

# Good News

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A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
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June/July 2011

**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 ...*

**W**hen Pastor Castello asked me to write about my walk in faith my first response was that I didn't have anything to write about. I've never done anything extraordinary, have never experienced personal tragedy to test my faith, certainly have never had a vision or a feeling of God calling me to do something specific! I have felt God's presence many times, have always believed he is with me, and have seen His great miracles in my ordinary, everyday life.

My walk in faith started as it did for many in our congregation with being born to two faithful parents. I was baptized here when I was a few weeks old, the 4<sup>th</sup> of 5 children, 7 years behind my older sister. When I asked Mom once why there were so many years between us, she guessed they were just busy with the first three. My family has a long history at Emanuel My Grandpa and Grandma Rohrs were active members, my aunts and uncles and cousins were all here, so church was just another place my family got together, it was "Home".

We attended Sunday School every Sunday unless we were sick. The only times I remember

missing were when we attended my other cousins' church for confirmations or whatever. We always went to Sunday School there, making sure to bring back our visitor cards so we'd get credit for attending. There was a Missouri Synod church so we probably got extra credit, just kidding. I can still remember doing our Sunday School lessons was a part of the Saturday night routine, right after getting the pincurls in our hair.

There were 25 kids in my confirmation class. I'll bet we were a challenge for our teachers, probably explains why we had a strict Mrs. Ritterling one year. Of course I was one of the quiet ones who always did what I was supposed to, but enjoyed watching some who seemed to have other options of behavior that I never thought possible! A lot of us became good friends over the 3 years, as we learned the basis of our Lutheran faith, my church family, again being in church was being "Home".

Quite a few of us continued to get together for Sunday School through High School, discussing current events, sometimes just the week's ball games, but we were there together, thanks to

teachers who felt it was worthwhile. I came because yes, it was expected of me, but looking back I'm grateful for that because if I would have had to decide on my own during those teenage years I might not have come. I was in the Adult choir, helped with Bible School, had reasons to be there. The traditional music and services of "being Lutheran" were a reassuring constant in my life, I was a weird teenager.

After completing a 3-year nursing program at UT and The Toledo Hospital I became what I feel I was always meant to be, maybe what God had planned for me. After 33 years I still feel that way, where I can care for people with the excuse that "it's my job". I've had many experiences as an OB nurse, first in a large hospital setting, and many years now at Fulton County Health Center where I've cared for relatives, friends, and members of my church. As an OB nurse you have the privilege to take part in one of the most memorable times in someone's life and can have a huge impact on those memories. Whatever a mom's circumstances, you're asked to give calm, compassionate care in a nonjudgmental manner. You care for her when she may be at her worst and best in the few days you're with her. The common response from people when they hear you work in OB is "Oh, that's got to be the best place, you get to hold and rock babies all day." Well, there's a little more to it than that. While it can be one of the happiest places to work, it can also be one of the saddest. You never know for sure when a woman walk in what's to come, and you're responsible for 2 patients. Each and every labor and birth is truly a miracle, and no matter how many times you witness it, it continues to be a joyful, awesome, humbling experience. But I've witnessed births that are far from joyful. Those times when a baby doesn't make it, some born still, or dying shortly after birth.

Caring for a woman in labor when she knows her baby has died is always difficult and it doesn't matter how many weeks in development that baby is, its' still a terrible loss for that family.

I always feel inadequate, not knowing the right things to say, but with experience and always a silent prayer I've found it's not the words so much as the being there that matters, quietly acknowledging her sorrow and my own, reassuring her she can get through it and that I'm there to help. At the time of the birth you hope to see a reason for his death, but often what you see is a perfectly formed, beautiful baby, and you wonder "why?" right along with the family. But I know God is present at these births, too, with everyone in that room, reminding us how fragile life is, to never take for granted that miracle of birth.

We've also experienced the loss of two mothers as a result of complications of childbirth, both leaving babies without moms in the nursery. One of those times in the same nursery was a baby being given up in adoption by his mother who felt she couldn't afford to care for a 3<sup>rd</sup> child. I'll never forget the irony of that and how we all felt. These were extremely difficult times for me personally and for everyone working in the unit because it's just not supposed to be that way. Because of confidentiality reasons you can't share a lot of these experiences at the time with family or friends outside of work, so you kind of tuck them away in your heart which sometimes takes a toll on you. But God has always sent me back, and I think those experiences have made me stronger, and I realize, at least for awhile, what's really important, appreciate the children I was given a little more.

