

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXX No. 12
December 2005

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.

Thank you for my birthday surprise at "Soul Food". I always knew you were an attractive bunch, but you look even better in orange! I am humbled by your love and care. It does not go unappreciated.

Christmas is a time for family. It will be a privilege for me to be with you, my church "family" again this year. Help me in reaching out to our "family" members we have not seen for awhile. Welcome them with open arms and thankful hearts. Then let us reach out to those who have forgotten, or do not even know, that they are related to us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am slowly but surely learning more and more of the blood relationship of many of you to one another. As the saying goes, "You have to watch out who you talk about with whom because they might be related." I am also slowly learning how we should all be careful with what we say about one

another and do to one another because of our relationship through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus calls for us to understand our connectedness. We should care for and reach out to one another because we are all related to Him. We all come to Him in need. He blesses us in the richness of His love and grace beyond any understanding. The entire world could put aside its "sibling rivalry", if only we all would turn to the Prince of Peace.

Christmas is a time for family. My brothers and sisters in Christ, I look forward to being with you again. And I look forward to working with you in bringing others into the fold. Have a blessed Christmas and a welcoming New Year.

I'll see you in church and out in the world trying to live out this grace we know.

Pastor Castello

Dear Friends,

The Advent Season now is here—a time when we prepare
Our hearts and homes to welcome Christ, God’s gift of love so rare.
As I reflect on this year past, I’m humbled now to see
How each and all of you have blessed and welcomed Jim and me.
You’ve been so patient as we’ve tried to learn each name and face
And who goes when - “early” or “late” - whichever is the case!
Your prayers and cards were comforting when my dad died in June
And then, just four weeks later, when Jim’s dad followed so soon.
You’ve been so kind when friends have come and to our fam’ly, too;
God’s love shines forth in things you’ve done and said (and say and do!).
You reach out so to others, helping those who are in need;
You’re living out the Gospel with each kind and loving deed.
We’re blessed to be a blessing, and this ministry we share
Will spread God’s grace to those we meet here, there, and everywhere.
There’s one small way to show our thanks—a Christmas Open House;
Come see our home and three huge cats (but not one single mouse!)
On Sunday, the 11th, in the afternoon from 1
‘Til 7 in the evening—we do welcome everyone!
Please come enjoy some cookies, cider, and some Christmas cheer,
As we’ll enjoy your company in our own home right here.
Now, as I close, I hope you know God’s love and peace and joy
Was sent to earth in swaddling clothes as that dear Baby Boy.
He’s here with us—“Emmanuel”—and walks with us each day.
I end this Christmas greeting now in hopes it will convey
A Very Blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year, too!
God bless and keep and guide you all! Love, the Castello Crew

Season’s Greetings from the Castellos!

Pastor & Carol

*Becky, Emily, Jason, and Hannah, Rachel and Kevin
and the “friendly beasts” -Hokie, Lakota, and Rugby*

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AN INVITATION....

WHO: All of you!

WHAT: A Christmas Open House

WHEN: Sunday, December 11 from 1 to 7 p.m.

Come when you can; leave when you must!

WHERE: The Castellos

Q 317 County Road 15, Napoleon

WHY: to share the joy of the Season

To thank you for your love and support

“because we LIKE you!”

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CROP Walk “Re-Cap”

On a brisk and blustery Sunday afternoon on November 6, 65 brave souls stepped out with their 130 “soles” to walk together in the “first annual” Henry County CROP Walk (actually, no injuries occurred, although Ben Gay was reportedly in plentiful use for several days after!). A total of \$2,591 was raised, with 25% of that (\$647.75) to be returned here to Henry County to be divided among Christmas Cheer and local food banks in the county. Emanuel Walkers – all 32 of them – raised \$1,132.

Many, many thanks to all who walked or donated or supported or helped in any way!

Our CROP Walkers: Alexandria, Blake, Ed, & Tiffany Biederstedt; Darlene Bostelman; Gary & Jamie Bostelman; Carol Castello; Barb Hoffman; Emily Jordan; Phyllis Kloos; Julie Kohout; Bonnie McCain & grandkids; Julie, Marcus, & Marv Mt.Castle; Donna Peper; Jenni Schink; Nancy Schink; Abbey Schwab; Carl, Gayla, Jessica, Laura & Sarah Yaney; and Martha Young.

