

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel
Lutheran Church
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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.

A new year and a new beginning. For some of us, it will be a time when we can find something new to complain about. We will find something else to criticize, something else to tear apart. If we think hard, I am sure we can find something or someone to attack.

When you can't resist temptation any longer and need to give in to those impulses to rip into people and things, you need to be prepared. So I have a suggestion. I will help you out by listing some issues below to be upset about. This might help so you do not have to waste any time searching for ones on your own.

Issues to complain about:

1. Why are there still people in the world who go hungry at night?
2. Why isn't the world at peace?
3. Why is it that I do not pray more?
4. What do I need to change about myself to be a better witness to Jesus and his salvation?
5. Why can't I be more caring?
6. Why can't I be more forgiving?

7. Why can't I be more understanding?
8. Why can't I be more humble?
9. Why can't I be more gentle?
10. How is it that Jesus puts up with me?
11. Why do there have to be poor people?
12. Why aren't there more hours in the day to allow me to share the Gospel with more people?
13. Why can't I be more generous?
14. How can I make this a better world?
15. How can I be more Christ-like?

If this isn't enough to complain about or work on, please let me know. I am sure I can come up with more things.

In the meantime, have a joyous 2007. Have a year filled with the certain knowledge of Jesus's redemption and love and peace. If this is not possible for you, we all know who to blame.

See you in church.

Pastor Jim Castello

The "good word for today" (and every day!) seems to be "THANK YOU"! And even that seems inadequate to express our gratitude for all of your cards, gifts, goodies, well-wishes, and many kindnesses to us and to our family, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. You are all blessed to be a blessing to others, and we are blessed to be a part of the Emanuel Church Family! Thank you, each and all, and consider yourself hugged! May God bless you each and all in the New Year ahead!

In His love,
Pastor and Carol

Project: We Care

Because you cared, six families with a total of 22 children enjoyed a brighter Christmas through your gifts for them from our "Angel Tree" for "Project: We Care". Along with fulfilling some "Christmas list wishes", each family was given groceries to provide a complete holiday meal. Special thanks to all who supported (and funded!) the shopping day for our K.F.C. kids, and thanks to Blake Biederstedt, Meredith Hoops, Nick Rohrs, Jenni Schink, Alison Storch, Laura Yaney, and Neil and Shelly Storch and Gayla Yaney for filling the shopping carts at Wal Mart. For those to whom you have shared God's love in this simple way, *thank you for your outreach!*

New Year's Eve Service
Sunday, December 31, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Prayers, please...

I would appreciate your prayers for me as I venture to Mexico in January as part of “Ubuntu University II”, an immersion experience/mission trip coordinated through the ELCA Youth Ministries and the Augsburg Center for Global Education with a grant from the World Hunger Program.

I applied for this trip back in September and am honored to have been accepted as a participant. I am one of a group of 24 adults and high school youth who will be traveling to the Lutheran Center in Mexico City for a two-week program that will include new cultural experiences as well as meeting with Mexicans from diverse backgrounds

to learn more about hunger, poverty, and justice issues.

Our group members come from Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Minnesota, Maine, California, Arizona, Indiana, New Jersey, Nebraska, Illinois, and me from Ohio.

As an adult on this trip, I will be serving as a mentor for some of the youth, and I especially ask for your prayers for God’s guidance for me in this role. I will be flying to Chicago on January 6 for orientation and will be in Mexico from January 8 to 20. Please “pray without ceasing” for me and for the “Ubuntu II” experience!

Carol Castello

OK...I don't want to hear any comments. But...I am going to forge ahead on another attempt with “preacher pounding.”

I will announce to the congregation at the beginning of each month of my weight loss from the previous month. But I need your help!!!

There is already a sign-up sheet outside of the church office of previous pledges. If you have already signed up and are willing to let that pledge stand, good. If you would like to change your pledge from before, feel free to do so. (You probably don't even remember if you did or not.)

In honor our church's 125th anniversary, I would like the money to go to “reduce” the church's debt. So what do you think? I feel more prepared and dedicated this time. Really!

I will be “indebted” to you for your assistance.

Peace!

Pastor Castello

Computer Class to be offered

One of our members, Kyle Miller, has graciously agreed to teach a class of computer basics. This will involve an introduction to computer usage as well as the use of the internet.

