

# Good News

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A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
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February 2011

**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 ...*

**W**ow! Where to begin? A couple of weeks ago, we sang, "I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry," and a light bulb went off in my head. The song is me to a point.

"I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold/ I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well..." I can remember being in Sunday School and church every week at St. Peter's in Edon as a kid. Sunday School was at 9:00 and church at 10:30. We would always sit in the same pew (on the left side of the church, the pew right before the third window in front of my grandparents). The Burkhardts usually took up three pews with my Great Grandma Gearhart the pew behind my Grandma and Grandpa Burkhardt. The National Youth Gatherings were amazing, and then, of course, church camp. I always remember the stories of Jesus healing people, feeding the hungry, teaching and helping people. He helped EVERYONE; he didn't care who they were; he accepted them as they were. Now that I look back, I grew up in a family-owned grocery store. My Grandpa Burkhardt would always help anyone that walked

through the doors. If they didn't have money that week, he would allow them to charge what they needed, and sometimes he would get the money and sometimes he didn't. My Grandpa Gearhart ran the fertilizer plant, and he would do the same. My Grandma Gearhart continues to help people in whatever way she can.

"In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell..." I graduated from high school and didn't know what I wanted to do. I lived in Florida and Colorado for short periods of time, but came back to Edon and went to Tri-State University, graduated and began working at The Ohio Department of Transportation. I moved to Napoleon about 20 years ago, and several years ago, my parents would run into the Dilles at Synod and other church meetings. They found out that Pat and Caren worked at ODOT. Every now and then there would be an Emanuel church bulletin on my desk on Monday morning or hanging on the back door of the house. Terri and I would attend church a few times, but nothing regular.

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young/ I'll be there to guide you through

the night, complete what I've begun...." A few years ago, Terri and I helped a homeless couple, and, when money was running out for a place to stay, we opened the blinds to our house one day, and there was a "For Sale" sign in the yard of a house a few doors down. We bought it, and, with a lot of hard work from our friends and family, they moved in within 28 days of our closing. That is when we began attending Emanuel on a regular basis. I truly believe the couple was brought into our lives for a reason, and they continue to have a roof over their heads with water and heat. From that day on, we have never asked, "Why?" but, "What is next?" This past October, I resigned as Business and Human Resource Administrator with ODOT to assist with a non-profit. Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives was formed over the last couple of years to provide personal care and

toiletry items to people in need. These type of items are not available with any government program, but assist with personal hygiene for the health and wellness of people.

God has a purpose for all of us, and right now I have taken this walk in faith and am ready for whatever is next. The first time I heard this song was at my Grandma Burkhardt's funeral, and then it would normally be sung at relatives' funerals. It wasn't until just recently I could actually sing the song and really think about what the words really meant to me. My parents definitely "raised me to praise the living Lord/ to whom I now belong...." Thanks, Mom and Dad.

**Kelli Burkhardt**



Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives is participating in the Elder-Beerman Community Day event on February 26, 2011, beginning at 7:00 a.m. You can donate \$5.00 to the non-profit, and you will receive a booklet that consists of several savings including a coupon for \$10.00 off along with a 30% off early bird coupon and 20% off your entire day of shopping. This booklet is good for the Defiance Elder-Beerman. Please see Kelli Burkhardt, Carol Castello or Terri Sedam if you have any questions or know of any family or friends that would like to take advantage of the great shopping opportunity.

## *Soul Food “Stirrings”*

During these cold winter months, the warmth of the fellowship is all the more important each Wednesday evening at “Soul Food.” 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.

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! As we open our meals more to the community, please remember to welcome the “strangers among us”. Be warm and welcoming. Introduce yourself and strike up a conversation. Help guide them through the food line. Invite them back next week! We are blessed to be a blessing....

### *“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 designed “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” J) 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 request(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; sometime 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@yahool.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”!

## *Help Tackle Hunger – with the “SOUPer Bowl of Caring”*

On Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 140 million Americans 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 here and around the country 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. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We also invite your canned food items for local food pantries. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

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### WELCA Booklet Correction:

Naomi Circle (Evening) - Chair: Joan Collier (419-592-2621)  
Assistant Chair: Rita Schweinhagen (419-592-4606)

Plan on attending the February General meeting on Thursday, February 3.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...”

Our speaker will be (our own!) Kelli Burkhardt, speaking from her heart about the new non-profit organization in Napoleon,  
Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives!

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### Be a love bird

Many stories about the origin of Valentine’s Day have come down through the centuries. There’s no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.

Many legends are also associated with Valentine’s Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called “love birds.”

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine’s Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus’ words in John 13:34 (NRSV): “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.”