Registrations: Becky Castello

Cookies & Rest Station Help: Denise Brown, Judy Hoffman, Nancy Lange, Diana Zachrich

Walk Route Signs: Pat Dille

Walk Route Map: Douglas Hoffman

Bulletin Inserts & Money Collection: Pat Mohring

(With apologies to anyone whose name I may have overlooked!)

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Preacher Pounding Report

A loss of 2 pounds in the last month!

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Newsletter-by-email

We have sent this newsletter via e-mail for the first time to those who have requested it. If you would like to receive your newsletter this way, please notify the church office of your e-mail address. You will need to have Adobe Reader on your computer to read it.

If you have problems receiving your e-mail newsletter, please let us know and we will send you a hard copy.

The newsletter is also posted on our website. Use the “What’s New” button and scroll down to the bottom of the page. (www.emanuelnapoleon.org)

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Alternative Gift-giving for Christmas

GIVE UNTIL...IT FEELS GOOD TO GIVE!

As we approach the hectic holidays, what we mistakenly think is “tradition” is more often selfish overindulgence—we overeat, overdrink, overbuy, overspend, overexpect, and overextend. All too often, the hustle and bustle becomes a hassle, and we’re simply too tired—physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually—to either “count our many blessings, name them one by one” or “repeat the sounding joy.”

The ELCA has once again published an alternative giving ideas catalog called “ELCA Good Gifts.” Are you tired of the hectic rush to buy Christmas or birthday gifts that family and friends don’t really want or need? Wouldn’t you prefer to give a gift that can change a life—or even save one? Break out of the frantic “spend-give” cycle with gifts to the vital ministries of the ELCA, including the World Hunger Appeal. The catalog gives examples of how far even small amounts of money can stretch when used by our church and its partners to help people in need. It’s easy to honor family and friends with a gift that means more than one extra tie or pair of slippers. You can also help children learn that gift giving is about love for each other—love that spills over into love for all God’s children and is more important than owning one more video game.

Giving should be joyful. So, have fun with this catalog! Think up whimsical combinations of animals to “give” to others, knowing that your World Hunger gift doesn’t just “buy” an animal; it also brings families in rural communities the short- and long-term tools and training they need to earn enough to care for their children. Give the gift of water, in the name of the Water of Life. Invite children to choose a gift for themselves instead of receiving a toy or trinket, or help them choose a gift for their friends that brings life to others. Use these alternative giving ideas to help members of your family learn about our church’s World Hunger work in concrete, understandable ways.

“ELCA Good Gifts” catalogs are available at both church entrances. Thanks for working to end chronic hunger in God’s world!

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After School Club

Julie Yunker and the After School Club would like to thank:

- _ Julie Kohout for assisting.
- _ Julie Callaway for the art.
- _ Pastor Castello for doing a lesson with the kids.
- _ The Michaelises for walking the kids every Wednesday.
- _ All the people who have provided snacks.
- _ Sue Schink for delivering the shoe boxes we collected for the Good Samaritan Project.

After School Club will go caroling at the Filling Home on December 7.

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People often think of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is the season of the Christian year beginning December 25 and lasting until January 6, the day of Epiphany. From 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote “The Twelve Days of Christmas” as a secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels, the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church. Each element of the song is a code as follows:

- * The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
- * Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.
- * Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
- * Four calling birds are the four Gospels.
- * Five gold rings recall the Torah (Law), the first five books of the Old Testament.
- * Six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
- * Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit. (Gal. 5)
- * Eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- * Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Spirit.
- * Ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
- * Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
- * Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.

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Funeral

Vernon W. Rohrs passed from this life on November 10 and was buried on the 13th. We want to remember Janice and their family in our prayers, asking for God’s comfort and blessing.