At this point, we would like to know what day of the week would be best for you who would like to take such a class. Please let me (Pastor) know of your interest and preference

of the day. I will then get together with Kyle and come up with a definite day and time.

Kyle is also willing teach a more advanced class on computer usage. Please let me know your interest in that one as well.

This is to be for all ages. He will pass out hand-outs to go along with the instruction.

Pictorial Directories

The new directories have arrived! If you have not picked yours up, please stop in at the church office, Monday through Thursday (8 - 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 - 3 p.m.) or Friday morning (8-11:30 a.m.).

If you did NOT have your picture taken or submit one, you may purchase a directory for \$20.00.

Thanks again to all of you who had your pictures taken and especially to Douglas Hoffman & Ed Biederstedt for the activity page pictures!

Music Notes

Adult Choir

Adult choir practices will resume on Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. We will prepare a few special things for our opening anniversary service on January 7.

Rainbow Ringers

We will practice at 10:00 a.m. on January 7 and prepare a new song!

Cherub Choir

Cherub Choir practices will resume on January 3 immediately after school. We will be focusing on new music and music for Lent.

A note of thanks from Angela

A big thank you goes out to all who
played an instrument,
sang a song,
lit the candles,
had a special reading,
worked on the sound,
or helped me in any way in the month of December.

I am always amazed at your willingness to lend a hand to make this church a great place to worship!

Special Services Holiday CD's

There are CD's available of our holiday services on a table in the church basement. Your donations for these CD's will be given to our Good Samaritan Fund.

SOUL FOOD

Upcoming menus for January include:

January 3 - Poor Man's Steak & Mashed Potatoes

January 10 - Lasagna with Bread Sticks

January 17 - Baked Macaroni and Cheese

January 24 - Hash Brown Casserole

January 31 - Grilled Chicken Breasts & Rice Pilaf

* Please Note: All menus subject to change!

The good fellowship shared is just as important as the food each Wednesday evening at "Soul Food." And 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. "Soul Food" is for everyone, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that's good for you, body and soul!

Thank You!

- Thank you to all the kind volunteers who helped put up the Christmas decorations. We greatly appreciate it. -Doctrine & Worship Board
- On behalf of the residents of Henry County, I would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$1000.00 (*from our Lenten offerings - Ed*) to the Henry County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Your gift allows us to provide educational services to our neighbors in Henry County, assist in local disaster relief efforts, and provide services to our men and women protecting the freedom of our county both in our homeland and abroad..... -Amy Bains, Exec. Dir. Henry Co. Red Cross
- Thank you to the Emanuel Christmas Carolers! I enjoyed your singing and your visit! It brought tears to my eyes and joy to my heart! Joey even enjoyed you! I appreciate your taking time to visit; I wish Steve could have been home to see you; but he enjoyed your “caroling over the phone” too! God bless you all! -Phyl and Steve Kloos
- Thank you so much for the lovely gift! -Julie Delventhal
- Dear Emanuel “carolers”, What a wonderful surprise to be greeted with your sweet voices when we answered our doorbell. May God bless each of you with His peace and love through this Christmas season and always. -Love, Ann & Orville Schnitkey
- Dear Emanuel, Thank you for the lovely Christmas gift! And thanks also to the carolers for their joyous Christmas music. You really touched my heart! -Eleonora Koppenhofer
- Thanks to the congregation and to Pastor Castello for all your cards, prayers, well wishes and visits while I was recuperating. It was greatly appreciated! -Rudy Eickhoff

Awesome New Web Site!

Pastor Ron Claussen (former pastor of Bethlehem & St. Mark's on the Ridge and former Director of Development at the Filling Home) has a new and awesome web site! The address is:

ramblingsfromron.com

Check it out!!

Giving/donation corner

Thank you to everybody who donated books to the Filling Home of Mercy in December. These books will bring many smiles and excitement to the residents who will be able to enjoy them! If you've not yet taken the opportunity to place your donation in the box, feel free to do so through the end of December. Thank you!

