

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIV No. 6
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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

My walk in faith is very simple. I believe in God and all that He has done and given me in my life time. It is what my parents and Lenhart's parents taught me. Faith is simple – not complicated – a relationship built on trust and prayer.

I am blessed that the Church has brought me much happiness with singing in the choir and other services. I truly believe God is good.

Elen Lange

What would you like?

I invite you to a brainstorming session on June 17 at 10 a.m. or 7 p.m. I want you to come with ideas, small or large, of what you would like for our church and its ministry.

Imagine that you have the power and time to achieve any goal for us as a congregation. It doesn't matter how far-reaching you think it sounds or how impossible. All ideas are welcomed and encouraged!

I don't want this to be a gripe session. But rather, in an ideal world, this is where I would like my church to be or to have. This is what I would like to see happen.

Not all ideas can be realized, of course. But, hopefully, this might spark us to new and bold endeavors.

So dream away and share your thoughts.

Pastor Castello

Helping those in need....

Due to the fact that Henry County no longer has a furniture bank, the Defiance County Furniture Bank has assumed that ministry. We in Henry County would like to ease their burden and help with the less fortunate in our own area.

We are in need, then, of VOLUNTEERS to help pick up donated furniture and/or deliver the

Also ...

The Furniture Bank is also in need of donations. Good usable basic furniture, beds and bed frames, bed linens, baby items, housewares (dishes, pots and pans) or working electrical appliances are welcomed and appreciated. Please call the Furniture Bank at (419) 782-2776 to make your donation.

Thank you!

Care Coordinator

Bonnie Palamara has graciously agreed to be Emanuel's first "Care Coordinator". Bonnie will organize food to be brought to those who would especially benefit from it (someone who had surgery, food brought to the funeral home for the family during visitation times, etc.) She will also organize car rides for those in need of transportation (for a doctor's appointment, to attend worship, etc.).

This idea is still a work in progress. We will modify/expand/amend as time goes on. We are now in need of volunteers to assist her in this important ministry. If you are willing to donate some time here and there (and some loving care), please contact Bonnie at (419)592-0626 or myself at the church office (419)592-2616 or at my home (419)592-0847.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giving/Donation Corner

Thank you to all who donated to last month's collection for the Luther Home of Mercy at Williston. For the month of June, we will be collecting items that are needed at the Migrant Rest Center in Liberty Center:

Toiletries - soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine supplies, etc.

Laundry & dish soap

*Blankets and twin-size sheets**

Jeans and long-sleeved shirts - all sizes, children and adult*

*Shoes**

Household items - dishes, pots & pans, small appliances, silverware, etc.*

(* these items may be new or gently used)

These things are used for families who are referred to the Migrant Center when they move into the area.

In July and/or August, we'll probably be concentrating on collecting school supplies and backpacks for schools. The Migrant Center is in great need of these as the school year begins, and we have helped the area schools with such items. Watch for back-to-school sales in the late summer for bargain prices!

Change for a Change ...

The goal of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is for every baptized member in the E.L.C.A. to give just \$5 toward combating hunger in our world, our country, and our neighborhood. What is "pocket change" for us could make a life-changing difference to someone else. During the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" through June, July, and August, make it a habit to throw all of your spare change into a jar, a bowl, a piggy bank, or whatever, and give a gift to the World Hunger Appeal. World Hunger offering envelopes are available in the pew racks. The change will do you good, as it does good for others who are hungry!

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!"

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

If you look in a dictionary for the meaning of the word “chain”, you may find an explanation such as this: “a connected, flexible series of links, typically of metal, used especially for holding objects together or restraining or for transmitting mechanical power” and further on as “as series of closely linked or connected things.”

We are blessed here at Emanuel with a prayer chain ministry, and we are (or we TRY to be) a connected, flexible series of closely linked and connected people used especially for holding others together and for transmitting the awesome power of prayer.

A recent article in *The Lutheran* expressed the caution of prayer chains and pastors’ announcements in respecting the HIPAA law for confidentiality. Mindful of this and of people’s personal preferences, we try to always ask for permission to publicly include any prayer requests, especially in terms of any specifics regarding state of health or medical condition, circumstances of request, etc. Prayer requests may be for church members, “extended family”, friends, neighbors, co-workers, the world at large — whomever or whatever is on anyone’s heart and mind to pray for!

Prayers and “pray-ers” are always welcome! Contact “Master Link” Carol Castello by phone at (419) 592-0847 or by e-mail at cjcast@yahoo.com.

Emanuel’s Bloodmobile to be held Monday, June 15

If you want to be a part of the bloodmobile to be held here at our very own church, please contact Rita Schweinhagen or Judy Hoffman. Jobs available are loading and unloading the truck, escorting donors to the canteen, observing and feeding the donors, working in the kitchen, providing food, and, of course, donating blood. For anything to do with the food, please contact Judy. For working at the mobile or donating, please contact Rita.

