

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
Volume XXXIII No. 10
November 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

Influences on my Christian life have included many people who have nurtured my faith. One could say my "faith journey" began when my Lutheran ancestors came to America in the early 1800's, some from Germany and some from England. Not only do I have a strong Lutheran heritage, I also have a strong Lutheran clergy influence on my life, since both my grandfathers were Lutheran pastors, three of my uncles, as well as my husband. My dad started out in a pre-seminary curriculum at Capital University but his love of physics and chemistry took him in another direction, although he always had a strong interest and curiosity about the Bible. Dad was a strong man of faith and had a very positive influence on my life, both in word and by example.

A very strong influence on my early Christian life was my maternal grandmother who taught me the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm at a very early age. I can still remember my excitement at receiving the very small pamphlets containing these to memorize, even though I couldn't read yet. Holidays were usually spent with my maternal grandparents where my Grandfather

Hernstein had an ALC Church in Lancaster, not far from our home in Westerville, now a suburb of Columbus. I can still visualize the darkened church early Christmas morning when services were held at 6:30 a.m. My favorite Bible story as a young child is from II Kings, the 5th chapter. This is the story of Naaman, commander of the Syrian Army, who was healed of his leprosy by Elisha. A young Israelite slave girl who served Naaman's wife suggested Namman see Elisha.

Catechism classes with Pastor Alvin Drewes at Grace Lutheran in Westerville (he was born in Henry County near Napoleon) were quite interesting to me. We used the old Dell blue catechism, and I remember what a good teacher he was and the individualized classes I had since the other two students had poor attendance. Singing in the choir also started in my early teen years, since my dad was choir director, and it was a "family requirement" to sing in the choir along with always attending church on Sundays.

One of the first really traumatic experiences of my life was moving to Tennessee my senior year in high school, since my dad's company

relocated there. Obviously I lived through the experience but it seems moving has always been hard since that first move from my childhood home. However, a mere 14 months after moving to Tennessee, I was off to college at Capital University in Columbus. Attending Capital was a family tradition, since both my parents graduated from Capital, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins. Twelve hours of religion classes were required, as well as attendance at chapel. I really liked my religion classes but didn't particularly like having mandatory chapel. Early in my college career, I told myself I would NEVER date a seminarian since I didn't ever want to be a "pastor's wife." God, it seems, had other plans for my life, and I fell in love with a seminarian and married him upon graduation from college and his graduation from seminary.

I can't say that being a pastor's wife has not had its "ups and downs" over the years and that I haven't resented people's expectations of what I should do and be as the wife of the pastor. I have tried to keep my own individual personality and be involved in what I really enjoy in the church. The moves have been difficult for me, since once I settle down in a place, I find it very difficult to leave people I know and love and start all over again.. These moves have included Bob's first call in western Iowa, then back to Ohio, then to

west again to Minnesota, and back to Ohio in 1989. Bob's resignation at St. Peter in Ridgeville Corners in the summer of 1998 was very difficult for us, but God took care of us, as always, and Bob found much enjoyment in interim ministry.

My work as the Behavior Specialist at the Filling Home for the past 18 years has been truly fulfilling, as well as challenging. The residents give us staff much more than we give them. I truly feel I was "led" to Filling and my work there – that this work was a part of God's plan for my life. Prior to beginning work at Filling, I had no previous experience with the MR/DD population.

Years ago my mother gave me a small sign which still hangs on my refrigerator. It says "Good Morning! This is God. I will take charge of your problems today. I will not need your help. Have a nice day!" Yes, I need to be daily reminded of what this sign conveys. My old nature wants to be in control, and I admit I am a "worry wart." As the saying goes, "God isn't finished with me yet," for which I am most grateful.

Betsy Mix

Healing Service

November 9, 2008, 4:00 p.m.

This service is for healing of every kind, whether physical, spiritual, or emotional. As Christians, we believe God is the source of wholeness in our lives. Therefore, it is appropriate for us to conduct prayers for wholeness and healing. Some of us need healing from broken relationships; some of us need healing from psychological distress; some of us need the gift of physical healing. None of us is exempt from needing God's healing presence in our lives. Plan to attend our healing service to receive the kind of healing you need.

All Saints Sunday - November 2

Celebrate with us the lives of all believers who have died in the faith and our own ancestors and relatives. Members of our congregation and others who have died in the preceding 12 months will be remembered by name in the prayers on this day.

