

# Good News

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**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 faith *walk* involves a lot of *walking*.  
As far back as I can remember, getting to church or anywhere meant *walking*. Dad was gone a lot and Mom didn't drive, so we *walked*. I remember *walking* to and from church on Thursday night, Saturday morning and Sunday. Confirmation meant *walking* to the front of the church.

Another time a girlfriend and I started to *walk* from Ottawa to Holgate. What's that got to do with faith? We just knew we would get a ride and be safe.

Years later I *walked* down the aisle to meet Norm to start another *walk* of faith. We have our share of problems, but we keep *walking* together.

Another important *walk* for my faith life was when Juanita and Leo *walked* into church. We have shared many faith *walks* together. Teaching catechism for years and now making banners and doing bulletin boards keeps you always on your toes and always learning and growing.

Now I have started teaching the preschool Sunday School class. What a joyous faith *walk* we are taking together.

My faith *walk* has been strengthened over the years by kids ... your kids, my kids, their kids and now even a great grandkid. What a proof that there is someone worth believing in.

One of my greatest faith moments was when I assisted at the first time Marcus's class took communion. How awesome.

Every time I tell the kids to keep *walking*, it reminds me to keep *walking* with God and growing in my faith.

Through all these years, I have always known and felt that God is *walking* with me and keeping me safe.

I plan to keep *walking* and growing in faith as long as possible. When I take that final *walk*, I know it will be with and to God –

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7.*

SeKrue

## *An Idea for Lent: Take the 21-Day Challenge to a Complaint-Free World*

It began with an innocent mention during a discussion in the Adult Sunday School class. Phyllis Kloos mentioned an article she had read about a pastor who had challenged his congregation to go 21 days without complaining. Angela Tonjes has a copy of an article on this from *People* magazine. The idea is to wear a purple silicone bracelet on either wrist and try to go 21 days without complaining. Why 21 days? It is said that it takes 21 days for a hen's egg to hatch and, ironically, it also takes 21 days of a person doing a new behavior for it to become a habit.

“Hey, we could try it for Lent!”

There will be purple bracelets available beginning with Ash Wednesday. (Excerpted from the book, *A Complaint Free World: How to Stop Complaining and Start Enjoying the Life You Always Wanted* by Pastor Will Bowen)

“Here is how to use the bracelet:

1. Begin to wear the bracelet on either wrist.
2. When you catch yourself complaining, gossiping, or criticizing (in other words, voicing negative thoughts!), move the bracelet to the other wrist and begin again.
3. If you hear someone else who is wearing a purple bracelet complain, it's okay to point out their need to switch the bracelet to the other arm; BUT if you're going to do this, you must move your bracelet first! Because you're complaining about their complaining.
4. Stay with it. It may take many months to reach 21 consecutive days. The average is 4 to 8 months.

And relax. We're only talking about complaining, criticism, and gossip that is spoken. If it comes out of your mouth, it counts, so start over. If you think it, it's free. But you'll find out that even complaining thoughts will disappear as you move through this process.”

The book is available at the Napoleon Public Library, and you will also find more information on their website: [www.acomplaintfreeworld.org](http://www.acomplaintfreeworld.org).

*If you don't like something change it;  
if you can't change it, change your attitude.  
Don't complain.  
-Maya Angelou*

## *Souper Bowl Sunday*

**O**n February 3, 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 2007, 14,500 groups in all 50 states and outside the United States participated in the

Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$8 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 Good Samaritan Fund. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring became national grassroots event in 1990, more than \$41 million has gone to help people 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.

## *Don't Just Give Up – Give MORE for Lent*

**L**ent, 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 (like complaining!), but give more and share gifts of gratitude that express in a tangible way what God has done for you. There are 40-day calendars available to follow through the Lenten Season, with a Bible reading or a "point to ponder" or a simple action to do each day. Your simple Lenten "discipline" could culminate in an Easter gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Emanuel's Good Samaritan Fund, or some other ministry or "cause" that is dear to your heart.

# *Notes from the Worship and Music Coordinator*

*-Angela Tonjes*

## **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

Please join us for the Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30 p.m. There will be the imposition of ashes along with communion during the worship. Begin your Lenten journey on this important day!

## **LENTEN WORSHIP**

Our services for Lent begin on February 13 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a focus on prayer, and favorite music of the season will be sung. Join us for an hour of meditation on Christ's passion each week.

