

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIII No. 6
June/July 2008

**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

To begin thinking of writing my statement of faith caused my head to start spinning. To begin, I was brought up with a strong church background. My family were members at St. Augustine's here in Napoleon. Because of this, I naturally went to Parochial School for my first eight years. Growing up I developed a strong belief in my faith and actually considered religious training, not to become a priest, but to be a teaching brother. As I went on to Napoleon High School, I lost the thought of entering that profession. In retrospect, I think growing up in the Catholic Church made me feel guilty whenever I would miss going to church.

Well, time passed on and I attended college for a while. Then I ended up enlisting in the Army and spent 2½ years in the service. It was a great life experience for me, and probably helped me to mature a lot. However, during these years, I didn't attend church all that much, but still trusted that God would protect me.

With that phase of my life behind me, I knew that to continue with my college education was the right choice. Eventually, I met a wonderful

person and fell in love. Yes, Joyce and I were married and will be blessed with 35 years together this year. We were married at St. John's Lutheran. Less than a year later we found ourselves in Adrian to begin our lives together. Naturally, we felt we needed to find a church home. We found Hope Lutheran, where I received instructions, and we became members. It was then that I found a strong re-connection with my faith. We were blessed with two children and continued our life in Adrian and met some new friends while attending our new church home. We still have contact with some of them today. We moved to Hillsdale, MI in January of 1983 and spent about two years there until the job market turned bad. This opened the opportunity to move back to Napoleon for employment, because both of our families were still in the area. However, both of my parents died in 1985 prior to our move. This may have hastened our desire to come back to this area.

Another phase began with the move back to Napoleon. We joined the family here at Emanuel and have enjoyed being a part of this congregation. Our children have grown up and

are on their own and doing fine. I know for a fact that my faith in Christ has continued to grow during the last 35 years.

I am now in even another phase of life and my growth in faith with Christ. We recently experienced the birth of our first grandchild – Drew Alexander Brown – who was born to our daughter and son-in-law. What an awesome feeling!!! He excited all of us with his early arrival, but everything has been great. Friends have told us that the first grandchild would be the neatest experience and it truly has been. He

melts me every time I get a chance to hold him. This experience really helps your beliefs in God and that this world was created in His image.

I look forward to the next phase of my life in Christ and can say with certainty the future holds even brighter events for my life.

May the peace of God, the love of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Yours in Christ,

Ted Rdrs

Summer Thursday night services

will be held on Thursday nights
at 7:30 p.m. beginning June 12 through
August 14. Holy Communion will be
offered June 26 and July 17.

5th Sunday Fun – June 29 ***Grill-out at Castelllos***

June is another “5th Sunday” month, and we will gather after services that day out at the Castelllos for a grill-out. As you might expect, lunch will be hamburgers and hot dogs, mouth-wateringly prepared on their new super-duper gas grill (thanks to your wonderful Christmas gift!). Everyone is asked to bring “everything else” for the potluck picnic, and if you want to bring lawn chairs and/or any outdoor games, please feel free, and we’ll make a “Yard

Day” of it with some fun and games (that’s what they called it in southern Indiana when we were on internship!). In case of rain...we’ll meet at the church (but it just won’t be the same...).

And while you’re looking ahead, circle the 5th Sunday in August – August 31 – for a “Party in the Park”, Last Blast of Summer at Glenwood Park.

★ *Congratulations to our high school graduates!* ★

We will be recognizing our 2008 graduates on Sunday, June 1. Congratulations and best wishes to:

Heidi Conklin
Jordan Henry
Rachel Hoops
Kelly Hughes
Anna Rickenberg
Todd Schink

Congratulations also to those receiving post-high school degrees or diplomas. Please let us know in the church office the following information so we can print them in the next newsletter:

Name
School
Degree received
Date of graduation

Work Day

We have scheduled a Work Day on Saturday, June 7, 2008. We will be doing some cleaning and general "sprucing up" of the building and grounds.

Your help would be greatly appreciated! The more people who show up, the sooner we'll be finished! And we promise you'll have a good time! Plan to be here around 9 a.m.

Youth Education Opportunities

Would you like to participate in the education of Emanuel's youth? Our congregation has an awesome group of young people who are eager to learn. We have openings for Sunday School teachers for the 2008-2009 school year.

