

# Good News

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**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel's mission is to witness  
to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community  
and the world through discipleship and service.**

## MY WALK IN FAITH

I was twelve years old when I was baptized,  
and confirmed in an adult class when I was  
seventeen.

You think your faith is strong, and then those  
storms of life come along. And how to handle  
them was a real walk of faith for me.

In 1958 my brother was killed in a boat accident.  
In 1967 another brother was killed in a truck  
accident. This was hard stuff for me to handle  
and very hard for my parents.

The last several years has been a very hard walk  
of faith for me. I had pain that didn't go away,  
and days of being very depressed.

Then I realized maybe I wasn't walking in faith.  
As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:7 we walk by faith  
not by sight.

I needed to let go of my ways and thoughts and  
let God lead.

And I just want to thank all of you for your  
prayers for Larry and me. And I know prayers  
have been answered.

My health has improved from a year ago. And I  
have been trying to reach out to others with their  
walk in faith.

And I believe this is where God was leading me.

**Dana Zatrach**

*Thank you! Danke shoen! Merci beaucoup! Muchas gracias!  
Domo arigato! Asante sana! And Thank you again!*

No matter how many ways I say it, those two words - "*thank you*" - just don't seem adequate at expressing our gratitude for all of your many kindnesses, cards, gifts, goodies, and well-wishes for us during the Holidays. It is all so gracious of you, and we appreciate your thoughtfulness. Most especially, we appreciate the ministry we share here at Emanuel with you, our Church Family. 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

A new shed was constructed at our home. I am not sure who all was responsible for contributing money towards it. I do know that Richard Landversicht built it. I thank Richard and I thank you one and all for your many kindnesses to myself and my family. We love and appreciate you all more than you know.

Pastor Jim Castello

*from the Congregational Life Board*

### *Giving/Donation Corner*

“Resolve” now to help with our monthly donation collecting as we begin the New Year with opportunities to give to the PATH Center in Defiance.

#### **“Did You Know...**

...that the Richland Place/PATH Center is more than a homeless shelter and soup kitchen? Richland Place is actually the upstairs part of our building and it houses 7 SRO (single room occupancy) apartments. Richland Place provides housing for once homeless individuals. These apartments are HUD subsidized and residents pay 30% of their income towards rent. Yearly leases are required and can be renewed as desired. Comprehensive, social support services are provided which include, but are not limited to: case management, transportation, social activities, and nutrition.

The PATH Center provides lunch daily, 363 days a year. Unfortunately, not everyone can come at lunch due to work schedules or school. However, those people can come to PATH on Monday evenings. Twenty area churches are pitching in to serve an evening meal at 5 p.m. each Monday. The churches work on a rotation schedule and generally serve 2-3 times per year.” (taken from their quarterly newsletter)

Items needed include:

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| shampoos and conditioners                | manual can openers                    |
| deodorants for men and women             | canned fruit                          |
| bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths | small alarm clocks                    |
| pillows and pillow cases                 | packaged snack food for shelter rooms |
| coffee                                   | “First Choice Haircutters” gift cards |

### *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](mailto:cjcast@yahoo.com). Thanks for your caring and “prayer-ing”!

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck – January 31!**

## *Project: We Care*

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the “Angel Tree” for Project: We Care. This year, because of your abundant caring, we were able to adopt a 13<sup>th</sup> family in the last week, helping a total of 33 children enjoy a brighter Christmas through your gifts for them with our “Angel Tree”. Special thanks to all who supported and funded the shopping day for our KFC kids, and thanks to Alexandria Biederstedt, Brock Brubaker, Austin Damman, Bryce Reynolds, Sarah and Carol Yaney, and Stephen Yunker, who helped Gayla Yaney and Carol Castello fill the shopping carts at WalMart that day. Special thanks, too, to Ron and Jeannie Wiechers 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 Karri Ashbaugh, Bonnie and Sonny Babcock, Cheryl Hershberger, and Martha Young for their help on “delivery day.” For those to whom you have shown God’s love in this simple way of sharing CHRISTmas, *thank you for your outreach!*

## *Soul Food “stirrings”*

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!

