

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXII No. 11
December 2007

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.

When I was asked to write my faith walk I thought that the Sunday School class was joking. You see, they nominated when I was teaching a Sunday School class myself. After thinking more about it, I thought, I can do that. So here it is!

I was not raised in any certain denomination of a religion. It depended on where we lived at the time and where the nearest church was. We moved quite often with my dad's jobs so we were never able to get real established anywhere. My father's parents were extremely religious, and my grandfather was the one that I most admired for his love of this person he called his "Heavenly Father". I could sit at his feet and listen to his stories about the Bible and all the love that God had for me and his plans for my life. This was very powerful to a child who never had much security, who moved constantly, and was trying to fit in and find new friends to like her.

My parents eventually divorced and we weren't around my grandparents very often. When we

were, my grandfather would continue to softly tell me his stories. My grandparents would hold devotions every night in their bedroom and would welcome my brother and me to join them as we felt moved to. This was very impressive to watch from the other room as they talked to this person and prayed for my brother and me.

Time went on and we grew older and more distant. My mother remarried a man who was somewhat atheist. This environment didn't encourage much church frequenting or Bible reading. I was a confused pre-teen with many emotions and feelings at the time and questions about life in general. One morning I was watching TV in my room and the 700 Club was on. This show talked to me. I felt like God was speaking to me as my grandfather did many years ago. I was asked that day to repent of my sins and follow God and his ways. I was what they called a "reborn

Christian”. I had a good feeling about myself, and my grandparents, of course, were thrilled to get this news.

My life was not smooth sailing from that day forward, of course. It continues with its ups and downs. I don’t think that we ever find the smooth seas here on earth. We must continue to learn and find the best in everyone and try to do OUR best as the Bible teaches us.

My grandfather passed away after I graduated from high school. God took him very suddenly; it was a shock to us and the community. It was a very hard day for everyone in my family. He was our pillar of strength, our cornerstone, our beacon, my idol, my saint, if ever there was one. I know that day that God took him from us, my grandfather was delighted to see his “Heavenly

Father”, the one he so admired. And I KNOW God looked at him and said, “Well done, my good and faithful servant!”

My hope is that I serve my “Heavenly Father” as well as my grandfather did. I look forward to that day when I get to heaven and cross over that river and bow before the King and He says to me, “Well done, my good and faithful servant!” I know my grandfather will be there beside Him to welcome me, too.

Shelly Storch

An Invitation

WHO: All of you!

WHAT: A Christmas Open House

WHEN: Sunday, December 9 from 1 to 6 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!”

Christmas, 2007

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” with this, our yearly rhyme
To send you all our greetings approaching Christmas time.
We’ve been here three years now;
That’s hard to believe somehow!
And we feel so at home with our Emanuel family;
We feel so at home with our church family!

You recently “appreciated” Jim for “Pastor’s Day”
And loving care you showed with his surgery in May.
We can’t thank you enough
For the cards and notes and “stuff.”
It’s a privilege to be included in your hearts and lives;
We’re so privileged you include us in your lives.

We thank you for the ministry we share with each of you.
In trying to see Jesus in every face we view,
You help share God’s great love
With His guidance from above.
And your caring, sharing, “prayer-ing” reaches out to those in need;
You serve Christ as you reach out to those in need.

We hope you’ll join us at our Christmas Open House again—
December 9th, from 1 to 6, we’ll hope to see you then,
At Q 317
Henry County Road 15,
Come enjoy cookies, party mix, hot cider, coffee, too;
Come enjoy some goodies and some coffee, too!

Onwards and upwards—so it goes as we work for the Lord.
We try to live the Gospel, and so we’re never bored!
It’s exciting to be
“little Christs” for all to see.
May we each be an instrument of God’s peace, love, and grace;
May we be an instrument of God’s good grace.

Before we close, we stop and pause a moment just to say:
We hope your lives are filled with the joy of Christmas Day!
God has given His Son
To take on our sins, each one.
Now God bless you and grant you a faith-filled New Year;
May God grant you all a faith-filled New Year.

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

*K.F.C. and the Angel Tree
for Project: We Care*

For this year's Project: We Care for Christmas, we have "adopted" 8 families which involve 25 different kids. 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 16. On Sunday, December 2, 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.

Y.C.C.

Yes, Christmas time is fast approaching. The YCC is having a Christmas Party on December 9 after the play practice. The party will be approximately 1½ hours in length. This will give the parents more time to prepare for the holidays. All we ask is that each child bring a favorite snack to share. Games and good times will be had by all.