Caring and being cared for is a big part of my walk in faith. My family has certainly experienced that care over all these years here at Emanuel.

I married my husband Dave here, who grew up at St. Augustine's and shared my views on the importance of being in church and raising our children in the Christian faith. As we went back and forth from his church to mine, Ron Schink

started getting Dave involved here, using his talent of playing trumpet and talking music to him. It helped him feel comfortable, gave him something to contribute, and when it was time for our first son to start Sunday School, Dave felt he could join my church and I'll always be grateful for that.

As time went on we had a pretty good Sunday morning McDonald's routine going on with my sister Gayla and her husband Mike while Matt went to Sunday School, until Judy and Doug Hoffman had the insight or a nudge from "above" to know that there was a whole group of our age and younger couples who needed to be more involved. They lured us to stay at church (with sweets and coffee of course) and younger version of the Adult Sunday School class was born, later to take on the name of "The Holy Donut Club". While our older kids went to Sunday School we'd gather with our younger ones for discussions on parenting, marriage, Bible study. As important as the topic was the fellowship and the bonds we formed as we raised our families with this group. One child would start Sunday School and we'd have a replacement baby come along. Before we knew it, they started being confirmed, then graduate and go out into the world. It was the caring once again, the being cared for, our church family, home.

That class has evolved into more of an inter-generational group as we've gotten older, there's still Bible study and discussion on a good day, with a wider range of views and insights, coffee, occasionally donuts and always lots of fellowship. A place my kids come when they're home, they still feel a connection to this bunch of people who always cared what they were up to, and still do. God at work!

I have also witnessed God's care for my parents through Emanuel's members. As I'm now closer to being old than to being young I am assured of God's continuing care as I've seen Him care for Mom and Dad. In the last years of my Dad's life,

as he became more frail and unable to care for himself, God gave Mom more strength, determined to keep the two of them together as long as possible. She did so at the expense of her own health, but never complained, and says she has no regrets. Their friends at Emanuel never forgot about Dad, even when he couldn't come to church, asked about him every week, prayed for them both, sent cards when hospitalized, celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with him by sending so many cards and notes expressing good wishes and memories of younger, active days. The "Soul Food" ladies always made sure they got a meal every week (often with Virginia's special cookies), that Mom always looked forward to, it gave her a break.

Even since Dad's death, Emanuel's loving care has continued for Mom. As she's realized she has more time on her hands, she's trying to stay active, which is a struggle some days since she now has trouble getting around. She still has her circle ladies who depend on her to lead the Bible study, and give her support and friendship, she attends "Soul Food" now, which is a nest of care and fellowship for all who come. She's getting to church and when her family isn't around there's always someone in the right place at the right time to help. She's held a lot of men's arms at Emanuel, up and down stairs, in and out to the car, and she remembers each and every one of you! God at work, every minute, every day, ordinary times.

As I need to wrap this up, I really want to share the most faith affirming experience that I've been given to date. My dad went to the hospital the last time with severe pneumonia on a Tuesday morning in January. We thought he might not make it through the day, but he rallied to be more alert on Wednesday, only to become very restless and confused on Thursday, after not sleeping except to doze on and off since his admission. He was talking about and seeing all kinds of things, some in the present that made sense, but most about days gone by. Farming, hogs,

chickens, tractors being stuck in mud, names of friends and neighbors that he spent his days with, doing his life work. Some things Mom recognized and told us the story around what he might be referring to, some things my brother knew about after years of farming with him. Later we realized that he was probably seeing his life, reliving 90 years of memories. He slept a little that night, and on Friday he seemed calmer, like he'd worked through whatever was bothering him. He even joked a bit, the way he often did, with those blue eyes and half smile. Around 6:30 p.m. he took a very sudden turn for the worse, having even more trouble breathing, unable to keep his oxygen levels up, again restless. My sister and Mom were there and got everyone called, so that all 5 of his children and their spouses, some grandchildren and some great grandchildren were able to surround him in love as he took his last breaths. He kept saying he needed to get out of here, felt like something was on top of him, and I took his hand, looked at him and said, "You can get out of here if you want to, it's ok", which I feel bad about sometimes. But, I knew he was so ready to go, so tired of working, so hard to live. After Mom got close