## *Soul Food Planning Meeting*

On January 6 at 9 a.m. join us for coffee and muffins to plan our 2010 menus. Bring ideas and recipes to share. If you can’t make the meeting, let Carol Castello, Nanette Schwab or Judy Hoffman know your favorite meals or ideas.

## *Thanks for the use of your nativities!*

A “manger-ful” of thanks for all who loaned their nativity sets for our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday “Journey to Bethlehem” Nativity Walk on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent. They were absolutely beautiful, as was Angela’s wonderful music (for two hours!) that afternoon!

And yes, we’ll do it again! Please keep this in mind when you’re packing up your Christmas decorations – save the nativity set to put in last and keep it easily accessible for next year! Inspired by a church in Bowling Green whose nativity walk had over 600 nativities to display, we have some ideas for “expanding” ours and publicizing it more to the community. It is a wonderfully meaningful way to begin the Advent Season on the First Sunday in Advent – November 28 in 2010.

Anyone 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older who would like to take classes for early communion should contact Pastor. Classes will begin soon.

I need volunteers willing to spend some of their time visiting other members and occasionally helping other members in different ways. If you would be willing to volunteer for this ministry, please let Pastor know. This is not a formal committee, nor are there any expectations or endless commitments. I am simply looking for people to assist here and there when they are able. Thank you for the prayerful consideration. -Pastor

## “Jesus Jam”

Mark your calendars for the “Jesus Jam” to be held at Emanuel on January 31. This will be a concert by the One Spirit Quartet and other groups from our church. Watch for more details.

## Membership News

- Baptism* On December 27 we will be blessed to witness the baptism of Jacob Ashton Plummer, son of Brian and Dea Plummer. Jacob's sponsors are Daniel Rudolph, Brittni Rudolph, and Hannah Plummer.
- Funeral* Gary Daman passed from this life on November 17. His funeral was held at the Walker Mortuary on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Please remember his family in your prayers.
- Wedding* Congratulations and God's blessings to Thomas Gerken & Lori Swinford who were married in Prout Chapel at BGSU on December 12, 2009!

### **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 11/22 through 12/14**

| <b>Total Sunday attendance</b> | <b>Communed</b> | <b>Offerings</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1007                           | 218             | \$ 23,086.30 *   |

\* includes:

- 1315 Building Fund
- 3086 Special Offering for Roof
- 810 Memorials for Building Fund - Gary Daman
- 477 World Hunger
- 100 Good Samaritan Fund

The special offering for the Roof Loan on December 6 was \$3,086.

## WELCA News

*Rita Schweinhagen, President*

**A**s we begin a new year, I would like to invite you all to attend at least one circle meeting and one general meeting this year. As your new president, I am asking that you at least make an honest attempt to do this.

Our new booklets should be out by the end of December. Check to see if your name is in it. If not, please let me or Dora know this.

At our last General Meeting, Oneta Wiechers and Carol Castello did a great program on The Lord's Prayer. Thanks, girls.

Three new Personal P.A. systems have been ordered for use of members of our congregation who have a hearing problem.

Dates to remember:

Monday, January 11 - 6:45 p.m. WELCA Board meeting

Thursday, February 4 - 7:00 p.m. WELCA General Meeting

Saturday, April 17 - Spring Conference St. Martin's, Archbold.

In God's service,  
Rita

*Thanks!*

- ◆ Dear friends, Thank you for supporting the community Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together during this holiday season. We served approximately 150 meals on Thanksgiving. The food was delicious and the mashed potatoes were especially appreciated. Thank you for cooking and preparing turkeys, for desserts, and for your willingness to serve. Working together wonderful things happen.