Of course, this is open to the other youth groups who wish to have fun. See you then.

Please call Ed or Tiffany Biederstedt at (419) 758-3443.

Notes from Angela ...

Angela Tonjes

DECEMBER MUSIC

The month of December will be completely jam-packed with all kinds of amazing music. You will not want to miss a single chance to worship with us!

BELL SUNDAY

Do you have any jingle bells at home? Bring them to church on Sunday, December 16 to help us with special music that focuses on bells. There will be a "jingle meister" to guide the ringing of the bells, and the Bell Choir will be playing special numbers. We especially encourage the children of the congregation to have plenty of bells in each hand. There will be additional bells available at the door if you do not have any. Jingle bells let us know that someone is coming...and that someone is Jesus!

CANTATA

We invite all members of Emanuel to come to church on Sunday, December 23 for our annual Christmas Cantata entitled "Let Heaven and Nature Sing Gloria." Beautiful music that tells the Christmas story will be presented at both services, 8:00 and 10:30. We ask that you lay aside the busy-ness and burdens of the holiday season and rejoice with our musicians in the birth of the Savior. It is our Christmas gift to YOU!

RAINBOW RINGERS/CHERUB CHOIR

We are already working on things for 2008 and have a few surprises in store. This month we will be preparing songs to share with the residents of the nursing home and Filling Home and we will enjoy a festive party before Christmas break.

Our church service will be on the radio during the month of December. A recording of our 8:00 service will be played at 10:30 a.m. on WNDH 103.1 FM.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES - mark your calendars!

Christmas Eve - 7:00 p.m. Children's Program

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve - 7:30 p.m.

There will be a conclusion of our 125th Anniversary Celebration year on December 30.

ADULT CHOIR

We have had the best year ever! A lot of great music has been learned and shared with our congregation. There will be much to look forward to in 2008.

Tom and Beth Jenny have once again graciously offered to host our Christmas Choir Party. There will be a potluck dinner at their home on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Margaret Fahy
Marge Gathman
Irma Overhulse
Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

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

Christine Rath (#412)
Carl Bockelman (#319)
Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

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

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

Church Office Hours

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

Club Christ

Club Christ had its annual Sub Sale November 17. Though we were unable to reach our initial goal of 200 subs, we DID get **9** more orders than last year, and we sold all the extras we had made during pickup time and after the 8:00 service on Sunday! We have decided to set our goals a little more realistically next year – we're hoping to sell 125, so start planning your *post-Lloyd Carr* OSU vs Michigan game parties NOW! Thank you to all who purchased subs and supported Club Christ this year!!

Thanks to Pete Mohring at Mohring's Cash & Carry for providing the meat & cheese for the subs, and, most importantly, allowing us to invade his kitchen and use his store as a 6-hour pick-up spot!

A special thanks to Jack Robbins who was so eager to get the first subs that he arrived 2 hours early!

For all of you, parents included, who baked cookies, got up early, ran errands (Alan Storch!), did dishes and fought with plastic wrap (Gayla Yaney!), organized bags and boxes (Mike Mohring!), and worked in true assembly line fashion (Jenni Schink, Marcus Mt.Castle and Allison Storch!) AND managed to **not** snack on the tasty treats. Thank God for all of you!! We could not do this without you!

Holly Mohring, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle

You are invited to an Open House at the home
of Ken & Nancy Lange, 667 Cripple Creek Court.
Nancy has decorated her home with 132 Christmas houses!
You are invited to visit and see their decorated home
any Wednesday after 6:00 p.m. until Christmas.

Decorators needed

It is hard to believe the holidays are here! Your help is needed in preparing the church for the Christmas Season. We will be meeting on Saturday, December 1 at 8 a.m. Please give us an hour or two. The more the merrier!

Communion Services

It has been suggested that Emanuel serve communion on one Sunday a month at both services. We want the congregation's opinion. A survey will be provided at first service on Sunday, December 2 and at second service on Sunday, December 9. The choices are to continue with different services on two Sundays, or to have communion on the first Sunday of the month at both services.

In the past the reason for the two Sundays was for those who have to work on Sundays to be given a chance to attend a communion service that suits their schedule. If you are one of those affected, please consider whether or not you change your attendance at church from first or second service to meet your need.

Thank you for participating in this up-coming survey.

CROP Walk "Re-Cap"

Who would've guessed that it would be 90-degrees on a Sunday afternoon in October!?! And the heat just might have adversely affected the turn-out for the 3rd Annual Henry County CROP Walk for Hunger on October 7. But we can rejoice that doing something is always more than doing nothing, and we did something good! A total of \$2,075 was raised, with 25% of that (\$518.75) to be returned here to Henry County to be divided among Christmas Cheer and local food banks in the county. Emanuel Walkers – all 27 of them! – raised \$1,309!

