

# Good News

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A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Volume XXXV No. 3  
March 2010

**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.**

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Luke 6:31

**M**y walk in faith began the day I was born, or before. I grew up figuratively and literally in the church. My father is a now-retired Lutheran minister, with my mother by his side and working with the church, so my 4 brothers, my sister and I have always heard about and seen what wonders God can do for His people. “Do unto others” was a frequent phrase in our home, both as Christians and as young children who were quite typical in our dealings with each other.

I was baptized into this faith, by my father, on the opening day of pheasant hunting season in South Dakota, which meant that Dad had to keep the service fairly short so the hunters didn't miss too much of the day. After attending four years of school in a one-room country school, we moved to Iowa where there were more kids in my class than had been in our entire school. That took some adjusting.

I was also confirmed by my Dad. If you think that this meant I got off easy with lessons, you are way wrong. But, his conviction to learning

God's word correctly has been a strong means of support throughout my life.

I attended Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, majoring in Social Work. Hearing Jesus tell his followers to take care of the poor, the widows and orphans, was a personal message to me, and walked me into a career in Social Work. This is my ministry. Today, I try to show His love and grace in my work investigating child and elderly abuse and neglect. His love and grace also keep me going back for more.

“I am with you always, to the end of the age”, Matthew 28:20. Throughout my walk of faith, God has shown me over and over that He really means this. He's been with me through moving from South Dakota to Iowa to Minnesota to Ohio, leaving old friends and making new friends, changing schools, making good choices and bad choices and even through three auto accidents in which the cars were a total loss but the worst injury I got was a cracked bone in one hand. (I think my guardian angel asked for a reassignment after the last one.)

At one especially low point in my life when I was unsure of what to do, I actually felt the Holy

Spirit hugging me, which reassured me that He's still walking with me and nothing will change that. Moving to various towns and states, whenever I'd go into a new church, I always felt God's unchanging love and presence there. I walked into Emanuel Lutheran, Napoleon, Ohio, almost 15 years ago. Several years later, God's hand put my husband, Terry's hand, into mine. Now I have a loving partner to continue on this

walk with me. There have been times when I've let go of God's hand, but He's stayed right there with me.

I've walked a lot of different roads in this walk, but God's always reminded me that He is there with me, to guide and support me. And, He's not done with me yet.

**Ruth Hestberg**

## Got Camp?

It is that time of year again to start thinking about summer camp at Camp Mowana. There are camp brochures and scholarship applications in the Sunday School office.

Scholarship applications are due back in the Sunday School office by March 1.

Scholarships will be awarded at the March Board of Education meeting.

## *New Orleans Saints Win SOUPer Bowl 2010!*

Yes, you're probably aware that the Saints won the Super Bowl, but did you know that they won the SOUPer Bowl!?!? Emanuel correctly "predicted" the winner of the Super Bowl by the "winner" of its SOUPer Bowl on Souper Bowl Sunday on February 7, when a total of \$741.67 was collected – \$367.92 for the Indianapolis Colts and \$373.75 for the New Orleans Saints. THANK YOU for your donations to the ELCA Disaster Response for Haiti through this effort of caring!

## *Easter Food Boxes for Christmas Families*

We were fortunate to "adopt" 13 families at Christmas through Project: We Care. If you will recall, last year we decided to continue our outreach of caring by providing our adopted families with a food box at Easter, too, through Great Food for All. We'd like to do this again this year and are in need of willing "sponsors" for the 13 food boxes needed. These must be ordered (with payment) by March 6 for pick-up/delivery on March 20. If you are willing to underwrite the costs (\$30) of an Easter box, please see Kelli Burkhardt, Terri Sedam, or Carol Castello with your payment. We may need freezer space for storing some of these, too, or even help delivering on March 20. Thank you, in advance, for reaching out further with your outreach!

## *Soul Food Stirrings*

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 on. In combating "spring fever" (it IS coming....), 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!

## *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 go to: [www.thehungersite.com](http://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](http://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!).

There are also 40-day calendars available to follow through the Lenten Season, with a Bible reading or a “point to ponder” or a simple action to do each day. Perhaps you will decide to throw your spare change into a bowl each day or each week, then donate that as an “extra” gift at Easter. Maybe you will collect “found money” – those stray coins you find on the sidewalk or in the parking lot or maybe even in a long-forgotten coat pocket. One idea I’ve read is to save aside any five dollar bills you receive as change whenever you purchase something; I like to think of that as “Lincolns for Lent”.

Your simple Lenten “discipline” could culminate in an Easter gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Emanuel’s Good Samaritan Fund, or some other ministry or “cause” that is dear to your heart.