With the New Year, 2007, comes more opportunities to continue your donation "habits" through the "Donation/Collection Corner" at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

In January we will be collecting articles for the Luther Home of Mercy in Williston, Ohio. The needs list that they have communicated to us includes:

ARTS & CRAFTS SUPPLIES

Construction paper
Colored pencils
Coloring books
Crayons
Markers (washable)
Paint brushes (all sizes)
Scissors
Stickers (all types)

GAMES/RECREATION

Beach balls
Matching games
Puzzles (no more than 100 pieces)
Nerf balls (all sizes)
Shape sorters
Latch hook kits

PERSONAL NEEDS

Hair barrettes
Fingernail polish (light colors)
Fingernail polish remover
Scented body sprays and lotions
Socks (men's & women's)

MISCELLANEOUS

Birthday cards
Holiday decorations
Seasonal banner flags
Bottled water
Twin size sheets, pillowcase, blankets
Bath & hand towels, wash cloths

Council Chat - December 18, 2006

Project: We Care items will be delivered to six families on December 19.

Pastor Castello thanked the outgoing council members for their time and service. They are:

President - Pat Dille
Treasurer - Dave Schwab
Doctrine & Worship - Martha Young
Congregational Life - Gayla Yaney
Properties Board - Marv Mt.Castle
Board of Education - Caren Dille
Finance Board - Karl Wiechers

Twenty new tables for the fellowship hall have been donated. Please note that these tables are not to be loaned out; however, older tables will still be available for loan.

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.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.

Membership News

Birth Kevin & Kelli Good welcomed a new daughter, Sophia Kevin, on December 11. We look forward to her baptism.

Wedding Congratulations and God's blessings to:
Seth Bostelman and Rachael Bernatt who were married at Emanuel on December 9;
Gordon Krueger and Michelle Dille who were married here on December 22.

New addresses:

Dorothy Smith
122 Orchard Grove Dr.
Clyde OH 43410

Sarah Peper
1639 Treetop Lane
Bowling Green OH 43402

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

Health Ministry

Judy Hoffman

Why Should We Care About Our Weight?

These days, it seems as though everybody is talking about overweight and obesity and what to do about it. Why is it such a big deal?

Because, as a Nation, we've been getting steadily heavier. The number of adults who are obese has increased dramatically, even in the past decade or so. And it's not just a slightly larger waistline that might come with middle age. It's weight gain that damages our health. According to national data analyzed in 2002, it's estimated that 65 percent of Americans are now overweight or obese, and more than 61 million adults are obese.

Adults aren't the only ones who've been getting heavier. Children have been getting heavier as well. The percentage of children and teens who are overweight has more than doubled since the 1970s. About 16 percent of children and teens are overweight.

What Can My Family and I Do to Encourage a Healthy Weight?

It's one thing to think about the national epidemic of obesity, but as a parents, what can you do about it? The two main ways to encourage and maintain a healthy weight and prevent overweight are to make smart food choices and to be physically active.

Recognize that you have more control than you might think. You **can** turn off the TV and the video games. You **can** choose to get off the bus one stop earlier than usual and walk the rest of the way, especially when you are with your kids. You **can** give your family more vegetables for dinner.

If you're ready to try additional ideas or want other **We Can!** ways to help your family eat well and get more physically active call 1-866-35-WECAN or visit the **We Can!** web site at <http://wecan.nhlbi.nih.gov>. The Web site is full of information about maintaining a healthy weight, nutrition, and physical activity. You also can visit the Web site for recipes, healthy tips, and additional resources.

Bloodmobile Dates in January:

Monday, January 8, 12 - 6 p.m. St. John UCC, Holgate

Wednesday, January 10, 1 - 7 p.m. Lions Club @ Immaculate Concep..
Church, Deshler

Saturday, January 13, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Moose Lodge, Napoleon

Tuesday, January 23, 12 - 6 p.m. Phipps Memorial @ Moose, Napoleon

Poinsettias

Thanks so much to all those who purchased the 48 poinsettias that beautified our sanctuary at Christmas time!

