

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIII No. 5
May 2008

**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

At 80 plus, my Walk in Faith began a long time ago. By God's grace I was born into a God-loving and caring family. Growing up in the depression on a farm, you seemed to have all you needed. We lived across the road from St. Mark's Church, Defiance County, and attending church is something you just had to do. Right now when I think about it, after a long day's work we'd sit out in the yard in the evening, what a comfort it was to see the church, its cross and steeple and cemetery, a reminder of our faith.

Then along came World War II. We prayed for all the young men leaving and wondering will they be back.

I remember my Frank being gone in service for quite some time. He was finally coming home for a leave. What a thrill, I needed a new dress for the occasion. About that time of the year was our Mission Festival. Some of you remember what a special time in church that was. We got

ready to go and when my mother saw I wasn't wearing my new dress, she asked me why. I told her I was saving it for when Frank got home. She looked at me and said, "Isn't this much more special than that." I changed and found out what came first in my family's life; and God remained first in mine. Oh, yes, the dress worked. We were married that next year.

That's when walking in faith really begins. You pray for a successful marriage. Then when your family comes, you pray some more. Then when they leave home and on their own, the list keeps growing. Then come the grandchildren and great grand children and you find out how greatly God has blessed you through all the mountains and valleys.

It is my greatest joy to continue walking with the loving, caring people here at Emanuel.

Lis Golen

Good News Preschool Carnival

Mark your calendars!! Our preschool's 3rd Annual Carnival/Family Fun Night will take place on Friday, May 2, 2008 from 6 - 8 p.m. There will be food, games, face-painting, a magician and much more. (If any senior still needs to accumulate community service credits, helping at this carnival would be a good place to get them!) Please talk to Judy Demmel if you can help. We also need pies for the pie auction. If you would like to donate a pie, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the church office.

Because activities during the summer months tend to be a little slower in the church, we are going to combine the June AND July newsletters. Please mark your calendars to have all articles for both months in the church office by May 19. Thank you!

Thursday night services

Weekly Worship/Bible Study
is held on Thursday nights
at 7:30 p.m.

THANKS!

- ❑ Thank you to my friends at Emanuel for all the prayers and concern for my well being, for the phone calls and visit from Pastor Castello. Caring friends are a real treasure. Thanks so much to all. Please keep me in your prayers during my recovery. -Orville & Ann Schnitkey

- ❑ Thank you very much for your recognition of our program. Your generous donation will enable Henry County Transportation Network to continue transportation for needed rides. In the future, if there is any need for members of your congregation for transportation, please call!!! Thanks again for your generosity.

Sincerely, Michael L. Saneholtz, Coordinator, Henry County Transportation Network

- ❑ Thank you for your comforting friendship during your visits. In God's love, The Lutheran Home

Many thanks to our friends at Hope Services who assemble our newsletters each month!

from the Congregational Life Board ...

GIVING/DONATION CORNER

Thank you to those who have donated school supplies that will be shipped to Tanzania.

This May we will be giving our donations to an organization called Sara's Garden which is a Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Center. Located in Wauseon, this center helps those who have low oxygen in their tissues which complicates the healing process. Many people undergo treatment at this center including those with burns, wound healing, strokes, cerebral palsy, and carbon monoxide poisoning. Along with this therapy center, there is also a housing facility called Jackson's House. This facility provides low cost, clean, safe temporary housing for families who cannot make the commute to Wauseon. Their needs list is listed below. If anyone would like more information about this organization, their website is: <http://sarasgarden.org>

Toilet paper

Toilet cleaner

Paper towels

Kleenex

Laundry soap

Dish soap

Crackers & snack items

Bottled water

Drink Mix for 20 oz. bottles

AA batteries

AAA batteries

Rolls of brown wrapping paper

Summer Garden Share

Once again this summer, the Congregational Life Board will be providing a table for all of you green-thumb gardeners to share your extra produce, sort of like our own little "Farmers' Market" right here at Emanuel. Part of sharing our bounty will, of course, mean sharing with our brothers and sisters around the world, so a free-will donation pot will also be available, with these gifts being given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. As you are planning and plotting your gardens, perhaps you can purposefully plant a little "extra" to share. The hope is that we will even have a bulletin board available for "garden requests", so that a quick "match" can be made with what someone needs and what someone else has! (For example: "Wanted: tomatoes for canning" or "Available for the asking/free for the taking: zucchini coming out of my ears!") Go green, and grow green, and plant plentifully!