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*from the Congregational Life Board*

### *Giving/Donation Corner*

With the continuing need in our community, our designation for the “Giving/Donation” corner for March will again be the collection of non-perishable items for our local food pantries. So many families need our help. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

### *Time and Talent Sheets*

Have you completed and returned your “Time and Talent” sheet? The Time and Talent sheets were distributed during church services on Sunday, February 21. If you did not receive yours, they will be available at each entrance during the Lenten season and completed forms may be dropped off at the church office. Please prayerfully consider how you can help Emanuel.

### *Congregational Life Board Meeting*

The next meeting of the Congregational Life Board will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8. If you have an idea that you would like the Board to consider, please let the Board know (place in the Board mailbox, or Pat in the church office will get it to us). You are also more than welcome to attend any or all of the Congregational Life Board meetings.

## **BIG THANK YOU!**

- Members of Emanuel, I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards and acts of kindness during my recent illness. Thank you so much for thinking of me and my family. -Paula Heuer
- Thank you for all your cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy following the death of my sister, Mary Mueller. Special thanks to Pastor Castello for his comforting words. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring church family. God bless you all. -Lana & Lenny Sonnenberg
- To all my friends at Emanuel, I thank Pastor Castello so much for his prayers and visits both before and after surgery. I can't thank all of you enough for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and food while I was recovering from the replacement of a knee. It makes the recovery so much easier knowing others care. I now have a start at becoming a bionic woman, but on second thought, I think I'll stop while I'm ahead! God bless you for your love and concern. -Ann Schnitkey
- Dear Emanuel family, During these last five months, we have learned how much our family and friends mean to us. Thank you all for your support, kind words, hugs and cards during our time of sadness, in the loss of my Mother, Mary "Babe" DeCrow. When she moved here, over 7 years ago, many of you met Mom and welcomed her into your lives and hearts, as though you had known her forever. That meant so much to her and us, because she left so much behind when she left her home, her friends and her parish in Salem, where she had lived over 50 years of her life. Throughout her physical struggle, Mom taught us all lifelong lessons – how to be independent, strong and courageous while relying on deep Christian faith. May her spirit and these lessons live strong in all our hearts. In her words...no regrets. Sincerely, Phyl, Steve, Missy and Steph Kloos
- Thank you very much for the angel throw and for Don Mitchell for delivering it and his visits. A special thank you to Pastor Castello for his many visits and prayers. Thank you to all our Emanuel friends for their cards and prayers for Don's cancer. God bless everyone. -Don & Carolyn Schmidlin
- To our dear friends at Emanuel, Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, thoughts and prayers sent to us for our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It's wonderful to have a "church family" that is so caring. We appreciate all of you very much and pray God will bless you. We are enjoying our stay here in Florida. -Love, Karl & Oneta Wiechers
- Thank you so much to all who came caroling on that cold and windy Sunday. It was a surprise and very uplifting afternoon. Thanks so much. Also thanks to Carol Castello for the delivery of the beautiful angel throw. I'm using it every night. Eloise Dierker

*(continued on next page)*

*(Thank you...continued)*

- Thank you so much for the precious angel throw. We will enjoy using it and thinking of our friends at Emanuel! -Roger & Patsy McGinnis
- Thank you so much for the beautiful Angel Throw. That was very thoughtful. Ruth Ann Gray
- Thank you very much for the beautiful angel blanket. We appreciate it very much. -Pete & Arlene Miller
- Thank you for the beautiful blanket. It warms my heart. -Minnie Meineke
- Please accept my sincere thanks for the beautiful Christmas gift of the “throw”. It will keep me warm. -Lu Alexander
- Thank you for the beautiful Christmas gift of the angel throw. It is very much appreciated. -Dorothy Vasher
- Thank you to you for the thoughtful Christmas blanket. It warms my heart as it warms my body. I appreciate your caring. -Elinor Brown
- Thank you for the beautiful Angel Throw and the carolers. -Olga Kruse & Donna Kruse
- Than you for the beautiful Angel throw. It was much appreciated. -Margaret Busch
- We want to thank Emanuel for the angel throw blanket. It is a much appreciated gift. -Irene Cordes and Norb Brandt
- Thank you so much for the beautiful angel throw. It was so much appreciated. -Diana Zachrich

## Membership News

*Births*      Congratulations to Brad & Lisa Vajen on the birth of Alexander Jacob on December 24!

*Wedding*    Congratulations and God’s blessings to Daryl Jones and Lorelee Rohrs who were married at Emanuel on Sunday, February 14.