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New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Mark & Angela Tonjes and their sons, Zachary, Dylan and Seth!
They have transferred their membership from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Flatrock Township<~><-



Operation Christmas Care

We at Emanuel are cooperating with other Napoleon area churches to provide Christmas to families that cannot provide it for their own. You can get involved with the spirit of giving by helping purchase needed items for families. Here is how you can help:

- 1) Pick up a “wish list” item in the “Giving corner” in the overflow area, located in the red basket (you can take as many as you like!).
- 2) Buy the item(s) listed. Include batteries if applicable.
- 3) Wrap the gift and label it with the bottom identifying portion of the “Wish List”.
- 4) Return the wrapped item to the overflow area **no later than** Sunday, December 11.
- 5) We will turn in our purchased items along with an invitation to each family to join us at worship at Emanuel at Christmas and always.

If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Kloos 599-5313.



Our 10:30 worship service will be broadcast on WNDH 103.1 FM during the month of December.



From the Congregational Life Board

Giving/donation corner

Thank you for your October donations to both the Cherry Street Mission and the Red Cross military personnel.

The November collections for Christmas Cheer will continue through December 5 and will then be delivered to the Amvets on December 6. Anyone wishing to help with the sorting or packing of the items may call LeRoy Helberg at 419-267-3619 to volunteer.

Thanks also to those of you who donated canned cranberry sauce or volunteered to help serve at the Community Thanksgiving meal. Your generosity seems to always exceed our expectations!

The collections for December will go to the Filing Home of Mercy. Donations of ADULT size gloves, mittens, hats and scarves will be accepted and appreciated through the end of December.

Time and Talents

Time and Talent sheets were distributed and collected in November. If you happened to have missed out on filling one out, there are additional copies available on the table in the overflow area. We'd greatly appreciate your taking the time to complete one and turn it into the office at your earliest convenience. THANKS!

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling is being planned for Sunday afternoon December 18. We will meet here at the church at 3:00 p.m. We'll then divide up into groups and "go a'caroling" until we've gotten to every house on the lists or our voices give out. Please look for further details in the upcoming bulletins and make plans now to participate and help spread a little Christmas cheer to as many members of our congregation as possible!

Giving/Donation Corner 2006

The Congregational Life Board would like to continue giving the congregation the opportunity to donate to various organizations and groups through the "Giving/Donation Corner" in 2006. If anyone would have any suggestions for a specific group that would benefit from these efforts, please give your suggestions, along with information regarding the group and whom to contact, if possible, to Gayla Yaney, Dorothy Smith, Ryan Hoffman, or leave a note in the church office.

We thank you in advance for your help in helping continue this outreach mission from Emanuel.

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Health Ministry

- Judy Hoffman

Tips to help avoid stress during the Holidays

- _ Don't wait until the last minute to make plans. If you can't arrange anything with family members, try to plan some time with friends.

- _ Don't try to do everything. Choose the things you can do and enjoy them. Prioritize the events that mean the most to you and your family.

- _ When it comes to gift shopping, remember that it's the thought that counts. Don't get caught up in perfectionism or competitiveness.

- _ Keep it simple. You don't need to bake 20 different kinds of cookies.

- _ Be realistic in your expectations for family gatherings so you don't risk being disappointed or frustrated.

- _ Plan carefully so you can accomplish several errands on one trip. That way, you'll have more time to do the things you really want to do.

Also, our annual choir member party will be on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Tom and Beth Jenny.

We have a volunteer babysitter for January 15 through April 15. We welcome anyone with young children to join us for these few months since we can now provide childcare!

Schedule for December:

- December 4, 8:00 a.m.: "Is Your Heart Prepared?"
- December 11, 10:30 a.m.: "Is Your Heart Prepared?"
- December 18, 10:30 a.m.: Cantata "Let the World Rejoice"
- December 24, 11:00 p.m.: "Were You There?" and "The Hallelujah Chorus"

The musicians of Emanuel have a very special gift to give to our congregation. On Sunday, December 18, we will be telling the Christmas story with song. This cantata is entitled "Let the World Rejoice" and will feature our many outstanding musicians of all ages. This program will be presented ONE TIME ONLY, at the 10:30 worship service, and will last approximately one hour. We invite you to come, sit back, and enjoy the music of the season!

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December 31, New Year's Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. This will be a service to welcome the new year, with a focus on reflection and special hymns.