Prayer Chain

Carol Castello

I beg forgiveness from all of you “links” on our Emanuel Prayer Chain – by e-mail and/or by phone. Our home computer “died” recently and had to be replaced, and I have not had the “electronic know-how” to retrieve all the old “stuff” and transfer it to my new computer (and, of course, I DIDN’T have any of it backed up!!!), and so ... there has been an obvious and sorely-felt lack of chain communication. Thankfully, you all keep praying with or withOUT the chains!

In case I have “lost” your e-mail address, please e-mail me AGAIN and let me get this all recovered! The address to use from now on will be: cjcast@yahoo.com. I apologize for all of this confusion!

And if you have NOT been a part of our Prayer Chain before and would like to be, PLEASE feel free to e-mail or call me, and you will become an important “link”. I would still like to pair our e-mail links with our phone links as “prayer partners” for passing on our prayer requests and needs. If you are an e-mail link, please let me know (again) if you are willing to be “partnered” with someone who is a phone link; you would simply call that person after you’ve received a prayer request – hopefully this will keep the chain running smoother and easier!

In the meantime, remember 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Blessed to Be A Blessing: Rebate 2008

A letter based on thoughts by Rev. Paul Stumme-Diers, Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA

I asked some folks, “If you get an Economic Stimulus Rebate from the IRS, how do you plan to use it?” Here are some answers:

- ✘ “I plan to pay some of my bills. I think that will stimulate the economy.”
- ✘ “I’ll probably get some dental work done.”
- ✘ “My wife and children and I are going to have a conversation about how we can give it to people living in poverty. They will help the economy.”
- ✘ “We’re going to tithe, of course, and the rest of the money we’ll spend on something that will stimulate the economy.”
- ✘ “I haven’t decided yet, but I really need some energy-efficient windows on my home.”
- ✘ “I’ll decide how to use it when I get it, but I’m open to suggestions.”

How would *you* answer the question? How might your congregation be a channel for this giving? Here are some starter thoughts:

- ✘ “How about giving it to a congregation that is experiencing extreme weather and economy-related financial challenges?”
- ✘ “What if such extra giving were directed to those who are left out of this plan, including the unemployed, the elderly, and new immigrants?”
- ✘ “Is this an opportunity to try tithing?”
- ✘ “How might we, in our faith community, discern where such an extra-mile gift might be directed?”

A few weeks ago, the 65 ELCA synod bishops unanimously decided to tithe their economic stimulus rebates to ministries among people living in poverty. Why did they do this?

- ✘ “The economic stimulus rebate is an unexpected windfall for us to be a blessing.”
- ✘ “By giving it to ministries among people living in poverty, it will benefit them and the economy as we place dollars into the hands of those best positioned to spend money in their communities.”
- ✘ “The majority of the checks will be distributed in May, 2008, giving us an opportunity to make a big impact in a short period of time.”
- ✘ “We have been ‘*Blessed to Be a Blessing*’ to others.”
- ✘ “Jesus encourages, even expects, that we give to those in need.”

However we choose to enter into this, as God’s people, we remember that everything we are and have comes from God. How might we carry this witness into as many congregations as possible?

- ✘ **Our spirits will be joyful.** Live into “responsible stewardship, justice, and a deep and abiding concern for the marginalized in our society and in our world.”
- ✘ **Our organization will be simple.** Invite all members to help decide on three to five groups of people in need, for whom God can use our sharing to bring about life-changing blessings.
- ✘ **Our gifts will be given to God** through the congregations. The congregations will distribute the gifts to their desired destinations.

Blessed to Be A Blessing: Some Ministries among People in Poverty

(Examples of possible recipients. Contributions can be sent by congregations directly to these ministries, or routed through the synod office, if it is simpler to do so.)

- ★ **The ELCA World Hunger Appeal** – A much respected effort that addresses hunger and poverty domestically and internationally.
- ★ **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)** – Currently undergoing a second appeal for the Gulf Coast Recovery Project.
- ★ **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)** – A partner ministry of ELCA that is doing quality accompaniment and advocacy of refugees and immigrants.
- ★ **A Lutheran social ministry that serves low income families and individuals** – These Lutheran agencies provide various training and services so that low income individuals can sustain themselves.
- ★ **Congregations in your community or synod** – perhaps you know of a congregation that ministers in a low income community for whom an unexpected gift might be a turn-around.