*Congratulations to Tiffany Ruby and Chad Rupp on the birth of a daughter, Carmen Ann, on Wednesday, February 10, 2010. Proud grandparents are Brian & Tricia Ruby and Wes & Kathy Rupp. Great grandparents are Jack & Bonita Ruby.*

**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.

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**Statistics** — from 1/24 through 2/14

Total attendance	Communed	Offerings
8:00 477	8:00 126	\$ 18,371.39 *
10:30 432	10:30 100	

\* includes:

- 680 Building Fund
- 10 Memorial for Building Fund - Mary DeCrow
- 132 World Hunger
- 230 Good Samaritan Fund
- 312 Youth Convention
- 330 ELCA Disaster Relief
- 25 Rainbow Ringers in honor of Morgan Ashbaugh’s 7<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 741.92 SOUPer Bowl of Caring

## WELCA News

*Rita Schweinhagen, President for the Board*

**T**hanks to all of you ladies who attended our General Meeting in February. Dora gave a most interesting report on eagles and the lessons we can learn from them. Thank you, Dora.

It was noted that Lutheran World Relief could use more supplies. Fortunately, we have some quilts all made up, so we will be sending them. Thank you, sewing ladies.

A report was given concerning the Andrews' Brothers from Florida, Ohio, and their pet project. Working out of a building on their property, they make a different kind of wheelchair for people in under-developed countries. These people do not have paved roads and many of them live in jungles. Therefore,

they need something a lot more durable/sturdy to get around in. The Andrews' Brothers do this on a volunteer basis. Emanuel's WELCA ladies decided to use the money designated for decorations (that was not needed) and donate it to them. The brothers were very happy with the donation and will probably be our guests at our June meeting....something for us to look forward to.

Our next WELCA Board meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8. Spring Conference is April 17.

Don't forget to attend a circle meeting this month. You may find that you like it.

And remember – God loves you and so do we.

Our sewing group has 2 sewing machines no longer being used.  
If anyone is interested in one of these, please  
submit a bid to the church office.

There is one White Heavy Duty in a cabinet  
and one Singer portable.

They can be seen in the closet next to the stage downstairs.

Please call the office if you are interested  
**BY MARCH 10!**

## *News from around the Synod and the Community*

### *Red Cross Bloodmobile — March*

Monday, March 1, 12 - 6 p.m. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, New Bavaria

Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Malinta @ Monroe Twp Fire Hall

Monday, March 8, 12 - 6 p.m. Napoleon Moose Lodge

Monday, March 15, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Henry County Hospital Mini Drive

### *Free Tax Filing in Your Community*

If your household income is \$57,000 or less, you could qualify for free tax filing. A Benefit Bank Counselor can assist you with filing your 2009 Federal and State Taxes. No fees or charges; e-filing available. March 9 at First Presbyterian Church, Napoleon; March 11 and Liberty Center Library; March 23 at St. John Lutheran Church, Route 65, Deshler. Call 1-800-686-2964 to schedule an appointment.

### *Pancake and Sausage Breakfast*

Ridgeville Township Fire Department is hosting its annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, March 7, beginning at 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Ridgeville Legion on County Road 19, one mile east of Ridgeville Corners. Carryouts are available. Proceeds will be used towards the purchase of equipment.

### *Baked Cube Steak Dinner*

You are invited to a Baked Cube Steak Dinner at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp. on Sunday, March 14 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Menu includes Baked Cube Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, Dessert, and Beverage. A free will offering will be taken with proceeds to benefit the Filling Home of Mercy.

### *Lost and Found Concert*

LOST AND FOUND will be in concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wauseon on Sunday, April 11 at 4 p.m. (Doors open at 3:30.)

LOST AND FOUND is the musical duo of Michael Bridges and George Baum. They have a unique style all their own. Their concerts are a humorous dialogue of stories and songs all about faith, life, and relationships. Lots of people have said, "You really have to see these guys in concert to 'get it.'" Tickets are available through the Trinity church office for \$10 each or 5 tickets for \$40. Please call at 419-335-5651. More information about the band and samples of their music can be found on their website: [www.speedwood.com](http://www.speedwood.com).

## Notes from Angela

- Angela Tonjes

### *Adult Choir*

The Lenten season is a busy time of year for the choir. Rehearsals have been CHANGED TO 6:30 p.m. during March, due to Wednesday evening Lent services. We will sing at the 8:00 service on March 7, the 10:30 service on March 14, and both services on Palm Sunday, March 28.

### *After School Club*

We are learning many new songs for Lent and will sing on Wednesday, March 17 during the 7:30 Lent service. We will also have a part in the Lord's Prayer at the Maundy Thursday service on April 1. During our craft time, we are making the crosses to place on a cross tree each Sunday in Lent. We are planning ahead for a closing program during a church service in the month of April, where we will present many of the songs we have worked on all year.