*Arlene Ziegler
Don Walters
Jim Sosebee
Miriam Smith*

*Mary Thompson
Walter Arps
Shirley Casteel
Margaret Fahy*

*Christine Rath
Dennis Schroeder
Pauline Thompson
Timothy Davis
Martha Ritter*

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteer bell ringers at Wal Mart. If you are willing to volunteer for that duty, you may either inform Pastor Castello or call the Salvation Army directly at 419/599-2769.

Salute to Veterans – November 9

On November 9 at both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 services we want to have a recognition of our veterans. We want to acknowledge you and have you tell us in which branch of service you served and the years and location of service.

If a veteran cannot attend that day, please let us know at the church office so that we can read your name in your absence.

Thank you for your service to our country. We look forward to seeing you on the 9th.

Early Communion

Today a majority of ELCA congregations invite members to participate in Holy Communion before they are confirmed. Here at Emanuel, we are going to offer that opportunity to children 5th grade and higher beginning in January.

At least one parent and the child will be asked to take a 3 session class as an introduction to the gifts and blessings of this sacrament. If, following the sessions, the parent(s), Pastor and child feel the child is ready, he or she is welcome to receive communion.

You will receive notice of the times of the sessions in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, please let Pastor know of any interest or questions you may have.

Furniture Bank

The Defiance County Furniture Bank is reaching out to Henry County to be a partner with them. We are in need of drivers/trucks and workers to occasionally pick up furniture from donors and deliver them to the warehouse. The volunteers will also occasionally pick up furniture from the warehouse and deliver them to people here in Henry County.

They have the facility and organizational make-up. We need willing volunteers.

I would like to have a pool of people that I could call upon here and there for help with this ministry. Please give it some prayerful consideration and let me know if you are willing to help.

Pastor

Filling Home Membership Drive

It's that time again! Dues are \$1.00; however, more will be accepted. This is for active and inactive members. You may turn your money in to Pat Mohring at the church office along with your complete mailing address and phone number or you may place it in the offering plate as soon as possible!

Sunday School News

The Sunday School children will sing "Yes Lord" and "Awesome God"
at 10:25 on Sunday, November 2.

Christmas Program

A big thank you to Darlene Bostelman and Melinda Dachenhaus for directing the Christmas Program this year. Parts and practice schedules will be coming home soon.

Help Wanted

We are looking for a pianist to play songs
during Sunday School openings 9:15 - 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested, please contact
Laura Ellis 419/592-4612 or ellkrus@wcnet.org.

Wanted: Advent Devotions

Christmas is coming ... which means it is time for our Advent devotion booklets! These will be another collection of brief "essays" or reflections on what this most blessed time of year is all about, written by you and for you, our Church Family of Emanuel.

How do you prepare for the coming of the Christ Child? Do you have any special "traditions" for Christmas each year? What special memories do you have that make Christmas meaningful to you? What does Christ's birth mean to you?

We hope to have enough submissions for a devotion each day of the Advent Season, which begins with the First Sunday in Advent, November 30. Please submit yours to the Church Office by November 16.

Fifth Sunday in November – November 30
A “Journey to Bethlehem”
from 1 to 3 p.m.

The fifth Sunday in November is also the first Sunday in Advent, and to begin to prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ Child, we are offering a “Journey to Bethlehem.” From 1 to 3 p.m. that afternoon, the sanctuary will be open for a time of quiet prayer and meditation with our own Angela Tonjes providing beautiful music of the season as background. On display will be a varied collection of nativity sets from our Emanuel Family and around the world (please see Carol Castello if you have one to loan for this!). The manger will be empty at the altar, awaiting your special gifts of free-will offering. Downstairs we’re hoping to have some cookies and coffee available then as you browse an “alternative gift fair”. Don’t know what to get for that person who has everything? Stumped as to what to give that someone who needs nothing? This is a special opportunity for you to give gifts that make a difference through the ELCA World Hunger Program, Lutheran World Relief, SERRV, Church World Service, and our own “Angel Tree” for Project: We Care.

Before the hustle and bustle of December and after the food and the flourish of Thanksgiving, you are invited to pause and pray, relax and reflect, care and share, and enjoy the gentle peace and quiet joy to prepare for the “reason for the season.”

Thursday night services

7:30 p.m.

through November 20.