Please give this your prayerful consideration and contact Michelle Slee, Jamie Bostelman or Joleen Brubaker if you are interested.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WELCA News

WELCA Picnic/General Meeting will be held on
June 5, 6:30 p.m. in the church basement.
Speaker will be Cheryl Robbins from the Center
for Child and Family Advocacy.

Christmas in July!!!!

Since the weather outside was frightful in December, we were frozen out of caroling. So, in the midst of those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, what better time to enjoy such a festive holiday than to celebrate Christmas in July! On Sunday, July 20, we will be going **Christmas caroling**. We'll meet at the church and caravan the county with carols and cheer. Afterward, we'll gather at the home of Judy and Doug Hoffman for a taste of winter with home-made ice cream!!! Watch the summer bulletins for more details as the "holidays" approach!

Club Christ High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

Well, another Club Christ year is over just in time for summer. It has been a fairly hit-or-miss year, with a few of our activities canceled due to lack of response and, well, lack of time.

We are already planning great things for next year in preparation for the National Youth Gathering in July! There will be fundraisers and meetings as we try to plan our trip.

We are already planning a trip to Oak Harbor on September 28, 2008 to see Lost and Found, who will also be attending NYG.

Also in the works for next year is a monthly Bible Study for Club Christ, time and dates TBA. We are trying this in an attempt to regularly get together, build lasting relationships and continue to grow in our faith. If there is a topic you'd like to see us work on, please let me know. I hope that next year we will continue to grow Club Christ and our relationships with one another and God.

Congratulations to our departing seniors and welcome to our incoming soon-to-be freshmen. I hope we have nothing but good times ahead!

Thank you!

- To you the church family of Emanuel Lutheran Church my many thanks and appreciation for the past three years of allowing us to utilize your facilities for the purpose of promoting the many VBS programs available for the teaching of our young children about God and our Lord and Savior.

This will be our last year here at Emanuel as we will be moving on to a facility that is on one level. We had heard comments from some of our older participants that they wished they didn't have steps to contend with. This is also true on our part as we as sponsors have many boxes and kits that need to be brought in and set up.

Our moving from your facility does not mean that we will ever forget what Emanuel has meant to us and our VBS program. You have some wonderful people in your church who have stepped up to the plate and encouraged, offered suggestions, and participated in making this program a success. I shall never forget that it was one of your members who encouraged me to even endeavor to sponsor this program. We can only hope that we can continue with this program to help in some way to spread God's word to our little children.

To those of you that lent a helping hand, baked cookies or were there for us for moral support, my most sincere thank you. I leave with fond memories, and my last year with you will take a long time to be erased from my mind.

Thank you one and all. Wishing you God's love and peace.
-Sincerely, Tootie Bockelman, Divine Inspirations

- Thank you for all your cards and well wishes for our 60th wedding anniversary. God bless you for your thoughtfulness! -Mel & Marg Lanzer
- Thank you to our family at Emanuel for your many thoughts, kind words and prayers during the recent passing of our son and brother, Timothy Davis. Thank you also to the ladies who brought food for the family and prepared the luncheon. We appreciate everything you have done for our family. -Maurice, Georgie Davis and family
- To the generous congregation of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Thank you very much for the items that were donated to the Henry County Senior Center by your church. All of the items will certainly be put to good use. As you know, our seniors have limited incomes and gifts of usable items are always welcome! -Sincerely, Robin Small, Exc. Director
- Thank you for your gift of \$1110.50 to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio. We are grateful and humbled by your faithful stewardship of God's good gifts. Christ-centered community is happening at our camps and God's love abounds. The trees are budding, birds are chirping and spring is in the air. Many people are served through this ministry. Our camps are beginning preparation for the upcoming summer camp season. A full schedule of all of our programs can be found at our website: www.lomocamps.org. We appreciate your financial contribution to this ministry. With your support we continue to provide a time and place apart. Your prayers and gifts do make a difference! -Sincerely in Christ, Penny R. Christensen, Executive Director

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
Florian Sauer

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

Carl Bockelman (#319)
Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)

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 - Ted Rohrs
Women of the ELCA President - Nancy Schink
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@embarqmail.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 - Andrea 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

Bloodmobile - 2008

Rita Schweinhagen

Emanuel will sponsor its annual Bloodmobile on Monday, June 16, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. You are eligible to donate if your last donation was April 21. Our goal is 48 but I'm sure we can do better than that. If you've never donated before or it's been a long time since your last donation, please give this some consideration. You must be at least 17 years old and, of course, in good health. There is no upper age level. There are people in their 90's that are still donating blood.