### *Video Ministry*

Thanks to Douglas Hoffman, Emanuel's hand mime group is now on the internet. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and use key words Emanuel, hand mime, "Who Am I?" to watch the video. It is also on our website at [www.emanuelnapoleon.org](http://www.emanuelnapoleon.org). We hope to keep this valuable ministry growing, please pray that this work draws more people to Jesus!

We are always in need of volunteers to help record the Sunday morning services. If you are interested, please contact the church office, Pastor, or a Worship and Doctrine member. This ministry is so very appreciated by the people who receive it!

### *Lenten Services*

Evening Lent services continue at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday this month. There will be special music and a message of faith from a different church member each week. Please join us.

### *Sunday Morning Cross Tree*

Each Sunday morning this month, we will place a new kind of cross on our cross tree. An explanation of the cross will be given and a Lenten hymn verse will be sung. On Sunday, March 21, we ask YOU to bring a cross from home to hang on our tree. It can be of any type (handmade, beaded, Christmas ornament etc.). Please try to have your name on it, and include something to hang it with. There will be a basket by the tree to put your cross in, and the acolytes will hang them during the service. This tree will remain in the sanctuary for a few weeks.

### *Looking ahead...*

Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30 p.m. (special music, stripping of the altar)  
Friday, April 2 Good Friday Worship at 7:30 p.m. (special music, Tenebrae service)  
Sunday, April 4 Easter Worship at 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (Holy Communion at both)  
Sunday, April 18 Confirmation Sunday  
Holy Humor Sunday  
Sunday, May 30 One service at 9:00 a.m. (Graduate Recognition and Patriotic Musical Event)

Closing Thought...*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.* -Martin Luther

**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) 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)

**Hildegard Reiser**

**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  
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Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com

Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond

Congregation President - Ed Biederstedt

Women of the ELCA President - Rita Schweinhagen

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

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- ✓ **FREE for the taking...The Church has a couple of older computers in the Sunday School office it no longer needs.**
  
  - ✓ **Does anyone know where plans of the church are? Please contact Ed Biederstedt (419-758-3443) if you know!**

## *Worship participants in March*

### Acolytes

8:00 Bryce Reynolds & Taryn Conklin

10:30 Tyler Allison & Brock Brubaker

3/3 Brock Brubaker & Stephen Yunker

3/10 Tyler Allison & Neil Storch

3/17 Taryn Conklin & Hannah Plummer

3/24 Sarah Yaney & Alexandria Biederstedt

### Altar Guild

Phyllis Kloos & Nanette Schwab

### Ushers

8:00 Lee Weirauch, Bob Dennie,

Dave Schwab, Jeff Eickhoff

10:30 Gary Bostelman, Kurt Rohrs,

Ben Michaelis, Karl Yunker

### Lay Assistants

8:00 Bonnie Palamara

(communion assistant - Nanette Schwab)

10:30 Joan Collier

## *Altar Flowers*

March 7 - Larry & Lois Wiechers in celebration of their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary

March 14 - Sosebee family in loving memory of Shirley Casteel

March 21 - Hoffman family in celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bertha Fischer

March 28 - Herb & Ramona Koppenhofer in celebration of their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary

### 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.**

*Open Dates for 2010:*

May 16

October 10

## Daylight Savings Begins

March 14, 2010

## *Great Food for All*

*Great Food For All – ordering and pickup is coming to Emanuel Lutheran!*

Beginning February 24, 2010 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Emanuel Lutheran, in conjunction with Country Chapel Christian Union Church, will have its first ordering date. The pickup date will be March 20, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. The following months ordering will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and pick up will be the following month on either the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (the pickup date will be given when you order).

Money must accompany orders (cash, food stamps and money orders are accepted). Great Food For All is available to anyone who likes to eat. The Basic Food Box anchors the program and is loaded with enough food to assist in feeding a family of four for about a week, or a single person for almost a month. This food box, with a retail value of between \$60 - \$80 is provided for only \$30. The menu changes each month in order to provide a variety of items. There are specialty boxes such as: Senior Meals (7 Heat and Serve Meals), Kids Box, Breakfast Box, Dessert Box and others range from \$17-\$30. If you have any questions please contact Kelli Burkhardt, Terri Sedam or Carol Castello or visit the website [www.greatfoodforall.com](http://www.greatfoodforall.com).

## **Coming Soon...**

The Doctrine & Worship Board recently conducted a survey asking whether the congregation would prefer to go to one service at 9 a.m. in the summer time. An overwhelming majority (83%) of respondents said yes to the proposal.

Therefore, beginning Memorial Day (May 30) through Labor Day (September 5) we will have ONE Sunday service at 9 a.m. Holy Communion will be offered the first and second Sundays of the month.

Thursday evening services (7:30 p.m.) will also again be held from April 8 through November 18. Holy Communion will be offered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.