and told him she'd be ok, that we'd take care of her, and pastor prayed with him he seemed to relax, wasn't looking all around in fear, but focused straight ahead. Slowly, his breathing got easier, he was able to close his mouth to breathe normally, restfully, and just as he took what we thought was his last breath, he took a real deep breath in, opened his mouth and exhaled. At that moment I am so sure his soul flew out and over us, as it left to be with the Lord who had been with him every minute of his life. I remember smiling, because it was so awesome, and I felt such a sense of relief at that moment. I kind of looked around to see if anyone else felt what I did, but I didn't ask, nor have I since, but I will never forget it, and feel it was a very special gift.

Of course the awesomeness paled in the days that followed as I realized Dad was no longer going to be here in my life, but when I relieve that evening I feel we were all so blessed to be there to experience the end of a brave, quietly loving and faithful man's life here on earth.

Caring for others as God cares for us, sincerely,

**Nanette Schwab**

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## *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!

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- To everyone, a heartfelt thanks for all the kindnesses, love, food, cards, calls etc. shown our family during this time. May God bless you all.  
-Helen Lange and family
- Thanks for the necklace. I wear it all the time. Thanks for the cross it is hanging on my window. And thanks for all that you have done for me.  
-Thanks, Neil Storch
- I would like to thank all those who have given me words of encouragement and prayed for me prior to and following my recent back surgery. Thanks also for the lovely cards sent to brighten my days. At the present time, my recovery is progressing well.  
-Betsy Mix
- Thank you to all that participated in the Coming Alive Challenge – keep up the good work!  
-Judy Hoffman
- Thank you for allowing Together We Can make A Difference Initiatives to share the Lenten offerings. We have assisted over 550 different families in Northwest Ohio with new families receiving assistance every day. Please stop by to see us at 722 North Perry, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you or someone you know could benefit in receiving or donating personal care or toiletry items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry detergent, shampoo, toilet paper, diapers, feminine hygiene products, or adult pads) we are there. These items are not covered by food stamps or any other government program. Your continued support allows us the opportunity to partner with those who just need a little help.  
-Thanks again, Kelli, Terri and Carol

■  
*I thank my God ever time I remember you,  
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,  
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.*  
Philippians 1:3-5

Words can barely express our thanks and gratitude to each and all of you for your comforting cards and presence; your outpouring of consolation through food, kindnesses, memorial gifts, and hugs; and the love, sympathy, and support that you have given to us at the death of our mom, Elinor Brown. She loved her Emanuel Church Family, and you helped her to feel so welcome! Special thanks to Angela, the choir, and Emanubells for the wonderful music for her service; and to everyone who helped with and provided for the potluck dinner and all the lovely lilacs. Thank you so very much!

-the family of Elinor Brown  
Carol & Jim Castello, Mike Brown, Peg Brown, Tim & Bonney Brown, and families

## Bloodmobile

**O**ur annual Bloodmobile will be held here at Emanuel on Monday, June 13, from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. We have been doing so well going above our goal every year!

Even if you can't donate blood, there are other ways to help. If you would like to donate some food or help in the kitchen, please contact Judy Hoffman – she does such a great job handling this most important job. If you would like to help as a donor escort or working at the canteen, please contact me.

Almost forgot, around 11:00 that morning we could use some muscle for unloading the trucks. Then again at 6:45 - 7:00 p.m. more muscle is needed to load everything back up.

Thanks, Emanuel, for having this bloodmobile – you are helping to save lives.

Blood Donors can make an appointment by calling me at 419-592-4606.

Thanking you in advance, I remain HIS servant,  
Rita Schweinhagen

Join us for worship on  
Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.  
Holy Communion will be celebrated on the  
third Thursday of the month.

Please join us for worship on  
Ascension Day  
Thursday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m.

