

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXX11 No. 2
February 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.

We imperfectly proclaim a perfect Gospel to an imperfect world with imperfect ears. You have your own imperfections as do I. You and I know what it is like to have Jesus love us though we, at times, are pretty unlovable.

You and I know what it is like to stumble around for the right words and to not know what to do in some situations. You and I now what it is like to feel lost or alone. We too have been difficult to understand and have been so bull-headed that it seems a sledge hammer wouldn't budge us. So we know where they are coming from with their own steadfastness.

We have empathy for their pain and suffering because we have known those hurts. We know we need to have a lot of patience with others because we know how much patience is needed in dealing with us. We accept the challenge to try to reach them because others never gave up on us.

There is this perfect Gospel that needs to be proclaimed to this imperfect world with imperfect ears. In spite of our own imperfections, we are the perfect ones to try to present it.

See you in church.

Pastor Jim Castello

Don't Give Up – Give More for Lent

Lent, the 40 days of self-examination and repentance before Easter, is a time for us to renew our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to recognize God's abundance expressed in the sacrificial death of Jesus. As a common Lenten discipline, many Christians give up something during Lent. This giving up or fasting usually lasts for the six weeks until Easter.

This Lent, don't just give up something, but give more and share gifts of gratitude that express in a tangible way what God has done for you. What can you sacrifice for Lent and give to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal? Here are some ideas reflecting upon a few of the luxuries that we take so for granted in our everyday lives:

1 CD purchase = \$15
1 video rental per week: $\$3 \times 6 = \18
1 DVD purchase = \$20
1 snack per day: 60 cents $\times 40 = \$24$
1 soda/bottle of water per day: $\$1 \times 40 = \40
1 movie per week: $\$8 \times 6 = \48
1 tall vanilla latte per day: $\$3 \times 40 = \120
Dinner for two per week: $\$30 \times 6 = \180

K.F.C. to Cherry Street Mission

On Saturday, February 10, the junior high **K**ids **F**or **C**hrist will be touring the Cherry Street Mission in Toledo, a ministry and shelter for homeless people in the city. Since we will be touring the facility at 10 a.m. before helping to serve lunch there at noon, we will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. and plan to return by 3:30'ish p.m. (We will be at Cherry Street Mission from 10 to 2, and MAY stop for a fast-food lunch on the way home, so bring \$!) Parents/adults are welcome, and we will probably need some volunteers to drive, so please contact Gayla Yaney (599-8784) or Carol Castello (592-0847) to help!

Lenten worship services

Please join us for our Lenten worship services beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m. There will be imposition of ashes and also communion.

There will also be a Lenten observance on each Sunday of Lent. We will be pounding nails into a cross and remembering how Jesus suffered for us. Our cross will be made of Christmas trees donated by church members and is intended to be a visual sign of both the birth and death of Jesus.

Computer Class to be offered

Kyle Miller is offering an Introduction to the Computer class to take place Wednesday evening, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. This can be a refresher course for you or a totally new introduction to the cyber world.

Plan on meeting in the adult Sunday School class (Bible Study classroom/library). If you need a ride

for any reason, including not feeling comfortable driving at night, please let me know. I (Pastor) or someone will get you there and back.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us all. It would help to let us know in advance about your intent to be there. But if you forget to do that, or decide to come at the last minute, that is fine! See you then!

Attention Scrapbookers

Anyone interested in scrapbooking, please join us in the basement on Saturday, February 24 from 12 - 9 p.m. Come whenever you can - stay as long as you want.

No experience needed.

For more information, call Denise Brown 592-5711.

ALL MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICES IN HONOR OF EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY.

The celebration schedule includes:

Sunday, April 22, 2007

Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Special music at each service.

Sunday School/Fellowship hour 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Potluck following late service.

Sunday, October 21, 2007

Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Special music at each service.

Sunday School/Fellowship hour 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Potluck following late service.