Many, many thanks to all who walked or donated or supported or helped in any way! Mark your calendars now for the 4th Annual CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 5, 2008!

Our CROP Walkers: Alan Bostelman; Darlene Bostelman; Carol Castello; Kim Dickmann; Joe & Amanda Dilbone and Natalie Hoover; Virginia Dillon; Ruth Hershberger; Barb Hoffman; Emily Jordan; Phyllis Kloos Joe, Julie & Ryan Kohout; George & Rita Kryder; Bonnie McClain; Ron Meyers; Janice Rohrs; Nanette Schwab; Phyllis Wenner; Gayla, Jessica, Laura, Sarah & Carl Yaney;

Registrations: Becky (Castello) & Zachary Aelker & Noah Jordan

Walk Route Map: Douglas Hoffman

Bulletin Inserts & Money Collection: Pat Mohring

"Cookie Committee": all of you from the Women of the Church who baked those delicious cookies!

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

Love is a Gift. Share it with others.

"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 in your gift list, and postcards to announce your gift are included in the back of the catalog. The E.L.C.A. Hunger Appeal also 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.

Love is a gift. Share it with others.

Thank You!

- A big thank you for the afghan. It meant so much to my mom, Mary Thompson, and she can remember who it is from by the cross on it. Also thank you for the prayers and visits. It means a lot to her.
-Mary Jo Moden
- We want you to know how much we appreciate the flowers planted around Emanuel church. They are so beautiful and pleasing to the eye as you drive that corner, or wait for the stoplight. Please give credit to the one that has the “green thumb” and our thanks.
-Mr. & Mrs. Bill Von Deylen
- Thank you for all your prayers and cards and words of concern for me after my recent surgery and recovery. It means a lot to me. -Mike Mohring
- Thanks for all the cards, thoughts and prayers after the surgery. It was very uplifting.
-Terry Hershberger

Here We Come A-Caroling

A “caroling caravan” will gather at the church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 16, 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 this lists until we’ve gotten to every house OR until our voices and (energies!) Give out!

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*)
-

Soul Food

Upcoming menus for December include:

- December 5 – Pizza Lovers’ Buffet!
- December 12 – Beef Stew and Biscuits
- December 19 – Hot Chicken Sandwiches
- December 26 – “Cooks’ Choice”!

*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! After the hurry and flurry of Christmas, we will still gather together on December 26 (because it was such fun when we did last year!). “Soul Food” is for everyone and for all ages, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that’s good for you, body and soul!

Twelve days of Christmas ...

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 25th and lasting until January 6th, 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.

Membership News

Births God's blessings to:

Aaron & Kathy Kolodziejczyk on birth of a daughter, Taryn Kate on October 17.
Joe & Trisha Good on the birth of a daughter on October 31.

Baptism We were pleased to witness the baptism of Julia Marie, daughter of Kyle & Kari Zachrich, on Sunday, November 4. Julia's sponsors are Kevin & Angie Sonnenberg and Matt & Amber Starkey.

We will also be witnesses to the baptism of Taryn Kate, daughter of Aaron & Kathy Kolodziejczyk on November 25. Taryn's sponsors are Andy & Kristin Hoops.

Funerals Esther Wittenberg passed from this life on October 29 in Cincinnati. Her funeral was held here at the church on November 2.

On November 1 Arlene Ziegler entered the Church Triumphant. Her funeral was on Tuesday, the 6th.

Don Walters passed away on November 15; his funeral was held at Walker's Mortuary on the 17th.

Please remember their families in your prayers.

Weddings On November 17 Pastor Castello officiated at the marriage service of Adam Sczech and Heather Rumbaugh at Nazareth Hall. Heather is the granddaughter of Evelyn Allen. Congratulations and God's blessings to them!

Marriage blessings to Sandy Wiechers and Jason Bostelman who were united in marriage on Saturday, October 20.

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

New address

Hildegard Reiser has moved. Her new address is:

Avalon by Otterbein
3533 Rivers Edge Drive, Rm 106
Perrysburg, OH 43551

She would really appreciate hearing from her friends at Emanuel!

