

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXV No. 11
December 2010

**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 started just like many others. I was baptized here at Emanuel, attended church every Sunday along with Sunday School. I attended Vacation Bible School, catechism, and was confirmed. I listened to the stories from the Bible and learned Bible verses and what it all meant for me. At home we said a prayer before meals and I said my prayers before bed. My parents and both my grandparents were and still are very good role models for myself and my family in their faithful journey and for that I am eternally grateful.

While I can't thank my family enough for being those good role models, I also have to thank someone outside of my family who, I am sure, has no idea how much of a role model he was to me one night during my Junior High years. Let me share that memory with you...

It was during a Junior High talent show that one of our teachers got on stage with her guitar and sang a hymn. While nothing was said during her performance (I can't even remember what hymn

she sang), plenty was said after the talent show was over. That night at our high school football game my friends and I were standing around and someone brought up the talent show. We talked about the different acts and someone brought up the teacher who sang. Wanting to be part of the group, I joined in the conversation mocking the teacher. My comment was "If I wanted to hear a church song, I would go to church and hear it". While I remember my friends laughing and agreeing, a voice behind me said, "Maybe you should go more often". I turned around to see a gentleman whom I knew and suddenly feeling very embarrassed. In all those years of going to church, attending Sunday School, VBS, catechism, nothing affected me more than hearing those 6 words. To this day whenever I see Ralph Steele, I say a little prayer of thanks that he was standing behind me at the certain football game on that certain night to put me in my place where I should have been and needed to be. Everything happens for a reason.

Teri Haæ

Christmas 2010

** Note: to help you with this year's greeting in rhyme, it helps to sing it
to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
(with sincere apologies to both Edmund Sears and Richard Willis!)*

Dear friends,

It came to me in November clear, a pattern for this yearly rhyme,
To send to you, our Church Fam'ly dear, with whom we spend so much time.
"Peace on the earth, good will to all"; we thank you for all that we share
In ministry at Emanuel and for your love and your care.

Still through the year we try to voice our gratitude to each and all,
For all the prayers that you've prayed for us in six years now with this call,
Above and quite beyond you've gone, to reach out to others as well;
In helping those who are most in need, of God's great love you do tell.

And you, beneath that copper roof, a fam'ly to us have become.
We share our joys and our sorrows, too (and sometimes jokes that are dumb!).
Look now, for chances to share your faith, to show it in word and by deed,
Then rest in knowing you've given hope as hungry souls you did feed.

For lo! This poem in dragging on. We certainly hope that you know
That, with the evercircling years, our bonds of friendship will grow.
When Christmas Day has come once again, we do hope that you and your kin
And all the world will give back the love that comes with Christ's birth again!

Joy to the World from the Castellos!

Pastor & Carol and Carol's mom, Elinor Brown
and the "friendly beasts"—Hokie, Lakota, & Jasmine

Holiday Worship Schedule

December 24, Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Children's Christmas program

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

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

December 31, New Year's Eve

7:30 p.m. Worship

Thank you

Filling Fall Fling 2010. Once again THANK YOU to all who allowed us to place a sign in your yard, brought baked items for the Bake Sale, volunteered your time to help out on Friday or Saturday, and who came to spend some time with us on Saturday! You are appreciated!

Please let us know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. You will need Adobe Reader to do this (available free for download at adobe.com). Just turn in your name and email address to the church office.

The newsletter is also available on our website: www.emanuelnapoleon.org. Check it out sometime!

from the Congregational Life Board

Nativity Walk 2010

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all the members who have lent their “nativity” items for our annual “Nativity Walk”. The “walk” will take place on Sunday, November 28, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Come and go as your time permits. Enjoy the displays, listen to the music of piano and harp by Angela Tonjes, hear the Christmas story, have a little fun with the scavenger hunt, and take time for a little refreshment. What a beautiful way to begin Advent!

Time and Talent Sheets

A Time and Talent Sheet is included with this monthly newsletter. Additional copies will be distributed at Sunday services on November 21st and 28th. Please have each member of your family complete and return a form. There’s something that each of us can do. Drop your completed form in the offering plate on Sunday or leave in Pat’s office.

Caring Corner

December will see us participating in Project We Care. Be sure to look for the tree to select an “angel” that you or your family would like to help make their Christmas a little brighter. (*See related article on page 5.*)

And, once again, we would be remiss if we did not thank everyone who donated to the “Coats for Kids” during October. Emanuel contributed over one hundred coats. Job well done, Emanuel!

