

# Good News

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A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Volume XXXIV No. 11  
December 2009

**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

**M**y wife and I have only been members of Emanuel for a little over 9 years. The rest of my life I had been a member of St. Paul's of Napoleon Twp. Going to church has always been an important part of my life. Although I don't believe you have to go to church in order to be saved or that just going to church will be all that you need either. But it sure helps to hear a good sermon and be in the company of good Christian people around you.

Now that I think back I have had many experiences in my life when I know the Lord has been very close to me. The first time I was 11 years old. I was attending 12 weeks of summer school at St. Paul's. My dad and his hired man were going to haul wheat bundles and put them in the barn for threshing later. So I asked my Dad to wait till Saturday so I could help and drive the team of horses. Well, he did and when we had just about a full load we hit a dead furrow with the front wheel and I fell off the wagon in front of the one wheel and it hit me. When the hired man saw that I was gone, he hollered Whoa. The horses stopped right away, but not till the wheel hit me and pushed me hard enough to have 5 broken ribs, crushed liver, and

torn loose a kidney. The hired man carried me to the house and Dad ran ahead to call the doctor.

The doctor came right away and took me to his office where he had a room where I stayed for a week. I remember I felt very close to God. I don't remember praying for myself. But I'm sure my Dad and Mom did. I know my little 6 year old sister did. I remember talking about dying. I remember one day telling my mother well I suppose if I had been killed on Saturday, then today would have been my funeral. Well that really got to my mother. That was 80 years ago in July. I did miss a whole year of school.

Another time in my life is just before I met my wife Alice. I had been praying to the Lord to help me find nice girl that I could marry and be happy with. One that would love me for who I was and be true to me for the rest of my life. Well soon after that I met Alice and she has been more than I could ever ask for. Oh I have to say that she didn't know anybody that I knew and I didn't know anybody that she knew. So we were complete strangers. It took me about 2 months before I asked her for a date. After all I was 31 years old and I knew she was a lot younger. So

we both feel that God had a big hand in answering my prayer and getting us together.

There have been many times in my life that God has answered my prayers. But there is one more time that I would like to mention. This happened about 6 or 7 years ago while we were in Florida. I hadn't been feeling good with stomach and bowel problems. And had been to the doctor several times. As I was leaving one day he said maybe you should have a colonoscopy done once. Here is a card from a doctor you can call. Well I put the card in my pocket and after a few weeks asked the Lord what should I do, should I

have this done? Well the answer came back with a very strong feeling to go and have this done. So I had it done right away and the answer was they found a very early spot of colon cancer. So I had it taken out right away. The surgeon said he had never seen one that early and he probably never would again.

Well I have rambled long enough, but there are just a few examples of the Lord our God being a part of my life.

**Henry Langehop**

### *AN INVITATION ...*

WHO: Each and all of you!

WHAT: a Christmas Open House

WHEN: Sunday, December 6, from 1 to 5 p.m.  
Come when you can; leave when you must!

WHERE: the Castelllos  
Q317 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 2009*

Dear Friends,

T'was the newsletter deadline and panicked was I  
For a rhythm or rhyme scheme, as hard as I try,  
For our once-a-year greeting to all you church folk  
To feebly express heartfelt thanks – that's no joke!  
For five years you've shared in our ministry here,  
And you, Emanuel family, have grown very dear.

You help us, support us, and pray for us, too,  
And share tears and laughter with us all year through.

This fall, when for six weeks to Rachel's I went,  
My absence taught me what your presence has meant,  
You watched over Jim then (as much as you could!),  
And when I returned home, you helped it feel good.

And so now, at Christmas, the least we can do  
Is try, in some small way, to just say, 'THANK YOU!'

On Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to come  
To a "Holiday Open House" out at our home.

From 1 until 5, we'll have "goodies" galore –  
Hot cider and party mix, cookies, and more!

Please come when you can and then leave when you must;  
We'll welcome you all (just excuse any dust!).

As we look now to Christmas, may we keep in mind  
The joy to the world that in Christ's birth we find.  
So, onwards and upwards! There's more love to share  
And many more ways we can show that we care!

