

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXI No. 12
December 2006

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.

It was pointed out to me by someone who shall remain anonymous (Pat Mohring!), that I say, "That is one of my favorite...hymns, songs, movies" or whatever, a LOT. Come to think of it, maybe I do have lots of favorites of things. That, of course, translates into not having many particular favorites at all. I guess that is also true.

I do have an absolute favorite Christmas story. It is about a baby born in a stable in a town called Bethlehem. It is the same story I have heard and talked about in slightly different ways for as long as I can remember. I am certain that I will never tire of it. This year, I (as do you) have the opportunity to hear that story once again. It will be told to us with the Sunday School program, the Christmas Eve services and on Christmas morning.

Mary found favor in the eyes of God to be the earthly mother of our Savior. We have found favor in the eyes of God to be privileged to not only know of His birth, but also of His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. And even more, we have the entrusted privilege of proclaiming that truth to all the world.

At this, one of my most favorite times of the year (the rest of the other times of the year are my other favorites), let us gather together in worship and praise. I am sure we will sing some of my and your favorite Christmas carols.

See you in church.

Pastor Jim Castello

Christmas, 2006

Dear Friends,

To help you with our Christmas greeting in verse, just sing it to the tune of “Here We Come A-Wassailing.” And may the message of the love and hope of this most holy Season sing in your hearts!

Here we come “Castello-ing” as Christmas time draws nigh,
And with this yearly poem I simply like to try
To express to you all,
As you share with us this call,
Just how much we appreciate this ministry we share;
We’re so grateful for this ministry we share.

We’re very much at home now here in dear Napoleon town;
We see familiar faces as we sit and look around.
It feels so good to be
Part of this Church Family,
As we all work together for the glory of our God;
We all work together glorifying God.

As you’ve reached out to us, you reach to others, too, in need—
With caring hearts, you give and you help to clothe and feed.
As you speak, act, and do
God’s great love comes shining through.
You are witnesses to the good news to all whom you meet;
You are witnesses to Christ to all you meet.

And once again we welcome you to “Open House” with us--
December 10th, from 1 to 6 (please overlook the dust!).
As we open our door,
We’ll have cookies, punch, and more.
We enjoy all the fellowship in visiting with you;
It’s an afternoon of fellowship with you.

Through Advent now as we prepare for that most special birth
When God’s love came to us as a baby born on earth,
We’re reminded once more
What His life was given for.
God so loves us—He gave His Son to carry all our sins;
Jesus Christ our Savior carries all our sins.

And so before I close, there’s one more thing we’d like to say:
The love and grace and peace of Christ be with you each, we pray.
Christmas blessings to you
Now and in the New Year through.
Have a most blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year, too!
Season’s Greetings from the whole Castello crew!

Joy to the World from the Castellos!
Pastor & Carol & Carol’s mom, Elinor Brown
Becky & Andy; Emily, Jason, & Hannah; Rachel, Kevin, & Nora
and the “friendly beasts”—Hokie, Lakota, & Rugby

An Invitation...

WHO: All of you!

WHAT: A Christmas Open House

WHEN: Sunday, December 10 from 1 to 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!"

Share the Joy: *Give Good Gifts!*

"ELCA Good Gifts, The Giving Catalog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America", makes it easy and fun to give meaningful, "make a difference" gifts: donations to ELCA ministries. Learn more about the gift-donation ideas by picking up a catalog at either entrance to the nave. You're bound to find a "Good Gift" that's just right for everyone on your gift list. The E.L.C.A. Hunger Appeal has free postcards to announce your gift to world hunger. These seven full-color postcards include whimsical ("I decided not to get you this gnome for Christmas") and traditional (an Ethiopian Nativity) options. Use them to announce your gift donations this Christmas. Order free of charge from Augsburg-Fortress at: 1-800-328-4648, item number 60002175X.

Christmas worship schedule

Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship
7:00 p.m. Children's Program
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with
Holy Communion

Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship
7:30 p.m. Worship

"Here we come a-caroling...."