Contributions for Christmas Cheer are being accepted during November. Thanks for the many items already contributed.

Emanuel Picture Directory

Plans are underway for a new picture directory in mid-2011. It will have been five years since the last directory and many changes have taken place – new babies, marriages, children have grown, etc. Watch for future announcements as plans and timelines are developed.

Next meeting

December’s meeting will take place on Monday, December 6, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come.

Project: We Care “Angel Tree”

We have “adopted” 40 kids for Christmas this year, involving 19 families altogether. Our “Angel Tree” will be located in the “giving corner” in the overflow area. Decorated with paper angel “ornaments” (they will be numbered and/or “color-coded” to help ease the sorting of the gifts for delivery), on each “angel” ornament is listed a boy or girl with age or family with the number of family members and a gift suggestion, taken from the family’s application form. Please 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 15**. Each child will receive at least one new outfit (appropriate sizes are specified) and another gift or two. Every child in the same family will receive the same number of presents. Every family will receive a holiday meal or a Chief gift card for such.

Please wrap your gift (unless specified not to) and “label” it by lightly attaching the angel. Chief gift cards do not need to be wrapped; simply enclose in an envelope and “label” with the angel.

The junior high KFC kids will be going shopping on Sunday, December 12. If you would like to contribute to this, please feel free to give your donations to Gayla Yaney or Carol Castello.

All “Angel Tree” gifts need to be brought to the church by **Wednesday, December 15**. Delivery to the families will take place on Monday and Tuesday, December 20 and 21, and we will, of course, invite them to worship with us here at Emanuel at Christmas and always. If you would like to help with the deliveries (the really fun part!), please see Carol Castello.

Bless you for sharing the joy of CHRISTmas in this way!

“Here we come a-caroling...”

A “caroling caravan” will gather at the church at 2:30 p.m. (after program practice) on Sunday, December 19, 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’ve gotten to every house OR until our voices (and energies!) give out!

CROP Walk Finale

The final total of this year's CROP Hunger Walk is \$1,920. With 25% of that to be returned here to Henry County, Christmas Cheer and local food pantries will enjoy a share of \$480. Special thanks to YOU, the Emanuel Walkers—all 26 of you—who raised over \$1800. Many, many thanks to all who walked or donated or supported or helped in any way!

Mark your calendars now for the 7th annual Henry County CROP Hunger Walk, which will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2011!

Alternative Gift-Giving for Christmas

www.elca.org/goodgifts

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 on 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.

Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 27, beginning at 9 a.m. (Yes, we'll be done in plenty of time for kick-off!)

Your help will be VERY MUCH appreciated!!!!

Membership News

Birth Congratulations to Joe & Trisha Good on the birth of a daughter, Addilyn Minley, on November 10. Also welcoming Addilyn is her big sister, Ava. We look forward to her baptism.

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.

Pancake Breakfast Benefit

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wauseon, Ohio is hosting a Pancake Breakfast Benefit in honor of Austin Lighthill on Sunday, December 12, 2010. You are invited to attend. The menu is pancakes, sausage, hashbrowns, applesauce and beverage, and serving hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you would like to help with the benefit in any capacity, you may contact Paul ZumFelde at 419-335-9162 or email him at paulzumfelde@yahoo.com. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation, please make it out to Trinity Lutheran Church and mail to P.O. Box 184, Wauseon Ohio 43567. Please mark "Lighthill Benefit" on the memo line. Your help, support and prayers have sustained us all through this very difficult time and we thank you very much.

The Lighthill's
Tony, Risha, Taylor & Austin
Jerry and Marlene

WELCA News

Rita Schweinhagen for the Board

New officers

My term of office will soon come to an end. On Thursday, December 2 we will have installation of new officers. Marilyn Fretz will be your new president. Please work with her to make our Women of the Church grow. I am confident that she will lead you well. Thanks to all of our out-going officers. Treasurer, Carol Gerken, will be replaced by Marilyn Manahan and Mission Growth, Dora Titgemeyer, by Carol Castello. A special thanks goes out to the nominating committee, Filling Guild Reps, and a special, special thanks to the Altar Guild who always gets the job done. Vice President, Martha Young, will be there to assist your new president. It's been a great year ladies...thanks for all your help.

Filling Fall Fling

The Filling Fall Fling ... wasn't that fun! Thanks to all who worked, donated something, or just came to have a good time. Carol Dille and crew did a great job as usual.