Donating blood is safe and simple. The entire process takes about 45-60 minutes. Medical equipment is sterile, used only once, and then discarded. Please remember to eat healthy a week or so before you donate and make sure you drink plenty of water. Broccoli, bananas, raisins, and red meat are good sources of iron. When you donate for the first time, you will receive a card with your blood type on it.

This is a big undertaking for the church, and we do need your cooperation. There are people needed to unload the truck at around 11:00 a.m. and load back up between 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Also needed are donor escorts, canteen workers and kitchen help. There will be signs posted for you to sign up. Please check the bulletin board by the office. If you wish to donate food or help in the kitchen, please contact Judy Hoffman at 419-748-8242. All others can contact me at 419-592-4606.

Please think about the list Pastor reads every week and consider donating.

Donate blood – save a life – feel good!

Thanks for listening.

Summer Garden Share

“Inch by inch, row by row,/ Gonna make this garden grow...” And as your garden grows this summer, we invite all of you green-thumbers to share your extras with our own little “Emanuel Farmer’s Market.” As we’ve done before, simply bring in your produce on Sunday, and we’ll have a table for you to share your garden wealth. Of course, we’ll also have a special “pot” for free-will donations, which will then be given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. In the meantime, “Pray for a good harvest, but keep on hoeing!”

Church Council Highlights – May 19, 2008

- * Recipients of the Giving Donation Center for the next two months are the following: Filling Home of Mercy (June) and NW Ohio Hospice (July).
- * A Fifth Sunday Event is being planned by the Congregational Life Board for June 29 with a potluck and cookout at the Castello's home. The next Fifth Sunday Event will be held on August 31 at Glenwood Park in conjunction with the Sunday School Rally Day.
- * The Doctrine and Worship Board has prepared a list of items suitable as memorial gifts. This list contains the following items: piano bench for the grand piano, concert harp, personal PA's, video system, Advent candle ring, piano light, Communion trays, and at least one office computer.
- * On Sunday, May 11, a Door Offering was taken which realized an amount of \$7,631.00 to be used toward Emanuel's current debt. Since the original Renovation Loan has been paid off, Emanuel's current debt is for personal loans, as well as the roof loan.
- * The Good News Preschool Carnival held on May 2 raised \$841.75.
- * The Education Board hosted a dinner for the Sunday School teachers at Peppermills on May 20.
- * A reception for graduating Seniors, hosted by the Education Board, will be held on Sunday, June 1, between worship services.
- * A community Vacation Bible School is planned for June 16 through 19, sponsored by the downtown churches and will be held at St. Paul's Methodist Church. The closing program will be held June 21 at the Fairgrounds.
- * Registration forms will be available in June for Emanuel's vacation Bible School to be held July 27 to August 1, 2008. Theme for VBS is "Cosmic City."
- * It is anticipated that 2 to 4 new teachers will be needed in the fall, depending upon how the classes are divided.
- * After School Club will again be held in the fall.

Membership News

Funeral Please remember in your prayers the family of Timothy Davis who died on April 24. His funeral was held at the church on the 29th.

Births Congratulations to Kurt & Kristi Landversicht on the birth of a daughter, Kylie Renee, on May 4, 2008 in Lexington, Kentucky! Proud grandparents are Richard & Susan Landversicht!

Neil & Rachel (Weirauch) Sosebee welcomed baby Henry James Sosebee to their family on May 13! Henry weighed 6 lb and 1 oz. Proud grandmas are Deb Weirauch and Sheila Sosebee; great grandparents are Bob & Esther Dennie! Congratulations to all!

Please let us know of any family birth announcements, etc. so we can celebrate with you!

From the “heart and soul” of Soul Food

...many, MANY THANKS to each and all of you who helped in ANY way with our weekly “Soul Food” suppers – whether shopping or cooking or bringing salads, side dishes, and/or desserts or serving or cleaning up or praying or just simply coming and eating! It takes the whole of us to help feed the soul of us, so thank you, THANK, you, THANK YOU! And we’ll see you all in September!