## Thank you

- Thank you very much for the night light we received for Christmas. We wish all of you a blessed and happy New Year. -Mel & Margaret Wachtmann
- Thank you for the angel night light. It is a beautiful gift. -Hazel Eickhoff
- Thank you for the angel night light. It was so thoughtful of our church. -Janice Rohrs
- Thank you for choosing Hospice of Henry County as your provider for the holiday poinsettias. Your support is greatly appreciated. Enjoy a safe and happy winter season.  
-Hospice of Henry County, Lana Sonnenberg, Volunteer Coordinator
- Thank you to the Emanuel Christmas carolers! What a wonderful surprise to be greeted by so many “carolers” when Shirley answered our doorbell. Also thanks for the beautiful angel night light. You really touched our hearts. -In Christian love, Alfred & Rita Prigge, & Shirley
- We would like to thank all of you for all the prayers, cards and for the dinners we have been receiving through our healing process. We really appreciate it. We are very blessed to belong to such a wonderful congregation. Hope everyone has a blessed New Year. Sincerely, Art & Leota Pedraza
- Our sincere thanks to Pastor Castello, the Adult Sunday School class, Soul Food, and congregation members who expressed their sympathy with kind words, cards, prayers, visits, and memorials during Esther Sonnenberg’s stay at the Lutheran Home and her demise on 12/24/2010. Thank you, Jenni Schink, for babysitting during the viewing. -The Esther Sonnenberg family, Lila Wernecke (daughter)
- Then Henry County Ministerial Association gratefully acknowledges your generous gift of \$792.00 to the 2010 Christmas Cheer program. Your thoughtfulness provides blessings for over 600 families.  
-Christmas Cheer Board of Trustees, LeRoy Helberg, President
- Thank you for the Christmas gift of an angel night light. I appreciate it very much! -Dorothy Vasher
- Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers and for the angel night light. You light up my life!  
-Julie Delventhal
- Thank you for the lovely Christmas angel light. I know she will light my way through many dark nights. Also a big thank you to Marilyn Fretz for getting her to me for Christmas. I hope to see you all soon. -Dorothy Smith
- On behalf of the Henry County Community, I would like to thank you, once again, for helping to sponsor the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner. This year we served over 190 meals, and it would not have happened without your help. In addition to the meals that were served, almost 60 individuals turned out on Thanksgiving Day to share their time and talents with the community. They cooked, served, packed carry out bags, delivered meals to shut-ins and drink and desserts to eat in diners. It was an amazing experience for everyone who attended.....  
-Linda Maurice-Saum, Pastor, St. Paul United Methodist Church

*from the Congregational Life Board*

### *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gathering*

The first of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gatherings will take place on January 30, which is also the day of the annual meeting and the Jesus Jam. The Congregational Life Board will be assisting with a potluck luncheon which will be served after the annual meeting and before the jam session begins. We encourage all to attend the Jam Session which is put on by the Hoops Family Relay for Life Team. (See enclosed flyer.)

### *Caring Corner*

Donations for February will be Together We Can Make a Difference. This is an organization that assists people in NW Ohio with basic needs that are not available with any government assistance program. Supplies needed include **toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo, razors, laundry detergent, and diapers.** (See article on next page.)

### *Church Directory*

It has been decided we will go with Lifetouch for our member directory. We are looking at setting up appointments for pictures for early August.

### *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper*

Plans are underway for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which will be March 8.

### *Next meeting*

The next meeting will be February 7 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone is invited to attend.

## *Caring Corner*

*Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives* is a new non-profit that opened its doors on November 1, 2010. We are located at 722 North Perry Street in downtown Napoleon.

This non-profit provides personal care and toiletry items not available from any government program. Our goal is to fill the void. There are no requirements to receive the items, but we do ask people if they have their high school diploma or GED. If the person doesn't, we are providing information to attend classes and obtain a GED.

We have already helped over 1,000 people who just need a little extra help—many who are working or are on Social Security, but are not making enough money to pay all the bills. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

We accept monetary and product donations. Product donations include: toothbrushes and toothpaste (adult and children), deodorant, shampoo, razors, bar soap, toilet paper, laundry detergent, baby diapers (open packages accepted), tampons, pads, adult pads and diapers (open packages accepted).

We also welcome volunteers! As our mission statement says, "We are here to strengthen our community by strengthening its members".

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us and those who are just beginning. The hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm; Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm; Thursday from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please see Kelli Burkhardt, Carol Castello or Terri Sedam.

### **To our Family and Friends at Emanuel,**

Our family would like to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who planned, helped and gave their time and talents to make the benefit for Austin a success. To those who attended and made donations, your response was overwhelming. Your generosity is appreciated so much and will help a great deal with Austin's medical bills. We are so blessed to have all your support along with your thoughts and prayers that have done so much to help us through this last year especially when Austin was fighting so hard to beat leukemia. Our very best wishes to all of you for a Blessed Christmas filled with family, friends, laughter and love and a happy, safe and most of all healthy New Year.

With sincere thanks  
Tony, Risha, Taylor and Austin Lighthill  
Jerry and Marlene Lighthill

## *Membership News*

*Funeral* - Please remember in your prayers the families of  
Art Rohrs who passed away on January 7. His funeral was held here on Jan. 18.  
Jim Hustwick who passed away on January 7. His memorial service was held here on Jan. 14.

**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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Would you like to join the growing number of people who receive their newsletters via email? Please let us know if you are interested and make sure we have your email address. You will need Adobe Reader on your computer to do this (available free for download at [adobe.com](http://adobe.com)).