A "caroling caravan" will gather at the church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 17, to "traverse afar" and spread some melodious (?) Christmas joy! All voices and bodies and ages are welcome, and we'll plan to gather afterward at the Castellos for chili and hot chocolate! The more, the merrier, as we usually divide the lists until we've gotten to every house OR until our voices (and "energies!") give out!

Music Notes

Adult Choir

Our fall concert was amazing! Thank you to everyone who had a part in it. We will be working hard through December to prepare songs for our Cantata entitled “One Small Child.” Also, we look forward to our annual choir party this month.

Rainbow Ringers

We continue to practice two Sundays a month and are enjoying our new Christmas songs. There will be a few opportunities to hear us in the month of December.

Cherub Choir

The children meet every Wednesday right after school for rehearsal. We are planning a Christmas medley for a Sunday in December.

Christmas Cantata

On Sunday, December 17 our adult choir will be presenting a Christmas Cantata entitled “One Small Child” at BOTH services in the morning. Filled with special music and the spoken word, this Cantata is our Christmas gift to our church family here at Emanuel. You don’t want to miss it!

Christmas Musical

On Sunday, December 24 at BOTH morning services, Emanuel church members will participate in a Christmas musical. It is called “Infant King” and will focus on the reason for the season, Jesus himself. Don’t panic, no solos are involved. If you enjoy singing Christmas carols, this service is for you. If you enjoy hearing the Christmas story, this service is for you.

SOUL FOOD

Upcoming menus for December include:

December 6 - Pork Roast with Dressing & Mashed Potatoes

December 13 - Beef Stew and Biscuits

December 20 - Hot Chicken Sandwiches

December 27 - EITHER NO "Soul Food" this week

OR Leftovers Smorgasbord!

* Please Note: All menus subject to change!

Along with the good food and great fellowship provided every Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m., there are plenty of opportunities for plenty of help with these meals, too; check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the church office! There was originally no "Soul Food" scheduled for the week between Christmas and New Year's (December 27), BUT if there is enough interest, we MAY have a "feast" of "leftovers" to help clean out the fridge and freezer. "Soul Food" is for everyone and for all ages, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that's good for you, body and soul!

Please Remember to Save:

— Campbell's Labels for Education for our "Good News" Preschool (a collection "bucket" is on the coat rack by the nursery in the basement)

— Spartan products UPCs (the bar-code with numbers) (a collection envelope is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway)

THANK YOU!

- I would like to thank Pastor and the congregation for all their prayers, cards and well wishes for my recovery. It is truly a great blessing. -Esther Dennie
- Thank you very much for the gift of school supplies. We have found that we have many more people in need this year. Thank you from the bottom of our heart for thinking of our children. -Margy Brennan Krueger, Liberty Center Schools
- Thank you for the many, many cards sent to me, food brought in and the “comfort wrap” brought me while I was at Northcrest Nursing Home. What a wonderful loving family Emanuel is!! Again, Thanks so much. -Burnice Agler
- Asante Sana!!! “Thank you very much!”
In Swahili and in English, I thank you all so very much for your gracious hospitality to our guests from Tanzania in October. The food for the potluck was abundant and delicious; the audience for the program was so attentive and so willing to share questions and the singing; and the sharing by the confirmation drama and hand chime groups, the bell choir “ensemble”, and the choir was such a meaningful surprise for Pastor Amon and Frank—they were SO appreciative! And I am appreciative of the love you shared from Emanuel all the way around the world to Tanzania! “Bwana Asifiwe!” Praise the Lord!

Congregational Meeting

Our congregational meeting was held on October 29 following the 10:30 worship service. The 2007 budget was accepted as presented and the following persons were elected to church council for 2007:

President-elect

Treasurer

Doctrine & Worship Board

Congregational Life

Board of Education

Properties Board

Finance Board

Nominating Committee

Ted Rohrs

Julie Kohout

Terry Hershberger

Carol Castello

Jamie Bostelman

Art Lange

Burnice Agler

Traci Conklin, Don Mitchell, Julie Yunker

Giving/donation corner

Thanks to all who helped donate to the two projects in November, “Christmas Cheer” and “PROJECT: We Care”. Through your generous support many families will be able to feel that there are people who genuinely do care for their fellow man and are willing to give from the heart during this Christmas season. The collections will continue through the end of November, so please continue to bring any additional donations in with you to church by December 2.