Let's pray without ceasing for all those in need,  
And for all who hunger, let's all work to feed!

Let's reach out to others with God's love and grace!  
His hope will sustain us through all that we face.

Now you'll hear us exclaim as our poem now ends:

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! God bless you, dear friends!

*Joy to the World from the Castellos!  
Pastor & Carol and Carol's mom, Elinor Brown  
Becky, Andy, Zachary, & Jacob  
Emily, Jason, Hannah & Noah  
Rachel, Kevin, Nora & Grayson  
and the "friendly beasts" - Hokie, Lakota, Rugby, & Jasmine*

## *Holiday Worship Schedule*

### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

7:00 p.m. Children's Program/Family Worship

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

### **Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

### **New Year's Eve, December 31**

7:30 p.m. Worship

## *National Youth Gathering memories...*

**N**ew Orleans was a memorable, eye opening and hot trip. I can't express how thankful I am for Emanuel Lutheran, making this trip possible for me, for us even! New Orleans was just the spiritual experience I needed.

At first I didn't know if I could get into the whole dancing and Christian band thing, but after I saw everyone getting into the spirit, I decided to let my hair down. The New Orleans atmosphere was a new and exciting experience for me. Although I didn't really get into the cajun food, the bands and welcoming community lifted my spirit. Everyone down there was so thankful for everyone's service to them.

The people of New Orleans were unlike any other city's community. There were no beggars lining the streets taking advantage of us. I felt so safe. I believe that God held a big bubble

over that city and wouldn't let anything bad happen to us that week and will keep the city safe forever.

That last day of our trip at the gathering was an emotional one for me. I didn't want to leave. At that last gathering I truly found God. So again I thank you for your contribution toward my trip so I could find him.

Thanks for your donations, your participation in our fundraisers, and mostly for your support. Without you this trip wouldn't have been so wonderful. Knowing that our little congregation got us down there in one piece and back while being prayed for is so heartwarming. Thank you, thank you!

Sincerely, Alison Storch

P.S. My parents thank you, too, for your financial support. It took a lot off of them.

*from the Congregational Life Board*

THANK YOU to all who donated so generously to the Filling Home, the Henry County Red Cross, and to Henry County “Christmas Cheer” during November and the first week of December. Through your generous support, many families will be able to feel that there are people who genuinely care for others in need and are willing to give from the heart during the Christmas season. This collection will continue through the end of November, so please continue to bring any additional donations in with you to church by December 6. The sorting day for “Christmas Cheer” is Tuesday, December 8, at the VFW on Scott Street. Willing volunteers are welcome!

- Giving/donation corner for December will be for the Angel Tree.

### ***Project: We Care “Angel Tree”***

For this year’s “Project: We Care”, we have adopted 12 families, involving 29 kids, for Christmas. Our “Angel Tree” will be located in the “giving corner” in the overflow area. Decorated with paper angel” ornaments” that list a family member by age and then by Christmas need or wish, please select a gift (or MORE than one!) that you are willing to buy, wrap, and “label” with the paper angel, and return it underneath (or by!) the tree **no later than Wednesday, December 16**. We are hoping to have an afternoon of Christmas shopping for these “angels” provided by our junior high K.F.C. (Kids For Christ) on Sunday, December 13, and you are welcome to contribute to their efforts by giving your monetary donations to Gayla Yaney or Carol Castello. We will deliver these gifts to the appropriate families before Christmas (I’m looking at Monday and/or Tuesday, December 21/22) and will, of course, invite them to worship with us here at Emanuel at Christmas and always.

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

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

*Fifth Sunday – November 29*  
*“Journey to Bethlehem” Nativity Walk*

With the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in November being the first Sunday in Advent, what a perfect way to begin our Preparations for Christmas – with a “Journey to Bethlehem.” From 2 to 4 p.m. on November 29, our own Angela Tonjes will be providing beautiful music for your enjoyment as the sanctuary welcomes you to prayer and meditation. You may come and go as you please, during or after which you may stroll the basement for a “nativity walk” and enjoy the display of nativities from throughout the world and throughout our Church Family. Cookies, coffee, and punch will be available as you browse. Before the rush and hustle, the hurrying and hassle of the holidays, come and relax and prepare your heart for this most blessed time of year!