## **ADULT CHOIR**

Adult choir practices will continue on Wednesday evenings in February starting at 6:30 p.m. Rehearsal will last 45 minutes due to Lenten worship at 7:30. New voices are welcome ANY time of the year, see Angela Tonjes if you have questions.

## **CHERUB CHOIR**

Cherub Choir children will be singing during the Lenten service on February 13 at 7:30 p.m. Please meet in the chapel at 7:15 p.m. to warm up!

## **Y.C.C.**

Young Christians for Christ  
(for grades 3, 4, 5)

February 10

Please come and join us for either sledding or crafts and a movie here at the church (depending on the weather). Check your church bulletin as the date gets closer. Remember, as always, your friends are welcome to join us, too!

*from the Congregational Life Board ...*

### **GOOD WORD FOR THE DAY**

Emanuel's "Good Word for the Day" radio spots will be airing on WNDH radio February 4 through March 28 between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. Pastor Castello will be providing the scripts for Kevin Gerken, Joe Dilbone, and Emily Jordan to present. Make sure to listen for them and start your day off with a good word.

### **SHROVE TUESDAY**

A Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage supper will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2008 serving from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this time to gather for food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Hope to see you there and bring your appetite!

Anyone who would be willing to help mix, flip, or serve please contact Carol Castello, Ryan Hoffman 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.

### **GIVING/DONATION CORNER**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the House of Ruth during the month of January.

For February we will be collecting food items for the newly-started food pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church here in Napoleon. This pantry is open for whomever needs it, whenever it is needed. Please think in terms of "complete meals" to give – canned beef stew, canned meat or chicken, spaghetti and sauce, etc., toothbrushes, toilet paper, laundry soap, etc.

Also, please keep our Episcopal sisters and brothers in prayer with this undertaking!

Thursday night Bible Study & Worship  
beginning Thursday, March 27, 2008.

7:30 p.m.

Watch for details!

## *“Link-ing” the Prayer Chain*

**W**e presently have an active “Prayer Chain” of more than 30 people who are “linked” by e-mail and another dozen who are “linked” by phone.

Because of some breakdowns in our “telephone chain”, I would like to assign the e-mail recipients one of the phone recipients as a “prayer partner.” Once the e-mail prayer chain is received, that person would then have only one phone call to make – to their designated “prayer partner” on the telephone prayer chain. I’m hoping this will work to simplify things, as well as serving to help everyone become a little better acquainted as “praying partners”.

The general way that the Prayer Chain works is that someone will call the church office and/or talk to Pastor and/or call or e-mail me, Carol Castello (the “Master Link”) with a prayer request. I then e-mail it to all of the e-mail

chain. Then each e-mail “link” will call their “prayer partner” with the requests(s). Some requests may be quite detailed and specific; some may be quite general. Sometimes it is helpful to have a little “background” of a request; sometimes people would rather not give any specific details. Thankfully, our good and gracious God knows all of our needs, and He will listen and understand. The requests may be for church members, “extended family”, friends, neighbors, co-workers, the world at large – whoever or whatever is on anyone’s heart and mind to pray for!

Prayers and “pray-ers” are always welcome! I’m here to hear, so please feel free to call (419-592-0847) or e-mail ([cjcast@embarqmail.com](mailto:cjcast@embarqmail.com)) me. And, as I often close in my prayer chains, thank each and every one of you for each and every one of your prayers!

## *Bake Sale*

Our Catechism students will be having a Bake Sale on Sunday, February 3 with proceeds going towards their Catechism Retreat. They will be set up in the overflow area following both services that morning.

## *Church Council*

Highlights of the January 21, 2008 Church Council Meeting are as follows:

- Year end balance for 2007 was \$28,314.00. In December, 20 percent of personal loan balances were paid. In January, 10 percent of the personal loan balances will be paid. Interest on personal loans will continue to be paid quarterly.
- Arrangements have been completed for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to be held on February 5 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken which will be given to Emanuel's Building Fund.
- Organizations to benefit through Emanuel's Donation/Giving Center for the next two months are the Episcopal Church Food Pantry (February) and the Senior Center (March).
- Emanuel's radio "spots" will run on WNDH in February, beginning on February 4.
- Lenten offerings will be divided between World Hunger, Good Samaritan Fund, Henry County Transportation Network, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.
- Emanuel is purchasing 50 green hymnals from a Lutheran church in Bexley at a cost of \$150.00. These new hymnals will replace ones which are well worn.
- The new bell ringing group (Bells 101) has been enthusiastically attended by 8 to 10 people.
- The Education Board is sponsoring a Bake Sale on February 3 to raise funds for the Catechism Retreat. A freewill offering will be accepted for the various bake sale items.
- Beginning in the fall of 2008, Pastor Castello will teach all three Catechism classes in separate classes.
- After School Club is going well with approximately 8 students regularly attending.
- Annual Contribution statements will be mailed the week of January 20. 44 offering envelope boxes still need to be picked up, hopefully by the end of January.
- Council agreed to purchase a new office phone for the church secretary, due the volume being too low on the ringer. Various small maintenance repairs have recently been completed. Council agreed that the Property Board should purchase a new floor burnisher (polisher) at a cost of \$1175, plus the cost of pads, to assist in keeping the floors looking better, with less time and effort having to be put into this time-consuming task by the janitor.
- Council accepted the official transfer of Elinor Brown to Emanuel.
- Pastor will be serving on a Synod Ethnic Committee whose purpose will be to meet with Conference churches to help these churches reach out to minorities in their prospective areas.

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

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

**Ruth M. Eickhoff**  
**Marge Gathman**  
**Irma Overhulse**  
**Alfred "Petey" Ruetz**

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

**Carl Bockelman** (#319)

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

**Hildegarde Reiser**

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Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) [jameslcastello@yahoo.com](mailto:jameslcastello@yahoo.com)  
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond  
Congregation President - Ted Rohrs  
Women of the ELCA President - Nancy Schink  
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or [cjcast@embarqmail.com](mailto:cjcast@embarqmail.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 - Andrea Hoffman  
Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel  
Custodian - Jack Robbins

## *Thank you!*

- ❑ Thank you for your prayers and well wishes. Thank you, Pastor, for your loving concern, visits and support after surgery and during recovery. It gave me hope and faith. -Bob Dennie
- ❑ I want to thank the whole congregation for their prayers, cards, flowers, food and the lap robe and Pastor Castello for his visits and prayers. It was all very much appreciated. I also want to thank everyone for the support I received in losing Walter. -Julia Arps
- ❑ Thank you for all your cards, prayers and concern after the death of our mother and grandmother. -Mary Thompson family
- ❑ The Christmas Season is a time to show how much you CARE, which you did by coming to sing for our community members, with the bell choir and giving the beautiful paper ornaments. Thank you for sharing in the true spirit and joy of the Christmas Season!  
-Reverend Jerald Rayl, Director of Development & PR, The Filling Home of Mercy
- ❑ Thank you for the Christmas gift of the angel ornaments. They look very pretty on our Christmas tree. -Ben Michaelis
- ❑ Jim & I would like to thank Emanuel for the angels we received at Christmas. They are beautiful. We appreciate being remembered. -Jim & Arlene Hershberger
- ❑ Thank you so much for the lighted angel ornaments. Also to the people who are involved in this program. You are also appreciated. You come up with a winner every year. You make us feel so special. Bless you all! -Lois Gerken
- ❑ Thanks to Emanuel for our beautiful gift of the lighted angels. They're not just for Christmas, but always. Many thanks and bless you. -Al & Norma Duquette
- ❑ A sincere thank you to those responsible for my gift of Christmas angels. What a thoughtful idea! It's always nice to visit with "Santa's helper" who delivers the gift too! -Donnie Daman
- ❑ Thank you so much for the beautiful angels, also to Michelle Slee for delivering them. -Herb & Ramona Koppenhofer
- ❑ Thank you for the Christmas gift. -Margaret Fahy
- ❑ Thank you for the angel figurines. The fiber optic lights are beautiful. -Irene Cordes and Norb Brandt
- ❑ Thank you for the beautiful Christmas gift: Hazel Eickhoff, Ruth Bahler, Paul Panning, Virginia Dillon, Dorothy Vasher, Eleonora Koppenhofer, Gertrude Schuette

## **Welca**

*-Nancy Schink, President*

**H**ard to believe it is already February!

We will be entering the Lenten Season just one day before our General Meeting on Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

During this special time of the church year do not "give up" Bible study, prayer and meetings, but try to attend as many as possible. Now and all of 2008.

If you miss your Circle meeting, you are welcome at any of the others.

Martha Young, Janice Rohrs and I welcome our new Board members. They are Kathy Gerken, Lana Sonnenberg, and Deb Nation.

God's blessing to each of you for the New Year 2008!

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## **Soul Food**

every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming menus for February include:

February 6 - Baked Potato Bar

February 13 - Ham & Meat Loaf, Lipton & Sweet Potatoes

February 20 - Beef & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes

February 27 - BBQ Beef Sandwiches, Bean, Vegetable & Noodle Soups

*(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!

## **W a n t e d**

Director for 2008 Vacation Bible School.

VBS will be held July 27 - August 1.

Please contact Jamie Bostelman or Joleen Brubaker  
if you are interested.

## *Membership News*

*New member* Welcome to Elinor Brown, previously an associate member, who has been received as a new member from St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Beavercreek, Ohio.

*Funerals* Walter Arps - died December 19; his funeral was on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Shirley Casteel - died December 24; her funeral was on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Margaret Fahy - died January 5; her funeral was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Christine Rath - died January 21; her funeral was on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember the families of these sisters and brother in the faith that they may know God's peace and comfort.

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

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

### *Bloodmobile Dates*

Saturday, February 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Harley-Davidson , Napoleon  
Tuesday, February 5, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Widewater, Liberty Center  
Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. NW State Community College  
Monday, February 25, 1-7 p.m. Napoleon VFW  
Wednesday, February 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Henry Co ARC (appointment only)

### *Grace Matters*

“Grace Matters” with Peter Marty will be broadcasting every Sunday at 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. on WNDH 103.1 FM.

## Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
December 23	177 + 167 (344)		\$ 11,536.10 Bldg Fd - \$1,250 *Bldg Fd mem-\$1,070 World Hngr - \$60 Good Sam Fd - \$145
December 24 - 7 p.m.	?? (est 300)		\$ 817
December 24 11:00 p.m.	215	169	\$ 1,606 *Bldg Fd mem - \$100 World Hngr - \$105 Good Sam Fd - \$55
December 25	89	86	\$ 1,311.31 Bldg Fd - \$60 World Hngr - \$5
December 30	126 + 129 (255)		\$ 5,562 Bldg Fd - \$660 *Bldg Fd mem-\$160 Good Sam Fd - \$30 World Hngr - \$15 Bell Choir - \$100
December 31	60		\$ 881 Bldg Fd - \$100 *Bldg Fd mem-\$155
January 6	128 + 132 (260)	126	\$ 5,370.34 Bldg Fd - \$595 *Bldg Fd mem-\$30 Good Sam Fd - \$55 World Hngr - \$5
January 13	127 + 127 (254)	103	\$ 4,209.25 Bldg Fd - \$325 *Bldg Fd mem - \$185 Good Sam Fd - \$20 World Hngr - \$5
January 21	102 + 123 (225)		\$ 4,338.50 Bldg Fd - \$25 *Bldg Fd mem - \$10 Good Sam Fd - \$85 World Hngr - \$10

\* memorials:

12/23 \$565 M.Smith; \$25 D.Walters; \$480 J.Sosebee  
 12/24 \$100 J.Sosebee  
 12/30 \$160 W.Arps  
 12/31 \$155 W.Arps  
 1/6 \$10 M.Thompson, \$10 W.Arps, \$10 J.Sosebee  
 1/13 \$30 S.Casteel, \$155 M.Fahy  
 1/21 \$10 S.Casteel

## *Worship participants in February*

### Ushers

8:00 Kevin Sonnenberg, Terry Hershberger,  
Theo Heuer, Bob Dennie

10:30 Ken Lange, Rupert Schweinhagen  
Larry Ashbaugh, Gary Bostelman

### Lay assistants

8:00 Barb Hoffman

10:30 Joan Collier

### Altar Guild

Sandi Weirauch & Danielle Williams

### Acolytes

8:00 Meredith Hoops & Stephanie Ruby

10:30 Jacob Skeens & David Yunker

### Lenten services:

2/6 Alan Bostelman & Justin Allison

2/13 Henry Elling & Jacob Skeens

2/20 Nathan Rohrs & Nick Rohrs

2/27 Clayton Burken & Chandler Burken

## Altar Flowers

February 3 - Karl & Oneta Wiechers in honor of their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 5  
- In honor of the 13<sup>th</sup> birthday of Blake Biederstedt

February 10 - OPEN

February 17 - OPEN

February 24 - Virginia Dillon in loving memory of her parents, Jacob & Mary Hahn

### *Open dates on 2008 calendar:*

March 2, 9, 23

June 29

October 5, 12

May 25

July 20, 27

November 2

**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.**