

# Good News

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A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
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February 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.**

**D**uring these last several months, we have had members of our congregation write statements of faith for the newsletter. These will hopefully continue in the months ahead. If you haven't been asked to do so, please consider yourself asked.

I cannot begin to tell you how powerful they all have been. It is obvious to anyone who has read them that these words come from the hearts of those who write them. They speak of the power of the love of God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ known to them and lived by them.

Then there are the sermons preached by our members. Those, too, have been incredibly inspirational and much appreciated by all who have been blessed to hear them.

Now we continue fighting the good fight of proclaiming and trying to live out our faith. Please consider some of these options in doing so:

**WRITE** a statement of faith for the newsletter.

**SEND CARDS** to shut ins, those who are ill or have had surgery, for anniversaries, birthdays, or

just to remind people you are thinking of them.

**PRAY** a lot! All the time!

**GREET** people at worship.

**INVITE** others to our services.

**GIVE** someone a DVD of a service.

**REMEMBER** those outside our congregation and indeed around the world in any way you are able. That might include sending money for disaster relief, world hunger, etc. It does make a difference.

**VISIT** someone just to let them know you care and that they are not forgotten.

The list goes on, and so does our ministry. Thank you for allowing me to share this ministry with you. Thank you for all you are and do. Be bold in your faith.

See you in church

**Pastor**

## Thank You!

- ! Thank you to the church for the beautiful fleece throw. Another thank you to Angela, the choir, Sunday School kids and anyone involved in the special Christmas celebration. You are a blessing.  
-Lois Gerken
- ! Thanks very much for the lovely lap covering given to me as I recovered at the Lutheran Home. Thanks to Pastor for his visits and prayers.  
-Yours in Christ, Evelyn Carlile
- ! The angel throw is beautiful and much appreciated. Thank you so much.  
-Kathy Ward
- ! We would like to thank you for the lovely angel throw that we received at Christmas. We will think of all of you as we receive the warmth of Christ's love.  
-Alice & Henry Langenhop
- ! We would like to thank Emanuel for the angel throw. It is very much appreciated. Also, we'd like to thank Angela and all people involved in the music program. They all did an incredibly wonderful job. We are very blessed here at Emanuel.  
-Love to all, Jim & Arlene Hershberger
- ! Thank you for sending your angels "a caroling" to my home Sunday. The sound of their voices and their smiling faces were a great medicine for someone on "hold" waiting to get some new parts. Yes, I do believe in Emanuel's many Angels! May you celebrate this beautiful season with joy in your home, peace in your world, and love in your heart!  
-Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Ann Schnitkey
- ! I am so grateful to all of you for your prayers and concerns on my behalf this past year. As you may remember, I had open heart surgery in October, 2008, with multiple complications. I am thrilled to report that I have made a complete recovery, which I attribute to the prayers of you people and my family and friends from coast to coast. God has certainly blessed me with His love, grace and mercy. I pray that all of you are as richly blessed. Thanks to all of you, I will always remember you with fondness. God is good!  
-Shirley (Bockelman) Dorner
- ! Thank you very much for the "Kissing Angel" throw. It's beautiful and we will treasure it always. A blessed Christmas and New Year to all.  
-Mel & Margaret Wachtmann
- ! Thank you so much for caroling at our home. We appreciated it so much. Also than you for the throw. It is beautiful!  
Georgie & Mort Davis and Alberta Gilliam
- ! Thank you for the beautiful and inspiring church services during the holiday season and for the Christmas gift.  
-Sincerely, Janice Rohrs

- ! Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas gift of the angel throw and for the carolers who came to sing! Hazel Eickhoff
- ! Thank you to Emanuel for the beautiful and warm angel throw! -Julie Delventhal
- ! Thanks to all who came caroling in the cold and warming my heart. Thanks also for the beautiful angel throw. I feel like the angels are covering me when I use it! -Eleonora Koppenhofer
- ! Thank you all. Emanuel always comes up with a special gift. The angel “warm and fuzzy” blanket is wonderful. -Ed & Alyce Oberhaus
- ! Thanks for the beautiful, warm angel blanket. It’s being used and much appreciated. -Julian & Carol Gerken
- ! Thank you for the Kissing Angel throw. I am sorry it was made in China, but I will put it on my chair and when I go to sleep I know they will hold me in their arms for our God up above. -Thank you again. God loves you as I do. Virginia Dillon
- ! Thank you to the congregation for the beautiful angel throw and to Carol Castello for delivering it. Arleta Panning
- ! Our heartfelt thanks for the cozy, warm coverlet and especially for the Christmas carolers who surprised us. -Art & Helen Lange

## Mark your calendars!

The catechism classes will have a **BAKE SALE** on Sunday, February 14.

*from the Congregational Life Board*

### *Giving/Donation Corner*

February donations will be for the benefit of our local food pantries. Please bring non-perishable items to help our less fortunate local families. The holidays found many organizations remembering our needy neighbors. But the need continues for many. Be sure to check the date printed on the products – please, no out-dated items. Once again, thank you for any help you provide.