Donations

At our last meeting we voted to make the following donations:

Napoleon Lutheran Home - \$150.00

Filling Home - \$100.00

Christmas Cheer - \$100.00

We are proud to keep our donations local. You know, I think we do have a little money left over. Got any ideas? If so, bring them to our Christmas meeting on Thursday, December 2. We will have good food, great entertainment, installation of officers, and very short meeting. I asked you all in January to try to make at least one meeting. Did you do it? This is your last chance ladies, and it should be a great meeting. Please join us.

Thanks

Thanks for letting me serve you this past year. I've enjoyed it. See you December 2 at 7:00 p.m., and – remember – God loves you and so do we.

General Meeting

The Women of the Church General Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. The program will be "Traditions and Customs of Christmas". There will also be installation of the 2011 WELCA officers. The Naomi Circle will be the hostess circle.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Christmas opportunities - from Ed Biederstedt

As the Christmas season approaches, I know our lives can become quite busy. December becomes quite busy for some with gifts to buy, trees to put up, civic functions, office parties, and school events. Our family usually makes the time to attend a religious show and/or concert, to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Here are a couple of shows to consider this Christmas season. For those of you who missed the Trans-Siberian Orchestra in Toledo recently, then check out the **Siberian Solstice**. They are a tribute band who recounts a story of an angel coming down looking for a symbol of love. The music is on the rock/classical side. Admission is free, but a free will offering will be taken. The show dates are:

November 21 at 3 p.m. - St. Paul Lutheran, Defiance

December 4 at 7 p.m. - Grace Community Church, Bryan

December 12 at 6:30 p.m. - Defiance Christian Church

December 19 at 10:30 a.m. - Church of the Nazarene, Defiance

December 19 at 6:30 p.m. - Ney Church of God

A fantastic production to attend is **“The Gospel According to Scrooge”**. This is at the Dayspring Assembly (DayspringAssembly.org) Church in Bowling Green on State Route 25, approximately ½ mile north of the mall. This is a free event, although you need to order or pick up tickets in advance for the show. This production is based on the “Christmas Carol”, published in 1843 with the setting in Victorian era Britain. The show has great effects such as fog, with talented acting and singing. The stage props and back drops are of professional quality. Scrooge finally discovers the true meaning of Christmas and makes time to spend with Tiny Tim and his nephew. No reserve seating, so arrive early.

The dates of the shows are December 3-5 & 9-12 at 7 p.m.

May God continue to bless you and watch over you this holiday season as well as every day.

Ridgeville Community Choir Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 5 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, corner of Henry County Roads U and 16 in Freedom Township. The Junior Choral Society will be returning to provide a portion of the concert and will join the RCC with some combined anthems.

We would like to reserve several parking spots nearest the back door and the door by the elevator for those coming to worship who have mobility issues.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Small children were putting on a Christmas program. The entertainment proceeded without a hitch until near the end of the event. Each child held a large card with a letter printed on it. The letters were turned away from the audience. One by one each child turned the card he or she was holding to reveal a letter. First was the child with the “C,” then the one with the “H,” and so on down the line. When it was time for a little girl to hold up the “M,” it was upside down. The “M” appeared to be a “W.”

Quiet giggles rippled through the audience. Nevertheless, the kids continued one by one to reveal the rest of the cards. When the last card was shown, the cards were meant to spell out:

C H R I S T M A S L O V E

Instead, they spelled:

C H R I S T W A S L O V E

What first seemed to be a mistake wasn't one after all.

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

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

Marge Gathman Paul Panning

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz Ted Titgemeyer

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

Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon)

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

Golden Center Living Center-Northcrest

Ruth Delaney (240 Northcrest Dr, Napoleon)

Church Office Hours

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

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

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

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

Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond

Congregation President - Ed Biederstedt

Women of the ELCA President - Rita Schweinhagen

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 -

Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman

Custodian - Jack Robbins

True hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. "I don't have room for you in the hotel," he said. "But I'd love to have you come in for milk and cookies."