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Soul Food

Menu for December

- December 7 Spaghetti & Meatballs
- December 14 Pork Roast
- December 21 Tuna Salad & Chicken Salad
- December 28 Bratwurst & Sauerkraut

Menu for January

- January 4 Beef Stew
- January 11 Baked Potato Bar
- January 18 Meatloaf & Hamloaf
- January 25 Hot Chicken Sandwiches

Serving is from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. There will be a free will donation for the meals. If you would like to share a dessert or a salad, we would appreciate that very much. Be sure to sign up by Tuesday each week and bring a friend!



EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
 810 Scott Street, P.O. Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545 (419-592-2616) emanuel@bright.net
 www.emmanuelnapoleon.org
 Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
 Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
 Congregation President - Barbara Hoffman
 Women of the ELCA President - Nancy Lange
 Prayer Chain Co-ordinator -Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@metalink.net)
 Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
 Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink
 Chime Choir Director - Bill Panning
 Living Spirit Director - Barbara Hoffman
 Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring
 Sunday School Superintendent - Laura Ellis
 Altar Guild Chairman - Shelley Higbea
 Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel
 Custodians - Michelle Dille, Caye Schroeder, Jack Robbins



Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WELCA News
Nancy Lange, President

General Meeting

Mark your calendar for our General Meeting on December 1. We'll have installation of officers (see below). Miriam Circle will host.

WELCA Officers for 2006

- President - **Carol Dille**
- Vice President - **Rita Schweinhagen**
- Secretary - **Donna Peper**
- Treasurer - **Dora Titgemeyer** (serving 2nd year of term)
- Mission Growth - **Janis Dachenhaus** (serving 2nd year of term)
- Mission Action - **Ami Allison**
- Filling Guild Representative - **Lois Gerken**

Nominating committee - **Minnie Meineke**
Betsy Mix
Connie Williams

Altar Guild - **Ruth Hershberger**
Julie Kohout
Jamie Bostelman
Sue Kruse
Shelley Higbea
Jessica Yaney
Julie Mt.Castle (1 year term to finish Charlotte Wangrin's term)

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THANK YOU!

- Dear Friends of Emanuel, Larry and I want to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and the many cards and meals we received. And to Pastor Castello for all his visits ad prayers. It was all very much appreciated. Peace be within you. -Diana & Larry Zachrich
- We wish to thank our church family for their many prayers for Vernon these past 5 years. Neither of us would have made it without them. We thank Pastor Castello for his support, love and visits. We thank you for the cards, memorials and expressions of love. Pat and Angela, I wish to thank you also. Sincerely, Janice, Dawn, Faith & Kurt and their families
- It is my privilege to serve on the synod committee seeking to bring a team of 12 Tanzanian evangelists to northwest Ohio in the fall of 2006. The Lord is doing great things in His Church in Tanzania! It is as it was in the time of the apostles, "Day by day the Lord added to the number of those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). It is the hope and prayer of our committee that the Spirit-filled enthusiasm of these evangelists infects us, too, that God might bring a revival in our midst as well. At our most recent committee meeting, it was reported that the congregation at Emanuel contributed \$222.05 toward this event. On behalf of the committee, and all those who share this vision, I wanted to thank you for that gift. May the Lord bless and keep you, and may He use the Injili event to strengthen His saints here and in Tanzania, too. God be with you all, in Jesus' name.
-Pastor Steve Ramsey, Good Hope, Arlington, Ohio, Injili Committee member

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The blessedness of receiving

St. Paul reminded some visiting friends from Ephesus that Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Apparently, Jesus did not say that receiving was not blessed. He just said the greater blessing comes from giving. Jesus was one who both gave and received.

Jesus was often the recipient of gifts, invitations and acts of kindness. He enjoyed attending weddings, being an overnight guest in someone’s home or being a guest for a meal. He allowed Mary to anoint his feet with costly perfume, and did not object when she wiped his feet with her hair (John 12:2-3). He even asked for and received a drink of water from the Samaritan woman, although Jews and Samaritans usually had nothing to do with one another (John 4:7).

The bottom line is this: Be a giver, but also be a grateful and happy receiver. Giving and receiving both bring blessings. We have a good example of both in the One whom we follow and serve.