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

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www.emanuelpoleon.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

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday

On February 4 some 140 million people all over the world will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the US and here at Emanuel as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

Our K.F.C. (Kids For Christ) junior-high youth will hold soup pots at our church doors on Souper Bowl Sunday. They will join young people in churches all across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2005 11,000 groups in all 50 states and outside the United States participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$4 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced.

Our church will donate the Souper Bowl collection to the E.L.C.A. World Hunger Appeal and the Cherry Street Mission, where they will be visiting and serving lunch on Saturday, February 10. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring became a national grassroots event in 1993, more than \$28 million has gone to help those in need. Drop \$1 in the soup pot as you leave worship that Sunday. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime.

Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on Souper Bowl Sunday.

There will be a Bake Sale in the overflow area on Sunday, February 18. The proceeds will be used for a Catechism Retreat in March.

Vacation Bible School

Before you know it, warm sunshine, summer breezes, and Vacation Bible School will be here. If you are interested in being the director of our Vacation Bible School program this year, please call Michelle Slee 419/533-2290 or Jamie Bostelman 419/599-2477.

Lutheran Camps

Representatives from the Lutheran Camps are scheduled to be here on February 25th. They will be sharing information on the various camping opportunities and experiences they have available.

Music Notes

Adult Choir

Adult choir practices continue each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. We are focusing on Lent, Easter and special church anniversary songs. This is an excellent time of year to join the choir (maybe a good way to start the new year?!)

Cherub Choir/Rainbow Ringers

Practices continue on Wednesdays at 3:15 during After School Club. The Sunday School children practice bells and singing on the last Sunday and first Sunday of the month. We are working on “love” songs for February and learning about Lent and Palm Sunday. Several new numbers are being prepared by the children in order to participate in our worship services.

Plans continue to be made for our church's 125th Anniversary Celebrations. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details.

A special men's choir is being formed to sing “Hand Me Down My Silver Trumpet.” This is a one-time deal, and practices will be held between services in February. See Hugh Schink or Angela Tonjes for details. You won't want to miss this!

Club Christ - High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

Club Christ opened 2007 in our all time favorite fashion - a LOST & FOUND concert! LOST & FOUND is ultimately two guys (Mike and George) who use their amazing wit and creativity to remind us all that praising God can (and should) be the coolest thing you do in any given day.

For those of you who were unable to attend (that would be all of you), there is another concert in April that we will probably be attending. Think about it and check out their website and music at www.speedwood.com.

Plans for February include dartball training and/or cornhole followed by everyone's favorite dinner - China Buffet!! Date and time to follow, though it will probably be on a Sunday after church! Keep on eye on your bulletin!

Though this is short, I leave you with one last thought from our afore-mentioned friends, Mike and George:

“May the fruit we bear be Christ, may the harvest be ripe. Or the fruit won't fall so far from the tree, abide in you abide in me, and the Father is glorified. May the fruit we bear be Christ.”

SOUL FOOD

every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Menus for February:

February 7 - Boiled Hobo Stew
February 14 - Pizza Lover's Buffet
February 21 - Mardi Gras New Orleans Night
Red Beans & Rice
Cole Slaw & French Bread
Doberge (cake) for dessert

*Soup Suppers for Lent:

February 28 - Cabbage & Kielbasa Soup & Chicken Noodle

As always, menus subject to change!

Volunteers to help are always welcomed with these weekly meals; just check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the church office. Celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries are always welcome, too; please feel free to bring a cake to recognize your special occasions at any time. As important as the food is the good fellowship that is shared each Wednesday evening at "Soul Food," so come and enjoy a weekly supper that's good for you, body and soul!

Doctrine and Worship Board

- The Doctrine and Worship Board met on January 8, 2007. The only remaining goals of the 2006 year were the purchase of Christmas decorations and artificial palms. These will be considered for the year 2007. It is encouraged that all purchases that will enhance the worship be made at the time of need, not necessarily at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Angela Tonjes, Music Director, reported that compliments on the December radio worship services were received from parishioners as well as the community. Ash Wednesday service to be held on February 21 will have continuous communion.
- We would appreciate all comments on the new hymnal that is being considered. While we are not required to use the new hymnal, we want to take this opportunity to compare it to our current hymnal and see if a change is advisable. Please contact Susan Landversicht (419-592-0137) if you wish to view the presentation.