Worship participants in December

Acolytes

8:00 Austin Damman & Stephen Yunker
10:30 Ryan Kohout & Dalton Middleton

Lay Assistants

8:00 Steve Kloos
10:30 Deb Nation

Dec. 25 Susan Landversicht
Dec. 31 Nanette Schwab

Ushers

8:00 George Kryder, Jim Hershberger,
Don Mitchell, Steve Kloos
10:30 Ken Lange, Chris Peper,
Norm Bostelman, Matt Mt.Castle

Altar Guild

Phyllis Kloos & Nanette Schwab

Altar Flowers

December 5 - Ben & Judy Michaelis in loving memory of Leon Pauley

December 12 - Donnie Daman in loving memory of Orv

December 19 - in loving memory of Violet Walters

- Gene & Christine Walters in celebration of their wedding anniversary

December 24 - Carol Dille & family and Douglas Hoffman & family in loving memory of
Louise and Clem Hoffman

December 25 - Sue Kruse & Juanita Clausen

December 26 - 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.

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

Statistics

Thursdays

10/21 20
10/28 24 communed 23
11/4 23
11/11 22

Sunday, October 24

attendance 100 + 124 (224)
\$4,425.33
\$ 20 Bldg Fd
32 World Hunger
75 Good Samaritan Fund

Sunday, October 31

attendance 83 + 158 (231)
\$4,044.37
\$ 15 World Hunger
25 Endowment Fd (mem Minnie Meineke)

Sunday, November 7

attendance 145 + 112 (257) communed 131
\$6,319.32
\$ 25 Good Sam Fund
30 World Hunger
325 Building Fund
125 Endowment Fd (mem Minnie Meineke)
42.50 poinsettias

Sunday, November 14

attendance 99 + 141 (240) communed 120
\$6,227.24
\$ 145 Bldg Fd
100 mem to Bldg Fd: Melvin Dillon
25 Good Samaritan Fund
5 World Hunger
30 Video system
250 Music
176 poinsettias

Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

Choir

There will be rehearsals on December 1, 8, and 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. On Wednesday, December 22 we will gather at the home of Tom and Beth Jenny for our Christmas party at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your spouse or a friend and a dish to share. We will sing and play games! No choir practice on December 29...see you January 5, 2011.

After School Club

We are planning to go caroling at the nursing homes in December. The children are working on a few special numbers for the holiday season and will have an active part in worship this month. No After School Club on December 22 or December 29. See you in 2011!

Bell Sunday

Sunday, December 12 has been designated as "Bell Sunday." The Bell Choir, Adult Choir, and children will present special music with a bell theme. Bring your jungle bells from home to ring during some of the songs. If you do not have bells at home, we will have some at the door.

Cantata

The musicians of Emanuel will perform a cantata on December 19 at both services with the theme, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It will feature our favorite Advent pieces, in the hopes of preparing your hearts for Christmas.

Christmas Eve Services

There will be thirty minutes of pre-service music at both the 7:00 p.m. Children's Service and the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Come a little early to hear the wide variety of vocal and instrumental music that evening.

When Candles Glow

In the month of December we light the candles of our Advent wreath each week. Whenever you light candles at home this season, say out loud "Jesus is the Light of the world." Pray that the light of His love may shine in you and through you.

December 19, 2010

both services

Elevator Committee

Ed Biederstedt

The Elevator Committee is still pushing forward with plans for a new elevator and handicap accessible restrooms. Many things had to be taken into consideration, such as zoning, ability to tie into the existing architectural structure, and limited space, just to name a few. The elevator and restroom projects are projects that will *have* to be addressed at some point. The question will remain to what degree. The committee has a good grasp of the direction that would be pleasing for the current members, as well as future members.

The Church in the past has financed a major renovation in the church, including the organ, and recently the roof. The Church has displayed the ability to not only make the loan payments, but to pay the loans off early.

By the time of this reading, we will have already had one door offering for start-up funding for this project. I ask that you consider contributing toward this at the next door offering. The projected architectural plans have been displayed in the church for review.

A few things to consider when making a donation toward the elevator and handicap restrooms is, first and foremost, it's a needed project that will be done sometime and people will greatly benefit from it. This project would make those who cannot fully experience and navigate the church "**equally able to participate.**" This is something that not all have been able to do yet. These projects could potentially increase our attendance because the church is more accessible to others. With any building of age, certain aspects need to be updated and the restrooms and elevator are such projects. Additionally, you may be able to take advantage of reducing your taxes through your donations to the church for calendar year 2010. (It is unsure at this time if some of the tax cuts may be eliminated and/or reduced for 2011.)

As it is written by Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:10, "According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation and another builds on it." Our foundation has been laid many years ago, is it time for us to build upon it?

Please give this thoughtful consideration and always, God Bless.