Whatever you decide, keep it simple. Thank you for your generous response. As you decide what you will do, “do all to the glory of God.”

Assurance of the Ascension

After the Resurrection, the risen Lord instructed his followers not to leave Jerusalem. It was there, Jesus said, that they would receive “the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4, NRSV). What was that promise? It was that they would be baptized not with water but with the Holy Spirit.

Shortly after that utterance, Jesus was “lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (v. 9).

The Ascension reminds us that even though Jesus isn’t physically present on earth, as the living Christ, he is as near as we allow him to be.

Jesus’ Ascension offers us the assurance that God is now available to all people all the time. He lives as a guiding, loving Spirit in our midst.

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

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

Ruth M. Eickhoff
Marge Gathman
Irma Overhulse
Alfred "Petey" Ruetz

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

Carl Bockelman (#319)

Otterbein Portage Valley (Avalon by Otterbein, 3533 Rivers Edge Dr Rm 106, Perrysburg OH 43551)

Hildegarde Reiser

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Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - Ted Rohrs
Women of the ELCA President - Nancy Schink
Prayer Chain Co-ordinator - Carol Castello (419-592-0847 or cjcast@embarqmail.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 -
Altar Guild Chairman - Andrea 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

WELCA News

Nancy Schink

Ladies,

Spring is such a glorious time of year! If you haven't been out much due to our on-again, off-again winter weather, now is the time to get active again!

Attend any Circle meeting, come to our June WELCA picnic (*) or come to mid-week Communion the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Montpelier was the site for the Spring Assembly on April 5th. Rita Schweinhagen, Martha Young and I represented Emanuel. Pastor John Crilley gave the devotions and the Treasure Seekers were the guest speakers.

Newly-elected Maumee Valley Conference Officers that day were Sue McKibben, vice present; Carolyn Schlade, secretary; and Ruth Fuhrhop, mission action again.

I'm pleased to report that all of our wandering hymnals purchased by and for WELCA have been located and returned to the basement.

Mark your calendars for our June meeting and potluck picnic on the 5th at 6:30 p.m. Also invite a friend or two to come along.

I leave you with these points to ponder:

Nothing just happens!

Happy moments, praise God.

Difficult moments, seek God.

Quiet moments, worship God

Painful moments, trust God.

Every moment, thank God.

- (*) WELCA Picnic/General Meeting will be held on June 5, 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Speaker will be Cheryl Robbins from the Center for Child and Family Advocacy.

Church Council Highlights - April 21, 2008

- * Recipients of the Giving Donation Center for the next three months are the following: Sara's Garden (May), NW Ohio Hospice (June), and Filling Home of Mercy (July). Sara's Garden is an organization in Wauseon which supports Jackson's House, a facility to house individuals whose family members are receiving treatment.
- * The Fifth Sunday Event held on March 30 was considered a success. One hundred half chickens were ordered at a cost of \$320.00; the freewill offering collected \$278.00. Another Fifth Sunday Event is being planned by the Congregational Life Board for June 29 with a potluck and cookout at Castello's home.
- * The Doctrine & Worship Board has prepared a list of items suitable as memorial gifts. This list will soon be available for review.
- * Thursday evening worship services have been well attended to date, with an average of 30 people in attendance. During summer Thursday night services, Pastor Castello will preach a sermon instead of having an interactive Bible study.
- * Gospel Hymn Sundays will be observed at the 1st service on May 4 and the 2nd service on May 11. In addition, the Doctrine and Worship Board is tentatively planning an Art Show for sometime in July.
- * Paying off personal loans continued in March at a rate of 15 percent of the loan balance.
- * On Sunday, May 11, Mother's Day, a Door Offering will be taken for the Building Fund.
- * The Catechism Retreat was considered a success. The last catechism class was held on April 23.
- * The theme of combined Summer Sunday School will be "Friendship."
- * The last session of After School Club was held April 30.
- * A community Vacation Bible School is planned for June 16 through 19, sponsored by the downtown churches and will be held at St. Paul's Methodist Church. The closing program will be held June 21 at the Fairgrounds. Theme of this community Bible School will be "God's Big Backyard." Emanuel will be responsible for puppets and the opening and closing activities; these responsibilities will be handled by the Education Board.
- * Emanuel will also hold its Vacation Bible School from July 27 to August 1. "Cosmic City" will be the theme, and invitations to participate in Bible School will be sent to Emanuel's kids.
- * Emanuel's Good News Preschool's Carnival will be held May 2.
- * Council accepted Brian and Dea Plummer and daughter, Hannah, as members of Emanuel, upon transfer from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Toledo, as well as release from St. Paul Lutheran in Napoleon.