Holy Communion will be offered November 20.

WELCA News

Nancy Schink

The reaction to the September soap collection was outstanding! We received 192 bars of soap! It was truly an out-giving to those in need.

So, along with 8 Health Kits, 5 School Kits, 5 Sewing Kits, 3 Fabric Kits, 6 Layettes and 48 Quilts, the soap will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you, thank you for caring and for your generosity for the soap, the kits and the hours spent making quilts (thanks to the guys who help out, too).

Coming events and a time change to make note of:

Our December 4th general meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., not 7:30 p.m.

At 7:00 the new and old officers will be installed, followed by a brief Thankoffering Service and meeting. Then there will be carols and some fun activities and a white elephant gift exchange.

A white elephant is something you no longer want, like, or have use for. Do not go purchase anything! Wrap your gift in holiday paper with no name on it and bring it to church with your Thankoffering and regular offering. It is great fun to see what everyone ends up with and no one knows who brought it.

Last, but not least, some Christmas season refreshments and fellowship. Mark the time change on your calendar and invite a friend.

You still have a few days to return your Missionary envelope; if you've misplaced it, just write the word "missionary" on a plain envelope and put it in the offering plate or leave it at the church office.

Happy Thanksgiving and may every day remind you of our many, many blessings.

Club Christ **High School Youth**

-Holly Mohring

Thank you all so much for your help with the Harvest Home Luncheon!! We were able to raise \$251 towards our New Orleans trip, so thanks must also go to you, our very generous congregation! Special thanks to Congregational Life for donating the free will donations to us and for their expertise in the kitchen and allowing us to feel helpful. Our fall has just begun!

We have a service project planned for November 8, 2008 when we will be raking leaves. We will need all the help we can get!!

We will also be making subs for our annual OSU vs UM sub sale. Subs will once again be assembled at Mohring's Cash & Carry on the south side of Napoleon on Saturday, November 22 at 8 a.m. Our goal this year is to

increase our usual sales of 100 subs to 125!! The price will be \$6 for a sub, chips and homemade treat. Assembly in the past has lasted approximately 2 hours, and we WILL have you home in time for the game!!!

There is also a brunch in December that we will be serving and cleaning up after. We will be having a Christmas party the Friday night before to set up, eat some pizza and hang out together. Like all events, the Christmas party is open to **ALL** high school youth, NOT just those attending the National Youth Gathering, so *please* consider joining us!!

I will be keeping in touch with you as these events draw closer, so keep your eyes peeled! Thanks so much for all you've already done, and in advance for all I know you'll do in the future!!

November Bloodmobile Schedule

Wednesday, November 5, 1 - 7 p.m. at Liberty Center High School

Thursday, November 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Napoleon Rotary @ Oberhaus Park

Monday, November 17, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Henry County Hospital

*** We still have some of the beautiful Emanuel Notecards available in the church office. They are \$5 for a packet of 12. ***

Notes from Angela

Thank you

Thank you to all the musicians, soup makers, cleaner-uppers and bulletin maker for all your did for our successful luncheon/concert in October. The people who attended were truly blessed by the event!

Rainbow Ringers

We now have 15+ children attending After School Club and ringing bells! We enjoyed hearing them ring in church in late October.

Adult Choir

We started rehearsing Christmas music last month in preparation for our Christmas Cantata. Practices continue on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary at 6:30.

Choir members – please bring in one dozen cookies for mass choir rehearsal on November 26.

November Music Events

- November 2, All Saints Sunday
trumpets at both services, hymns will have an “improvisational feel”
- November 9, Veteran Recognition
at both services, Armed Forces patriotic hymn
- November 16, Symphony of Trees
Emanuel Bell Choir is the feature entertainment at the morning brunch.
Angela will play harp in the early afternoon.
- November 26, Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:30 p.m. (AT Emanuel)
special music including two mass choir songs, bell choir, trumpets, etc.
- November 29 (Saturday)
decorate church for Christmas
- November 30
Nativity Walk, 2 hours of Christmas piano music by Angela

CDs (featuring Emanuel musicians) will be available at the end of November for stocking stuffers. Free will donations will benefit our National Youth Gathering-bound teenagers.