Thank You!

- Thanks, Emanuel for your cards, prayers, food, comfort wrap and Christmas gift. Also thanks to Pastor Castello for his cheerful visits and prayers while recovering from my surgery. It was greatly appreciated. -Arleta Panning
- Thank you for your visits, communion and support thru my surgery, nursing home stay and finally home again. Thanks to those who sent notes and cards and gave Carma support thru all of this. Thanks for all of your prayers. They helped so much. Thanks to those who visited me. And finally thanks for the gift from the church. It sits on my bedside table. It is wonderful having such a loving, caring congregation. I'm gaining strength daily and hoping soon to shed the walker. Happy New Year to all.
-Love and Blessings, John Tipping & Carma DeCair
- Thank you for the cross I received at Christmas. Thank you also for the cards and visits from the different groups. Thank you, Pastor, also for your visits (when you can find me in my room). I wish everyone a Blessed New Year! -Reimund Eickhoff
- How thankful we are for all the prayers and calls while Ed was in the hospital. Your concerns helped us through a difficult time. We appreciate all the prayers and visits from the pastor. Thank you also for the Christmas gift from the congregation. May Emanuel continue to grow in God's grace.
-Sincere, Ed & Alyce Oberhaus
- Thank you for the gift and the cheerful carolers that came to sing to me and my guests. Very much appreciated. -Sincerely, Janice Rohrs
- Thank you very much for the bible verse easel gift. Best wishes for the coming year.
-Mel & Margaret Wachtmann
- Thanks were received from the following people for the carolers and/or the Christmas gifts:
Miriam Smith, Lavern Lanzer, Hazel Eickhoff, Lois Gerken, Burnice Agler, Virginia Dillon
- We thank you very much for the ceramic Christmas gift. -Irene Cordes & Norb Brandt
- I would like to thank you for all your thoughts and prayers. It means so much to me to know that my parents and grandparents have so much support. I am doing very well and am tipping the scales at over 10 lbs. Again, thank you for your love, support and prayers. -Peyton Yaw

Giving/donation corner

_Thank you to all for your continued support of the Giving/Donation corner. The January collection for "Luther Home of Mercy" continues through the end of the month. The February collections will go to the local food pantries to help them "re-stock" after the holiday season. Donations of non-perishable food items, paper products and personal hygiene items would be very much appreciated.

_The four newest members of Emanuel Lutheran Church will be introduced to the congregation at both services on Sunday, February 18, 2007. The entire congregation is invited to attend a reception to be held during the Sunday School hour that day, to meet and welcome them all into our church family. Please plan to attend and introduce yourselves to these newest members while enjoying a hot roll, punch, and coffee. The new members include Donald and Carolyn Schmidlin, Phyllis Guysinger, and Joe Good.

_Emanuel's "Good Word for the Day" radio spots will be airing on WNDH radio February 5 through March 30 between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. Pastor Castello will be providing the scripts for Jamie Bostelman, Terry Hershberger, Alan and Alison Storch and Emily Jordan to present. Make sure to listen for them and start your day off with a good word.

_The Congregational Life Board will be hosting a "Shrove Tuesday" Pancake and Sausage Supper on February 20, 2007. Serving will be from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the church office. Please plan to attend.

Anyone who would be willing to help mix, flip, or serve, please contact any board member or let Pat know in the office. Your help would be greatly appreciated. A free will donation will be taken to benefit Emanuel's Building Fund.