*“Here we come a-caroling ...”*

A “caroling caravan” will gather at the church at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, to “traverse afar” and spread some melodious (?) Christmas joy! All voices and bodies and ages are welcome, and we’ll plan to gather afterward back at the church for chili and hot chocolate! The more, the merrier, as we try to divide the lists until we have gotten to every house OR until our voices (and energies!) give out!

*“Jesus Jam”*

Mark your calendars for the “Jesus Jam” to be held at Emanuel on January 24. This will be a concert by the One Spirit Quartet and other groups from our church. Watch for more details.

## *Thank you!*

- ◆ Filling Fall Fling 2009. Once again THANK YOU to all who allowed us to place signs in your yard, brought baked items for the Baked Sale, volunteered your time to help out on Friday or Saturday, and came to spend some time with us on Saturday! You are appreciated.
- ◆ Sending a big thank you for all the prayers and concern for me during my back surgery and recovery. I'm sure all your prayers made my surgery such a great success. It's so great to stand up straight and walk without pain once again. God bless you all. -Ann Schnitkey

## *Membership News*

- Birth*        Congratulations to Kyle & Kelly Lacy on the birth of Kennedy Elizabeth Lacy, born on October 24, 2009. Proud grandparents are Terry & Diana Lacy.
- Transfers*   Church Council has approved the transfers of:  
Eric Fletcher from Emanuel to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Ohio  
Nick Sonnenberg from Emanuel to St. John Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio
- Funeral*     Pastor Castello conducted the funeral of Tony Schuette at the Rodenberger Funeral Home on November 6. Tony was the brother of Ruth Ann Gray and the step-son of Gertrude Schuette. Please keep their family in your prayers.

### **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.

There will be a door offering for the Roof Loan on December 6.

## **WELCA News**

*Kathy Gerken, President*

Thank you to all who attended our November General Meeting and Thankoffering service. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you to the Miriam Circle ladies for the delicious refreshments.

Our Christmas Program and Installation of Officers will begin at 7:00 p.m. on December 3. We will be having a white elephant gift exchange and ask that you bring something you no longer want or have use for. Please do not purchase anything for this. Wrap your gift in holiday paper with no name on it. It's always fun to see what everyone ends up with, and no one knows who brought it. The program will be a Christmas program entitled "The Lord's Prayer" presented by Oneta Wiechers. Please mark your calendar and invite a friend.

I want to give many thanks to all of my Board members for all of their help this year. They were so appreciated.

*New feature...*

### ***Emanuel in the Community***

*Our members shine .....*

We are hoping to make this a regular feature of The Good News Newsletter. But we need your help. Please let us know about events and happenings in which our members are taking part. Let us know about plays you're in, concerts you take part in, etc. Events can be in our schools and/or in the surrounding area. Thank you!

## *Poinsettias*

Thanks to all who purchased the 41 poinsettias this year!

*Burnice Agler* - in loving memory of Russell (husband)

*Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt* (2) - in honor of Blake & Alexandria

*Norm & Kathy Bostelman* (2) - in loving memory of Harold Bostelman and

Otto Hahn; in honor of Lorna Bostelman & Esther Hahn

*Philip & Dianne Bowen* (3) - in loving memory of Mark Weirauch & Herbert

Eickhoff; in honor of Ruth M. Eickhoff

*Cason & Julie Callaway* (2) - in loving memory of Christine Rath; in honor of Lawrence &

Bonnie Babcock

*Donnie Daman* - in loving memory of Orv Daman

*Harold Delventhal* - in loving memory of Mary

*Ruth C. Eickhoff* - in loving memory of Norbert & Joe

*Shirlee Mires-Fejes* (2) - in loving memory of Melle & Ray Landversicht; Phil & Lisa Mires &

Nelson Fejes

*Julian & Carol Gerken* (2)

