

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXX11 No. 3
March 2007

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.

Sometimes we expect uncertainty. March is always an uncertain weather month. We could have freezing temperatures with severe winter storms or warm, sunny days that allow us to roll the car windows down. In March we sort of expect uncertainty.

On the other hand, we feel pretty certain about other things. January is usually one of the coldest months of the year. This past January, however, was one of the warmest on record. That was sort of a surprise. So maybe some of our certainties are not so certain.

The older I become, the more I realize how uncertain a great deal of life is. What I once believed to be a fact sometimes gets riddled with holes or, at least, springs a leak. And yet, there are truths that I have always believed in that become more and more solid in my life.

The certainty of the love of Jesus is a truth that I have always been privileged to know. Over the years, that truth has been reinforced for me again and again. Through almost all the uncertainties I have encountered through the years, within myself and outside of myself, His love has always been there. It has given me peace when I thought there was none to be found. It has held my head above water when I thought that surely I was drowning.

March is an uncertain month in many ways. I guess, in fact, they all are. But Jesus can and will continue to sustain me/us. All I/we need to do is to remember and hold on to that acclamation of Luther, "This is most certainly true"!

See you in church.

Pastor Jim Castello

Bread for the World

The ELCA at its 2005 Churchwide Assembly declared that ending hunger is a core mission of this church. Further, the Northwestern Ohio Synod at its annual assembly in May of 2006 unanimously adopted a resolution to become a **Bread for the World Synod**. More than 600 representatives from more than 180 congregations gathered to affirm the common direction of the church. Citing Scripture to care for the hungry, the resolution asks the Synod to receive an annual offering for Bread for the World. A part of our midweek Lenten offerings here at Emanuel is so designated for this.

Bread for the World is a national non-partisan citizens movement that seeks justice for the world's hungry people by lobbying our nation's decision makers on legislation that addresses hunger in our communities and around the world. Bread for the World began its work in 1974 when a small group of Protestants and Catholics gathered in the apartment of Arthur Simon, pastor of a Lutheran congregation in a low-income neighborhood of New York City. Celebrating more than 30 years, today Bread for the World has 44,000 members representing more than 40 denominations and 2,500 congregations. Bread for the World members are organized by congressional districts into local networks nationwide. Members write, call, and visit members of Congress, and generate media attention about national legislation and other efforts that address hunger. Through Bread's annual Offering of Letters, people of faith and conscience are joining together to urge our leaders to fulfill their promises to the world's hungry and poor people, pressing Congress to contribute \$5 billion to poverty-focused development assistance.

Lutherans like to know that Bread for the World enhances the ELCA witness by supporting the lobbying efforts of the church. Bread for the World does not participate in direct food distributions programs, like our local food pantries, because Bread for the World emphasis is to address systemic and organizational problems of global proposition that hinder the ability of food to get to people. Bread for the World cooperates with the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation to eradicate world hunger because we believe we can end hunger. Together, direct food distribution programs and governmental advocacy will end hunger through our Christian witness and service.

Sometimes we do nothing because we think we are alone or are just silly dreamers addressing an impossible task of ending hunger in the world. The ELCA challenges the notion that the poor will always be with us and reinforces a Christ-like example of responsibility that uses current law, technology, science, agriculture, training, and banking. For the first time in history, it is possible to end world hunger. We are living in a world that has hunger, and the only reason we tolerate it is because we have not chosen to act.

K.F.C. (Kids For Christ)

Ice Skating at the BGSU Ice Arena

Sunday, March 11

Times and details T.B.A. (To Be Announced)

"Lost & Found" in Concert

St. Jacob Lutheran Church in Anna

3 p.m. Sunday, March 18

Admission is FREE with canned food item for local food pantry

Meet at the church at 1 p.m; bring \$ for fast-food supper (home by 7?)

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
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www.emanuelpoleon.org
Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Laura Ellis
Women of the ELCA President - Rita Schweinhagen
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@earthlink.net)
Worship & Music Coordinator/Organist - Angela Tonjes
Bell Choir Director - Hugh Schink
Living Spirit Director - Marv & Julie Mt.Castle, Holly Mohring
Parish Secretary - Patricia Mohring
Sunday School Superintendent -
Altar Guild Chairman - Julie Kohout
Good News Preschool Director - Judith Demmel
Custodian - Jack Robbins

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Club Christ (High School Youth)

-Holly Mohring

The Club Christ February meeting was full of laughs!! A special thanks to Marv who took the time to teach us Dartball!! Though we managed to have the LONGEST games of Dartball in history, we had a great time!! *And* we managed to do it without any injuries, which, when throwing darts around the basement is quite a feat. In between batter's up and the heckles of the other team, we also managed to discuss and pin down a date for the annual Club Christ famine.