We will be collecting *easy read children's story books* in December to benefit our friends at The Filling Home of Mercy. They have requested not only seasonal stories, but general topic stories as well so they can enjoy the books year round. Your support will be greatly appreciated by the residents and will bring enjoyment to them for years to come! Thank you in advance for your continued support.

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
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www.emanelnapoleon.org
Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Patrick Dille
Women of the ELCA President - Carol Dille
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@earthlink.net)
Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink
Living Spirit Director - Marv & Julie Mt.Castle, Holly Mohring
Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring
Sunday School Superintendent - Michelle Dille
Altar Guild Chairman - Mary Jo Moden
Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel
Custodians - Jack Robbins

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Membership News

Births Peyton Isaiah Yaw was born to Larry & Heidi (Sonnenberg) Yaw on October 27 in Fort Wayne. Congratulations and God's blessings to them and their families!

Baptism On November 26 little Avary Alison, daughter of Kyle & Kristie (Landversicht) Miller was brought to Jesus in Holy Baptism. Avary's sponsors are DeAnn Reynolds and Kara Brokaw.

Congratulations to Art & Leota Pedraza on the birth of their grandchildren, Canon Ryan Sexton (parents Ryan & Jessica) on November 7, and Zane Joseph Johnson (parents John & Roseann Johnson) on September 15!

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

*There has been only one Christmas – the rest are anniversaries.
– W.J. Cameron*

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

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

Margaret Fahy

Marie Heuer

Marge Gathman

Irma Overhulse

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

Hildegarde Reiser

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

Christine Rath (#412)
(#319)

Miriam Smith (#303)

Reim Eickhoff (#405)

Carl Bockelman

Van Crest Nursing Home (600 Joe E. Brown Ave., Holgate OH 43527)

Eileen Huber

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

Esther Wittenberg

Health Ministry

-Nancy Busby

Establish Health Habits Now to Prevent Flu and Other Illness

Practice Good Health Habits

If you are concerned about the news stories you've heard about a potential influenza pandemic, establishing good health habits now can help your body stay healthy and fight off the flu and other illness.

- Eat a balanced diet including plenty of vegetables, fruits and whole grain products.
- Drink plenty of water and go easy on salt, sugar, alcohol and saturated fat.
- Exercise regularly. Thirty or more minutes of physical activity most days of the week can help boost your immunity.
- Get plenty of rest. Sleep is shown to help your body fight off illness.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread this way.
- Stay away from people who are sick as much as you can. If you must be around ill people, try to maintain a distance of at least three feet.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school.

Wash Your Hands

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

Washing with soap and water

- Wet your hands with clean running water and apply soap. Use warm water if it is available.
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue rubbing hands for 20 seconds. This is about the time it takes to sing "Happy birthday" twice through.
- Rinse hands well under running water.
- Dry your hands using a paper towel or air dryer. Sharing cloth towels can spread germs. If possible, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet and open the door.

Remember: If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer to clean hands.

When using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

- Apply product to the palm of one hand.
Rub hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of hands and fingers until dry.

When should you wash your hands?

- Before preparing or eating food.
- After going to the bathroom.
- After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has gone to the bathroom.
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- After handling an animal or animal waste.
- After handling garbage.
- Before and after treating a cut or wound.

Respiratory Etiquette

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.
- Throw out used tissues in the trash as soon as you can.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- If you cough or sneeze into your hand, wash your hands.
- If you are not near soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, rubbing hands until dry.

Support Group for parents who have lost a child

If you have lost a child and would like to meet with others who have lost a child, please join us at:

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, Ohio 43545

We meet at 7:00 on the third Tuesday of the month in the Trinity Center. The meetings are informal, and there is no need to pre-register. You do not have to be a member of St. Paul to attend.

Questions?