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| Statistics | | | |
|----------------------|------------|----------|---|
| Date | Attendance | Communed | Offerings |
| October 30 | 277 | | 4903.61 (includes 170 Bldg Fd; 50 mem to Roof Fd - J.Pullen; 9 Prchr Pndng; 22 World Hunger) |
| October 30 (concert) | 165 | | 288 (World Hunger, Hurricane Relief, Preschool) |
| November 6 | 230 | 101 | 4898.74 (includes 310 Bldg Fd; 80 mem to Bldg Fd - Barbara Mancini) |
| November 9 | | 4 | |
| November 13 | 256 | 87 | 4427.25 (includes 120 Bldg Fd; 2 World Hunger; 25 concert offering) |
| November 20 | 282 | | 5118.05 (includes 150 Bldg Fd; mem to Roof Fd- 20 J.Pullen, 400 V.Rohrs; 450 mem to Bldg Fd - V.Rohrs; 22 World Hunger) |

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*Remember in your prayers our members in nursing homes
and assisted living facilities*

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

Margaret Fahy

Marie Heuer

Laura Rohda

Marge Gathman

Irma Overhulse

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

Eugenia Gerken

Hildegarde Reiser

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

Christine Rath

Miriam Smith

Reim Eickhoff

Carl Bockelman

Cincinnati (c/o Steve Wittenberg, 7225 Camargo Woods Dr., Cincinnati OH 45243)

Esther Wittenberg

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Council Chat - November 21, 2005

- Doctrine & Worship: Eight families will be lighting the candles for the Advent wreath. The Mt.Castle family will be scheduling the soundboard operators. Terry Hershberger will be scheduling the ushers for the early service. Eight members have requested the recordings for the Sunday services and prefer cassettes over CD's. Board members have received a number of comments regarding the length of the 8 a.m. communion service and conflicting with the start of Sunday School. Angela will work to have less special music and use shorter hymns to resolve this issue.
- Congregational Life: October was a very successful month of service and fellowship. As of this date, \$2500 has been collected for the CROP Walk. Thanksgiving Eve offering will go to the World Disaster Fund (Katrina Relief) and \$100 to Central School for Thanksgiving rent. Time and Talent sheets will be distributed at both services. Funds raised from the Poinsettia sale will go to the Good Samaritan Fund. Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 at 3 p.m. In 2006 there are plans to create a new picture church directory.
- Properties Board: They are receiving price quotes for replacing basement windows and basement door. Chris Peper reviewed the church appraisal and its contents. The Church will receive \$1800 from the roofer's insurance company for damage in the church during the roofing project. Work will be done on the boiler and the one toilet in the women's bathroom. Marv is finishing repairs in the church from the roof project.
- Board of Education: Catechism is planning a field trip to Bittersweet Farms and will have a required retreat in March to Camp Mowana. Michelle Dille will be taking over the Sunday School Superintendent position. Good News Preschool has done well with fundraisers. After School Club prepared 13 boxes and will visit the Filling Home and Assisted Living on December 7.
- Further business: The offering for 2006 Ascension will go to the Building Fund. Council accepted the transfer of Mark and Angela Tonjes and family from St. Paul, Flatrock Twp. to Emanuel. Emanuel has received their renewal of Certificate of Continued Existence as a Corporation Not for Profit. Paperwork has been prepared to submit for tax exemption for the parcel of parking lot east of the church. There was discussion concerning fundraisers, if Council or board members need to be aware of them, money raised for service and supporting our youth, etc. versus money raised to purchase items for church especially since we do have a "Wish List" that was created in March by Council to be used for those who may want to donate items or for memorial funds. Items from the "Wish List" include Beginner Bells (which have been obtained), Green and Blue Paraments, CD Recording Unit (no longer needed), computers and cabinets for Sunday School office, books and videos for library, Good News Preschool, lightweight tables for Fellowship Hall and pamphlet rack. There was further discussion but no action was taken.
- All newly-elected board members and officers are invited to the December board meetings and Church council meeting. Refreshments will be provided at the Council meeting to welcome our new members.