The famine will take place on April 28-29, 2007. We will begin at noon on Saturday (possibly following a MASSIVE breakfast) and will not eat for 24 hours until noon the following afternoon, where we will open our hearts (and our mouths!) by inviting the entire congregation to eat with us following late church. Entertainment will be provided - watching us eat after a fast should be a rather good time. Currently, the menu includes a WIDE variety of things we think we will be missing during our fast (Chinese, Pizza) as well as more traditional brunch fare for those of you who are NOT fasting. We will ask for a free will donation during this meal and all proceeds will go to the ELCA World Hunger Relief fund.

We can **USE YOUR HELP!** We would LOVE for you to help in whatever capacity you would like. We can use help cooking on Sunday morning, we can use more

chaperones, we can use ideas of things to occupy our time to take our mind off of food, and people to help us carry out those ideas!! If you would like to participate in the fast, please let one of us know! As plans come together, we will be keeping all of you (youth and congregation both) informed.

There is (yet another!) Lost & Found concert in the area on March 18th, 2007. It is on a Sunday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in Anna, Ohio, which is about 1½ hours south of here off of I-75. The price of admission is a canned good for their local food pantry. ***We are planning on going.*** If any of you would like to come along, please let me (Holly Mohring) or Carol Castello know. Once again, if you would like to know more about them, their music, or, more importantly, their ministry, you can check out their website at www.speedwood.com.

Our plan for March is a good dose of Friday Night Glo-Bowling, though a date has not yet been set for that. At that time, we will continue finalizing plans for the Famine. Bring your ideas and your enthusiasm!!

We will be setting up for the Easter breakfast and cleaning up afterwards to help out the Bell Choir.

SOUL FOOD

Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Menus for March

***Soup Suppers for Lent:**

March 7 - Chili and Potato Soup

March 14 - Cheese Soup and Vegetable Soup

March 21 - Ham & Kale Soup, Chicken

Noodle Soup

March 28 - Chicken & Sausage Gumbo & Beef Noodle Soup

As always, menus subject to change!

We are keeping our “Soul Food” menus simple for the season of Lent and will be featuring two different soups each week, along with the “usual” salads and desserts. Help is always welcomed, even with the simple duties of dishes and clean-up; just check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board by the church office. Celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries are always welcome, too; please feel free to bring a cake to recognize your special occasions at any time. Please plan to come enjoy a simple meal each week before gathering for our midweek Lenten services – definitely food for the body and the soul!

Thank You!

- Just a note to thank you for the gifts you gave me for Christmas all the years. Last year was very good looking. It was the clock. I wish that I could come to church, but last Sunday I had a surprise. The Pastor was Pastor Bernath, my first cousin's son. He was very good. We were glad we met. He said he had been here before. Thanks again. -Margaret Fahy
- A lovely reminder from home. Thank you sincerely for the lovely Christmas gift. Also, thank you to Pastor Castello for his continued concern and prayers. - Marie Bockelman
- Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Luther Home of Mercy, for your thoughtful prayers, and for your recent gift of a large donation of useful items from our Needs List. We sincerely appreciate your continuing support! Thank you for touching our Home with your Gospel witness. We pray the blessing of God's love will continue to abide with you and your home.
Sincerely, Rev. Donald L. Wukotich, Executive Director, Luther Home of Mercy
- Special Thank You's from Darlene Bostelman and Laura Ellis Kruse, Co-Chairs 125th Celebration:
 - * Thank you to Karl Wiechers and Pat Mohring who prayerfully selected the 125th Anniversary theme and associated bible verse. May God enrich your wisdom daily!
 - * Thank you to Juanita Clausen and Sue Kruse for the creation of the 125th Banner. The design is a beautiful glorification of God's hands at work! Your efforts are truly appreciated!
 - * Thank you to Gene and Christine Walters for donating the vinyl lettering on the 125th celebration sign now located in the church's front yard. Thank you to Erin Walters, Front Street Signs, for the design and application of the letters. Erin, you were a joy to work with! Thank you to Ron Wiechers for donating and transporting the 4' x 8' board. Thank you to Marv Mt. Castle for donating the priming and transporting of the board. Thank you to Ryan and Tom Hoffman for pounding the sign into the ground on such a cold January day! Each small step resulted in a beautiful announcement of Emanuel's 125th Anniversary. That is certainly something to celebrate!