-Thank you again, (Pastor) Lindy Maurice-Saum

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

### *Red Cross Bloodmobile* — January

Monday, Jan. 4, 12:30-6:30 p.m. Holgate Community @ St. John UCC

Saturday, Jan. 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Leon Bonner Memorial @ Napoleon Moose Lodge

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1-7 p.m. Deshler Lions Club @ Immaculate Conception Church

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2-7 p.m. Curves with Mobile Bus, Napoleon

Monday, Jan. 18, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Henry County Hospital Mini Drive

Thursday, Jan. 28, 12-6 p.m. Double Red Mini Drive @ Henry County Red Cross

### *Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)*

Low income seniors (and others) may qualify for energy assistance through the HEAP program. We have applications for assistance in the church office. Or you may call NOCAC (Community Action) at 419-599-2481 for information on eligibility and application. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

### *Divorced? Separated?*

You don't have to go through it alone. Find help, discover hope, experience healing at DivorceCare. DivorceCare is a video seminar series 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 will run on Monday evenings January 11 through April 5, 2010, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at North Clinton Mennonite Church, 831 Linfoot Street, Wauseon. Please call 419-337-4776 if you have questions or would like to register.

### *It's time for the 69<sup>th</sup> Toledo Lutheran Bowling Tournament*

The 2010 Tournament for singles/doubles events will be held on March 6 & 20 @ 12:00 p.m. and team events will be held on March 7 & 21 @ 12:00 p.m. at Bay Center Recreation Lanes in Oregon, Ohio. A registration form is posted on the bulletin board by the church office. For more information contact the tournament secretary Steve Mawhorter (cell phone 419-343-0957) or email mawhorters@yahoo.com.

### *Senior Winter Snowball Dance & Meal*

The annual Senior Winter Snowball Dance & Meal hosted by Dr. George Cochran & Staff will be held for all senior citizens age 60 or older on January 16, 2010, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Henry County Society for the Handicapped, 470 Independence Drive. R.S.V.P. by January 8, 2010 to: Senior Dance, 1066 Chelsea Avenue, Napoleon OH 43545. Cost is \$2.00 at time of reservation. Prizes awarded for the best western apparel.

## Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

### *Cherub Choir/Rainbow Ringers*

Wow! You all did an amazing job caroling and ringing bells at three places in Napoleon last month. The residents all loved it and appreciated seeing your smiling faces on such a cold and windy day. Thank you for sharing your musical talent with others. There will be fun new things to work on during After School Club this month. See you there!

### *Adult Choir*

Thank you for all the hard work at rehearsals in the month of December. You really gave it your all and the music was just great! We continue practices for the new year on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will NOT sing during worship this month.

A big thanks goes out to Tom and Beth Jenny for once again opening their home to the choir for our annual Christmas party. As always, a good time was had by all, and we appreciate the time and effort the Jennys put into hosting!

If you are considering joining the choir, now is a great time to do so! We are starting new music "from scratch" so you haven't missed anything. See Angela, or you can just show up on Wednesday night.

### *Video Ministry*

Our video ministry is rolling right along and improving all the time. If you need a DVD of a service, please let the church office know. We are always in need of videographers for Sunday mornings. It is not a huge time commitment, and free training is provided (we guarantee it is quite easy!). This is an important outreach to our shut-ins, so please consider donating a few hours a year to this project.

*Those who wish to sing always find a song.* Swedish proverb

Remember our members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities with prayers, cards, visits.

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

**Evelyn Carlile 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  
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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

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End-of-year reports  
are due in the church  
office by  
December 31!

## *Worship participants in January*

### Acolytes

8:00 Sarah Yaney & Alexandria Biederstedt  
10:30 Neil Storch & Chandler Burken

### Lay Assistants

8:00  
10:30 Bill Panning

### Ushers

8:00 Ron Dachenhaus, Lenny Sonnenberg,  
Terry Hershberger, Doug Elling  
10:30 Matt Mt.Castle, Alan Storch,  
Rupert Schweinhagen, Mark Tonjes

### Altar Guild

Ruth Hershberger & Diane Walther

## *Altar Flowers*

January 3 - Elinor Brown in loving memory of John on their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
January 10 - Virginia Dillon  
January 17 - Ken & Nancy Lange in celebration of their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary  
January 24 - Douglas & Judy Hoffman  
January 31 - In celebration of Blake Biederstedt's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday

### 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:*

February 28  
March 28

May 16/23  
June 6

July 18  
August 29

October 10  
December 25