Christmas Tree Angels

We would like to decorate the large Christmas tree in the sanctuary with angels this year. We would like to have at least one ornament from each family. You can bring your ornaments in anytime in November and place them on the table in the overflow. You can also bring them to church on November 30 and place them on the tree yourself. They will remain on the tree throughout the season. We hope to have MANY angel ornaments to cover our big tree!

Thank you!

- ❑ Dear friends at Emanuel, Thank you for all the prayers for my nephew Steven over the past 9 years. And thank you for all your support of me through his last days. Even though his life was short, and though he is already missed, I find comfort in believing that there is nothing - not even death - that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. And I rejoice with Steven as I know life for him has just begun as he now lives forever with his friend, Jesus, in the glorious heavenly kingdom. Thank you, Pastor Castello, for covering for me so I could visit Steven during his final days and be with my family. Thanks again, everyone, for all your love and support. -Denise Brown

- ❑ Thank you for all the Vacation Bible School Supplies. We had a great time building the ark like Noah and making beautiful rainbows. Thank you again. -The Residents of Filling Home

- ❑ The Adult Handbell Choir would like to thank Jeannie and Ron Wiechers and the family of Phyllis Spieth for their kindness and generosity for the recent donation of 2 octaves of handbells and music to our choir. We have such a generous and supportive congregation that makes it so enjoyable for us to be able to bring God's word to you through our music. Whether it is gifts of money, materials or complimentary words, everything is very much appreciated. Thank you again. -Members of the Adult Handbell Choir

- ❑ Thank you to everyone that sent cards or wished us well on our 50th wedding anniversary. -Donna Lee & Ron Meyers

- ❑ Thank you to Angela and to our Vocal and Bell Choirs for their amazing concert on the 19th! Music is one of God's greatest gifts to his people, and we are indeed blessed to have such talented and giving musicians among us! -the congregation

- ❑ We would like to thank everyone for their cards and well wishes for our 70th wedding anniversary. -Gale & Hilda Nye

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

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
Florian Sauer

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

Carl Bockelman (#319)
Ruth M. Eickhoff (#410)
Minnie Meineke (#320)

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

Hildegard Reiser

EMANUEL GOOD NEWS, a monthly publication of the Emanuel Lutheran Church
810 Scott Street, P.O. Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545 (419-592-2616) emanuel@bright.net
www.emanuelnapoleon.org
Pastor - James L. Castello (419-592-0847) jameslcastello@yahoo.com
Missionaries to Hong Kong - Pastor John & Barbara LeMond
Congregation President - 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 - Laura Ellis-Kruse
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

from the Congregational Life Board

Giving/donation Corner

Thank you to everyone who donated this past month to the Lutheran Home. The collection for November will benefit the Christmas Cheer program. Christmas Cheer is a county-wide program that distributes food to families in need during the holiday season. Sorting will take place at the AmVets Post 1313 at 1245 North Scott Street in Napoleon on Tuesday, December 9, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers are always welcomed for this undertaking. Needed for the Cheer Baskets are:

Canned vegetables, fruits, soup, stews, meats
Macaroni & cheese mixes, spaghetti
Spaghetti sauces, tomato juice, broths
Noodles, macaroni, rice, spaghetti
Potato mixes, stuffing mixes
Cereals, pancake mixes, syrups

Crackers, peanut butter, jelly
Pudding, jello, cake mixes, frostings
Fruit juices, coffee, tea, kool-aid
Chocolate drink mixes
Toilet tissue, facial tissue, paper towels
Bar soap, toothpaste, shampoo

* PLEASE NO MICROWAVE ITEMS AND NO HOME-CANNED ITEMS

* PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES ON ALL FOOD PRODUCTS.

4th Annual Henry County CROP Hunger Walk ... so far ...

As of Walk Day on October 5, we had a total of 33 Walkers collecting a total of \$1,300.00. That amount has increased now to at least \$2,045, which means that roughly \$511 will be returned to Henry County for Christmas Cheer and 5 other local food pantries! We actually had fewer Walkers (although 27 of the 33 were from Emanuel!), but raised more money this year than last! And whatever we have raised is more than if we hadn't done it at all, and every bit of it helps someone somewhere who is hungry somehow, so ... THANK YOU for your wonderful support! SPECIAL THANKS to Ted and Dora Titgemeyer for their gracious hospitality in opening their home to us all and to all of you who baked cookies for the midway rest stop.

Mark your calendars now for NEXT year's CROP Hunger Walk – the 1st Sunday in October – October 4, 2009!