Giving/donation corner

- The Henry County Senior Center recently started running the Meals on Wheels program and are in need of supplies to furnish the program. Hopefully the members of Emanuel can help fulfill their needs. Their list includes:

One Gallon Baggies
5lb./6lb. Lunch Bags
Bathroom Deodorizer

Stamps (24¢ & 39¢)
Cottenelle Brand (only) Wipe Refills
Envelopes (3" x 6")

Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
Coffee (reg. & decaf)
Inexpensive white lunch
napkins

- **THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage supper on 2/20/07. With your generous support, \$424.00 was donated to the Building Fund. Also, thank you to those who helped set up, mix, flip, and cook. They included Judy Hoffman, Nancy Lange, Art and Helen Lange, Joe Kohout, Dora Titgemeyer, Carol Castello, and Carl, Sarah, Laura, and Gayla Yaney. Thank YOU!
- Emanuel's "Good Word for the Day" radio spots will be airing on WNDH radio through March 30 between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. Pastor Castello will be providing the scripts for Jamie Bostelman, Terry Hershberger, Alan and Alison Storch and Emily Jordan to present. Make sure to listen for them and start your day off with a good word.

Congregational Meeting Snapshot

January 28, 2007

- Motions to accept were passed for all board reports including the Secretary October meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report, the Audit Report and all Nomination of Delegates for various meetings and assemblies.
- President Laura Ellis Kruse stated if we try to pay off our renovation loan this year, we would need an extra \$18,000 above our regular loan payment. The mini goal of our church's 125th celebration is to take two door collections during 2007 with the goal of helping eliminate this debt.
- President Laura Ellis Kruse detailed the presentation Jerry Tonjes gave to church council concerning the mural that is being planned on the side of his building located on the east side of the church parking lot.
- Worship and Doctrine chair, Susan Landversicht proposed a line item name change for the Adult Bell Choir Director and the 6th Grade Bell Choir and 8th Grade Bell Choir to be written as Bell Choir Director and Assistant Bell Choir Director or something similarly appropriate. The motion was made to accept this change and passed.
- President Laura Ellis Kruse would like to begin forming a committee to revise and update the church constitution. The last revision was done in 1994.

Council Chat - February 19, 2007

- Donation Corner for March - Henry County Senior Center.
- Easter Plants will be sold. Watch the bulletin for details.
- Substitute organist guidelines have been established by Angela Tonjes and the Worship and Doctrine Board.
- Bell Choir Director and Assistant Bell Choir Director are the line item titles that will appear on the budget reports. This is a result from the January Congregational Council meeting as motioned and approved for change. Guidelines of duties have been submitted to Worship and Doctrine Board.
- Vacation Bible School director and curriculum has been confirmed.
- There is an appeal for \$14 for Christ. Details are in the bulletin.
- A garbage disposal has been installed in the kitchen. PLEASE, NO SILVERWARE IN THE SINK WHERE THE DISPOSAL IS LOCATED!
- The first 125th Celebration Sunday will be held on April 22, 2007 with special services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. A potluck will follow the 10:30 a.m. service. This is one service that you will not want

to miss! The special praise, worship and fellowship plans will be glorious! Be sure to tell former and current members they are most certainly welcome to attend!

- Motion to accept Gary Bostelman on the audit committee for a 3 year term was accepted and approved.

Membership News

Funeral The funeral for Eileen Huber, who died on January 30, was held at the Walker Mortuary on February 3. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers.

New address:
Cheryl Hershberger
1115 Kenilworth
Napoleon, OH 43545

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

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

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

Margaret Fahy
Marie Heuer

Marge Gathman
Irma Overhulse

Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

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

Christine Rath (#412) **Miriam Smith** (#303) **Reim Eickhoff** (#405) **Carl Bockelman**
(#319)

Country View Haven (R858 Co Rd 15, Napoleon OH 43545)

Don Walters

Cincinnati (c/o Steve Wittenberg, 7225 Camargo Woods Dr., Cincinnati OH 45243)

Esther Wittenberg

Otterbein Portage Valley (20311 Pemberville Rd., Pemberville OH 43450)

Hildegard Reiser (#313)

Health Ministry

-Candise Ankney

The Healing Power of Prayer

How often do you pray? Do you seek a divine form of intervention, or are you looking for some form of instant gratification to resolve your personal stressors when you pray? It can become very frustrating when the response you're looking for is slow or woefully absent altogether. Prayer has been shown to be very powerful in healing sickness, especially in times of great distress. Nevertheless, it is not a substitute for medical care, but with medical care prayer often provides a sense of comfort especially during difficult times for loved ones.

Remember, just because you don't get the answer or outcome you want, doesn't mean that God is failing to listen. He may have a different plan and in His time, it will be revealed to you, and you might be surprised to find that what you are seeking comes not when you want it, but rather just at the precise moment in which you need it.

During those difficult times when you are weary of waiting for a response, focus on deep breathing. This will help you to concentrate, alleviate pressures from your mind, and it will comfort your soul. God works in mysterious ways, but through prayer he works effortlessly and passionately to resolve concerns.