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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[www.emanuelnapoleon.org](http://www.emanuelnapoleon.org)

Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) [jameslcastello@yahoo.com](mailto:jameslcastello@yahoo.com)

Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond

Congregation President - Gary Bostelman

Women of the ELCA President - Marilyn Fretz

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or [cjcast@yahoo.com](mailto: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 - Angela Sosebee

Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman

Custodian - Jack Robbins

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### **2011 Church Council**

*President* - Gary Bostelman

*President-Elect* - Ron Wiechers

*Secretary* - Jenny Perdew

*Treasurer* - Julie Kohout

*Doctrine & Worship Board* - Holly Mohring & Terry Hershberger

*Congregational Life Board* - Terri Haase & Carol Castello

*Board of Education* - Jamie Glick & Julie Mt.Castle

*Properties Board* - Matt Mt.Castle & Jeff Sharpe

*Finance Board* - Martha Young & Lorelee Jones

## *Worship participants in February*

### Acolytes

8:00 Taryn Conklin & Alexandria Biederstedt  
10:30 Hannah Plummer & Alie Hernandez

### Lay Assistants

8:00 Susan Landversicht  
10:30 Joan Collier

### Ushers

8:00 Kevin Sonnenberg, Bob Dennie,  
Dave Schwab, Mike Yaney  
10:30 Ron Meyers, Alan Storch,  
Tom Jenny, Mark Tonjes

### Altar Guild

Julie Callaway & Laura Ellis

## *Altar Flowers*

February 6 - Karl & Oneta Wiechers in celebration of their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary

February 13 - Lorelee & Daryl Jones in celebration of their 1<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary

February 20 - Virginia Dillon

February 27 - In honor of the Bell Choir by Julie Delventhal

### *Open dates:*

March 13-27	June 5-12	October 2-9-30
April 3	July 3	November 6
May 8-22	September 11-25	

### **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

### Sunday, December 19

attendance 125 + 155 (280)

\$ 5,573

\$ 165 Bldg Fd

70 World Hunger

225 Good Samaritan Fund

### Friday, December 24

7:00 p.m. attendance 200

11:00 p.m. attendance 230 communed 168

\$ 2,936

\$ 25 Good Samaritan Fund

500 World Hunger

### Saturday December 25

attendance 64 communed 58

\$ 1,796

\$ 50 World Hunger

100 Bldg Fd

### Sunday, December 26

attendance 66 + 75 (141)

\$ 5,568

\$ 105 World Hunger

1,050 Building Fund

100 Bell Choir

### Friday, December 31

attendance 37

\$ 638

\$ 100 mem to Bldg Fd - Robert Plummer

### Sunday, January 2

attendance 104 + 114 (218) communed 95

\$ 4,405.02

\$ 280 Bldg Fd

25 Good Samaritan Fund

5 World Hunger

### Sunday, January 9

attendance 101 + 122 (223) communed 103

\$ 5,289.25

\$ 115 Bldg Fd

35 Good Samaritan Fund

10 World Hunger

### Sunday, January 16

attendance 102 + 122 (224)

\$ 3,801.04

\$ 45 Bldg Fd

35 Good Samaritan Fund

15 World Hunger

25 mem to Bell Choir-Jim Hustwick

25 mem to Endowment Fd-Art Rohrs

## Abraham Lincoln's spiritual wisdom

During the Civil War, a delegation came to confer with him about the conflict. Sometime during the meeting a minister said to President Lincoln, 'I hope that the Lord is on our side.' The President amazed the group with his response. 'I don't agree with you,' he said to the pastor. 'I am not at all concerned about that, for we know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and the nation should be on the Lord's side.'

-Carl Sandburg in  
Abraham Lincoln, The War Years (III)

## Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

### *Choir*

Choir practices continue through February on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We have many special things planned for the next few months.

### *After School Club*

The children are coming to church each Wednesday for music, crafts, and lessons from 3:15 until 5:00. Any child is welcome to join us! We are preparing Lent and Easter music for the upcoming months.

### *New Hymns*

We will be singing a new hymn from our hymnal each month through the spring, with the choir leading us. You may want to check the bulletin and look over the song before worship starts. February's hymn comes from the blue book, # 702 *I Am the Bread of Life*.

### *Jesus Jam*

We are looking forward to Jesus Jam on Sunday, January 30. Check out the bulletin for details. Many of our Emanuel musicians will be participating. I will be playing *Rondo Capriccioso* by Mendelssohn on the piano (for all of you classical music fans). See you there!

*I know perfectly well that no musician can make his thoughts or his talents different from what heaven has made them; but I also know that if heaven had given him good ones, he must be able to develop them properly.* -Felix Mendelssohn

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### Why Lincoln stood

When it came time for the pastoral prayer at the church Abraham Lincoln attended, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Washington, D.C., the president stood up. Because most of the worshipers remained seated, someone asked the president why he stood. The president responded, "When my generals come into the Oval Office, they stand for their commander-in-chief. Isn't it proper then, that I stand for my commander-in-chief?"

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