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Mississippi Mission Trip

-Lila Wernecke

Imagine four feet of dirty flood water in your home. Imagine returning to your home after the flood water has receded and trying to salvage anything. Imagine living in a community shelter for three weeks, each day returning to your home, sifting through your possessions and depositing most of it on an ever-growing pile along your street. Appliances, computers, furnishings, books, office records, food, clothing, and, of course, memories now become the mountainous curb of every street. Your neighbors are unable to help you because they have sustained as much devastation and, perhaps, more. You have no job because the building where you worked no longer exists. The members of your congregation are in the same situation, and your church building has been reduced to a pile of rubble with perhaps a steeple or statue left as a small token of hope.

Now imagine 20 volunteers (**strangers**) showing up at your doorstep two months later, willing to destroy (the term is *mucking*) the inside of your home so you can begin to clean, sanitize, and rebuild your home from the inside out. I watched a retired couple smile gratefully as we painfully increased the curbside rubble with drywall, cupboards, insulation, ceilings, carpeting, furnace, bathroom tubs, and sub flooring from their home. After two days all that remained was the exterior brick, roof, interior studs, and floor joists. And for this Richard and Myrna were joyful and grateful!!! Now as they live out of the FEMA-supplied trailer in their back yard, they will begin the long process of cleaning and rebuilding the inside of their home.

“Camp Coast Care” is one of the main relief operations of Lutheran Episcopal Disaster Response in Mississippi. I was part of a volunteer group from NW Ohio that spent several days near Biloxi, Mississippi at **“Camp Coast Care.”** There are many ways to contribute or volunteer, either as a group or individual. In January a group is being formed to return to **“Camp Coast Care.”** I plan to return and I hope you will join me. I encourage anyone interested in learning more to contact me or go to this website: www.dioms.org/coastcare.htm. Lila Wernecke (419)599-3911 glwllw@earthlink.net

Matthew 25:35 *for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a **stranger** and you welcomed me....*

Acts 9:36 *Dorcas ... devoted to good works and acts of charity.*

Lila would be happy to come to talk to any group who would like to hear more about Camp Coast Care. Please call her at (419)599-3911.

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Worship participants in December

Acolytes

8:00 Dylan Slee & Alan Bostelman
10:30 Dylan Tonjes & James Nation
Dec. 24 (11 p.m.)
 Marcus Mt.Castle & Dylan Tonjes
Dec. 31 (7 p.m.) Laura Yaney

Ushers

8:00 Larry Wiechers, Len Sonnenberg
 Don Mitchell, Jim Hershberger
10:30 Bill Panning, Chris Peper,
 Ed Biederstedt, Matt Mt.Castle

Altar Guild

Shelley Higbea & Mary Jo Moden

Lay Assistants

8:00 Carol Dille
10:30 (4th) Nancy Schink
 (11th) Karl Wiechers
 (18th) Jamie Bostelman (*Cantata*)
December 25 - 10:00 a.m.
 one service w/ communion - Carol Dille
December 31 - 7:00 p.m. Martha Young

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Altar Flowers

December 4 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Leon Pauley
December 11 - Burnice Agler in loving memory of Russell Agler
December 18 - Donnie Daman in loving memory of Orv
December 24 - C. Dille & D. Hoffman
December 25 - Sue & Norm Kruse
 - Juanita & Leo Clausen in loving memory of Agnes Bauer, Lorina Shock, Albert Clausen

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.

*The 2006 flower calendar is hanging in the narthex.
Pick your special Sunday and sign up for flowers!*

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Community News

Give the gift of life...

Here is the Henry County Bloodmobile Schedule for December:

Saturday, December 10 - Harley-Davidson Sales & Service, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Monday, December 12 - Ridgeville Corners American Legion, 1-7 p.m.

Friday, December 23 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, 12-6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 28 - Henry Co. Red Cross Chapterhouse - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Helping Hands, Loving Hands, Christmas Tree of Lights

You are invited to join fellow Christians with your “helping hands and loving hands” by honoring/remembering a loved one with a name on the ribbon to help decorate the “Christmas Tree of Lights” at The Lutheran Home in Napoleon. Please use the “Tree of Lights” form on the bulletin board by the church office by December 2.