Juanita & Leo Clausen - in loving memory of Juanita's sister Donna Schlautman

Randy & Debbie Nation and family - in loving memory of Patsy Nation and Bob Burner; in honor of Paul & Glennadine Burner, our children and grandchildren

Ruth C. Eickhoff - in loving memory of Norbert Eickhoff

Rog & Deb Rex - in loving memory of Norb Eickhoff

Rupert & Rita Schweinhagen - in honor of Sandy, Tammy & Brett, Eric & Melanie & Olivia

Philip & Dianne Bowen - in loving memory of Herbert Eickhoff; in honor of Ruth M. Eickhoff

Herman & Ann Campbell

Donald & Carolyn Schmidlin - in loving memory of loved ones

Jack Robbins - in loving memory of Lester & Wilma Robbins

Ken & Nancy Lange - in loving memory of our parents

Kelli & Terri - in loving memory of family; in honor of Mickey & Ruth Ludemann

Mark & Angela Tonjes - in honor of our three sons, Zach, Dylan and Seth

Minnie Meineke - in loving memory of Henry Meineke

Shirlee & Nelson Fejes - in loving memory of Eugene & Leona, Phil & Lisa Mires; Ray & Melle Landversicht; Andrew & Irene Fejes

Alfred & Rita Prigge - in honor of great grandchildren Eyana & Justin

The Dille's - in loving memory of Charles R. Dille; in honor of Keegan, Trey, Cecilia; Matthew & Michelle

Don Mitchell - in honor of Jesus' birthday

Eleonora Koppenhofer - in loving memory of August Hoops & Eldon Koppenhofer

Doug & Judy Hoffman - in honor of our children & grandchildren

Lila Wernecke - in loving memory of Hugo Sonnenberg, William WERnecke; in honor of Esther Sonnenberg, Naomi Wernecke

Marvin & Janice Rabe - in loving memory of Alfred & Pauline Rabe, Arthur Meineke & Richard Drewes

Maggi & John Mohler - in loving memory of Marcella & Daris Mohler & Marie Sauer; in honor of Florian Sauer

Ruth & Terry Hershberger - in honor of the joy of our family

Burnice Agler - in loving memory of husband, Russell

Harold Delventhal - in loving memory of Mary Delventhal

Tom & Barbara Hoffman - in loving memory of Robert & Lulu Arps and Art & Estella Hoffman; in honor

of Lauren and Ryan & Andrea

Orville & Ann Schnitkey - in loving memory of the Hoover & Schnitkey families

Joe & Julie Kohout - in honor of Erica & Ryan

Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt - in honor of Blake & Alexandria

Ruth M. Eickhoff - in loving memory of Herbert Eickhoff

Gary & Jamie Bostelman - in loving memory of William & Jeanne Rogers, Susan Rogers Cox; in honor of

Wilfred & Velma Bostelman, Christine, Greg & Max Kerr, Kimberly & Elizabeth Bostelman

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
November 19	132+143 (275)		5,286.10 Bldg Fd - 120.00 Wrld Hngr - 5.00 "14 for Christ" - 84.00
November 22	183		3,893.00 Bldg Fd - 2,500.00 Wrld Hngr - 100.00 * "14 for Christ" - 28.00
November 26	149+148 (297)		4,147.42 Bldg Fd - 315.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00 World Hunger - 15.00 "14 for Christ" - 56.00
December 3	164+128 (292)	134	6,988.09 Bldg Fd - 1,170.00 Wrld Hngr - 15.00 "14 for Christ" - 28.00
December 10	145+132 (277)	112	6,319.50 Bldg Fd - 670.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00 "14 for Christ" - 76.00
December 13 (2:30)		4	
December 17	180+135 (315)		4,909.35 Bldg Fd - 1,110.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00 "14 for Christ" - 42.00

* in memory of Carlton Kenning

WELCA News

-Rita Schweinhagen for the WELCA Board

Greetings to all the Women of Emanuel...here's to a great 2007!

Our new booklets should be in your hands shortly for 2007. Please check to see what circle you're in and then check the calendar to see when you will be meeting. Our next General Meeting will be on Thursday, February 1 at 7:30.

Spring Conference will be held on April 14 at St. Martin's in Archbold. Our Bloodmobile will be on Monday, June 25 from 12 - 6. Just a couple of things to put on your calendar.

Many thanks to the retiring officers - hope we can do as good a job.

If you haven't been attending circle for awhile, give it another chance. You might even have fun.

Thanks for listening.

Lost and Found Is Coming to Toledo on January 12

Lost and Found, which has gained a larger national following after performing at the youth gathering in San Antonio, will be the centerpiece of the "T.A.C.O. (Talk About Christ Openly) Party" at St. Petri, Toledo on Friday, January 12, 2007. The event begins at 6 p.m., with fellowship and with supper featuring (what else?!) tacos, with the concert starting at 7:30 p.m.