## *News from the Community*

### *Mid America Foods*

**Mid America Foods** was designed to bring hope and peace of mind to those who want to stretch their food dollars. Mid America Foods offers restaurant quality food at discounted prices. People EVERYWHERE are struggling to make ends meet. Our suppliers are ready to help everyone battle the hunger, and give relief to those just trying to survive on a slim budget. We invite EVERYONE to participate and benefit from our vast purchasing power. This program is similar to Angel Food Ministry and Great Food for All, and Jerri Holder from Country Chapel Christian Union Church is coordinating this now. She and her husband, Tom, vow that this food is the best tasting yet!

Ordering will continue to take place here at our church on “Summer Soul” Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives at 722 N. Perry St. will serve as a pick-up site. Please remember that this is available to everyone and anyone, and the menu changes monthly to offer a variety. You can check out their website at: [www.midamericafoods.com](http://www.midamericafoods.com). You may also call Jerri Holder with any questions (419-748-8072).

### *IMatters, Project Connect* by the Ohio Benefit Bank

This event will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH. It is open to all Fulton, Defiance, Williams, and Henry County residents. Admission is free. Come for a hot meal, blood pressure and sugar screenings, free toiletry items, legal aid, screening and applications for work supports and public benefits and a chance to meet and talk with numerous other organizations. Please contact Kylee Collins with questions at 419.266.3898 or [nwo.vista.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:nwo.vista.outreach@gmail.com).

*from the Congregational Life Board*

### *Caring/Donation Corner*

The caring corner for the month of June will be for the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. The Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for families with loved ones spending time in the hospital. Needed items will be listed in the Sunday bulletins.

### *Summer Services*

On May 29 we will kick off the summer with the 9:00 services. On this day we will recognize our seniors with a breakfast brunch in the basement following the service. We are asking for volunteers to make egg casseroles, fruit bowls, or coffee cakes. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the office. All are welcome to attend the brunch.

### *Congratulations*

We will recognize **Pastor Denise Brown** for her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ordination following the June 2 Thursday service. We will be serving cookies and fresh fruit. Please consider attending to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

On June 19 we will recognize **Pastor Bob Mix** on his 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. The Congregational Life Board will sponsor the fellowship hour that Sunday with a cake, coffee, and juice.

Thank you for the donations for the month of May towards the VBS. It is truly appreciated. As always, our meetings are open to the congregation and we welcome any and all suggestions, ideas, and comments. Our next meeting will be June 6 at 7:00 p.m.



## Membership News

*Funeral* Art Lange passed away suddenly on April 19; his funeral was held at Emanuel on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On May 10 Elinor Brown passed away. A memorial service for Elinor was held at Emanuel on May 13.

Please remember the Lange and Brown/Castello families in your prayers.

### **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.

This month's picture page can be found on our website [www.emanuelnapoleon.org](http://www.emanuelnapoleon.org).

The cost to mail your newsletter has jumped **68%** in the last month! If you would like to save the church some money on postage, please consider having your newsletter sent via email. 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)).

Be sure to check out our website **[www.emanuelnapoleon.org](http://www.emanuelnapoleon.org)**! You can find current and past newsletters, picture pages, and loads of information and pictures!

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) Herman Campbell (#313)**

**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  
810 Scott Street, P.O. Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545 (419-592-2616) emanuel@bright.net  
www.emanuelnapoleon.org  
Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) 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)  
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 - Angela Sosebee  
Altar Guild Chairman - Barbara Hoffman  
Custodian - Jack Robbins

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### **2011 Church Council**

*President* - Gary Bostelman

*President-Elect* - Ron Wiechers

*Secretary* - Jenny Perdew

*Treasurer* - Julie Kohout

*Doctrine & Worship Board* - Holly Mohring & Terry Hershberger

*Congregational Life Board* - Terri Haase & Carol Castello

*Board of Education* - Jamie Glick & Julie Mt.Castle

*Properties Board* - Matt Mt.Castle & Jeff Sharpe

*Finance Board* - Martha Young & Loralee Jones

## *Worship participants in June & July*

### Acolytes

6/5 & 12 Neil Storch & Derek Belcher  
6/19 & 26 Kenli Dachenhaus & Alex Andrews  
7/3 & 10 Austin Damman & Stephen Yunker  
7/17 & 24 Alexandria Biederstedt & Bryce Reynolds  
7/31 Sarah Yaney & Alie Hernandez