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
October 21	130 + 143 (273)	268	\$ 13,339.95 Bldg Fd - \$9627 World Hngr - \$25
October 28	130 + 134 (264)		\$ 3,925.26 Bldg Fd - \$40 *Bldg Fd mem - \$310 World Hngr - \$40 Good Sam Fd - \$55
November 4	132 + 129 (261)	178	\$ 5,989.61 Bldg Fd - \$550 *Bldg Fd mem - \$160 World Hngr - \$19 Good Sam Fd - \$55
November 11	95 + 82 (177)		\$ 13,431.09 Bldg Fd - \$185 *Bd Fd mem - \$9,583.94 World Hngr - \$5 Good Sam Fd - \$50
November 18	122 + 193 (315)		\$ 5,029.50 Bldg Fd - \$100 *Bd Fd mem - \$355 14 for Christ - \$14 World Hngr - \$5

* memorials:

10/28 \$310 Marie Heuer

11/4 \$150 Fred Bostelman; \$10 Esther Wittenberg

11/11 \$9,583.94 Bequest from estate of Reim Eickhoff

11/18 \$270 Esther Wittenberg; \$85 Arlene Ziegler

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WELCA News

-Rita Schweinhagen for the WELCA Board

You women of Emanuel, pat yourselves on the back. I was proud and pleased to see many of you at the Filling Home Fling and also at the Symphony of Trees, either helping out or just showing your support.

A big thank you to Ami Allison for taking care of our Thankoffering Service. Your officers have handled things very well this year.

This year has been a good year. Our WELCA General Meeting will be Thursday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. I would ask the present officers to please meet with me for a final meeting at 7:00 p.m. that same night. We have a few things to finish up before the new board takes over. All of you ladies, you won't want to miss this General Meeting. Please join us ... let your voices be heard.

Our new books will be out soon ... check to see where your name is and become a part of that group. If you can't make that one, join another one. Remember, everyone of you ladies is a member of the Women of Emanuel.

Thanks again for letting me serve you as your president ... you are a wonderful group of people.

Always remember: God loves you and so do we. May God bless the new officers!

Worship participants in December

Ushers

8:00 Lee Weirauch, Don Mitchell,
Sonny Babcock, Mike Yaney
10:30 Matt Mt.Castle, Bill Panning,
Mark Tonjes, Karl Wiechers

Lay assistants

8:00 Carol Dille
10:30 Ron Meyers

12/24 Nancy Schink
12/25 Carol Dille
12/31 Douglas Hoffman

Altar Guild

Julie Kohout & Andrea Hoffman

Acolytes

8:00 Laura Yaney & Alan Bostelman
10:30 Clayton Burken & Chandler Burken

12/24 Laura Yaney & Jenni Schink
12/25 Theresa Peper & Stephanie Ruby
12/31 Laura Yaney

Altar Flowers

December 2 - Burnice Agler in loving memory of Russell
December 9 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Leon Pauley
December 16 - Donnie Daman in loving memory of Orv
December 23 - Lois Gerken in loving memory of Frank
December 24 - Carol Dille & family and Douglas Hoffman & family in loving memory of Louise and
Clem Hoffman
December 25 - Norm & Sue Kruse and Leo & Juanita Clausen
December 30 - Shirlee Fejes in loving memory of Phil Mires & Lisa

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.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Bloodmobile Dates

Saturday, December 8 - Harley -Davidson Sales & Service, 9 a.m - 2 p.m.

Monday, December 10 - Ridgeville Corners American Legion, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26 - Henry ARC Chapterhouse, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Appointment only 592-4806)

Thursday, December 27 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Ridgeville Community Choir Christmas Concert

The Ridgeville Community Choir will present its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Freedom Township, corner of Henry County Roads U and 16. The concert will feature the presentation of familiar Christmas carols by the choir with some audience participation accompanied by string quartet and other instruments.

The Ridgeville Community Choir is made up of volunteers from Defiance, Henry, Fulton and Williams counties. The choir began presenting local concerts in 1976 and is currently under the direction of Steve Basselman.

Renewing Faith Silence and Simplicity

Saturday, December 1, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Olivet Lutheran Church, 5840 Monroe St, Sylvania

Keynote Presenter: Jim Bacik, Pastor, Corpus Christi University Parish at The University of Toledo

Advent begins, but the rush of the Christmas season has already begun. How do you find and take the time to be silent and practice serenity when the whole world seems to be telling us to shop, bake, enjoy family, have parties, wrap presents, and do all of the other things that make up our lives? What can we do to practice serenity and find some silence in the midst of the chaos of the Christmas season? Explore what the Bible and Jesus tell us about living our lives in stressful times.

Cost is \$30 for registration at the door. Lunch is included. Call the Synod Office at 866.967.3522 for information, or visit their Web site at www.nwos-elca.org.