Club Christ will be attending the Lost & Found concert on January 12, 2007 in Toledo and would like to invite anyone in the congregation who would like to attend! (For more information on Lost & Found, their music and their ministry, you can check them out at www.speedwood.com.) If you haven't let Holly, Julie or Marv know that you would like to attend the concert, call or email them immediately! The cost for the ticket is \$5 and is due ASAP!

Worship participants in January

Ushers

8:00 Lenny Sonnenberg, Bob Dennie,
Ron Wiechers, George Kryder

10:30 Ron Meyers, Ben Michaelis,
Kurt Rohrs, Marv Mt.Castle

Lay assistants

To Be Announced

Acolytes

8:00 Dylan Slee & Blake Biederstedt

10:30 Konner Gerken & Clayton Burken

Altar Guild

Sue Kruse & Sandi Weirauch

Altar Flowers

January 7 - Carma DeCair in loving memory of Joe

- in loving memory of Charles R. Dille

January 14 - Ken & Nancy Lange for their wedding anniversary

January 21 - in loving memory of Ray Landversicht

January 28 - Alan & Shelly Storch in honor of Alison's birthday

Open dates

February 11, 18

March 11, 18, 25

April 1

May 20

June 24

July 22, 29

August 12

September 30

October 7

November 4

December 23

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.

Sledding!

The YCC would like to invite all those young and old to go sledding on Sunday, January 21, 2007, from 2:00 - 4:00. Hot cocoa will be served from 3:30 - 4:00 at the church.

Please bring a dessert or cookies for all to enjoy with the cocoa.

Sledding location will be the Napoleon Golf Course.

There is no age limit to having fun. All you need is a smile and a sled.

Hopefully, the weather outside will be delightful, so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

Any questions, please contact Tiffany Biederstedt at 758-3443.

Club Christ

Holly Mohring

Club Christ rounded out its busy fall last month with the annual Ohio State Buckeye sub sale. Oops, sorry, I mean the Ohio State v. Michigan GAME sub sale.

It was quite a success!! Thanks to your appetites (and generosity!) we sold all 99 of our subs! Sorry to those of you who were hoping for leftovers on Sunday afternoon and were disappointed to discover we had already sold out!

We thank you all for your wonderful generosity and hope that you enjoyed them! Plan on seeing us (and our subs) again next year! Our goal for the next sale is 200 subs!! Keep this in mind and your appetites prepared!

(Also, for those of you who served them to friends and family for your Game Day parties and passed them off as your own - don't worry, your secret is safe with us.)

Special Thanks go out to the following:

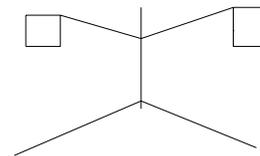
_Jack Robbins for being the first customer and getting our day off to a great (and funny!) start!

_Martha Young and Dora Titgemeyer for working harder than anyone could ask for and for all of your extra help!

_Mohring's Cash & Carry for carrying the delicious meat and cheese for our subs! You made it possible to continue to offer this meal for \$5 and then made it taste like an ... um ... \$8 meal!

_All of the Club Christ-ers (and their moms!) who slaved over a hot stove to make those delicious treats!

_And most of all - to all of you for your unfailing support of Club Christ and all we do! (Well, and your appetites!)



Attention High School Seniors (and Parents!)

Applying for financial aid can be confusing, intimidating and, let's face it, terrifying.

The Ohio Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (OASFAA) is trying to take the fear out of applying for federal aid by hosting College Goal Sunday. It is an event where students and parents can sit down with Financial Aid Administrators and go over the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) *line by line*.

By attending College Goal Sunday, completely prepared, you can leave the event with a completed FAFSA to send in or file online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Events in the area this year include Lima, Perrysburg, Findlay and Fremont.

Locations are listed online at www.collegegoalsunday.org and registration will be up around the first of the year.

If you have any questions about the date or sites, contact your high school guidance office. They should have all of this information for you!!

As a former Financial Aid Administrator, I *highly* recommend attending a session for *all* first year parents (and students!)

And though you are getting all of this information from colleges and high school guidance offices, *please* don't forget to file your taxes as *early* as possible in 2007! College admission and financial aid offices everywhere will thank you!

-Holly Mohring