### Altar Guild

June - Joyce Rohrs & Nicole Schink  
July - Diane Walther & Sue Schink

### Lay Assistant

June - Bill Panning  
July - Ellen Lange

### Ushers

June - Alan Storch, Bill Panning,  
Tom Jenny, Ken Lange  
July - Rupert Schweinhagen, Larry Ashbaugh,  
Gary Bostelman, Matt Mt.Castle

## *Altar Flowers*

June 5 - OPEN

June 12 - Sonny & Bonnie Babcock in loving memory of Bonnie's mother, Christine Rath

June 19 - Marvin & Janice Rabe in honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
- in loving memory of Gale Nye

June 26 - Brian & Dea Plummer in honor of Jacob's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday  
- in honor of Rita Prigge's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

July 3 - Maurice & Georgie Davis in loving memory of Timothy

July 10 - Tom & Beth Jenny in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

July 17 - Carolyn Schmidlin in loving memory of her husband, Donald Schmidlin  
- Rupert & Rita Schweinhagen in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

July 24 - Jack & Paula Robbins in honor of their 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary

July 31 - Patsy McGinnis

*\* \* Open date: October 30 \* \**

### 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

Maundy Thursday, April 21  
attendance 135    communed 130

Good Friday, April 22  
attendance 165

4/21 and 4/22  
\$ 2,526.18  
    \$ 5.00 Building Fund  
    415.00 mem to Endow Fd - Sarah Peper

Sunday, April 24  
attendance 286 + 145 (431)  
    communed 261 + 109 (370)  
    \$ 7,258.55  
        45.00 Bldg Fd  
        45.00 World Hunger  
        30.00 Good Samaritan Fund  
        2,000.00 mem to Endow Fd - Sarah Peper  
        10.00 mem to Endow Fd - Art Lange

Sunday, May 1  
attendance 100 + 159 (259)  
    communed 92 + 136 (228)  
    \$ 4,919.60  
        \$ 345.00 Building Fund  
        20.00 Bldg Fd-honor of our grandchildren  
        30.00 World Hunger  
        10.00 Good Samaritan Fund

Thursday, May 5  
attendance 21

Sunday, May 8  
attendance 90 + 139 (229)    communed 113  
    \$ 7,192.20  
        \$ 205.00 Building Fund  
        10.00 Good Samaritan Fund  
        170.00 mem to Bell Choir - Art Lange  
        455.00 mem to Endow Fd-Art Lange  
        25.00 mem to Endow Fd-Sarah Peper  
        200.00 mem for Choir Music-Art Lange

Thursday, May 12  
attendance 25

Sunday, May 15  
attendance 100 + 92 (192)  
    \$ 4,849.00  
        \$ 65.00 Bldg Fd  
        10.00 mem to Bldg Fd - Jill Norden  
        10.00 World Hunger  
        25.00 Good Samaritan Fd  
        25.00 mem to Endow Fd-Art Lange

### **Summer Sunday Worship Schedule One Service 9:00 a.m.**

Holy Communion is being celebrated on the first and second Sundays of the month. We will continue this schedule until Labor Day weekend.

# Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

## *Adult Choir*

A big thank you to Nancy Schink for hosting our end-of-the-season choir party, we always have such a good time. Thanks to Mark Tonjes and Tom Jenny for the delicious chicken.

Thank you, choir, for all your wonderful music these past nine months! We look forward to summer break and will resume rehearsals in late August or early September. If anyone in the congregation would like to join us in the fall, we would love to have you. I have special things planned for next season.

## *Summer Worship*

Beginning May 29 we will have ONE worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Communion will be celebrated the first two Sundays of the month.

The liturgy on Sunday will be condensed, and we will sing our favorite familiar hymns each week. If you have any “oldie but goodie” requests, please let us know.

## *Pentecost*

The festival of Pentecost is on Sunday, June 12. This is the fiftieth day of Easter, and we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us. There are images of wind and fire in the Gospel lesson for this day. We encourage you to wear RED.

## *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Danielle Williams on her graduation from NHS. I have had the pleasure of working with her musically over the last six years, and she will always have a special place in my heart. Danielle has very willingly shared her talents with the congregation and gladly plays whenever she is asked. Best of luck to you, Danielle, and may God bless you in your future.

