

# 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.**

I have so enjoyed reading about everyone's walk in faith in the newsletter these last few years. I want to share with you one small step in my lifelong walk of faith: my story of a worship service right here at Emanuel that touched me deeply and reinforced my belief that there are no coincidences in life. God always has a plan, and it is His hand that guides me. My story has two parts and begins like this...

## PART 1

I have a friend who is an email pass-er-on-er. You know the type: chain letters, jokes, please write your congressman, etc. This woman is a beautiful example of a Christian and I love her dearly, but, honestly, I usually just deleted her junk without reading it. One day, in a moment of boredom? insanity? guilt? I opened one. Wow, I was blown away by a well-done hand-mime presentation. I said to myself, "Self, I must make this happen at Emanuel." After some (mild) persuasion, Chris Peper's Sunday School class rose to the challenge. A hand-mime was born: music was located, gloves were washed, and a black light was found. We rehearsed...and tweaked...and rehearsed...and made jokes, with the goal of performing on a Wednesday evening during Lent.

## PART 2

In the meantime, on a Sunday morning at about 11:40 a.m. Karri Ashbaugh came into my office. She asked me to play my piano version of "In Christ Alone" during the offering at Lenten worship the next Wednesday. She was going to reference the song in her sermon that night and thought it would be nice to reinforce her words with the music. I readily agreed. At about 11:48 a.m. (that same Sunday!), Julie Mt.Castle came into my office. She said, "Do you know 'In Christ Alone?'" We would like to sing it sometime." Ding...ding...ding...(God's) bells were going off in my head. I challenged Julie, "Can we have it ready by Wednesday?" And a surprise was born. And I love surprises. You can call it coincidence, you can call it fate. I call it God's plan by His hands.

Well, Wednesday finally arrived and I was so excited that my hands shook all day and the hours just dragged by. The anticipation for worship that evening was even better than Christmas! Two amazing things were going to happen: a special song for Karri's sermon, and the debut of the hand-mime.

Of course, the two parts came together beautifully, and the experience touched my heart

deeply. God had used His own people to plant some seeds of ideas in my head, and together we made those seeds grow. God, for the millionth time in my life, had laid out His plan. He put some truly wonderful members of Emanuel in my path to help me along the way. To all the people who made that Wednesday evening last year so special to me, I say, “Well, done, good and faithful servants of the Lord.” I have always delighted in simple things, and who knew that this humble worship service would have such a lasting effect on my faith. God is great.

Music in not my living. It is my love. The notes and rhythms and verses have been one way for me to speak the love of God. Isaiah 30:21 says, “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’” This is a step in my lifelong walk in faith. Thank you for reading.

God bless you always.

**Angla Tojes**

### **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

## *Thank you*

- Dear Pastor Castello and congregation, Thank you so much for stopping at the hospital to visit me after my emergency surgery. Prayer is very healing and comforting. The afghan was very appreciated but your presence was more important. Thanks to all for your thoughts and prayers.  
-Love, Barb Gray
- Thank you for your purchase of Hospice Poinsettias. Your donations go directly to helping our Hospice patients and their families. Donations are used to provide respite services for our caregivers, to help defray the cost of medications and equipment that is not covered by insurances, Medicare and Medicaid. It also allows us to provide services to those that have exceeded the insurance limits, or those that do not have insurance and do not qualify for Medicaid. Through fundraisers like these, quality care is available to all residents of Henry County. Thank you.
- Thank you for the lap robe and calls and cards that I received during my illness. -Ruth Bahler
- Thank you for calling and setting a date for Emanuel's After School Program to Christmas Carol and play the bells at the Filling Home. What a wonderful group of children! It was enjoyable to listen to them sing and play bells and then watch the reactions of our residents to the music. We very much appreciate your church and the children ministering to our residents and taking the time to visit our facility again this year. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas! Thank you so much!  
-Sarah Jackson, Filling Home of Mercy (by email)
- We would like to thank you for allowing us to use the church sanctuary for the Napoleon Community Band's Holiday Pops Concert this year. The sanctuary offers a beautiful setting and pleasing acoustics for our concert and we appreciate being able to use it. We continue to strive to bring quality concert band music to Henry County and offer an outlet for its residents to play their instruments. Thank you again,  
-Tom Jenny, On behalf of the Napoleon Community Band
- Children in the care of LHS Family & Youth Services range from ages 9 through 18 and are often reading at a pre-school or first grade level. April is an example of those we serve. She is an 18-year-old girl who is working on her three-letter words. She tutors with Jon approximately two times per week. She enjoys practicing her flashcards to gain more ground with her reading words and math facts. She has been reviewing her top 50 words each session. Often, she focuses on the three-letter words to make sure she is sounding out the first letter correctly. April has been making gains in her word recognition and comprehension. Check out the bulletin board for "God at Work in Our Midst," which includes more stories from Lutheran Homes Society, and thank you for supporting our caring ministries.