Call Ron or Kathy Bahler at 419-592-8980,
or the church office at 419-592-3535.

www.stpaulnapoleon.org

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
October 29	130 + 120 (250)		4,887.90 Bldg Fd - 145.00 Wrld Hngr - 5.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00
November 5	154 + 111 (265)	159	5,933.90 Bldg Fd - 605.00 Wrld Hngr - 25.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00 "14 for Christ" - 121.00
November 8 (2:30)		5	
November 12	151 + 150 (301)	138	5,008.51 Bldg Fd - 350.00 Wrld Hngr - 10.00 Good Sam Fd - 25.00 "14 for Christ" - 43.00

CROP Walk "Re-Cap"

What a beautiful October Sunday afternoon we had for the 2nd Annual Henry County CROP Walk for Hunger! And what a terrific turn-out we had! A total of \$3,840.70 was raised, with 25% of that (\$906.18) to be returned here to Henry County to be divided among Christmas Cheer and local food banks in the county. Emanuel Walkers – all 42 of them! – raised \$2,100.20!

Many, many thanks to all who walked or donated or supported or helped in any way! Mark your calendars now for the 3rd annual CROP Walk for Hunger on Sunday, October 7, 2007.

Our CROP Walkers: Alexandria, Blake, Ed, & Tiffany Biederstedt; Darlene Bostelman; Kathy Bostelman; Carol & Pastor Castello; Virginia Dillon; Ruth Hershberger; Alaina Hoeffel; Meredith Hoops; Emily Jordan; Phyllis Kloos; Joe, Julie, & Ryan Kohout; John & Maggi Mohler; Julie, Marcus, & Marv Mt.Castle; Donna Peper; Janice Rabe; Janice Rohrs; Lenora Satchell; Jenni Schink; Nancy Schink; Nanette Schwab; Alan, Alison, Neil, & Shelly Storch; Dora Titgemeyer; Carl, Gayla, Jessica, Laura, & Sarah Yaney; Martha Young; Lila Wernecke; Danielle Williams.

Registrations: Becky (Castello) Aelker & Elinor Brown

Walk Route Map: Doug Hoffman

Bulletin Inserts & Money Collection: Pat Mohring

Planning Committee: Judy Hoffman & Gayla Yaney

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

WELCA News

Well, another year is almost gone! Thank you to all of board members who served with me this year. Going off the board with me are Dora Titgemeyer and Janis Dachenhaus. Dora has taken good care of our funds and Janis has done a terrific job with the programs for our general meetings!

Our next general meeting will be on Thursday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. which will include installation of officers. Naomi Circle is in charge of refreshments. So, I hope to see many of you there (and how about wearing something colorful for the Christmas season?!).

-Carol Dille for the WELCA Board

Filling Fall Fling update

As of November 15 we have a total of \$9,700.00 – before expenses. The beautiful Christmas comforter made by our sewing ladies and AI sold for \$135.00!!

Every year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading “Merry Xmas!” Some Christians have been offended by the word Xmas. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord.

However, it really isn't. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek — the original language of the New Testament — is the first letter of the word Xristos, which translated into English is the word Christ.

So X is simply an abbreviation for the word Christ. And the letters mas are an abbreviation of the word mass. Therefore, Xmas really means Christ mass or Christ worship.

Worship participants in December

Ushers

8:00 Jim Hershberger, Mike Mohring,
Dave Schwab, Larry Wiechers

10:30 Tom Jenny, Lavern Lanzer,
Norm Bostelman, Chris Peper

Altar Guild

Mary Jo Moden & Jessica Yaney

Lay assistants

8:00 Carol Dille

10:30 Tom & Beth Jenny

Acolytes

8:00 Meredith Hoops & Stephanie Ruby

10:30 Alison Storch & Theresa Peper

Christmas Eve: Laura Yaney & Jenni Schink

Christmas Day: Ben Flogaus & Blake Biederstedt

New Year's Eve: Laura Yaney

The Lay Assistant sign-up sheet for 2007 is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for those wishing to volunteer.