Congratulations to Alison Storch on her graduation from PHHS. Alison has sung many times over the last six years, and it has been my honor of accompanying her and watch her vocal abilities grow. Alison always comes to practice with a smile and a can-do attitude. Alison, my best wishes to you for success at college, and may God bless you always.

## *Vacation Stories*

Have you been on a vacation this year? Have you visited somewhere interesting? For the September newsletter we would like you to share where you went, or what you saw, or something funny that happened while traveling. Let us know how God blessed you physically or spiritually during your vacation. It does not have to be long, just a few sentences or a paragraph. Please share your experiences with church members this summer before or after Sunday worship.

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### *Patriotic Sunday*

On Sunday, July 3 we will sing the national hymns found in our hymnal. We are thankful and joyful to live in a country that we cherish, and we recognize that God blesses other nations of the world as well. We hope to see your red, white and blue!

Before all else we seek, upon our common labor as a nation, the blessings of Almighty God.

And the hopes in our hearts fashion the deepest prayers of our whole people.

May we pursue the right, without self-righteousness.

May we know unity, without conformity.

May we grow in strength, without pride in self.

May we, in our dealings with all peoples of the earth, ever speak truth and serve justice.

May the light of freedom, coming to all darkened lands, flame brightly – until at last the darkness is no more.

May the turbulence of our age yield to a true time of peace, when men and nations shall share a life that honors the dignity of each, the brotherhood of all.

– DDE, second inaugural address

## *Dartball*

Another dartball season has come to an end. The team finished with a regular season record of 14-10 and finished the tournament on Sunday, March 13 as tournament runner-up, losing to Bethlehem Okolona team 2.

There is always a need for more players, as on a couple of occasions the team consisted of 2 players and on another occasion, 3 players. The minimum for a match is 4 players.

The dartball team will need a new captain for next year as I am stepping aside after many years as captain. If there is anyone interested in filling this position, please contact me. Someone will need to be in place before the captain's meeting in August. The matches are on Tuesday evenings, usually on the third Tuesday of the month. On the months with 5 weeks, they will try to play two matches.

I have enjoyed my time as captain and intend to continue playing, but feel it is time for someone else to take a turn. The pay is great!

Thank you,  
Bill Panning

## **Welca News**

*President, Marilyn Fretz for the Board*

### *General Meeting*

The second General Meeting for the year will be June 2, 2011. If you want to learn how to get physically and mentally fit, this is the one to attend. Our speaker will be Darlene Bostelman, an instructor on “Yoga” and “Fitness”.

This meeting will be a “picnic” (without ants and bees). It will start at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper. Table service and beverage will be provided by the Martha Circle. Please bring food to share.

Have you attended a Circle Meeting this year? It’s not too late to start, either your own circle or another one of your choice if their meeting time is better for you.

Hope to see a good attendance on June 2 for our picnic with your delicious food dishes to share!



## “SUMMER SOUL”

Our regular “Soul Food” Wednesdays concluded in mid-May, BUT...we will continue with suppers on Wednesday evenings with “Summer Soul”! We have community folks who are somewhat dependent on us for a meal, and we have many of our own church family who regularly enjoy the fellowship each week, so... We are planning to serve simpler and possibly fresher meals throughout the summer, hopefully using fresh garden “stuff.” Whatever EXTRA that you may have in your garden, we welcome to put to good use for “Summer Soul.” Your recipes are also welcome! As is your help, too! Please see Kelli Burkhardt, Carol Castello, or Terri Sedam to volunteer your veggies and/or your helping hands!

## 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 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 pastor’s 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 – whoever 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](mailto:cjcast@yahoo.com).



## *Vacation Bible School*

It is that time of year again – Vacation Bible School!

We are going *Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street – Where Jesus makes a difference every day!*

Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street is full of fun, music, games, projects, snacks, and other awesome activities. But Main Street is not just about fun and games – it's about changing lives and helping kids see how Jesus can make a difference every day. Each day kids will be challenged to talk about Jesus' parables, put the word on the Street into action, and make choices that serve others!

**Downtown VBS will be June 13 - 17  
from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
at the Presbyterian Church on  
Washington Street**

*(This is the only VBS Emanuel will have this year.)*

As part of Emanuel's contribution, we need 200 bars of Ivory Soap. Please bring soap donations to the Sunday School office.