- * Two new computers will be purchased for Pat and Angela. Investigation will take place on cost and type of computers to be purchased.
- * An information meeting and discussion will be held in September (date to be determined) to discuss having early communion for baptized Emanuel members who are in 5th grade. Pastor Castello will provide more information in the August newsletter regarding early Communion.

Soul Food Finale

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming menus for the last 2 weeks of Soul Food:

May 7 - Grilled Chicken, Rice Pilaf

May 14 - Emanuel Men's Night (as in MEN do the cooking!) – Grill-out
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs; Mohring's World-Famous Potato Salad and
Macaroni Salad

Membership News

Funeral Pastor Castello conducted the funeral for Dennis Schroeder, brother of Leota Pedraza, on March 29 here at Emanuel.

On April 13, Pastor Castello conducted the funeral for Pauline A. Thompson here.

Please remember their families in your prayers.

Birth Rami Miller Holt was born to Cody & Haley (Miller) Holt on April 5. Grandparents are Jeff & Wanda (Panning) Miller. Proud Great grandmother is Arleta Panning. Congratulations to all!

Marriage Tricia Vajen and Jerry Roth were married on March 4. Tricia & Kylie now live at 765 Hemlock, Wauseon.

Transfer Church Council has accepted the transfer of Brian Plummer and daughter, Hannah, from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, and of Dea Plummer from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Toledo. Welcome to the Plummers! Their address is: 6124 US Hwy 6, McClure, OH 43534.

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

Notes from Angela

Choir

We will be holding our end-of-the-year choir party on Wednesday, May 21 at the home of Nancy Schink. Meat and beverages will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Party starts at 6:30!

After School Club/Rainbow Ringers/Cherub Choir

The children took their show on the road last month and entertained the residents of Northcrest Nursing Home with songs and bells. They also enjoyed an end-of-the-year trip to the park for play and treats. We look forward to many more great times next fall. A big thank you to all involved with the program; the children certainly enjoy the time spent at church!

Gospel Hymn Sunday

May 4, 8:00 service

May 11, 10:30 service

Come and enjoy old-time favorite hymns and special music by the choir!

Emanubells Practice

Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

We will play a song for Mother's Day on May 11.

Looking ahead...

Since June is the traditional month for weddings and graduation, many of the prelude and postlude songs will be songs that are played for these occasions. Maybe you have a special request for a song from your own wedding?

*I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise
to my God while I have my being. Psalm 104:33*

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2008
7:30 P.M.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Bloodmobile Dates

Wednesday, May 7, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Holgate High School
Tuesday, May 13, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Napoleon Curves (appt. only)
Monday, May 19, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Henry County Hospital (appt. only)
Thursday, May 29, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Double-Red Mini-Drive (appt. only) at Henry Co Red Cross
Saturday, May 31, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Harley-Davidson Sales & Service, Napoleon

Hospice of Henry County Auxiliary Bazaar

The 3rd Annual Hospice of Henry County Bazaar is being held Thursday, May 8th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Napoleon American Legion on Glenwood Avenue. If you would be able to assist with the fundraiser by either donating items for the live or silent auction, craft items, baked goods for the day of the bazaar, or volunteering to help, please call Hospice at 419-599-5612. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds go directly to assisting Hospice patients and family with medication and respite expenses.

HOPE Services Spring Chicken Barbeque

The Henry County Association for Retarded Citizens (HARC) will be sponsoring HOPE Services' Spring Chicken Barbeque on Sunday, May 4 at HOPE School, J-169, St Rt 65, McClure. Proceeds will benefit HARC. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. through 1 p.m. with the chicken being prepared by Harlan's of Pandora. This year's menu will include ½ chicken, baked potato, applesauce, choice of dessert, roll and beverage. Carryouts are available. Dinner tickets will be sold PRESALE ONLY for a price of \$7.00 each. Tickets are available by calling HOPE Services at 419-278-3050 or 419-599-2892.