_If you would like to help out at any of these events or volunteer your time to plan them, please contact a board member or plan on attending our next meeting on February 5 at 7:00 p.m. **All are welcome!**

You are cordially invited to an
Open House
in celebration of
Orville Schnitkey's 90th Birthday
Saturday, February 24, 2007, 1 - 4 p.m.
at the American Legion Annex
500 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, Ohio
(Please!! No Gifts)

Council Chat - January 15, 2007

- Jerry Tonjes gave a presentation on the mural planned to be painted on his building located on the east side of the church parking lot. He has requested the use of a number of parking spaces during the process which may take a few weeks.
- The Treasurer reported a positive balance for the year-end budget, but has requested everyone to maintain very limited spending until the budget is fully recovered.
- Annual contribution forms are ready and will be mailed the week of January 15.
- February Donation Corner will benefit local food banks.
- “Good Word for the Day” on WNDH will begin on February 5.
- Vacation Bible School Workshop will be held on February 10.
- New member reception will be held on February 18 between services.
- Shrove Dinner will be held on February 20 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday service with continuous Holy Communion will be held on February 21.
- No Smoking and No Weapon signs will be hung at the church entrances. This is a government mandate punishable by large fines if failure to comply.
- Transfer request for Joe Good has been accepted.

Membership News

Baptism Jaycee Ann Bates, daughter of Jacob Bates and Melissa Bates, was baptized on December 28, 2006. Jaycee's sponsors are Joshua & Amy Bates.

On January 14 we witnessed the baptism of Sophia Kevin Good, daughter of Kevin & Kelli Good. Sophia's sponsors are Kyle Borstelman and Beth Speiser.

Transfer Welcome to our newest member, Joe Good, husband of Trisha (Borstelman) Good, who transferred to Emanuel from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township.

New addresses:

Jim & Arlene Hershberger
1168 Chelsea
Napoleon OH 43545

Hildegarde Reiser
Otterbein Portage Valley
20311 Pemberville Rd Rm 313
Pemberville OH 43450

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

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

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

Christine Rath (#412)
(#319)

Miriam Smith (#303)

Reim Eickhoff (#405)

Carl Bockelman

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon OH 43545)

Don Walters

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

Otterbein Portage Valley (20311 Pemberville Rd., Pemberville OH 43450)

Hildegarde Reiser (#313)

Health Ministry

-Nancy Busby

Healthy Living

The Use of Humor in Stress Management

Physical Reasons to laugh – Laughter is powerful medicine!

- Increased heart rate, respiration and circulation
- Relaxed muscle, better digestion
- Decreased stress
- Increased lung capacity
- Increased creativity and problem solving ability
- Exercise for the heart
- Increased cells sensitivity in insulin
- Improved self image
- Decreased pain
- Increased sense of well-being
- Improved immune system

Laughter is contagious. It is the only contagious thing that makes us feel better when we get it!

Humor tools - Fill your tool box to use in times of stress!

- Decide to be happy
- Practice smiling
- Read and collect cartoons
- See funny movies
- Spend time with people you enjoy and find uplifting
- Find the funny in everyday
- Do funny things
- List the people and events that have brought you joy
- Develop a playful attitude

“Humor is the healthy way of feeling a ‘distance’ between one’s self and a problem; a way of standing off and looking at one’s problem with perspective.” Rollo May

Bloodmobile Dates in January:

Saturday, February 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Harley-Davidson, Napoleon

Tuesday, February 6, 12-6 p.m. Widewater, Liberty Center

Thursday, February 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Northwest State Community College

Monday, February 26, 1-7 p.m. VFW, Napoleon

Wednesday, February 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Henry County Red Cross Chapterhouse, Napoleon

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
December 24 (a.m.)	185 + 130 (315)		8,592.00 Bldg Fd - 2,500.00 Bldg Fd mem - 250.00 ¹ Wrld Hngr - 5.00 "14 for Christ"- 14.00
December 24 - 7 p.m.	?? (est 350)		640.50 Good Sam Fd - 50.00
December 24 - 11 p.m.	235	189	1,394.00 Wrld Hngr - 73.00 Mem - 100.00 ²
December 25	67	57	881.50
December 31 (a.m.)	150 + 107 (257)		4,923.72 Bldg Fd - 545.00 Wrld Hngr - 63.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00
December 31 (7 p.m.)	63		914.90
January 7	143 + 128 (271)	147	5,215.25 Bldg Fd - 815.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00 "14 for Christ" - 28.00
January 14	105 + 141 (246)	124	3,725.61 Bldg Fd - 160.00 Wrld Hngr - 5.00