### *Lent Offering Recipients*

The Good Samaritan Fund, Henry County Transportation, Lutheran Social Services, and ELCA World Hunger Appeal have been designated to receive our Lenten offerings.

### *Come Join Us!*

The Congregational Life Board will meet again on Monday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. Do you have an activity/suggestion that you would like to see the Board consider? You are welcome to attend any of the board meetings or to forward suggestions to the Board. We welcome any thoughts you may have.

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## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars now for February 16!

You won't want to miss Tom Jenny and the Dixieland Band who will be performing some "cake-walkin'" music during the Pancake Supper.

If you didn't hear the Band last year, you missed a great evening of entertainment. Serving will be from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Free will offering will benefit the Good Samaritan Fund.

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## *Soul Food Stirrings*

During these cold winter months, the warmth of the fellowship is all the more important each Wednesday evening at “Soul Food.” And volunteers to help are always welcomed with these weekly meals – with shopping, cooking, salads and desserts, serving and/or cleaning up! “Soul Food” is for everyone, and no sign-up is required, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that’s good for you, body and soul! With the unpredictability of the winter weather, we will try to decide on cancellations early enough to get the word out on WNDH radio. If in doubt, please call to see if church activities are still on.

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

### *“Linking” the Prayer Chain*

We 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@yahoo.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!

*Thanks for your caring and “prayer-ing”!*

## *Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday*

**O**n Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 7, 2010, our confirmation drama youth will hold soup pots at church doors. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2009 over 13,000 groups participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$10 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. None of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$60 million has gone to help people in need. 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 their efforts. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 7.

## *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.

*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:  $60 \text{ cents} \times 40 = \$24$
- 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:  $\$30 \times 6 = \$180$

## Membership News

*Baptism* Lexus Long, daughter of Jason Long and Amber Buehrer was baptized on January 3. Lexus' sponsors are Sandy Davis & Ashley Buehrer.

*New Members* Welcome to Joe & Molly (Eickhoff) Knepley who have recently become members of Emanuel! Joe comes from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Flatrock Township; Molly comes from St. Augustine Catholic Church. Their address is: 490 Cambridge, Napoleon, OH 43545.

**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.

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**Statistics** — from 12/20 through 1/17

Total attendance	Communed	Offerings
Sunday - 1151	Sunday - 187	\$ 31,553.43 *
12/24 (426) 197 & 229	12/24 183	
12/25 60	12/25 56	
12/31 44		

\* includes:

- \$1965 Building Fund
- \$1250 matching funds from Thrivent for Door Offering for Roof
- \$20 Memorials for Building Fund - Norma Duquette
- \$169 World Hunger
- \$313.71 Good Samaritan Fund
- \$100 Bell Choir
- \$310 Youth Convention
- \$120 ELCA Disaster Relief

## WELCA News

*Rita Schweinhagen, President*

**G**reetings to all the women of Emanuel. You should have received your Program Booklet for 2010. Have you found your name in it yet? We have four circles that are meeting every month. Sure hope you can make one of them. Last year we had 27 different women attend circles. For as many women as we have in our congregation, that's not a whole lot. Let's see if we can change that this year. Please join in on one of the circles sometime this year.

For those of you who have never attended a General Meeting, why not give us a try on February 4 at 7:00 p.m. Dora has a great program planned for us and the refreshments are

always yummy. At these meetings we also decide what we will be doing with the money in our treasury. If you have any suggestions please come and voice them.

Our Spring Conference will be held Saturday, April 17 at St. Martin's in Archbold. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar. More information to come as soon as I receive it.

Again, please join us at either a circle meeting for a Bible Study or at our General Meeting on Thursday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.

Remember, God loves you and so does your Emanuel family.



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

### *Red Cross Bloodmobile* — February

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 12-6 p.m. @ Widewater

Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. @ Harley-Davidson Sales & Service

Thursday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. @ Northwest State Community College

Monday, Feb. 22, 1-7 p.m. @ Napoleon VFW

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Mini) @ Chapterhouse

### *Employment opportunity* — Lutheran Homes Society

Part-time (24-29 hours) position of Administrative Assistant/Receptionist at its corporate offices. Will provide clerical staff support, greet visitors, and direct phone inquiries. Letter and report writing skills and a working knowledge of Word and Excel software are required. Ability to maintain a positive rapport with visitors and staff is essential. A passion for social ministry is a plus. A minimum of three years previous experience in an office setting is required. Interested candidates should forward a cover letter and must include a resume and salary requirements or salary history by February 1, 2010 to: Jeff Schulte, Human Resources, Lutheran Homes Society, 2021 N. McCord Road, Toledo, OH 43615, or fax to 419-861-2710, or e-mail jschulte@lhsoh.org.

### *Defiance County Furniture Bank*, serving Defiance, Henry and Paulding Counties

*Office: 715 Jefferson Avenue, Defiance      Warehouse: 919 Grove Street, Defiance*

The Defiance County Furniture Bank, managed by St. Mary Parish Defiance, is a faith-based service ministry that provides basic furniture, couches and chairs, beds, bed frames, bed linens, electrical appliances, and kitchen wares to families in need in the Defiance, Henry, and Paulding County area.