A mother's patience

A man observed a woman in the grocery store with a 3-year-old girl in her basket. As they passed the cookie section, the child asked for cookies and her mother told her "No." The little girl immediately began to whine and fuss. The mother said quietly, "Now, Ellen, we just have a few more aisles to go; don't be upset. It won't be long."

The man passed the mother again in the candy aisle. Of course, the little girl began to shout for candy. When she was told she couldn't have any, she began to cry. The mother said, "There, there, Ellen, don't cry. Only two more aisles to go, and then we'll be checking out."

Later, the man happened to be behind the pair at the checkout, where the little girl immediately began to clamor for gum and burst into a terrible tantrum upon discovering there would be no gum purchased today. The mother patiently said, "Ellen, we'll be through this check out stand in five minutes, and then you can go home and have a nice nap."

The man decided to compliment the mother. "I couldn't help noticing how patient you were with little Ellen." "Ellen?" said the mother, "I'm Ellen. My little girl's name is Tammy!"

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
March 20 (7:30 p.m.)	140	137	\$ 1,225.00 Bldg Fd - \$25 *Bldg Fd mem - \$25
March 21 (7:30 p.m.)	137		\$ 651.00
March 23	284 + 142 (426)	106	\$ 6,513.25 Bldg Fd - \$1560 *Bldg Fd mem - \$40 Good Sam Fd - \$55 World Hunger - \$45
March 27 (7:30 p.m.)	21		
March 30	92 + 133 (225)		\$ 3,544.32 Bldg Fd - \$60 World Hunger - \$5
April 3 (7:30 p.m.)	33		
April 6	118 + 71 (189)	116	\$ 5,687.11 Bldg Fd - \$ 780 World Hunger - \$20 Good Sam Fd - \$50
April 10 (7:30 p.m.)	30		
April 13	104 + 113 (217)	101	\$ 6,495.76 Bldg Fd - \$290 World Hunger - \$5 Good Sam - \$1505.50
April 17 (7:30 p.m.)	31	29	
April 20	114 + 129 (243)		\$ 4,150.00 Bldg Fd - \$100 World Hunger - \$5

* 3/20 Virgil Zachrich - \$25

3/23 Christine Rath - \$30

Robert Long - \$10

Worship participants in May

Ushers

8:00 Bob Dennie, Lee Weirauch,
Mike Yaney, Steve Kloos
10:30 Matt Mt.Castle, Bill Panning,
Ken Lange, Mark Tonjes

Altar Guild

Jeanette Damman & Donna Meyers

Acolytes

8:00 Nick Rohrs, Nathan Rohrs
10:30 Clayton Burken, Chandler Burken

Lay assistants

8:00 Martha Young
10:30 Tom Jenny

Altar Flowers

May 4 - Ruth Eickhoff in loving memory of Norb & Joel Eickhoff
- Ron & Janis Dachenhaus in honor of their 46th wedding anniversary
May 11 - Bob Showman & family in loving memory of Dee
- Shirlee & Nelson Fejes in loving memory of Trey Fejes
- Chad & Joleen Brubaker in honor of their 12th wedding anniversary
May 18 - Charlotte Wangrin
May 25 - Virginia Dillon

Open date:
November 2

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.

Vacation Bible School 2008

Twice the FUN for everyone!

This year we will have TWO Vacation Bible School opportunities!

The first one ...
June 16 - 19 and June 21

We have been invited to join the other downtown churches to explore God's Big Backyard: where kids have a blast serving Jesus! This is a combined VBS with St. Augustine, First Presbyterian Church, and the St. Paul Methodist Church.

We will meet at the Methodist Church (by the Post Office) on June 16-19 from 6:00 - 8:00 to learn about service and how we can all do our part in God's world.

The closing program will be June 21. We'll meet at the fairgrounds for a cook-out and a community program. You won't want to miss this - registration forms will be available beginning May 11.

The second one ...

will be our regular VBS program here at Emanuel **July 27 - August 1**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

We will blast off every evening at Cosmic City. We will explore the awesome wonder of God as we travel around the galaxy. Registration forms will be available beginning June 22.

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