Membership News

Baptism Jacob Josef, son of Andy & Becky (Castello) Aelker, was baptized on Sunday, September 28. Jacob's sponsors are Rachel Castello Dunn, Emily Jordan, Adam Aelker, and Tony Aelker.

On Sunday, November 2 we will witness the baptism of Jorja Pearl, daughter of Mandrea & Shane Cowle. Jorja's sponsors are Jeffery Perry, and Jeffery and Kendra Keasler.

New members Welcome to Rob & Jenny (Heuer) Perdeu & children, Thea & Caleb who have transferred here from Trinity Lutheran Church in Wauseon.

Weddings On September 20 Pastor Castello officiated at the wedding of Michael L. Knox and Amber Renee Hoover in Napoleon. On October 13 Pastor officiated at the marriage of Marty Nelson and Stacy Zimmer in Columbus.
On November 1 Mike Lange and Sunny Cooper will be united in marriage at Emanuel. Congratulations and God's blessing to these newly married couples.

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.

Soul Food "Stirrings"

Our weekly Wednesday gatherings continue to provide good food and great fellowship for all each week, serving from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. No sign-up is required, and EVERYONE is welcome! Welcomed, too, are willing hands to bring salads and desserts each week or help with the shopping or the cooking or the clean-up!

The finger-lickin'-good meals for November are:

November 5 - Meat Loaf, Ham Loaf, Au Gratin Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables

November 12 - Baked Potato Bar!

November 19 - Chicken & Dressing, Green Beans

November 26 - Soups (Chicken Noodle, Chili, Vegetable), Hot Chicken Sandwiches and Hot Dogs

December 3 - Pizza Night!

News from around the Synod and the Community

Celebrating Christmas at the Filling Fall Fling

Come join the excitement of the Filling Fall Fling on Saturday, November 1, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., sponsored by the Filling Home Women's Guild to be held in the Activity Center at the Filling Home. This fun filled event will feature live entertainment, including the Happy Times Polka Band, accordionist Howard Rayle, a magician, games for the kids, and face painting with clowns Skittles & Snickers. There will be good food, serving brats, sauerkraut, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, homemade pies, and soft drinks. There will also be a Bake Sale. It's fun for the whole family!

There is no charge for admission, with freewill offerings accepted for the food and entertainment. A silent auction, containing many handmade craft items and donated merchandise, will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. with a live auction beginning at 2:00 p.m. For a listing and pictures of the auction items check out our website at www.fillinghome.org. All proceeds will go to support the Filling Home Adaptive Equipment and Resident Assistance Fund.

Donations of pies and other baked goods are still needed. Call Nancy Busby (419-592-6539) or Ellen Lange (419-592-6716) if you are willing to help.

Mark your calendar, invite your friends, and plan to attend.

Lutheran Home Auxiliary Tree of Lights

You are invited to join fellow Christians with your "helping hands and loving hands" by honoring/remembering a loved one with a name on the ribbon to help decorate the "Christmas Tree of Lights" at The Lutheran Home in Napoleon. Through a \$10 donation, your loved one's name will be placed on a ribbon decorating the tree of lights in his/her honor or memory and will be mentioned at the tree lighting ceremony. The tree will remain lit throughout the holiday season. The lighting ceremony will take place at The Lutheran Home on Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. Please use the form available on the bulletin board outside the church office to make your contribution. Deadline is November 24.

Statistics

Date	Attendance	Communed	Offerings
September 18 (7:30 p.m.)	25	25	
September 21	120 + 122 (242)		\$ 4,804.75 Bldg Fd - \$120 Good Sam Fd - \$30 World Hunger - \$60
September 25 (7:30)	20		
September 28	129 + 133 (262)		\$ 4,088.14 Bldg Fd - \$30 World Hunger - \$37 Good Sam Fd - \$50
October 2 (7:30)	15		
October 5	130 + 113 (243)	123	\$ 6,530.93 Bldg Fd - \$675 *mem to Bldg Fd - \$20 World Hunger - \$5
October 8		1	
October 9 (7:30)	14		
October 12	68 + 115 (183)	100	\$ 4,256.00 Bldg Fd - \$160 Good Sam Fd - \$75 World Hunger - \$27
October 16 (7:30)	24	22	
October 19	99 + 124 (223)		\$ 5,240.00 Bldg Fd - \$205 World Hunger - \$105 Good Sam Fd - \$50

October 5 - \$20 memorial to Building Fund (Roger Alexander)

Remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour on November 2.