¹ Vernon Rohrs ² Frank Gerken

WELCA News

-Rita Schweinhagen for the WELCA Board

Ladies, please keep Thursday, February 1 open on your calendars. We have a real treat in store for you. Denise McColley, Judge of the Domestic Relations Court, will be the speaker for our General Meeting. We feel extremely honored to have Judge McColley at Emanuel. Just in case some of you men are reading this, yes, you are invited, too!

Our Circles are still meeting...I think the attendance is improving by just a few. That's a good sign. Our studies this year we hope will help you think more broadly about suffering, acknowledging your own suffering, learning better to understand what God's relation to your suffering is (and is not), and engage ourselves more intensely in the sufferings of others. Please make an effort to attend a Bible study. Your name should be in the booklet you received. If you would rather attend a different circle, let us know. There should always be an extra copy of *Lutheran Woman Today* in the WELCA mailbox.

Hopefully you already have Saturday, April 14 on your calendars for the Spring Conference.

Please join us Thursday, February 1 at 7:30. You won't be sorry. Your officers need your help in making decisions concerning the Women of Emanuel.

Remember, God loves you and don't you forget it.

_ Filling Guild Membership

Annual membership dues of \$1.00 or more may be turned in to Lois Gerken or Nancy Busby; or place your donation in the offering plate in a properly marked envelope with your name, address and phone number. _

The alphabet prayer

Many of us need to be more like the little girl whom the farmer found lost in his meadow. The farmer said to her, "Do not cry; I'll take you home."

The little child snuggled up to him, and with a smile, said, "I knew you would; I was waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" said the man. "What made you think I was coming?"

"I was praying you would," she said.

"Praying? When I first heard you, you were saying A-B-C-D-E-F-G. What was that for?"

She looked up again and said, "I'm just a little girl. I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way he wanted to. He knows I was lost, and he knows how to put words together better than I do."

—Homiletics

Worship participants in February

Ushers

8:00 Jeff Eickhoff, Ron Dachenhaus,
Tom Hoffman, Theo Heuer

10:30 Matt Mt.Castle, Bill Panning,
Mark Tonjes, Ken Lange

Altar Guild

Shelley Higbea & Sheila Sosebee

Lay assistants

To Be Announced

Acolytes

8:00 Emily Schwab & Ben Flogaus

10:30 Theresa Peper & Jenni Schink

Altar Flowers

February 4 - in honor of Blake Biederstedt's 12th birthday

- in honor of Karl & Oneta Wiechers' 57th wedding anniversary on February 5

February 11 - open

February 18 - open

February 25 - Ann & Orville Schnitkey in honor of Orville's 90th birthday

Open dates

March 18, 25

August 12

April 1

September 30

July 22, 29

November 4

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 Community

Soup and Pie Luncheon

The Lutheran Home Auxiliary invites you to their Annual Winter Soup and Pie Luncheon on Sunday, February 4 at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Alpine Village at the Lutheran Nursing and Rehab Center on State Route 108. This is to benefit the residents of The Lutheran Nursing & Rehab Center and Alpine Village. A free will offering will be accepted. Menu: Vegetable Soup, Chili Soup, Hot Dogs, Chicken Sandwiches, Crackers, Beverages, Pie. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing matching funds.

Health Program

The First Place Bible Study and Weight Loss Program will begin a new session on February 5. This weekly faith-based weight loss plan can help you achieve healthy eating habits and keep your weight under control. One of the best things about the program is the Bible study which will lead you to a closer relationship with God. First Place is a Christ-centered health program for women and men of any denomination. The meetings are held at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Hamler on Monday nights at 7:00. Call Louise Baden at 419-274-2882 if you are interested and check out the website at www.firstplace.org.

Pancake Breakfast

Napoleon Fire & Rescue is holding their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 11, 2007 from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.