## *Needed!*

- ❑ Someone to do the bulletin boards - please see Sue Kruse if you are willing to help out in this area.
- ❑ We need volunteers to attend the various annual meetings and assemblies for 2011.  
If you are interested in being a delegate for one or more of these, please talk to Gary Bostelman:
  - Lutheran Social Services - March 14
  - Lutheran Homes Society - March 28
  - Filling Home of Mercy - November 7
  - Northwest Ohio Synod Assembly at Bowling Green State University - May 20-21
  - Maumee Valley Conference Spring Assembly - unknown if there will be a meeting next year

If you or someone you know is in need of children's clothes in size newborn to size 4, please call the church office.

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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)).

Also, have you checked out our website lately?  
[www.emanuelnapoleon.org](http://www.emanuelnapoleon.org)

*from the Congregational Life Board*

As we wind down the year, many thanks are in order.

### *Christmas Cheer*

First, a special thank you to Art Lange who showed up at the church and delivered all the Christmas Cheer donations to the Amvets. Thank you so much, Art! And thank you to all of Emanuel's members who contributed to help our community's families in need have a blessed Christmas.

### *Christmas Poinsettias*

Thank you to our members who collectively purchased 43 poinsettias! Hospice was very grateful for our order and it's good to know that we were able to help Hospice and Henry County families in this way.

### *Nativity Walk*

Our Nativity Walk 2010 was a great success. Our Sunday School children viewed the display during their Sunday School hour, we had numerous members from Emanuel as well as several local church members attend during the afternoon, and all K-8 students from St. Augustine along with their teachers visited our display on Monday. Thank you to each and every one of you who let us display your nativity items – we had 121 different displays. We could not have had the success we did without your help! Again, thank you!

### *Church Directory*

Plans are being made for our new church directory during 2011. Watch as information and dates become available.

### *Time and Talent Sheets*

Have you completed and turned in your Time & Talent Sheet yet? Additional copies are available at each entrance. Please do so at your earliest convenience. These sheets are so helpful when our church needs your help and we can readily see in which area(s) your interest(s) are. Thank you!

### *Next meeting*

Monday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.

*(continued on next page)*

*“Let us sing even when we do not feel like it, for in this way we give wings to heavy feet and turn weariness into strength.”*

—John Henry Jowett

## *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 an additional “half a family” in the last week, helping a total of 41 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 Taryn Conklin, Ryan Kohout, Jenni Schink, Alison and Neil Storch, and Sarah and Carl Yaney who helped Gayla Yaney, Shelley Storch, and Carol Castello fill the shopping carts at WalMart that day. Special thanks to Madison and Morgan Ashbaugh who, with minimal help from Church Council members, wrapped the last gifts from the shopping day, and to Bonnie and Sonny Babcock, Kelli Burkhardt, Donnie Daman, and Angela, Dylan, and Seth Tonjes 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!*

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – January 30, 2011!  
1<sup>st</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> of the New Year!*

*“In darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see the differences between things; and it is Christ who gives us light.”*

—Augustus Hare

## *Membership News*

- Baptism* We will be privileged to witness the baptism of Addilyn Minley Good, daughter of Joe & Trisha Good, on December 19. Addilyn's sponsors are Beth Speiser & Kyle Borstelman.
- Wedding* Congratulations and best wishes to Andy Weirauch and Catherine (C.J.) Sardowa who will be married in Michigan on January 15.

### **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.

## *Thrivent Choice Dollars*

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you have a new, easy way to help support various organizations...including our own church.

Through Thrivent Choice, a new charitable grant program, members can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year.

If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, please visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Or call 800-847-4836 to designate your Choice Dollars, or contact your Thrivent Financial representative if you have questions.

