my life. I always know that I can turn to my church family for help whenever I need it. Thanks again so much!
-Marcus Mt.Castle
- MANY HEARTFELT THANKS.... for all of the donations from the February "Caring Corner" that were directed our way. Being a new effort to fill the void for people in need, the collection of items from Emanuel will certainly help. We are still looking for support, both financially and materially, on an on-going basis as we forge ahead to offer our help five days a week. As of our 4th month of operation (mid-March), we have served over 400 households and a little more than 3,000 people in need of basic personal care items. We truly believe that "Together We CAN Make a Difference," as you have helped to show!
-Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives
Kelli Burkhardt, Executive Director
- We would like to thank everyone that helped with the benefit on our behalf. It seems like words are not enough to show our gratitude when so many of you did so much more. The outcome of the benefit was amazing and we will always be thankful and hope that someday we can return the generosity.
We would like to say a special thank you to Pastor Castello for encouraging the benefit on our behalf. A huge thank you to the committee that put this amazing benefit together. We were truly blown away with the huge turn out.
We would like to thank the whole congregation. We are truly blessed to be part of such a great congregation.
Again, we know that these are just words on paper but if you could look in our hearts you would know just how amazingly blessed and grateful we are.
-God Bless, Art & Leota Pedraza

Coming Alive

It's that time of year again for the United Way's exercise challenge, Coming Alive. If you would like to take part this year and have not yet filled out a registration form, please talk to Judy Hoffman as soon as possible. Coming Alive will run from April 18 until May 15.

Dartball

Another dartball season has come to an end. The team finished with a regular season record of 14-10 and finished the tournament on Sunday, March 13 as tournament runner-up, losing to Bethlehem Okolona team 2.

There is always a need for more players, as on a couple of occasions the team consisted of 2 players and on another occasion, 3 players. The minimum for a match is 4 players.

The dartball team will need a new captain for next year as I am stepping aside after many years as captain. If there is anyone interested in filling this position, please contact me. Someone will need to be in place before the captain's meeting in August. The matches are on Tuesday evenings, usually on the third Tuesday of the month. On the months with 5 weeks, they will try to play two matches.

I have enjoyed my time as captain and intend to continue playing, but feel it is time for someone else to take a turn. The pay is great!

Thank you,
Bill Panning

News from the Community

Lutheran Homes Story

The Lutheran Homes Society Story, "Lutheran Homes Society: A History of Compassion," will be featured on WLMB-TV 40 on Friday, April 15 at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m. The program, originally produced by WGTE Public Television, features archival film, vintage still photography, and oral recollections by staff and people served by LHS ministries. The program celebrates Lutheran Homes Society's 150 years of ministry to the church and community. Please tune in to WLMB-TV 40.

from the Congregational Life Board

Caring/Donation Corner

The Donation corner for the month of April is designated to the Filling Home. Their wish list consists of: **stationery and art supplies such as washable markers, construction paper, crayons, glue sticks and stickers.**

Thanks

Many thanks go to the volunteers who worked the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and to the ones who came out to enjoy the delicious pancakes and sausage. After expenses \$106.00 was collected for the Good Samaritan Fund. Thanks again!

Good Word for Today

Many thanks also go out to Beth Jenny, Laura Yaney, and Tiffany Biederstedt for volunteering their voices for “Good Word for Today” during the month of March.

Lilies

We will be ordering Easter lilies through Hospice of Henry County. Lilies and hydrangeas will be available for purchase and order forms will be in the church bulletins. All orders will be due by April 13.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be April 4 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone is invited to attend to share any ideas you may have.

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

The Prayer Chain is “connecting” us to prayer! 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”!

Happy 50th anniversary Bell Choir!

Ronald Schink was Organist and Director of Music at Emanuel for 32 years. He was also founder and director of the Emanuel Lutheran Bell Choir in 1961. His birth date was April 9th, so this year the Bell Choir is celebrating his legacy and the 50th Anniversary of Bell Ringing at Emanuel.

1961 - 2011

We share this tribute from the National Board of AGEHR (American Guild of English Handbell Ringers) by Jacques M. Kearns of Augusta, GA.

Schink, Ronald J. (Ron) Honorary Life 1988. Ron had the dubious honor of being appointed National Festivals Chairman by eight AGEHR Presidents, beginning with Richard Litterest in 1967 and continued through the presidencies of Robert Ivey, Donald Allured, Nancy Poore Tufts, James Salzwedel, Mary McCleary, David Davidson, and Mary Kettelhut! From 1967 through 1985 he traveled thousands of miles visiting campuses and convention centers, selecting sites for National Festivals, and negotiating contracts for rooms, meals, classrooms, and social activities at the Festival sites. He also handled all the registrations for the Festivals! His annual report to the board was usually "We made money!" To many of us, he was the one who welcomed us at the Festival registration desk! He also organized and was the tour guide for the Guild's 25th Anniversary Tour to England in 1979, and in 1984 he organized and led a tour for adult ringers on a guild-sponsored ringing tour of Europe. Ron organized his first bell choir in 1961 and became a member of AGEHR in 1961. In 1962 he was chairman of Area V and from 1963-1967 served as Festival Chairman for Area V. When his term as Area V's Festival Chairman ended, he began his 18 years of continuous service as National Festivals Chairman! For his service to AGEHR, and especially for his many years as National Festivals Chairman, Ron was made an Honorary Life Member in November of 1988. In the May 1993 issue of OVERTONES, Mary Kettelhut wrote In Memoriam: "AGEHR has lost a friend and worker. Ron Schink passed away on February 25th. At the funeral service held for Ron, a tribute was read by Pastor Michael Rothgery, a former ringer. He said in part, 'Emanuel Lutheran Church (Ron's church of service for 32 years) is known from the White House to Hawaii and from England to Vienna because of Ron. Ron took the young men of this congregation who may have never been farther than the corn fields in Henry County, and showed them the World.' He will be missed, but his good works will be remembered by all who knew and loved him. He played a big part in 'uniting people in this musical art.'"

2011
Women of the ELCA
Spring Assembly

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
30997 Gerken Road (corner of Co Rd 17D & Gerken Rd)
Defiance, Ohio

Registration and Fellowship from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
Finished after lunch

Registration Fee: \$6.00 due by March 25.
Send to Phyllis Knape
01827 Adams Ridge Road
Defiance, OH 43512

Make check payable to: Maumee Valley Conference Women of the ELCA.

Love Offering: Sara's Garden
Monetary Donations, Bottled Water
Disposable Plates and Silverware
Toilet Paper, Hand Lotion
Pencils, Reams of Paper
Stamps, Sharpie Pens
Batteries (Size D, AA, AAA)

Registration forms are on the bulletin board by our church office.

Membership News

Funerals February 25 - Stuart Baker
March 8 - Henry Langenhop
March 19 - Sarah Peper

Please remember in your prayers the families of these brothers and sister in the faith who have entered the Church Triumphant.

Wedding Congratulations and God's blessings to Tammy Schweinhagen & Brett Silvius who were married March 12 in Key West!

Transferred Sandy Rohrs and daughter, Adara Hildebrandt, and Austin & Cindy Miller and sons, Colton & Kyler, have transferred their membership to Peace Lutheran Church in Defiance.

Pastor Jim & Pat Updegraff have transferred their membership to First Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio.

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.

Would you like to join the growing number of people who receive their newsletters via email? Please let us know if you are interested and make sure we have your email address. You will need Adobe Reader on your computer to do this (available free for download at adobe.com).

Be sure to check out our website **www.emanuelnapoleon.org**! You can find current and past newsletters, picture pages, and loads of information and pictures!

You can also find pictures from the Pedraza benefit at <http://gallery.me.com/dlho/100464>.

Remember our members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities with prayers, cards, visits.

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

Marge Gathman Paul Panning

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz Ted Titgemeyer

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

Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon)

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

Golden Center Living Center-Northcrest

Ruth Delaney (240 Northcrest Dr, Napoleon)

Church Office Hours

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com

Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond

Congregation President - Gary Bostelman

Women of the ELCA President - Marilyn Fretz

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 - Angela Sosebee

Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman

Custodian - Jack Robbins

2011 Church Council

President - Gary Bostelman

President-Elect - Ron Wiechers

Secretary - Jenny Perdew

Treasurer - Julie Kohout

Doctrine & Worship Board - Holly Mohring & Terry Hershberger

Congregational Life Board - Terri Haase & Carol Castello

Board of Education - Jamie Glick & Julie Mt.Castle

Properties Board - Matt Mt.Castle & Jeff Sharpe

Finance Board - Martha Young & Lorelee Jones

Worship participants in April

Acolytes

8:00 Austin Damman & Stephen Yunker

10:30 Ryan Kohout & Dalton Middleton

Lenten Services:

April 6 - Ryan Kohout & Alex Andrews

April 13 - Alie Hernandez & Kenli Dachenhaus

April 21 - Alexandria Biederstedt & Stephen Yunker

April 22 - Hannah Plummer & Sarah Yaney

Lay Assistants

8:00 Ruth Hershberger

10:30 Karl Wiechers

Ushers

8:00 Ron Wiechers, Jack Ruby,

Ed Peper, Don Mitchell

10:30 To Be Announced

Altar Guild

Mary DeWit & Laura Yaney

Altar Flowers

April 3 - Bob & Linda Lulfs in loving memory of Leo Fouty and Joyce Lulfs

April 10 - Kathy Ward in loving memory of Leonard Kieffer & Art Ward

- Alexandria Biederstedt's 13th birthday

- Mel & Marg Lanzer in celebration of their 63rd wedding anniversary

April 17 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Barbara Michaelis

April 24 - Neil Storch's 15th birthday

- Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt in celebration of their 21st wedding anniversary

Open dates:

June 5-12

October 9-30

To reserve altar flowers...