If you are contacted by Rita, please say yes. If you have any questions, please call Rita at (419)592-4606. And yes, if you donated at the Battle of the Badges, you are eligible to donate at the church. We will try to have sign-up sheets on the bulletin board near the office. Thanks.

Membership News

Wedding Congratulations and God's blessings to Scott & Sarah (Thomas) Sonnenberg who were married by Pastor Castello in Toledo on May 9!

Funerals Pastor Castello presided at the graveside service for Albert Ford on May 12. Albert was the brother of Gertrude Schuette.

Irma Overhulse passed away on Wednesday morning, May 13 at the Napoleon Lutheran Home. Her funeral was held at the church on May 16.

Pastor Castello also presided at the funeral of Belva Daum on May 16 in the Wright-Hobbs Funeral Home in Liberty Center. Belva was a long-time friend of Eloise Dierker.

Please keep the families in your prayers.

Congratulations to Jason Long and Amber Buehrer on the birth of a daughter, Lexus Jae Long, on May 9! Grandmother is Connie Long; great-grandmother is Mildred Miller.

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.

Thank you!

- ◆ Remembering your thoughtfulness and all the joy it brought, thank you! Thanks for the gift and cards.
-Betty Middleton
- ◆ We would like to thank the members of Emanuel and Pastor Castello for their prayers, cards and lap blanket, during Alfred's stay in the hospital and recovering at home. A special thanks to Pastor Castello for his visits, prayers and for staying with the family during Alfred's surgery.
-in Christ love, Alfred & Rita Prigge & family
- ◆ Thank you for the Lutheran necklace and the cross. All the support was meaningful and helpful, too. As I get older I would like to give back to the church in some way. Thanks.
-Love, Blake Biederstedt
- ◆ I would like to thank Pastor Castello, Juanita Clausen, Sue Kruse and Julie Kohout for their teachings of catechism over the last three years. I would also like to thank the congregation of Emanuel Lutheran Church for their gifts that I received for my confirmation.
-Tyler Nation

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!

Christmas in July!!!

Since the weather outside was frightful in December (again!), we were frozen out of caroling (again!). So, in the midst of those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, what better time to enjoy such a festive holiday than to celebrate our 2nd summer of “Christmas in July”! On Sunday, July 19, 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 Alan and Shelly Storch for a “corn feed” and grill-out. Watch the summer bulletins for more details as the “holidays” approach!

WELCA News

Kathy Gerken, president

WELCA Picnic/General Meeting will be held on June 4, 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Bring food to share. Beverage and table service will be provided. The program will be friendly competition with “Bible Trivia”. Come and bring a friend.

College graduates

Congratulations to the following persons who recently received college degrees:

Nicole Schink graduated June 14, 2009 from The Ohio State University with a bachelors degree in Nursing (BSN)

Erica Bishop graduated May 10, 2009 from the University of Toledo with an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing.

Christine Sue Baker graduated May 16, 2009 from Northwest State Community College with an Associates Degree in Office Administration.

Swim Champ!

Denise Brown recently competed in the United States Masters Short Course National Swimming Championships in Fresno, California.

During the 5 day meet, Denise competed in 7 events and was crowned **National Champion in the 1 mile Open Water Swim**. She also captured 2nd place in the 200 Butterfly and 400 Im, 3rd in the 1650 free style, 4th in 1020 freestyle, 5th in 500 freestyle and 8th in the 200 freestyle.

Congratulations, Pastor Denise!!

Happy Retirement, Judy!!

Please join the Good News Preschool in wishing Judy Demmel a HAPPY RETIREMENT! Cards, stories, memorabilia, etc. can also be forwarded to the church office.

New Orleans!

July 22-26, 2009

Club Christ High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

This summer in New Orleans, the ELCA youth ministry will be collecting “**Jacksons for Justice**” to benefit the **ELCA World Hunger**. They are asking **each youth** to bring a **\$20 bill** (hence, the Jackson) to the gathering (“Jesus, Justice and Jazz”) for an offering. It is a unique giving opportunity because **100% of the funds** given will go directly to ELCA World Hunger to feed people around the world. If every person who attends the Gathering brings one \$20 bill, in one day **we can raise more than \$704,000!** As a result, we would like to open this opportunity to the entire congregation. **If you have any interest in helping** the Gathering put a bigger dent in world hunger, please speak with me, Julie or Marv Mt.Castle. We would like nothing more than for our 5 youth to bring more than requested and prove that **we have the most generous congregation in the country!**

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

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

Marge Gathman

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

Carl Bockelman

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

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 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

Church Office Hours

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

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

News from around the Synod and the Community

Red Cross Bloodmobile — June/July

Wednesday, June 3, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Liberty Center High School
Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Harley-Davidson Sales & Service, Napoleon
Monday, June 8, 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Twp.
Saturday, June 13, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Hamler American Legion
Monday, June 15, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon
Wednesday, June 24, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Henry County ARC Chapterhouse

Tuesday, July 7, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Deshler
Tuesday, July 7, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Curves with Mobile Bus, Napoleon
Monday, July 13, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Henry County Hospital Mini Drive
Wednesday, July 15, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Florida

Lutheran Social Services “Pepper” Card Party

The next scheduled dates for the Lutheran Social Services “Pepper” party for the month of June are the 1st and 15th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church (Stryker) Family Life Center (Corner of State Hwy 6 and St Rt 66, south of Archbold). Card parties are held on the first and third Monday of every month.