Father’s Day

One Sunday in 1909, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn’t a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown of Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many believe that this was the beginning of Father’s Day.

Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central Church, in Fairmont, West Virginia, held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908. Regardless of which story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father’s Day in 1924.

Happy Father’s Day on June 15!

Notes from Angela

Adult Choir

The adult choir has finished rehearsals for the season and enjoyed our choir party in May. A big thank you to Nancy Schink for hosting it again! Look for choir to start up again in late August or early September. We will be working on fall concert material and Christmas music.

Wedding music

June is considered to be the “traditional” month for weddings. Most of the organ preludes, offertories, and postludes this month will be songs heard at these occasions. It is not too late for a special request.

July Art Show at Emanuel

We are planning to have a display of artwork by Emanuel members during the entire month of July. All pieces will be set up in the overflow area for all churchgoers to enjoy. We are looking for original drawings, paintings, photos, ceramics, stained glass, and fiber arts (quilts, weavings, baskets, embroidery) made by members from seventh grade to adult. Please bring your items to church by Sunday, June 29, and place on the stage in the basement. Include your name on the item so we can acknowledge you! This is a great opportunity to get your art ready before you enter it in the fair. Any questions, see Andrea Hoffman or Angela Tonjes.

Summer Worship and Hymns

For a change of pace this summer, we will be condensing the liturgy and adjusting the length of our worship services. We will once again be singing our favorite familiar hymns during each worship service. If you have any “oldie but goodie” requests please let Pastor or Angela know.

*Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves,
singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts,
giving thanks to God the Father at all times.*

Ephesians 5:18-20

News from around the Synod and the Community

Bloodmobile Dates

Wednesday, June 4, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Liberty Center High School

Monday, June 9, 1 p.m. - p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township

Saturday, June 14, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Hamler American Legion

Monday, June 16, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Emanuel Lutheran Church

Wednesday, June 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Henry ARC Chapterhouse (appt. only)

Luther Home of Mercy, Williston, Ohio

Beginning in June and continuing through August, "Concerts in the Country" will be offered on various Wednesday nights at the new Shelter House on our main campus in Williston.

On Friday, August 22 Luther Home will host its Annual Golf Outing at Heather Down's Country Club in South Toledo.

Sunday, September 28 is the date for our Fall Fest. Along with a festival worship service and Fall time activities, we will use this day to celebrate and mark our 80th anniversary.

On Saturday, December 6 from 4-8 p.m. at our Williston campus we will be hosting an outdoor "walk through nativity" called "Journey to Bethlehem". Yes folks, believe it....we're excited about it, but this is a big undertaking and throughout the year would ask you to enfold us in prayer and then be prepared to enjoy the evening with us.

On Sunday, December 14 we will offer our traditional Christmas service – celebrating the Nativity story with song and scripture.

If you have questions concerning any of the above, please contact Pastor Alvera Brandt at 419-725-5209 or email her at Abrandt@lutherhome.org.

Four Lutheran Agency Golf Outing

Date: Friday, August 1, 2008

Time: 12:00 Noon (shotgun Start)

Location: Bedford Hills Golf Club, 6400 Jackman Road, Temperance, Michigan

Cost \$90.00 per golfer (Scramble Format)

(Includes green fees, ½ golf cart, use of Driving Range, hot dog, chips, and beverage for lunch, and concluding with a delicious dinner cooked by Bedford's chef.)

Charitable contribution of \$40.00 supports the ministries of Filling Memorial Home of Mercy, Lutheran Home of Mercy, Lutheran Homes Society, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, who are working together to host an afternoon of fun, fellowship and fabulous golf at the Twelfth Annual Four Lutheran Agency Golf Outing.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing supplemental matching funds.

If you have questions, contact Joyce Willier, Four Lutheran Agencies of NW Ohio, 2226 Vistamar Rd., Toledo, OH 43611 ... or call her at 419-726-8653.