Donations are accepted from individuals and businesses and can be dropped off every Friday between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. or by appointment at the warehouse at 919 Grove Street or by calling St. Mary Parish at (419)782-2776. When needed, volunteers will pick up and deliver donations. Cash contributions are always welcome to help fund our overhead expenses.

All requests for assistance must come to the Bank from an appropriate social service agency serving the area. All local social service agencies have Referral Forms and know the proper procedure for referring to the Bank.

Items in constant demand include: Beds (queen size or smaller, mattresses, box springs and bed frames), bed linens, pots and pans, dishes, clean and working electrical appliances (stoves, microwaves, toaster ovens, washers and dryers), kitchen table and chairs, and basic furniture (couches, chairs, dressers, etc.). Cash donations are always welcome.

**Your help is needed! Furniture and cash donations are much appreciated, but we are in constant need for volunteers to pick up and make deliveries in each of the counties. If you have a truck and time to give to this much needed ministry, please call the number below.**

All donations of furniture, cash and offers to help with pick up and delivery can be made by first contacting: The Defiance County Furniture Bank Phone: (419)782-2776 Fax: (419)782-1958.

## Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

### *Adult Choir*

Adult Choir practices will be held on February 3 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. On February 17 and 24 practices will be held at 6:30 p.m. due to Lenten services. Please note the change!

### *Lenten Crosses*

During the Sundays of Lent this year, we are going to learn about some of the many types of crosses. The After School Club children are making a new cross each week to decorate our “cross tree.” Each week, a brief description of the cross will be presented, and we will sing a verse of a Lenten hymn with the word “cross” in it. Watch for the Sunday to bring YOUR cross from home to help us decorate the tree!

### *Lenten Services*

Wednesday evening services begin on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. with traditional Ash Wednesday worship, the imposition of ashes, and communion. Services continue each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., with special music each week and the message from a different congregation member (some new faces included!).

### *Valentine's Day*

Many of the hymns and special music for this day will have a message of “love.” We ask everyone to remember to celebrate the many forms of love we enjoy, including the never-ending love our heavenly Father has for us.

### *After School Club*

We are working on songs for Lent so we can participate in a Wednesday evening service. As always, we are learning new sign language and enjoying our rhythm sticks and bells. With 20 children in attendance each week, we surely make a joyful noise!

We discussed the different things that people try to “give up” during Lent, including chocolate, candy, pop, etc. Rather than forgoing something of this nature, I challenged the children to think of ways to give up some of their TIME during Lent and these were their suggestions. Is there anyone YOU could give some time to in the next few weeks?

- smile at someone you don't like
- pray for someone you don't like
- give a compliment
- cook supper
- give blood
- share more
- shovel driveways
- empty dishwasher/fold laundry/help mom
- play games with brother and sister
- be responsible for yourself

### *Summer Worship*

There has been some discussion about having one combined service on Sunday morning in the summer. A survey will be in the bulletin in February. If you have any questions or comments, please see Pastor or a Worship and Doctrine member.

### *February 18, 1546*

It is a custom to remember saints on the day of their death, their “heavenly birthday.” On this day, Martin Luther died at the age of 62. Luther himself felt that the catechism was the greatest of all his works, an important book written to educate people in the basics of faith.

### *Looking ahead...*

March 28, Palm Sunday

April 1, Maundy Thursday, worship at 7:30 p.m. with communion

April 2, Good Friday, worship at 7:30 p.m.

April 4, Easter Sunday, worship at 7:00 and 10:30 a.m. with communion, breakfast 8:30

April 25, Confirmation at 10:30 worship

May 30, one service at 9:00 a.m. with recognition of graduates and special patriotic musical “Nation, It’s Time to Pray”.

*Closing thought ... a harp is just a nude piano.*

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) 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.emanuelnapoleon.org

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 - Laura Ellis-Kruse

Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman

Custodian - Jack Robbins

## *Worship participants in February*

### Acolytes

8:00 Nathan Rohrs & Austin Damman  
10:30 Hannah Plummer & Stephen Yunker

### Lay Assistants

8:00 Melinda Dachenhaus  
10:30 Ellen Lange

### Ushers

8:00 Art Lange, Helen Lange,  
Tom Hoffman, Kevin Sonnenberg  
10:30 Larry Ashbaugh, Terry Walther,  
Chris Peper, Norm Bostelman

### Altar Guild

Joleen Brubaker & Julie Callaway

## *Altar Flowers*

February 7 - Karl & Oneta Wiechers in celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
- family of Blake Biederstedt in celebration of his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday  
February 14 - Virginia Dillon  
February 21 - Nancy Schink  
February 28 - OPEN

### 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.

### *Open Dates for 2010:*

May 16 and 23  
July 18

October 10  
December 26

The children and grandchildren of Karl & Oneta Wiechers are having a card shower for their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary which is on February 5. Their address is:

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Wiechers  
Hawaiian Isles  
4120 Cockroach Bay Road Lot 495B  
Ruskin, FL 33570