Furniture Bank

Do you have unwanted furniture or appliances that you need to clear out before the holidays? Lutheran Social Services will take your donations and see that someone makes good use of them in the future. They now have warehouse space located on East Washington street next to the Napoleon Creamery. You can pull up to the dock and they will help you unload. Hours to accept donations at this time are Wednesday, November 30, from 4-6 p.m., and Saturday, December 3, from 9-12 noon.

They are also looking for volunteers from the churches and community who would be willing to pick up donations and deliver to those in need. For more information you may call 419-592-3535 and ask for Lou, or 419-592-3747 and ask for Mary.

S.A.I.N.T.S. (Singles Alive in Their Savior)

SAINTS provides a ministry to Christian single adults in Napoleon and surrounding communities, as well as to the single adult members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Support activities include divorce recovery, co-dependency, grief support, single parenting, and issues in single living. A bi-monthly newsletter outlines the many friendship, service, and Bible Study opportunities available to single adults and sponsored through SAINTS.

All SAINTS events are open to the public and all singles. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the campus of St. Paul or at any SAINTS events.

All meetings are held in the Trinity Center at St. Paul’s on Glenwood. From the intersection of Glenwood and Woodlawn, turn right and go one block to Lynne Street and turn right at the back of the school. Park there and come in the door. The Trinity Center is on your left (3rd door).

A schedule of events is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office here at Emanuel.



Ohio Reads

Two years ago I embarked on a journey that has helped me to grow and learn a little about myself, while helping 1st graders get a better start in reading.

I found that I really enjoy helping 1st graders with their reading lessons. Ohio Reads is the name of the program. Teens or adults are paired with a students for 5-8 minutes per week. They ask for 1 hour of your time per week. I decided that if I was going to take the time to get ready, drive to school and back, that I would just go for 2 hours.

It is extremely satisfying to see these youngsters learn new words and improved their reading skills. Many times it's like Bill Cosby's show: "Kids say the darnedest things!"

Give this a try to see if maybe this could be for you! Call the elementary school nearest you, and they will be glad to get you started.

I have read some of my son's favorite books to the kids...they are so eager to hear that they actually argued about who got to sit on my lap.

One day there were 3 kids that got stuck on different words, so I told them to pick the words up off the page and eat them! They just looked at me as though I was goofy. I said "If you put that word in your mouth, it'll be in your head the next time you see it." It worked perfectly for all three. What's better, two weeks later one of the girls to whom I'd taught this trick got stuck on a word, and, without any prompting, picked up the word and ate it!

I told them that if they learn to read that they can go anywhere and do anything in the comfort of a chair with a good book!

If you are looking for an easy way to do your part, try this out. You just might find you get more out of this than the kids do.

Terry Hershberger

Ridgeville Community Choir Christmas Concert

The Ridgeville Community Choir will be presenting its 29th annual concert on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. The concert will be held at St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS) on the corner of Henry County Roads U and 16 north of Napoleon, Ohio. This will be a Christmas concert featuring many familiar carols and anthems. The choir will also be joined this year by the Junior Choral Society, a select ensemble of children from the Northwestern Ohio area, and a brass quintet. Please join us for a festive start to the holiday season.

The Ridgeville Community Choir's first Christmas concert was in 1977. It started as a joint choir from participating congregations in the Ridgeville Corners, Ohio area and has grown to include volunteers who love to sing from the surrounding four-county area.

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The

Savior's Signal

A newsletter for Emanuel's youth

Volume 11, Number 12 December 2005

The

Children's

Christmas

Program will be on December 24 at 7:00 p. m.

CHRISTMAS PRACTICE

Sunday, December 4 Grades 1 - 8 1:00 - 2:00 p. m.

Sunday, December 11 Grades 1 - 8 1:00 - 2:00 p. m.