Altar Flowers

December 3 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Leon Pauley

December 10 - Burnice Agler in loving memory of Russell

- Kurt & Karen Rohrs in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary by their children & mother

December 17 - Donnie Daman in loving memory of Orv

December 24 - C. Dille & D. Hoffman

December 25 - Norm & Sue Kruse and Leo & Juanita Clausen

December 31 - Virginia Dillon

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 new flower chart is now posted in the narthex. Sign up early for your special day - and please be careful to indicate exactly which Sunday you are signing up for!

K.F.C. and the Angel Tree

For this year's Project: We Care (formerly known as "Operation: Christmas Care"), we have adopted 5 families for Christmas. Our "Angel Tree" will be located in the "giving corner" in the overflow area. Decorated with paper angel "ornaments", please select an item (or MORE than one item!) that you are willing to buy, wrap it and "label" it with the paper angel, and return it to the overflow area no later than Sunday, December 17. On Sunday, December 3, at 3 p.m., our "K.F.C." (Junior high Kids For Christ) will be shopping for some of these "angels", and you are welcome to contribute to their efforts by giving your monetary donations to Gayla Yaney or Carol Castello. We will deliver the gifts to the appropriate families during the week before Christmas and will, of course, invite them to worship with us here at Emanuel at Christmas and always.

Baptismal Birthdays - December

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

Cynthia Casteel
Heidi Conklin
Jeff Conklin
Rebecca Conklin
Sunny Cooper
Cheryl Daman
Jeanette Damman
Adam DeWit
Eloise Dierker
James Flogaus
Ryan Hoffman
Meredith Hoops

Diana Lacy
Jalynn Landversicht
Henry Langenhop
Damien Martinez
Dalton Middleton
Colton Miller
Mildred Miller
James Nation
Ann Overhulse
Susan Panning
Greg Peper
Janice Rohrs

Kaitlin Rohrs
Ben Ruby
Lorina Ruetz
Jenni Schink
Matt Schwab
Jim Updegraff
Zachary Vajen
Nikole Vold
Jill Walters
Amber Ward
Karl Wiechers

Club Christ

Holly Mohring

Before I begin anything else, I would like to take a moment to thank the following people: Marv, Julie and Marcus MtCastle, Zach Tonjes, Blake Biederstedt, Todd and Jenni Schink, Mike, Gayla, Jessica and Laura Yaney, Carol Castello, Derek Mohring and Joe and Julie Kohout (who joined us after raking the Church yard!) for ALL of their INCREDIBLY hard work and good humor on Saturday, November 4 when we tackled what felt like every leaf in the city. The day went by quickly and we were successful because of you!! A special thanks goes out to our "smashers", Sarah and Carl Yaney and Ryan Kohout. Without you three, it would have taken twice as long! Thank you for your multiple dives into piles of leaves to make room for more! Though we had hoped for a better turn out, we made do with the hard workers we had and managed to work through the majority of the yards before stopping for a tasty lunch of homemade sandwiches at Mohring's Cash & Carry and delicious homemade cookies also made by ... oh, wait, those were mine.

We stopped just long enough to refuel and catch our breath before heading to what turned out to be the most formidable yard of all ... it belonged to Matt MtCastle and Dave Zwiebel. After working ourselves for over an hour at Gary and Jamie's yard (thanks Gary for your help!!) we thought that we would have an easier afternoon. What optimists we were. It was the yard that wouldn't end. We tried to convince the boys to pick up the green leaves and tape them back into the tree, and once they stopped laughing at that suggestion, we handed them each a rake. We dragged ourselves, finally, from there and finished our last house just minutes before the Buckeyes kicked off at 3:30 p.m. I believe that most of us have regained full use of our hands and arms, though it's been kind of touch and go.

I hope that our efforts made some dent in your leafy yards! We thank you for the opportunity and your generosity. We will be donating all funds from our leaf raking to the general fund.

Attention! Club Christ-ers!! Lost & Found is giving a concert in Toledo on January 12, 2007. Tickets are \$5 and the evening includes a meal of free tacos! If you would like to go, let me know by Christmas so I can get tickets! (It's never too early to plant the seeds!) If you've never heard Lost & Found - you're missing out!! Join me to see them live! There's nothing like it!