Scripture for Reflection:

“It will come to pass that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”
(Isaiah 65:24)

Bloodmobile Dates in March

Monday, March 5, 12 - 6 p.m. Sacred Heart Church, New Bavaria

Saturday March 10, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monroe Twp. Fire Hall, Malinta

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
January 21	111 + 221 (332)		3616.00 Bldg Fd -220.00 Wrld Hngr - 5.00
January 28	118 + 108 (226)		4521.25 Bldg Fd - 245.00 Wrld Hngr - 25.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00
February 4	127 + 87 (214)	107	5095.17 Memorial 50.00 ¹ Bldg Fd Mem - 20.00 ² Bldg Fnd - 595.00 Good Sam Fd - 25.00 Wrld Hngr - 15.00
February 11	115 + 141 (256)	108	3864.15 Bldg Fd - 210.00 Wrld Hungr - 10.00 Good Sam Fd - 25.00 Beginner Bells - 100.00
February 18	123 + 129 (252)		3915.65 Bldg Fd - 560.00 Wrld Hngr - 73.00 Good Sam Fd - 50.00
February 21 (7:30 p.m.) Ash Wednesday	197	151	1382.00
February 28 (Ice Storm)	67 + 72 (139)		2720.15 Bldg Fd - 544.00 Beginner Bells - 71.00

¹ in honor of Rainbow Ringers

¹ & ² in memory of Jim Ellis and Cyril Bauer

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

WELCA News

-Rita Schweinhagen for the WELCA Board

There were approximately 20 women at General Meeting in February. For these 20 women - what a great meeting . . . We all learned a lot. Thanks to Martha. For those of you who chose not to attend ... Sorry, your loss.

Circle attendance has been around 25-30 ... Not too bad for winter-time. Numbers should get higher now that spring is in the air.

Speaking of spring, our Spring Assembly is coming up fast. It will be Saturday, April 14 at St. Martin's in Archbold. As soon as they are received, applications will be posted on the bulletin board by the office. Let's try to have a good attendance from Emanuel.

Now is the time to join the Filling Guild if you haven't already done so. Dues are \$1-\$5 or whatever your heart moves you to give. Joining is easy. Just put your dues in an envelope with your name and address and the words "Filling Home" on it and drop it in the offering plate.

If any of you ladies have any questions concerning the Women of the Church, please give me a call at 419-592-4606 and I will try to answer them.

Please try on one of our circles for size and let me know how you liked it.

Don't forget - GOD LOVES YOU!!

Worship participants in March

Ushers

8:00 Ed Peper, Ted Rohrs,
Terry Hershberger, Kevin Sonnenberg
10:30 Joe Kohout, Alan Storch,
Ed Biederstedt, Shelley Higbea

Lay assistants

8:00 Helen Lange
10:30 Rita Schweinhagen

Lenten services...

3/7 Sandi Weirauch
3/14 Karri Ashbaugh
3/21 George Kryder
3/28 Carol Dille

Acolytes

8:00 Sam Elling & Dylan Slee
10:30 James Nation & Tyler Nation

Lenten services...

3/7 - Meredith Hoops & Nick Rohrs
3/14 - Clayton Burken & Justin Allison
3/21 - Alan Bostelman & Tyler Nation
3/28 -David Yunker & Blake Biederstedt

Altar Guild

Jessica Yaney & Beth Jenny

Altar Flowers

March 4 - Elinor Brown in loving memory of John
March 11 - Lois and Larry Wiechers
March 18 - Virginia Dillon
March 25 - Virginia Dillon

Open dates

April 1 July 22, 29 September 30 November 4

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.

Alyssa Rae Pitchford, friend of Matt Mt.Castle, will be holding an Artist Open House here at Emanuel on Saturday, March 10, from 1-5 p.m. in the basement, hosted by Matt. Alyssa is a Junior at BGSU majoring in Graphic Design, with a minor in Marketing. Alyssa has become a familiar face at Emanuel, as she has been attending church with Matt for over 2 years.

Alyssa has recently chosen to take her studies overseas. From May 17 - June 23, 2007, she will be studying at The Studio Arts Center International in Florence Italy.

In an effort to raise money towards her study abroad, she is holding this open house artist show. She invites everyone to stop in anytime from 1-5. You may stay as long or as little as you wish. She will be featuring her work thus far as a young aspiring artist and graphic designer. Here you can learn more about her past and recent works, as well as her plans of study and travel. Donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated during the open house or via postal mail if you are unable to attend.

Hope to see you all there!

News from around the Community

Swiss Steak Dinner

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Domersville & Nagel Roads, Defiance

4 miles north of Tinora High School

Sunday, March 11, 2007

11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Bake Sale

Carryouts available

Free Will Donations

Part of the proceeds will go toward the Lutheran League Workcamp trip
Supplemental Funds applied through the Defiance/Paulding County Chapter #30001
of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Lutheran Homes Society is Seeking a Human Resources Officer. Interested candidates should check the bulletin board by the church office to check out the details.

Time Change

**Remember to turn your clock AHEAD
one hour at 2 a.m. on March 11, 2007!**