*Wednesday, December 21 All children 5:30 - 6:30 p. m.
(ages 3 - 8th grade)*

*Attendance Awards will be handed out at
10:25 on December 4.*

*Sunday School children ages 3 through 5th grade
will sing Sunday, December 4, at 10:25 a. m.*

*The Sunday School Store will be open
December 4 during Sunday School.*

Fall Attendance Awards - 2005

3 & 4 year olds

Ryan Kruse

Carl Waney

Kindergarten

Madison Ashbaugh

Keegan Schroeder

1st Grade

Ryan Kohout

2nd Grade

Alexandria Biederstedt

Austin Damman

Stephen Yunker

3rd Grade

Taryn Conklin

Sarah Waney

5th Grade

Blake Biederstedt

Tyler Nation

David Yunker

6th Grade

Laura Waney

Jenni Schink

Theresa Peper

Meredith Hoops

Nick Rohrs

7th Grade

James Nation

8th Grade

Cierra Buchner

Alexandria Busch

Jordan Damman

Jakob Elling

Ellen Hoops

Marcus Mt. Castle

Victoria Peper

Dylan Tonjes

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Baptismal Birthdays - December

Frances Aderman
Bart Ankney
Ruth Bahler
Christine Baker
Katrina Bertz
Jeremiah Bischoff
Carl Bockelman
Derek Borstelman
Roger Borstelman
Norm Borstelman
Anna Cable
Colleen Cable
Cindy Casteel

Rebecca Conklin
Heidi Conklin
Jeff Conklin
Sunny Cooper
Cheryl Daman
Jeanette Damman
Adam DeWit
Eloise Dierker
James Flogaus
Ryan Hoffman
Meredith Hoops
Christine Kerr
Bob Kruse

Diana Lacy
Jalynn Landversicht
Henry Langenhop
Damien Martinez
Dalton Middleton
Colton Miller
Mildred Miller
James Nation
Ann Overhulse
Susan Panning
Greg Peper
Rick Repass
Kathy Rieger

Janice Rohrs
Kaitlin Rohrs
Benjamin Ruby
Lorina Ruetz
Jennifer Schink
Matt Schwal
Jessica Solis
Jim Updegraff
Zachary Vajen
Nikole Vold
Jill Walters
Amber Ward
Karl Wiechers

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Club Christ

The members of Club Christ would like to thank everyone who supported us by coming to our baked potato dinner and buying the subs.

Thanks also to Angela Tonjes and Douglas Hoffman for making Christmas CD's. The songs are played by Angela. We are selling these for a donation. There are available in the basement or contact a Club Christ member.

- Club Christ

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*News from Y. C. C.
Young Christians for Christ 4th - 8th graders*

- Julie & Maru Mt. Castle

On Sunday, 11/13, a group of 15 kids and 6 adults spent the afternoon at COSI in Toledo. After driving around for a half hour trying to find a parking garage that was open, we finally got to go inside! Everyone had a great time. Thanks to the parents who drove. We really appreciate your help.

We had to change our event for December due to Christmas Program practice. Instead of skating, we will be having a Christmas party at the church on Sunday, December 4, following Christmas program practice. We will play games, and snacks will be served. There will also be a \$5.00 gift exchange - boys bring a boy's gift and girls bring a girl's gift. Parents can pick up their children at 6:00 p.m. Watch your bulletin for more details. We will try to reschedule the ice skating for sometime in January.

We're always looking for more kids and new faces! We haven't seen a lot of the new 4th graders yet. Come on and join us! You'll have a great time! If you have any questions regarding any of the events or would like to help with one of the events, you can call me at 419/592-1382.

Have a great holiday season!

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CD's available!

We now have CD's available of:

- _ **Pastor Castello's Installation Service** - November 28, 2004
- _ **Napoleon Community Band Concert** - December 6, 2004
- _ **Rally Day Hymn Sing** - August 28, 2004
- _ **Academy Brass Quintet "Polished Brass"** - September 17, 2005
- _ **Inspirational Concert** - October 30, 2005
(Donations will be cheerfully accepted for the benefit of Soul Food operations: tables, equipment, etc.)

- _ **A Midnight Clear** - Christmas Holiday CD - piano by Angela Tonjes
(Donations will be cheerfully accepted for the 2006 Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas.)

Coming Soon:

- _ Napoleon Community Band Christmas Concert - December 5, 2005

- _ The Choir's Christmas Cantata on December 18, 2005, 10:30 worship service *(available just before Christmas)*

Currently the CD's are located on the table in the basement by the coat rack and window.
If we are out of your selection, please leave a message on the table
(which CD you want, your name & phone number).

Name _____ Phone Number _____

I would like to order the following CD(s) *(please indicate if you would prefer tapes)*:
