

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIV No. 1
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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

Many people have had experiences in their lives where their faith showed the most for them. Thinking back on my own life, nothing like that has ever happened for me. I haven't had a life changing moment, death of a loved one, or been close to death myself. My faith comes from little everyday things that I really do have to sit down and think about.

Growing up I wasn't part of a very religious family. My grandparents went to church every Sunday, but my family hardly ever did. I didn't go to Sunday School even though I wanted to because I was too afraid to be away from my mom when I was younger. But then Catechism started in sixth grade and I knew I had to go whether I wanted to or not. And I was glad I went, I learned so much more about God and what faith was. The year I was confirmed we were supposed to write "Walks in Faith". I had so much trouble writing one. I had no idea what to say, like now I had no experience with my faith showing the most. In fact I had no idea if I'd ever really used faith at all. But then I realized how many times it did come into my everyday life.

For awhile it was about once a month that around midnight that my grandma would call us and say she had to call the ambulance for my grandpa. It was probably one of the scariest things in my life. When she would call and I would have no idea what was going on but that we had to get to their house NOW. Getting there was always the scary part, what if something really went wrong this time? But I just had to have faith that God wouldn't let anything happen. A lot of the time it was on a school night so by the time we got out of the emergency room and more than likely went to Bryan Hospital and home again, that would make it anywhere from 3-6 in the morning but I still had to get up for school in the morning. I don't think I could have handled it this long without my faith in God that it was going to be just fine and to not panic.

Something that I have started to do that helped me see the point of church was learning to play the piano and organ. Having to play the first Sunday of every month is probably one of the things that keeps me coming to church. After I started that I began to "get it". I actually payed attention and learned things from the service.

Before to me it was just something my family made me go to. And I've realized that playing in church takes faith too. You have to have faith you're not going to mess up your song and make it sound awful. Everyday little problems are

what make up my faith. Without them I don't know if I could honestly tell you what faith is to me.

Davidle Williams

For the second year in a row, we have taken part in the community Thanksgiving service. This year, the service was held at our church with other area pastors participating. We had a wonderful attendance and worshipful offerings from our bell choir and choir.

I am very proud of you all. I hope you know how blessed I feel to know you and to share this ministry together.

Please give prayerful consideration to reaching out with faith even more. Some suggestions:

- 1 Pray all the time – including adding your name to the prayer chain (see Carol Castello).
- 2 Volunteer to run for council/teach Sunday School.
- 3 Invite others to worship services and bring them.
- 4 Make a re-commitment to attend services on a regular basis yourself.
- 5 Read your Bible and daily devotions.

KEEP GROWING IN FAITH, LOVE AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

Heartfelt thanks from both of us!

Somehow, just saying “thank you” doesn’t seem enough to express our gratitude for your many cards, gifts, goodies, and well-wishes for us, not only at Christmas, but throughout the year. Please consider yourself hugged and know that we are so blessed to be a part of the Emanuel Church Family! Thank you, each and every one of you, for each and every one of your kindnesses and for this ministry that we share. May God bless you as His love shines through you in the New Year ahead!

With comfort and joy,
Pastor and Carol

Sending cards

Sending cards to people is no small thing. If you are already a card-sender, I thank you. I know I have appreciated every card I have received. Just to know that someone has taken the time to think about you and offer supper is a blessing in the highest order.

If you do not already send cards, I ask you to consider that as a ministry. It will be a blessing to you as a giver as well as to those who receive.

Pastor Castello

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

The prayer Chain is “connected” again! If you would like to be added as a “link” or if you have a prayer request, simply call Carol Castello at 592-0847 OR e-mail her at cjcast@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and “prayer-ing”!

Soul Food “Stirrings”

Upcoming menus for January include:

January 7 - Soup (4 kinds!) and Sandwich Wraps

January 14 - Salisbury Steak & Mashed Potatoes

January 21 - Chicken & Rice Casserole

January 28 - Pork Loin & Sauerkraut and Cheesy Potatoes

February 4- Creamed Dried Beef Gravy and/or Hamburger Gravy with Mashed Potatoes

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 – 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!

Class in Stained Glass

Anyone interested in a basic class in stained glass, please contact Terry Hershberger 419-966-2838. We will discuss glass history, glass working and will make a sun catcher. Class will be in January in the morning, for 4 or 5 individuals. One follow-up session will be needed.