Worship participants in November

Acolytes

8:00 Blake Biederstedt & Nathan Rohrs
10:30 Jacob Skeens & Hannah Plummer

Lay Assistants

8:00 Ted Rohrs
10:30 Beth Jenny

Ushers

8:00 Ed Biederstedt, Tiffany Biederstedt,
Richard Landversicht, Mike Yaney
10:30 Karl Wiechers, Alan Storch,
Terry Walther, Rupert Schweinhagen

Altar Guild

Julie Callaway & Diana Zachrich

Altar Flowers

November 2 - Kevin & Kathy Sonnenberg in celebration of Peyton Yaw's 2nd birthday

November 9 - In loving memory fo Vernon Rohrs by his family

November 16 - Shirlee & Nelson Fejes in loving memory of Michael Fejes

- Ruth Bahler in loving memory of Edwin

November 23 - Norm & Kathy Bostelman

November 30 - Joe & Julie Kohout in celebration of their 15th wedding anniversary

The 2009 flower chart will be available on October 27. Pick your date and sign up early!

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.

Thoughts for Veterans Day

Abraham Lincoln gave his second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, as the Civil War was raging. He said, "Fondly do we hope — fervently do we pray — that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away."

Lincoln's next paragraph is especially appropriate for Veterans Day:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

When President Lincoln finished his classic oration, he reportedly kissed the Bible and left the platform. He was assassinated the next month.

A Pastoral Letter from the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Grace and peace to you.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are deeply concerned about the current financial crisis, which is affecting not only our nation but the entire global economy. This crisis is causing fear and loss in our country as thousands of families face unemployment, foreclosure, and uncertainty about savings and pensions. Meanwhile, they struggle to put food on the table and gas into their cars. The future is uncertain for all of us, but it is especially frightening for those who are already vulnerable and struggling to survive. We offer our prayers for those whose lives are being affected and for our national leaders as they seek to address this complex matter.

We call on all people in our own communities of faith and those from every segment of our society who seek the health of our nation to join in conversation and prayer about our collective economic life, our financial behaviors, and the interconnectedness of all life and creation that cries out to be reclaimed.

This church has addressed the issues surrounding economic life in its social statement, “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All,” (www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Economic-Life.aspx), and we encourage the use of this statement as a way to understand more fully how the following theological and biblical principles are central as we respond to this situation.

Concern for People in Poverty

The constitution of the ELCA calls this church to serve by “standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.” (ELCA 4.02.c). We are grateful for the pastors and leaders in our congregations who already have stepped forward to care for those who are suffering, and we encourage them to continue this response and to provide leadership in the task of turning our attention to the causes and effects of this crisis. We are called to work toward an economic system that truly serves the common good and especially the needs of the poor. We look for partnership with all those who seek to address this financial crisis in a way that also recognizes the humanitarian issues involved.

Personal and Corporate Responsibility

The ELCA social statement on economic life calls for individuals to live responsibly and within their means and to beware of the dangers of over consumption and

unnecessary accumulation, which draw us beyond authentic need into excess and destructive indebtedness. We call on businesses and corporations of all sizes to consider the social implications of company policies and to practice good stewardship of creation (Genesis 1:26).

The Need for Good Government

We hold and teach that government has an instrumental and constructive role to play in our shared life. This role includes “limiting or countering narrow economic interests and promoting the common good” (“Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All,” p. 11). We call on government to hold corporations and other powerful economic actors accountable for the effects of their practices on workers, communities, and the environment.

The Benefits and Limits of Free Markets

For many people, the current market-based economy has proven to be effective as a system to meet material need, generate wealth, and create opportunity. However, we hold and teach that any economic system should be measured by the degree to which it serves God’s purposes for humankind and creation. Those who have been blessed by the fruits of our economy are called to be generous in giving to those who have lost much and to advocate for accountability and appropriate regulation in this system.

As people of the God who calls us out of fear into hope and community, we welcome all people into widespread and respectful discussion about this current crisis. In this way we can create partnerships that will help those whose lives are being shattered and encourage responsibility and integrity in our national economic life.

As people of faith we pray:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Conference of Bishops
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
October 7, 2008**