Everyone is welcome - one person or a full table. The cost is \$2.00 plus one item for the LSS Food Pantry. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call the Lutheran Social Services Office at 1-800-577-8629.

Henry County Senior Center

The Henry County Senior Center serves its sixty-plus population through in-home services, as well as at senior centers throughout the county. Some of their programs and services:

Currently we are inviting men and women to sing in our Henry County Senior Chorus. This is a fun and short term project that is already in progress. The leader of the group is Elinor Brown, 85 years young and a former music educator. She is full of energy and great ideas. The group is practicing on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. The next practice is Wednesday, May 27. The singers are working toward their performance at the Henry County Fair on Monday, August 17 as part of this year's senior day event. Anyone who likes to sing – whether you do it well or not – is invited to join! It's all about the joy of music!

Our Rummage Sale is scheduled for May 28, 29 and 30 at the old Salvation Army Building.

Please see our website at www.henrycountyseniorcenter.com where you will find a copy of our monthly newsletter. Lunch menus, activity calendars and other articles keep you informed about what's happening at the center.

We have a non-denominational Bible study in Napoleon on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please call Robin Small, Executive Director.

Vacation Bible School 2009

Twice the FUN for everyone!

This year we will have TWO Vacation Bible School opportunities!

**The first one ...
June 14 - 18**

We have been invited to join the other downtown churches to learn about Jesus at Studio Go! Where kids Go Win with Jesus. This is a combined VBS with St. Augustine, First Presbyterian Church, and the St. Paul Methodist Church.

We will meet at the St. Augustine Church on June 14-18 from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. to learn bout service and how we can all do our part in God's world.

You won't want to miss this – registration forms are available in the church office.

The second one ...

will be our regular VBS program here at Emanuel July 26 - 31, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

We will explore the Kingdom of the Son as we set out on a VBS Safari. Registration forms will be available beginning June 21.

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

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
April 26	121 + 164 (285)	130	\$ 4,684.76 Bldg Fd - \$30 *Memorials - \$50 *mem to Bldg Fd - \$625 *Beginner bells - \$125 World Hunger - \$5 Good Sam Fd - \$50
May 3	148 + 79 (227)	137	\$ 5,102.00 Bldg Fd - \$710 World Hunger - \$60
May 7 (7:30 p.m.)	12		
May 10	148 + 116 (264)	104	\$ 3,827.00 Bldg Fd - \$125 Good Sam Fd - \$50 World Hunger - \$5
May 14 (7:30 p.m.)	18		
May 17	101 + 118 (219)		\$ 5,065.00 Bldg Fd - \$245 World Hunger - \$15 Good Sam Fd - \$50

*4/26 \$50 memorials - Norma Duquette
\$625 memorials to Building Fund - Norma Duquette
\$ 25 Beginner Bells in honor of Ryan Kruse's birthday

Worship participants in June/July

Lay Assistants

June

8:00 Helen Lange

10:30 Ellen Lange

July

8:00 ?

10:30 Deb Nation

Altar Guild

June - Diana Zachrich & Mary Rohrbaugh

July - Jeannie Wiechers & Ruth Hershberger

Ushers

June

8:00 Don Mitchell, Marvin Rabe,
Tiffany Biederstedt, Ed Biederstedt

10:30 Mark Tonjes, Tom Jenny,
Marv Mt.Castle, Lavern Lanzer

July

8:00 Richard Landversicht, Theo Heuer,
Douglas Elling, Lenny Sonnenberg

10:30 Brian Plummer, Ron Meyers,
Bill Panning, Ken Lange

Altar Flowers

June 7 - Orville Schnitkey

June 14 - Ryan & Andrea Hoffman in honor of their 5th wedding anniversary

June 21 - Shirlee Fejes in loving memory of Andrew & Irene Fejes

June 28 - Bonnie Palamara in loving memory of Gary
- from the Mt.Castle wedding on 6/27

July 5 - Kathlean Ward in loving memory of loved ones

July 12 - Rupert & Rita Schweinhagen in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary

July 19 - Maurice & Georgie Davis in loving memory of Tim on his birthday
- in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Alfred & Rita Prigge on 7/31 from their children,
grandchildren, and great grandchildren

July 26 - Alfred & Rita Prigge in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary
- Ruth M. Eickhoff in loving memory of Herbert

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.