There will be a \$10 cost for materials. No prior experience or knowledge necessary...only an interest in learning.

from Congregational Life

Project: We Care

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Project: We Care. Because you cared, 12 families with a total of 25 children (a total of 52 people!) enjoyed a brighter Christmas through your gifts for them with our “Angel Tree”. Along with fulfilling some “Christmas list wishes”, each family was given a turkey (with a roasting pan included!).

Special thanks to all who supported and funded the shopping day for our KFC kids, and thanks to Blake Biederstedt, Taryn Conklin, Sarah and Carl Yaney, and Neil and Alison Storch who helped Shelly Storch, Gayla Yaney, and Carol Castello fill the shopping carts at WalMart that day.

Special thanks, too, to Jeannie Wiechers and her fellow employees at the Defiance Regional Medical Center who donated their holiday turkeys for us to give. Special thanks to the Church Council with the help with wrapping the last few gifts, and to Cheryl Hershberger for her help on “delivery day.”

For those to whom you have shown God’s love in this simple way, *thank you for your outreach!*

Giving/Donation Corner

“Resolve” now to help with our monthly donation collecting as we begin the New Year with opportunities to give to the Filling Home. Items needed include:

kitchen towels	Arrid Xtra Dry deod (unscented)	White bath towels
potholders	Shampoo	White hand towels
paper towels	Blow dryers	White or colored washcloths
tissues (fragrance/lotion free)	Toothbrushes (Oral B)	All-occasion note cards
toilet paper	Crest Toothpaste (tartar control)	All-occasion greeting cards

January Bloodmobile Schedule

Monday, January 5, 12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at St. John UCC. Holgate
Saturday, January 10, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Napoleon Moose Lodge
Tuesday, January 13, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Deshler Lions Club @Immaculate Conception Church
Tuesday, January 13, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Curves with Mobile Bus, Napoleon
Monday, January 19, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Henry County Hospital
Thursday, January 29, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Henry County ARC Double Red Drive

Notes from Angela

Adult Choir

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m. We will NOT be singing during the month of January. You all get a well-deserved break!

Thank you from Angela

- to Douglas Hoffman and all the musicians of Emanuel who worked so hard on the new CDs. Douglas put in countless hours recording, arranging, designing the covers, and generally doing everything to make us sound good. The music is absolutely top-notch!

- to Darlene Bostelman and Melinda Dachenhaus. It was a joy to work with you on the children's Christmas program; you did a fantastic job. Please say yes in 2009!!

- to Emanuel Bell Choir for providing the entertainment for the youth group fund-raiser in December. You always come through for us!

The Education Board is requesting your prayerful consideration in serving as VBS Director for 2009. Any interested individuals should contact Joleen Brubaker or Karri Ashbaugh.

Needed: lay readers for 2009. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office.

We will be de-decorating the church on Saturday, January 10, beginning at 9 a.m. Your help will be appreciated.

WELCA News

WELCA Program Booklets

Women of Emanuel, you should soon be receiving the Women of the Church program booklets for 2009. Please mark your calendars now for the February 5 General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. for “Hearts and Hands in Prayer.”

Thank You!

- ★ A “manger-ful” of thanks for all who loaned their nativity sets for our 5th Sunday “Journey to Bethlehem” Nativity Walk on the 1st Sunday in Advent. They were absolutely beautiful, with no two alike! Thank you to: Tiffany Biederstedt, Jamie Bostelman, Carol Castello, Arlene Hershberger, Marv & Julie Mt.Castle, Don Mitchell, Bob & Betsy Mix, Bonnie Palamara, Arleta Panning, Dora Titgemeyer, and Angela Tonjes. Special thanks to Angela, too, for her wonderful music (for two hours!) that afternoon!

(And yes, we’ll do it again next year!)

- ★ Thank you to the congregation for the beautiful wall hanging. -Eleonora Koppenhofer
- ★ Thanks to all for the gift of the wall hanging! -Julie Delventhal
- ★ Thank you for welcoming the Napoleon Community Band on Monday, December 1 for their annual Christmas concert. The church is such a beautiful setting for this concert. Music is such an integral part of the Christmas season and it has been our pleasure to start the season with our concert band selections. The “Tub-a-Fours”, a tuba quartet, joined us for the evening. If you missed it, you missed a very nice concert put on by local musicians.