Registration forms are available on the bulletin board by our church office. Deadline July 25.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
April 24 (7:30 p.m.)	26		
April 27 (confirmation)	96 + 250 (346)	180	\$ 3,923.00 Bldg Fd - \$35 Good Sam Fd - \$80 World Hunger - \$15 Banners - \$70 * Rainbow ringers - \$25
May 1 (7:30 p.m.) (Ascension Day)	55		
May 4	125 + 77 (202)	115	\$ 5,706.74 Bldg Fd - \$640 *Bldg Fd mem - \$40 World Hunger - \$55 Roof Fund - \$25
May 8 (7:30 p.m.)	27		
May 11	135 + 124 (259)	102	\$ 12,853.00 Bldg Fd - \$ 7,631 World Hunger - \$10 *Bldg Fd mem - \$100
May 15 (7:30 p.m.)	29	27	
May 18	127 + 85 (212)		\$ 3,920.00 Bldg Fd - \$ 155 World Hunger - \$ 5

*4/27 in memory of Tim Davis & in honor of Ryan Kruse's 7th birthday

5/4 Tim Davis

5/11 Dee Showman

Worship participants in June/July

June

Acolytes

June 1

8:00 Laura Yaney & Alan Bostelman

10:30 Justin Allison & Jacob Skeens

June 8

8:00 Stephanie Ruby & Meredith Hoops

10:30 Jenni Schink & Theresa Peper

June 15

8:00 Blake Biederstedt & Henry Elling

10:30 David Yunker & Tyler Nation

June 22

8:00 Nick Rohrs & Nathan Rohrs

10:30 Clayton Burken & Chandler Burken

June 29

8:00 Laura Yaney & Alan Bostelman

10:30 Justin Allison & Jacob Skeens

Lay Assistants

8:00 Helen Lange

10:30 Karl Wiechers

Ushers

8:00 Sonny Babcock, Don Mitchell,
Marv Rabe, Ed Peper

10:30 Ed Biederstedt, Joe Kohout,
Alan Storch, Shelley Higbea

Altar Guild

Julie Callaway & Diana Zachrich

July

Acolytes

July 6

8:00 Stephanie Ruby & Meredith Hoops

10:30 Jennie Schink & Theresa Peper

July 13

8:00 Blake Biederstedt & Henry Elling

10:30 David Yunker & Tyler Nation

July 20

8:00 Nick Rohrs & Nathan Rohrs

10:30 Clayton Burken & Chandler Burken

July 27

8:00 Laura Yaney & Alan Bostelman

10:30 Justin Allison & Jacob Skeens

Lay Assistants

8:00 Ellen Lange

10:30

Ushers

8:00

10:30 Karl Wiechers, Rupert Schweinhagen,
Larry Ashbaugh, Gary Bostelman

Altar Guild

Sheila Sosebee & Jeannie Wiechers

Altar Flowers

June 1 - Marv & Julie Mt.Castle in honor of their 27th wedding anniversary

June 8 - Shirlee Fejes in loving memory of Phil Mires

June 15 - Gary & Cheryl Ritchey in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary

- Irene Cordes in loving memory of Linda Smith

June 22 - Nelson & Shirlee Fejes in loving memory of Irene & Andrew Fejes

June 29 - Al & Norma Duquette in honor of their 68th wedding anniversary

July 6 - Kathlean Ward in loving memory of loved ones

July 13 - Rupe & Rita Schweinhagen in honor of their 47th wedding anniversary on the 15th

July 20 - In loving memory of Niles Oberhaus

July 27 - Alfred & Rita Prigge in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary

Open date:

November 2

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.

Vacation Bible School 2008

Twice the FUN for everyone!

This year we will have TWO Vacation Bible School opportunities!

The first one ...

June 16 - 19 and June 21

We have been invited to join the other downtown churches to explore God's Big Backyard: where kids have a blast serving Jesus! This is a combined VBS with St. Augustine, First Presbyterian Church, and the St. Paul Methodist Church.

We will meet at the Methodist Church (by the Post Office) on June 16-19 from 6:00 - 8:00 to learn about service and how we can all do our part in God's world.

The closing program will be June 21. We'll meet at the fairgrounds for a cook-out and a community program. You won't want to miss this - registration forms are now available. Please call the church office.

The second one ...

will be our regular VBS program here at Emanuel **July 27 - August 1**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

We will blast off every evening at Cosmic City. We will explore the awesome wonder of God as we travel around the galaxy. Registration forms will be available beginning June 22.

**Mark your calendars for both VBS programs
and join us for twice the fun this summer!**