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 -

Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman

Custodian - Jack Robbins

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*"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."*

—J.M. Barrie

## *Worship participants in January*

### Acolytes

8:00 Neil Storch & Bryce Reynolds  
10:30 Brock Brubaker & Derek Belcher

### Lay Assistants

8:00  
10:30

### Ushers

8:00 Lenny Sonnenberg, Theo Heuer,  
Ted Rohrs, Doug Elling  
10:30

### Altar Guild

## *Altar Flowers*

January 2 - Elinor Brown in loving memory of her husband, John  
January 9 - Virginia Dillon  
January 16 - Ken & Nancy Lange in celebration of their wedding anniversary  
January 23 - Douglas & Judy Hoffman in celebration of their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
January 30 - OPEN

### *Open dates:*

February 27	June 5-12-26	September 4-11-25
March 6-13-20-27	July 3-24-31	October 2-9-23-30
April 3-24	August 14-28	November 6-13-27
May 8-15-22-29		

### **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, November 21

attendance 90 + 98 (188)

\$4,719.00

\$ 1,357.00 Bldg Fd door offering

55.00 World Hunger

25.00 Good Samaritan Fund

94.00 poinsettias

100.00 Endowment Fund

### Sunday, December 5

attendance 135 + 91 (226) communed 96

\$5,370.55

\$ 125.00 Good Sam Fund

10.00 World Hunger

550.00 Building Fund

550.00 Angel Tree

### Wednesday, November 24

Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship

attendance 161

\$ 792.00 for Christmas Cheer

### Sunday, December 12

attendance 88 + 123 (211) communed 93

\$9,390.10

\$ 2,881.00 Bldg Fd door offering

25.00 Good Samaritan Fund

5.00 World Hunger

75.00 Angel Tree

31.00 Youth convention

### Sunday, November 28

attendance 102 + 117 (219)

\$25,398.75

\$ 5.00 World Hunger

20,145.00 Bldg Fd

59.50 poinsettias

403.00 youth convention

## *Notes from Angela*

- Angela Tonjes

### *Choir*

Thank you to the choir for all your hard work in preparation for Christmas. You made the worship services extra special. Thank you to Tom and Beth Jenny for once again graciously hosting our annual Christmas party. We always have the best time!

We will have practice each Wednesday in January at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will be starting a new round of music, so if you have been thinking about joining us, now is an excellent time!

In February, our choir will be singing a new song called "Every Road." There is a heartwarming story about this song on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) (use search words "Every Road" and "Dave Clark").

### *After School Club*

Thank you for doing such a fine job caroling at the Filling Home and Alpine Village! The people loved you and your bells. After School Club resumes on Wednesday, January 5.

### *Thank you, Emanuel*

I want to extend a great big thank you to the people of Emanuel for another wonderful year as your music coordinator. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with all of our fine musicians, young and old. This congregation always reminds me of these words from Ezra 10:4, "We will support you, so take courage and do it!" Thank you for your dedication to our music programs. I look forward to a worship-filled 2011!

## *Poinsettias*

Thanks to all who purchased the 43 poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary this Christmas!

*Karri & Larry Ashbaugh* (2) In honor of Madison & Morgan; our parents

*Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt* In honor of Blake & Alexandria

*Norm & Kathy Bostelman* (2) In loving memory of Esther Hahn; in honor of Lorna Bostelman

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

*Richard Bucher* (4) In honor of Jesus Christ; everybody

*Casey & Julie Callaway & Family* (2) In loving memory of Christine Richholt Rath; in honor of  
Sonny & Bonnie Babcock

*Irene Cordes* In loving memory of Elmer, son Tom & daughter Linda Smith

*Harold Delventhal* In loving memory of Mary Delventhal

*Judy Demmel* In loving memory of Neil Demmel

*Mike & Mary DeWit* In loving memory of Elmer Cordes, Tom Cordes, Linda Smith, John DeWit

*Ruth C. Eickhoff* In loving memory of Norbert & Joe

*Shirlee Mires Fejes* (2) In loving memory of Melle & Ray Landversicht, Phil & Lisa Mires, Andrew &  
Irene Fejes, Nelson, Michael & Trey Fejes

*Lauren Helberg*

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

*Joe & Julie Kohout* (2) In honor of Erica, Anthony & Ryan

*Ken & Nancy Lange* (2) In loving memory of our parents

*Ron & Donna Lee Meyers* (4)

*Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mohring* In loving memory of August Hoops, Ferd & Esther Mohring, Eldon  
Koppenhofer, Erin Mohring

*Dea Plummer* (2) In honor of Hannah Plummer, Jacob Plummer

*Janice Rohrs* In loving memory of Vernon Rohrs

*Ted & Joyce Rohrs* In loving memory of Henry Winkelman

*Carolyn Schmidlin* In loving memory of Donald Schmidlin

*Rupert & Rita Schweinhagen* In honor of our wonderful family

*Alison Storch* (2) In loving memory of Mary Dennis; in honor of Alan & Shelly Storch

*Lee & Sandi Weirauch* In honor of our children and grandchildren

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars!