

Good News

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**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel's mission is to witness
to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community
and the world through discipleship and service.**

MY WALK IN FAITH

I must first admit, when the Pastor asked me to do this I WASN'T so eager to commit. I was looking for all kinds of reasons to "get out of it" because I have never been approached to do anything such as this. Completing this has brought back many feelings about my faith and even brought up questions I wished I had asked my parents.

I grew up the youngest of 3 kids. We didn't attend Church while I was growing up. Even though we didn't worship in a Church every week, this didn't mean that we didn't have faith in God. Sure us kids attended services with friends or on our own, but not on a "regular" basis. My parents, now deceased, came from VERY different religious backgrounds and did their best to raise their family in teachings from right and wrong. My dad was raised as a Christian Scientist and mom, a Southern Baptist. My mom, from a young age dealt with having many physical limitations from crippling and rheumatoid arthritis. Questions "WHY" we didn't go to church, were just some of the "things" that weren't discussed in our house growing up. Not that that was bad, just

something that wasn't in everyday direct conversations. This only leaves me to imagine my parents realized they needed to come up with alternative ways of teaching and demonstrating the faith of God to us kids. This was presented in so many ways by caring, respecting and being compassionate to one another.

Whether it was dropping in on a neighbor or loved one young or old, it didn't matter. We would check to see if they needed anything or most often to just visit with them. We didn't go anywhere without first calling someone and asking if they needed anything while we were out. I can remember at an early age delivering Meals-On-Wheels around town while mom drove. I would chat with them about everyday little things and see if they needed anything. We would go around the neighborhood doing odd jobs or mowing the yard for them or shoveling and knew not to EVER take any money for our work, this was learned as an act of kindness.

We learned respect while living beside a funeral home and our yard which was a "side" yard, nestled right up against the funeral home. On

days of funeral service we were not allowed to play outside out of respect for the deceased and the individuals paying their respects. Mom and Dad believed that since this was a sad time that kids shouldn't be seen out playing and having a good time when loved ones have been lost. Most of the time, this made for l-o-n-g days and weeks for a child as calling lasted 2 days and 1 day for the funeral. Living in a small town with one funeral home it seemed like it was one week after another that we stayed inside. We spent many times peering through the blinds and wondering who the deceased was and who was attending the service, only to have Mom or Dad explain again why we need to show our respect and stop peering out the window.

I remember one time while being home on a college break and my parents had adopted a dog that belonged to a long retired veterinarian who was sickly and passed away. Well, Susie (the dog), on the day of his viewing, was just going crazy with barking, shaking, and we figured she sensed something was going on. So I took Susie to the funeral home after hours and allowed her to pay her respects (so to speak), and on the day of the funeral I held Susie while standing on our front porch as the casket was being carried out. Once the processional left our sight, she was relaxed. That was the only time I remember being "allowed" to be outside during funeral services unless I was attending.

I think the compassion my parents taught me led me to the paths I have taken in life. First, lifeguarding, then teaching. I recall the summer that landed me my first "real" job as a lifeguard. I was about 15 and I would spend many summers

"living" at the pool. One day while I was leaving and had changed back into my "street" clothes, I was by the deep end and noticed that an unattended child had slipped into the pool and was struggling to reach the side. This happened during rest period therefore no lifeguards were on duty. I jumped in and grabbed the child. As we got out of the water a crowd started forming around us and STILL with the mother not paying any attention she turned to see what the crowding was about. Once she saw her child she knew what had happened. She grabbed the child and started thanking me. I replied the way you can thank me is to pay more attention to your son. Afterwards, the pool manager approached me about taking a lifesaving course and if I passed the test at the end of the training I would be certified as a lifeguard. I passed and worked as a lifeguard until I finished college.

Although I have NEVER sat in a Church with my parents, I know our form of worship and faith in God was presented in many other non-traditional ways from our everyday lives. My parents' guidance has taught me faith in SO many ways through caring, respecting and showing compassion for one another. Oddly enough, despite our non-traditional form of faith, my brother is Catholic, my sister followed the Church of Christ faith. As for myself, I have attended the Lutheran Church semi-regularly for many years now.

In closing, I'm reminded of a recent gift we received: a plaque that reads, "Faith means caring". A motto we should all consider.

Teri Selam

It is Camp Time Again!

Stop by the Sunday School office and pick up a brochure. In it you will find a complete list of camps and dates. There are camps for students who have completed grades K- 12. **The Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 31.**

The Board of Education has scholarship money available for LOMO Summer Camps. To apply for a scholarship, fill out the scholarship form and return it to the Sunday School office. **The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 3.**

Sunday School children sing
"Come and Join in Moses' Song"
at 10:25 on March 1.

Help Wanted – Summer Sunday School Director

Summer will be here before we know it, and the Board of Education is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the Summer Sunday School program.

There are several curriculum programs to choose from. Once the curriculum has been chosen, the director will need to coordinate the volunteers for each week.

If you are interested, please contact Joleen Brubaker or Karri Ashbaugh.

Membership News

Baptism On February 15 we were blessed to witness the baptism of Tyler Gabreail D'Angelo and Josilynne Ann Michelle D'Angelo, children of Jeremy & Marlina D'Angelo. Sponsor is Josh D'Angelo.

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.

Giving/Donation Corner

THANK YOU to all who donated to our February collection of world maps and school supplies for Mike DeMichiei's efforts to "make a difference" while serving in Afghanistan.

In March, we will be collecting items for the food pantry at St. John's Episcopal Church here in Napoleon. Especially needed are cereals, canned meats and stew, spaghetti and sauce, and canned fruits. When you find those "by one, get one free" bargains, give your extra to the food pantry (or give 2 for the price of 1!).

Souper Bowl of Caring

Because you cared, a total of \$423 was collected on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1, through your Souper Bowl of Caring donations. This was split between the E.L.C.A. Hunger Appeal and FISH, which helps through the Napoleon Police Department, so your care reaches out far and near to those in need.

Soul Food “Stirrings”

Upcoming menus for March include:

March 4 - Tuna Noodle Casserole

March 11 - Corned Beef Dinner, Macaroni & Cheese

March 18 - Ham Loaf, Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes

March 25 - Beef & Noodles

April 1 - “Mystery Meal” (no fooling!)

March might come in like a lion and/or go out like a lamb, and with the unpredictability of the weather, we try to decide on cancellations early enough to get the word out on WNDH radio. If in doubt, please call to see if church activities are still one. In combating “spring fever”, the good fellowship shared is all the more important each Wednesday evening at “Soul Food.” And volunteers to help are always welcomed with these weekly meals – with shopping, cooking, salads and desserts, serving and/or cleaning up! “Soul Food” is for everyone, and no sign-up is required, so come and enjoy a weekly supper that’s good for you, body and soul!

5th Sunday Celebration – March 29 “Hunger Banquet”

The first “5th Sunday” of 2009 will occur this month. These “extra” Sundays throughout the year give us an extra chance for some fellowship together. On March 29 we’ll gather for a “Hunger Banquet” after the second service (11:30’ish). This will be a potluck dinner (and we always have plenty!), so please bring a dish (or two!) to share. We also hope to offer some “food for thought” with some hunger-related activities that day. Your “daily bread” certainly will be provided.

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

The Prayer Chain is “connected” again! If you would like to be added as a “link” or if you have a prayer request, simply call Carol Castello at 592-0847 OR e-mail her at cjcast@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and “prayer-ing”!

Notes from Angela

Lenten services

Midweek Lenten services will be held every Wednesday during March. Worship begins at 7:30 p.m. and will include special music, the reading of the Passion history, and dramatic new banners (see note below).

Lenten banners

Beginning Sunday, March 1, and for five weeks following, a new banner will be hanging in the sanctuary with the faces of those people who were a part of the Passion. Each Sunday at the beginning of worship, there will be an explanation and description of the face on the banner. In case you miss one, these are the Biblical characters:

March 1 - *Jesus*

March 8 - *Judas*

March 15 - *Peter*

March 22 - *Pilate*

March 29 - *Simon*

April 5 - *Mary*

Thank you, Sue and Juanita!

Cherub Choir/Rainbow Ringers

The children will participate in a large part of the Lenten service on Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. They will sing 2-3 songs, ring one song, and help with the prayers. More information will be sent home during After School Club. We hope to have all of them there.

Adult Choir

Choir practices continue on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We are working on many great numbers for the Lent/Easter season.

Looking ahead ...

...Hallelujah Chorus

The choir will once again be singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* at Easter Sunrise service on April 12. If there is anyone in the congregation who would like to sing this classic with us, please come to a short rehearsal on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:45 p.m. or Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6:45 p.m. Or, see Angela for a copy of the music to give to your college student or out-of-town relative to rehearse on Easter morning!

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- We will be on WNDH radio in the month of April. Please remind your shut-in friends and neighbors!
- Holy Humor Sunday in April! 😊
- We would like the bulletin covers to be designed by our members this summer. Ink or pencil sketches drawn to size work the best.

God's will for our lives this Lenten season:
fast from discontent; feast on gratitude
fast from anger; feast on patience
fast from worry; feast on faith
fast from complaining; feast on appreciation
fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness
fast from selfishness; feast on compassion for others
fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

THANK YOU

- ◆ Thank you Pastor & Emanuel congregation for all the prayers, cards and phone calls I received when I got home from Texas after Nelson's sudden death. To Pastor, Angela & Jack Robbins for their part in the Memorial Service and to family and friends for being there and for the memorials given in his name. To all those who came to the house afterwards for lunch and fellowship. Nelson would have been so pleased. Emanuel is very blessed to have such loving, caring members. Thank you.
-Shirlee Mires Fejes
- ◆ Thank you for the beautiful wall hanging you gave me for Christmas. -Dorothy Vasher
- ◆ Thank you, Emanuel, for the beautiful "Welcome" wall hanging. It's greatly appreciated.
-Alfred & Rita Prigge
- ◆ Thank you for the lace welcome banner gift. It is hanging on our living room wall for all our visitors to see when they come in.
-Irene Cordes and Norb Brandt

WELCA News

Women of the Church Bible Study

All women are invited and urged to attend the monthly Bible Study in each of our four circles. In March the Bible Study will start a three month study on the book of Esther. This should be very interesting. It doesn't matter how much or how little you know about the Bible, your presence is welcomed. You can learn or help the rest of us! There are two evening circles, one afternoon and one morning. Choose what best fits your schedule.

Thank you

Thank you to the Emanuel ladies who donated pies for the February Soup & Pie Benefit at the Alpine Village. Also many thanks to those of you that attended. The following is to let you know how your support helps the residents:

In 2008 The Lutheran Home Auxiliary made various purchases for the Lutheran Nursing & Rehab Center in Napoleon.

Items purchased and donations made were:

- Evening hospitality cart
- Eight padded stack chairs for two comfort rooms
- 50 Memory Books
- Three Christmas trees for the chapel and 2 living rooms
- Donation for Chalet Project

Thank you,
The Lutheran Home Auxiliary
Nancy Schink, Secretary

Church Council Highlights - February 16, 2009

- ✓ Emanuel's "Good Word for Today" will be on the radio in March and April. Readers will be Blake Biederstedt, Cheryl Daman, Beth Jenny, and Ted Rohrs,
- ✓ A Catechism Retreat will be held on March 19.
- ✓ A "Hunger Meal" will be a 5th Sunday event on March 29 which will include a congregational potluck meal.
- ✓ Angela Tonjes is planning a children's program for the After School Club children and the Drama students. Practice will continue through the end of April, with the performance scheduled for the first Sunday in May.
- ✓ Emanuel Lutheran will again have a "box," ad in the yellow pages of the Embarq phone book which will list service times and Pastor Castello's name.
- ✓ Laura Ellis Kruse has volunteered to be the VBS Director this year.
- ✓ Emanuel's Sunday morning services will be broadcast on the radio during the months of April and December.
- ✓ The grand piano in the sanctuary is in need of some very substantial repair which will take approximately 12 days to complete. This work will be completed sometime in the next three to four months.
- ✓ During 2008, \$3,201.89 was given to the ELCA Hunger Appeal by congregational members.
- ✓ A Committee to study the status of Emanuel's 'elevator is being formed by Vice President Ed Biederstedt.
- ✓ The boiler computer control and outside thermometer have now been installed.

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

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

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

Club Christ
High School Youth

-Holly Mohring

Just a quick update for you all on the Club Christ goings-on! We hope that you saw us helping out at Jammin' for Jesus and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

We have begun collecting media items for our media sale in the narthex and overflow, so keep your eyes open for dates for the sale!

We received our hotel assignments for the Gathering and are VERY excited about them!

Our youth will be staying two short blocks from the French Quarter in a swanky hotel so nice that they may not want to come home! Bus assignments have also been received, so our youth are well on their way!! The countdown has them leaving in approximately 157 days!

Once again, thank you so much for all of your continued support. We could go nowhere without you!

Y.C.C.
grades 3-4-5

YCC will be going bowling on Sunday, March 15 at 1 p.m. Shoe rental is free, but please plan to \$3.25 per set. We hope to get in 2-3 sets. Drop off at the Bowling Alley and pick up around 3:00 p.m.

As always, KFC and siblings are welcomed. Call Ed and Tiff Biederstedt with questions.

P.S. We are waiting for a confirmation to play BINGO at the Lutheran Home.

K.F.C. (Kids for Christ)

Back by popular demand ...

Ice Skating at the BGSU Ice Arena

Hopefully in MARCH!!!

Watch for date, times & details T.B.A. (To Be Announced)

Daily Disciplines for Lent

The 40 days of Lent provide an opportunity to examine our faith and commit to some form of self-discipline during that time. I like to think of it as a chance to give more rather than “give up” something for Lent. One simple act you can practice daily will benefit hungry people through the click of your mouse. Simply to: www.thehungersite.com and click on the appropriate box to provide a cup of food donated from its sponsors AND go to: www.freerice.com for a variety of games to play – vocabulary, math, geography, grammar, etc. – and each correct answer will provide 10 grains of rice to hungry people through the United Nations World Food Program. Improve your mind as you improve the

world (my favorites are the countries of the world, art masterpieces, and world capitals!).

Maybe you’re “2 FAT”! That is, “Fill A Tank - Fill A Tummy”! This FAT idea came from the Synod’s Hunger Task Force. It was all too easy for us to groan and complain when gas prices were in the \$4 per gallon range. But have we expressed our thanks for the lower prices now? A suggestion has been made to figure the difference of filling your tank at \$4 a gallon and then at \$1.81 a gallon (the current price as of this writing) and donate the amount of the difference to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. For example:

a Ford Focus 12-gallon tank @ \$4/gallon = \$48.00

@ 1.81/gallon = 21.72

= \$26.28 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal to “fill a tummy” as easily as I “fill a tank”! You can be “2FAT”!

The “Great Food for All” program is offering an “Easter Special” box in March for \$28, consisting of a 4½ -5 lb. Ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable casserole, scalloped apples, gourmet cheesecake, rolls, and margarine. An idea was suggested to see if we could find enough people willing to “sponsor” one of these for each of the 12 families we “adopted” at Christmas. These must be ordered (with payment) by February 28 for pick-up on March 14. If you are willing to underwrite the costs (\$28) of an Easter box, please see Carol Castello or Kelli Burkhart with your payment. We may need freezer space for storing some of these, too, if we have enough ordered.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Lutheran Men in Mission Spring Retreat

Don't miss the Lutheran Men in Mission Spring Retreat on May 2 at 9:30 a.m. (registration 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.) at Trinity Lutheran Church, 935 W. Bigelow Ave., Findlay, Ohio. Keynote speaker will be Charlie Ernst, coach of the 16-0 University of Findlay Oilers.

See our church office for registration information.

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

We have been notified that the Ridgeville Township Fire Department is hosting its annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, March 1, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Ridgeville Legion on County Road 19. The proceeds will be used towards the purchase of new tank truck.

Red Cross Bloodmobile — March

Monday, March 2, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, New Bavaria

Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Monroe Twp. Fire Hall, Malinta

Monday, March 9, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. at Geneva Phipps Memorial @ Napoleon Moose

Monday, March 16, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Henry County Hospital

WLMB-TV 40 to feature Lutheran Homes program on March 15

A half-hour program on Lutheran Homes Society will be broadcast on WLMB-TV 40 (Napoleon Cable Channel 14) at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2009. The program raises up the current work being done by Lutheran Homes Society, while providing historical context and exploring the organization's goals for the future. LHS is a social ministry organization that currently provides housing and services for more than 2,300 elderly and troubled youth in a 25-county service area in Northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Please tune in.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
January 25	123 + 121 (244)		\$ 5,121.22 Bldg Fd - \$170 * Bldg Fd mem - \$180 * Bell Choir mem - \$275 World Hunger - \$30 Good Sam Fd - \$70 Partners in Ed - \$488 * Rainbow Rgrs - \$25
February 1	165 + 121 (286)	141	\$ 5,756.00 Bldg Fd - \$1,565 World Hunger - \$10 Good Sam Fd - \$20 CDs - \$10 Partners in Ed - \$20 Souper Bwl of Cr - \$20
February 8	116 + 136 (252)	124	\$ 9,747.01 Bldg Fd - \$275 World Hunger - \$15 Good Sam Fd - \$20 Youth Conv - \$1,000 Misc - \$500 Retrn on Inv-\$3,133.01
February 15	130 + 142 (272)		\$ 4,031.27 Bldg Fd - \$85 Good Sam Fd - \$100 World Hunger - \$5

* 1/25 mem to Bell Choir \$275 - Nelson Fejes
 mem to Bldg Fd \$20-Orville Schnitkey; \$160-Nelson Fejes
 Rainbow Ringers -\$25 in honor of Morgan's birthday

Feb. 1 - Door offering for Souper Bowl of Caring - \$426 (½ to ELCA World Hunger, ½ to Henry Co. FISH)

Feb. 8 - Door offering for Gideons - \$220

Worship participants in March

Acolytes

8:00 Neil Storch & Henry Elling

10:30 David Yunker & Hannah Plummer

Lay Assistants

8:00 Ted Rohrs

10:30 Gary & Jamie Bostelman

Ushers

8:00 Ed Peper, Lenny Sonnenberg,
Kevin Sonnenberg, Jeff Eickhoff

10:30 Bill Panning, Matt Mt.Castle,
Ken Lange, Alan Storch

Altar Guild

Barb Hoffman & Phyllis Kloos

Altar Flowers

March 1 - Rob & Jenny Perdew in honor of Caleb's birthday

March 8 - Lois & Larry Wiechers in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary

March 15 - In loving memory of Shirley Casteel

March 22 - open

March 29 - open

Open dates on 2009 flower calendar:

May 17

June 7, 14

July 19

November 1,15

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.