Thanks again for your support of the arts in Henry County and we wish you a blessed Christmas season. -Tom Jenny and the Napoleon Community Band

- ★ Thanks to our friends at Hope Services who assemble our newsletters each month!

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

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

Marge Gathman

Irma Overhulse

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

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

Carl Bockelman (#319)

Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

Minnie Meineke (#306)

Northcrest

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

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

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Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com

Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond

Congregation President - Jack Robbins

Women of the ELCA President - Kathy Gerken

Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cecast@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

Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel

Custodian - Jack Robbins

Church Office Hours

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday - Thursday

8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Friday

Club Christ

High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

The hectic fall fund raising season has finally passed, and we're exhausted! We sold about 100 subs last month, managing to raise almost \$600! Thank you to all of you who purchased subs. We discussed offering fruit or some other healthy snack with the subs next year if possible.

We also hosted a private luncheon at the church that our kids set up, served, and cleaned up. The sorority donated \$439 to our NYG-bound kids! A thank you to the parents who baked and helped in the kitchen. A very special thank you to Sue Schink who took on the project and make it an awesome success!!!

Though no specifics have yet been mapped out, we are planning a "used media" sale this winter,

so save those used books, CDs and movies you may not want anymore! Collection boxes will be set up in January, so keep your eyes peeled for more details.

There has been some discussion of having a "New Orleans Lunch" this spring to give the congregation a taste of what the kids will be having next summer.

We are always looking for ideas, so don't hesitate to stop one of us and give us a "heads up" if you think of something.

Our continued thanks to all of you, our generous congregation, without whom none of what we do could be possible.

God bless you!

Membership News

- Births* David & Ashley Bowen became the proud parents of a son on December 4.
- Funerals* Shelley Higbea was called home to the Father on November 19. Her funeral was held on the 24th. Orville Schnitkey passed from this life on December 11. His memorial service was held on the 14th. Please remember their families in your prayers.
- Transfer* Church Council has approved the transfer in membership for Carma DeCair and John Tipping from Emanuel to St. Mark Lutheran Church in Defiance.

Molly Elizabeth was born to Greg & Christine Kerr on Friday, November 28. She weighed 9 lbs 10 oz. Proud grandparents are Gary & Jamie Bostelman. Congratulations to all!

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.

How to keep warm in church

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit. Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn — and then watch the sparks fly!

News from around the Synod and the Community

Census employment opportunities

Dawn Dotson, the 2010 Census recruiting assistant for this area, will be testing at various locations throughout the area for the next few months for employment with the Census Bureau for the 2010 Census. They are hiring for office clerks and field staff; pay varies by area from \$8.25 - 16.50 per hour plus mileage. For questions, please call Ms. Dotson at 419-782-1267. To schedule a testing, call 1-866-861-2010 or for more information go to www.census.gov/detroit.

Filling Fall Fling — final tally

The final totals for the 2008 Filling Fall Fling are in: they made \$9,850 plus \$3,285 matching funds from Thrivent, for a total of \$13,135.

Thanks again to everyone for your support. Mark your calendars for the 2009 Fall Fling - November 7.

Divorce Care and DC4K

Divorce Care is a video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video. DC4K is designed to give children the tools to develop healthier relationships within their own families and to give each child of divorce hope for the future. Childcare is provided for children four and under.

The next session of Divorce Care and DC4K will be held Tuesday evenings, January 13 through April 7, 2009, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Crossroads Evangelical Church, 845 E. Leggett Street, Wauseon. Registration: 419-337-4776.

Llamando la comunidad! "Calling the Community!"

NW Ohio Synod ELCA Ethnic Mission Strategy, February 21, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 109 E. Lincoln St., Findlay. Phone 419-423-3664. www.nwos-elca.org

Calling the Community seminar will include a celebration of worship from a Latino perspective. Rev. Ruben Duran will then engage us in conversation which will assist the participants to better encourage, empower, and educate their congregations in understanding and witnessing to people of all color, but with special attention to the congregations set in areas with significant Latino populations. The goal of the day is to give practical support and information so our congregations and ministries reflect the racial and cultural diversity of the community in which it is located.