*Barbara & Tom Hoffman* (3) - in loving memory of Art & Estella Hoffman & Robert & Lulu Arps;

in honor of Ryan, Andrea & Rob Hoffman, Lauren & Chris Helberg

*Judy Hoffman* (2) - in honor of all our children and grandchildren

*Joe & Julie Kohout* (2) - in honor of Erica, Anthony & Ryan

*Ken & Nancy Lange* (2) - in loving memory of our parents; in honor of our 2 daughters

*Bill & Mary Jo Moden* (2) - in loving memory of Mary L. Thompson; in honor of Jarret, Brennan &

Reece

*Hilda A. Nye* - in loving memory of Gale H. Nye

*Jack Robbins* (2) - in loving memory of Lester & Wilma Robbins

*Ann Schnitkey* - in loving memory of Orville Schnitkey & Ervin Hoover

*Rupert & Rita Schweinhagen* - in honor of Olivia Schweinhagen

*Jeff & Lori Sharpe* (3) - in loving memory of our loved ones that have passed on and are in our

beloved Lord's hands; in honor of Ed & Alyce Oberhaus

*Sheila Sosebee & family* (3) - in loving memory of Jim Sosebee & Shirley Casteel; in honor of

Henry Sosebee

*Mark & Angela Tonjes* - in honor of the wonderful year of 2009 we shared with our boys: Zachary,

Dylan & Seth

*Charlotte Wangrin*

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### **Family photo**

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."

## *News from around the Synod and the Community*

### *Red Cross Bloodmobile* — December

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Harley-Davidson Sales & Service

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

Tuesday, Dec. 29, 12-6 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon

Wednesday, Dec. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Henry ARC

### *Holiday Cookie Sale* — St. John's UCC, 1946 State Route 108, Holgate

Sunday, December 6, 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Choose your own cookies - \$4.00 per pound.

Proceeds support their church operating fund. Hosted by St. John's Consistory.

### *Be a Mentor*

Give a little time, get a lot in return. It only takes a few hours a month to make a huge difference in the life of a child. Mentoring helps keep kids off drugs, out of gangs and in school so they can fulfill their dreams. The best part is, you'll not only see what it does for them, you'll feel what it does for you. Volunteers must be 21 years of age, complete a FBI and BCI, driving and child service registries checks (all at their expense). Once trained, the volunteers meet once a week for an hour, for twelve consecutive weeks with the youth. The youth's needs vary and could include tutoring, help with college applications, or assisting with job seeking. If you have any questions or would like more information please call the PathStone Liberty Center office at (419) 875-6654 Ext. 233.

They are also seeking area at-risk youth in need of a mentor. Requirements for the program are that the child is between the ages of 12-19, is Latino, Farmworker, or rural and economically disadvantaged. If you know someone who could benefit from the program, please call Megan Sherman at PathStone (419) 875-6654 Ext. 233.

### *The Little Lutheran*

"The Little Lutheran", produced by "The Lutheran," is the newest publication of the ELCA and is for children 6 years and younger. It arrives in a child's mailbox 10 times a year for \$24.95 a year; six or more are \$12.95 per subscription. (These may be mailed to several addresses and are billed to one.) Through Bible stories, prayers, songs and ritual, this newest ELCA publication shows young children how much God loves them and tells them that Jesus is their savior and friend. Call 800-328-4648 to order.

# Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

## *Adult Choir*

Thank you for all your hard work in making the fall concert so wonderful.

Choir practices will continue on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. on December 2, 9 and 16. We will be working diligently on music for the cantata and Christmas Ee.

On Wednesday, December 23, Tom and Beth will once again host the annual Choir Christmas Party at their home at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a friend or spouse, and a dish to share.

NO rehearsal on December 30! Be ready to start a new year of music on January 6.

## *Cherub Choir/Rainbow Ringers*

Thanks to the children who sang and rang at the concert. You were terrific! We look forward to going Christmas caroling at a few places around town in December.

We have so many children in After School Club that it was necessary to order a new set of bells! We are really enjoying our rhythm sticks and learning new music every Wednesday afternoon.

## *Cantata*

The musicians of Emanuel will present our annual cantata on Sunday, December 20, at BOTH worship services. We will be telling the Christmas story using music with the theme "Mary, Did You Know?" This is our Christmas gift to YOU, the congregation; so plan to be at church on December 20!