Simply sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office. Our flowers are done by Ivy League Floral & Design Studio on West Washington Street. The cost is \$20. If you have *special* orders for your flowers (certain colors, a larger arrangement, etc.), they will be happy to serve you. Please contact Cori Ratliff at Ivy League for these special orders. If your order is beyond the \$20, please pay the shop directly.

***** We are recycling the used plastic containers that the altar flowers come in. They can be put in Angela's office. *****

Statistics

Sunday, February 27

attendance 97 + 115 (212)

\$ 4,479.45

\$ 290 Bldg Fd

35 World Hunger

40 Good Samaritan Fund

Sunday, March 13

attendance 91 + 106 (197) communed 69

\$ 3,641.00

\$ 45 Bldg Fd

10 Good Samaritan Fund

5 World Hunger

10 mem to Endowment Fd -

Stuart Baker

Sunday, March 6

attendance 96 + 79 (175) communed 87

\$ 5,854.00

\$ 10 World Hunger

390 Building Fund

35 Good Samaritan Fund

701 Youth Fund

Wednesday, 16

attendance 118

\$ 746.00

Sunday, March 20

attendance 93 + 114 (207)

\$ 5,974.46

\$ 65 Bldg Fd

1,210 Good Samaritan Fund

5 World Hunger

51 Youth Fund

25 mem to Bldg Fd - Sarah Peper

15 mem to Endow Fd - Stuart Baker

500 mem to Endow Fd - Sarah Peper

Wednesday, March 9 - Ash Wednesday

attendance 163 communed 158

\$ 2,617.00

\$ 106 Good Samaritan Fund

25 memorial to Endowment Fd -

Marie Bockelman

Easter

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen. Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life. -George Mecklenberg

Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

Adult Choir

Choir practices will be held in the basement on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. during April. There is NO practice on Wednesday, April 20, due to the Seder meal. Choir members, please be at church at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Living Spirit will practice immediately following worship on Wednesday evenings.

Hallelujah Chorus Rehearsal

Would you like to sing the Hallelujah Chorus with the choir on Easter morning? Do you have a child coming home from college or a family member visiting who would like to sing? Please join us on Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the basement for a brief rehearsal of this favorite number. We will also practice on Easter Sunday at 6:30 a.m. in the basement.

After School Club

Thanks to all the children who sang songs and rang bells in March. You were terrific. We will continue to meet every Wednesday through April, with an end-of-the-year party on April 27. We welcomed some new faces in March!

New Hymn for April

On the two communion Sundays in April, we will be singing a new hymn from the blue book, #753 *You Are the Seed*. The choir will help lead the congregation.

What is Lent?

Lent is the Old English word for spring. It is a 40 day season of the church year that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40 day count. Lent is a tradition in the Christian church and is thought to recall the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan.

Worship is more solemn, and purple is the color. Alleluias are removed from the service. Extra prayer and acts of kindness are encouraged.

Lent Worship

Lent worship continues on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. There will be special music each week and a different person preaching each evening. The readings and hymns have a focus on the rocks and stones in Scripture. Can you find all the references? Be ready to receive a special rock for your family soon.

Radio

We are on WNDH radio in April. Invite any shut-ins you know to tune in for the worship service.

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Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. (communion, stripping of the altar)

Good Friday (Tenebrae)

Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Easter

Sunday, April 24 at 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (communion at both)

Thank You

Thank you to the guys who got the organ motor up and running last month. Special thanks (from me) to Mark Tonjes for building the new motor frame.

“Lent is a spring housecleaning of the soul.”

SOUL FOOD “STIRRINGS” SOUL FOOD SEDER and “SUMMER SOUL”

✓ On Wednesday of Holy Week, April 20, we will be celebrating a Seder Meal at Soul Food. We have done this for the last several years as a meaningful way to gather together before Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with a Christian interpretation of this ancient Jewish meal. With our outreach now to the community with an open invitation to our weekly “Soul Food” meals, we may have some “visitors” for this special meal that week. Please remember to perhaps help guide them through the “service” of the Seder as we welcome them to “the Lord’s Table” and OUR tables. Let’s all remember our church sign on Scott Street and be a welcoming place for people to “Come Unto The House Of The Lord.”

✓ There has been some informal discussion of continuing our weekly Wednesday meals through the summer with “Summer Soul”. We have community folks who are somewhat dependent on us for a meal, and we have many of our own church family who regularly enjoy the fellowship each week, so.... If you are interested in attending and especially in helping with “Summer Soul”, please talk with Carol Castello, Kelli Burkhardt, or Terri Sedam.