Cost of the program, including lunch, is \$15.00. Make Checks Payable to NWOS-ELCA with memo Ethnic Mission Strategy. For registration questions, please contact Sherri Wagner at 419-423-3664 or Sherri.Wagner@nwos-elca.org.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
November 20 (7:30 p.m.)	20	20	
November 23	100 + 86 (186)		\$ 4,122.70 Bldg Fd - \$120 * Bldg Fd mem - \$305 World Hunger - \$10
November 26 (7:30 p.m.) Community Thanksgiving	251		\$ 946.00 (to Christmas Cheer)
November 30	140 + 109 (249)		\$ 5,963.51 Bldg Fd - \$225 Bldg Fd-roof - \$1,500 Christmas Cheer - \$55 World Hunger - \$55
December 7	121 + 118 (239)	115	\$ 6,028.00 Bldg Fd - \$465 World Hunger - \$55 Good Sam Fd - \$200
December 14	122 + 158 (280)	121	\$ 13,958.06 Bldg Fd - \$7642.75 *mem to Bldg Fd - \$150 World Hunger - \$35.31 Good Sam Fd - 100

* 11/23 \$305 memorials to Bldg Fd - Florian Sauer

* 12/14 \$100 memorial to Bldg Fd - Frank Gerken; \$50 in honor of grandchildren Heather, Scott & Allie

Worship participants in January

Acolytes

8:00 Sarah Yaney & Taryn Conklin
10:30 Chandler Burken & Tyler Allison

Ushers

8:00 Dave Schwab, Jack Ruby,
Sonny Babcock, Doug Schwab
10:30 Chris Peper, Kurt Rohrs,
Tom Jenny, Mark Tonjes

Lay Assistants

8:00
10:30

Altar Guild

Jeannie Wiechers & Ruth Hershberger

Altar Flowers

January 4 - open

January 11 - open

January 18 - Ken & Nancy Lange in honor of their 51st wedding anniversary

January 25 - Alison Storch in honor of her 16th birthday

Douglas & Judy Hoffman in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary

Open dates on 2009 flower calendar:

February 1, 15, 22

March 22, 29

April 5, 12

May 17, 31

June 7, 14

July 5, 19, 26

August 16

September 6, 13

October 4, 11

November 1, 8, 15, 29

December 6, 20

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.

Christmas Poinsettias

Thanks to everybody who purchased the 30 poinsettias that helped beautify our sanctuary this Christmas!

Burnice Agler - in loving memory of her husband, Russell

Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt - in honor of Blake & Alexandria

Norm and Kathy Bostelman (3) - in loving memory of Harold Bostelman & Otto Hahn; in honor of Heidi Bostelman and Susie, Jeff and Reese Wagner; in honor of Lorna Bostelman & Esther Hahn

Philip & Dianne Bowen (2) - in loving memory of Herbert Eickhoff; in honor of Ruth M. Eickhoff

Jeff, Traci & Taryn Conklin - in loving memory of Timothy Davis

Harold Delventhal - in loving memory of Mary Delventhal

Ruth C. Eickhoff - in loving memory of Norbert & Joel Eickhoff

Tom & Barbara Hoffman (4) - in loving memory of Robert & Lulu Arps and Art & Estella Hoffman; in honor of Lauren & Chris Helberg; in honor of Ryan & Andrea Hoffman; in honor of Robert Thomas Hoffman

Joe & Julie Kohout (2) - in honor of Erica & Ryan

Ken & Nancy Lange (2)

Ron Meyers

John & Maggi Mohler - in loving memory of Marcella & Daris Mohler, Florian & Marie Sauer, Suzanne Lange Shumaker, Hermenia Reiser

Bonnie Palamara - in loving memory of her husband, Gary

Rog & Deb Rex - in loving memory of Norb & Joel Eickhoff

Don & Carolyn Schmidlin - in loving memory of loved ones

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

Nanette Schwab (2) - in honor of Matt & Jill, Abbey & Andrew

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

Mark & Angela Tonjes - in honor of our three terrific boys, Zach, Dylan, & Seth

Charlotte Wangrin - in loving memory of Edwin C. Winzeler, M.D.

Jeannie & Ron Wiechers - in loving memory of Tom & Phyllis Spieth