## *Video Ministry*

There will be quite a number of special music selections during worship in the month of December. Please contact the church office if you would like a DVD of a particular service to share with family or friends. We are always in need of volunteers to videotape on Sunday mornings. Please see a Doctrine and Worship member.

## *Thank You*

I would like to thank everyone here at Emanuel who is involved with our music programs. Your talent and dedication are awesome, and I appreciate all the little things you do for me on a weekly basis. Thank you for enthusiastically saying "yes" when I ask you to contribute (even though you never know what you're in for!). This church is a great place to be, and I am looking forward to another wonderful year of worship.

**We are on WNDH radio the entire month of December.**

☆ DOCTRINE & WORSHIP BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 P.M. (INSTEAD OF 7:00 P.M.) ☆

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

**Lutheran Home** (1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon)  
**Evelyn Carlile Marge Gathman Paul Panning**  
**Alfred "Petey" Ruetz Ted Titgemeyer**  
**Alpine Village Assisted Living** (1032 S. Perry, Napoleon)  
**Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410) Minnie Meineke (#306)**  
**Country View Haven** (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon)  
**Julia Arps** (mailing address: 8271 Co Rd T Liberty Center, OH 43532)  
**Otterbein Portage Valley** (Avalon by Otterbein, 3533 Rivers Edge Dr Rm 106, Perrysburg OH 43551)  
**Hildegarde Reiser**

**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  
 810 Scott Street, P.O. Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545 (419-592-2616) emanuel@bright.net  
 www.emanuelpoleon.org  
 Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com  
 Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond  
 Congregation President - Jack Robbins  
 Women of the ELCA President - Kathy Gerken  
 Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@yahoo.com)  
 Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes  
 Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink  
 Asst. Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning  
 Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle  
 Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring  
 Sunday School Superintendent - Laura Ellis-Kruse  
 Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman  
 Custodian - Jack Robbins

**Statistics — from 10/22 through 11/15**

<b>Total Thursday attendance</b>	<b>Total Sunday attendance</b>	<b>Communed</b>	<b>Offerings (thru 8/11)</b>
82	908	231	\$20,123.25 *

\* includes: \$1,210.00 Bldg Fund  
 200.00 Bldg Fund mem - G.Nye  
 250.00 Good Samaritan Fund  
 30.00 Good Sam honor of C.Wangrin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 350.00 World Hunger  
 150.00 Misc

## Worship participants in December

### Acolytes

8:00 Bryce Reynolds & Henry Elling  
10:30 Jacob Skeens & Brock Brubaker  
Christmas Eve - Sarah Yaney & Neil Storch  
Christmas Day - Jacob Skeens & Tyler Allison  
New Year's Eve - Sarah Yaney

### Altar Guild

Barb Hoffman & Phyllis Kloos

### Ushers

8:00 Ed Panning, Mike Mohring,  
George Kryder, Don Mitchell  
10:30 Ron Meyers, Bill Panning,  
Karl Wiechers, Ken Lange

### Lay Assistants

8:00 Jack Robbins  
10:30 Karl Wiechers  
12/25 still open  
12/31 still open

## Altar Flowers

December 6 - Donnie Daman in loving memory of Orv  
- Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Leon Pauley  
December 13 - Rob & Jenny Perdew in honor of Thea's birthday  
December 20 - Burnice Agler in loving memory of husband, Russell  
- Paul & Nancy Bressler in honor of their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary  
December 24 - Carol Dille family and Douglas Hoffman family in loving memory  
Of Louise and Clem Hoffman  
December 25 - Sue & Norm Kruse and Juanita & Leo Clausen  
December 27 - Shirlee Mires Fejes in loving memory of Phil & Lisa Mires and Nelson Fejes

### 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.**

The 2010 Flower Chart is hanging in the narthex. Sign up for your special day!

### *Open Dates for 2010:*

January 3/24/31	April 18	July 18	October 10
February 21/28	May 16/23/30	August 1/15/29	November 7
March 14/21/28	June 6/13/20	September 12	December 19/25