

Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church
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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.**

OUR WALK IN FAITH

By "our", I mean my wife and I will both contribute to this. Since she is still thinking about what to write, I will start.

I was born when I was 6 months old!! (I weighed 13 lbs plus according to the doctor). Poor Mom. It was on a farm with 7 older brothers and sisters around, which at times created some chaotic situations. Since my Dad was quite strict and had to keep order and calm in a large household, what were some of his methods.

At times it got physical, spanking and sometimes even more drastic measures, and another method was "drugs". That's right - drugs! From the oldest to the youngest (me), we were drug to church, drug to Sunday School, and drug to all church functions on a strict weekly basis.

So, thanks to Mom and Dad, at a very early age I started my walk of faith, confirmed at 13, youth meetings, etc. Oh, at times I thought it was not all that important. However, unless we were sick almost to the point of death, we were drug to church, like it or not! Now that method might go against the grain of some modern thinking, which

is to let the young people make up their own minds, if and when they want some kind of religion, faith, and God in their life. But I have seen the "drug" method work in the lives of my siblings, and it has worked in the lives of our 6 children. Some rebellion at times? Of course! But, when the tough times come in life, and everyone has some, and there seems to be nothing left but to lean on God and His grace, comfort and peace, then God seems to be enough, and it makes the burdens of this life much easier to bear.

So my walk in faith kept growing in my teens, and soon I met an interesting young lady from Wauseon. She was much too young (16 and in high school) to get serious about, but something kept drawing me back to Wauseon, and after several years of dating and courtship, I was afraid she might slip away, so I proposed and she accepted. Again, since she was only 18 when we married, I believe there was in some peoples' minds, "it won't last". But, we proved them wrong and will be celebrating 60 years of marriage next February.

I am sure that our "walk of faith" together in

those 60 years was the deciding factor that it “did” last. God and Jesus Christ and #1 in both of our lives, and to each other we are #2. Our “walk” has been strengthened by joining the Gideon and Auxiliary ministry and being involved with it for more than 30 years. The Gideons are in existence for only one reason, and that is to share God’s precious Word and witness to others of the love of Jesus and what He can do in a person’s life and what He has done for us. This has strengthened our prayer life, our devotional life, our witnessing, our marriage, and led us to be involved in jail and prison ministry for many years, in both adult and youth facilities.

So, our “walk” continues, especially here at Emanuel church. For how long? No one knows, but we know that nothing can separate us from God’s love through Jesus Christ – not life, death, height or depth, angels, or anything else we encounter here on earth (Romans 8:38-39, paraphrased somewhat). Looking back, it has been an interesting walk. Sometimes letting go of the hand of Jesus and going our own way. When we find out that does not work, we realize that Jesus is still there waiting for us to come back, and He welcomes us with open arms. Not a bad way to walk through life!!

Karl Weber



Well, my Walk of Faith” starts different from my husband’s! I was born near Delta, Ohio. I was told it was in the doorway between the parlor and dining room at my grandparent’s house. Does that give you a clue about me? I was the second child of 4. My parents were Christians, but my walk in faith probably started when I was baptized at 10 years of age. I was brought up in the Methodist Church in Wauseon and attended Sunday School and church occasionally there. My brother, who was 3 years older than I, was in a wheelchair at age 12, and my parents took me to church, but stayed home to care for him on Sundays also. (Sterling Creamery was just across the street from the church, and a great place to go if I felt like skipping church.)

To put it mildly, I was an independent child and made my own decisions; sometimes wrong! Before my Mother passed on, I was able to apologize to her for being so independent! But, I believe I had faith, even if I didn’t know it. It was probably on “hold” or may have been dormant. I believe I was a compassionate child as I helped my crippled brother, and even pushed him to high school in his wheelchair; only dumping him out once! And I believed in God and Jesus as my Savior, and I loved and cared for people, visiting

my “old” neighbors and had many friends. And just maybe, faith is love for others.

I always tried to “fix” things for others, but in time learned that I couldn’t and my independence waned and I learned to let the Lord take charge. I really believed in answered prayer when I was 10, my baby sister was born. Although I loved my two brothers, I prayed many times for a sister. She was a God-send and she was my constant care and companion. We were inseparable, and are still very close.

Now for the rest of the story! At the age of 16 I saw this good looking tall blonde young man (Lutheran). Not quite love at first sight. He was interested in tall blonde girls, and guess what? At that time I was a short brunette (then!). But, eventually we did fall in love. We decided to get married, with the stipulation that I would attend the Lutheran church with him. S-o-o-o, I became a Lutheran, as many others have, by marrying one, and after adult instruction became a Lutheran. My faith became more important and more meaningful when learning Luther’s catechism with all six of our children. (We had a 12, 13, 14, 15 year old and then another baby and 3 years later #6.)

My husband's family was a large part of my faith walk. They truly lived their faith and witnessed to others. My wonderful mother-in-law was a loving, truly Christian lady and accepted me like her own.

Emanuel Church is a part of my "faith walk". I truly love this church and all the people that are a part of it. (I would never think of skipping church here.) Bible reading and prayer have been and always will be a major part in our marriage. Through good times, and some rough spots, we know the Lord walks with us and sometimes has even carried us. He has said He will never leave

us. It's a joy and privilege to share the love of Jesus that we've found with others (especially our 20 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren).

One of my favorite lines from a hymn is "If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say he died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked, With judgment's dread alarms, You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms." The future? No one knows, but we know the One who holds the future!

Ona Waters

Catechism Orientation Meeting
Wednesday, September 2
6:30 p.m.
Please notify Pastor if you are
unable to attend this meeting.

Congratulations, Pastor Denise Brown!

On August 6-11 Denise Brown competed in the United States Masters National Swimming Championships in Indianapolis, IN. In this meet Brown placed 1st in the 400 and 800 freestyle; second in the 200 Butterfly and 400 Individual Medley, and 3rd in the 200 freestyle.

Brown teamed up with 3 other swimmers to compete in the 800 freestyle relay. Not only did they win this event, they broke the national record by over 5 seconds!

Giving/Donation Corner

A “bus-load” of THANKS for generous donations of school supplies and backpacks! For the month of September, our giving/donation corner efforts will be toward the CROP Hunger Walk. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the money raised by the Walk is returned back to Henry County to be distributed to local food pantries here in our own community. Last year, \$2,140 was raised, which resulted in \$535 being divided among Henry County Christmas Cheer, the Shalom Food Pantry in Holgate, the Caring Cupboard in Liberty Center, and the St. Vincent de Paul, Broken Bread, and St. John’s Episcopal food pantries here in Napoleon. Will you walk with us???

“We walk, because they walk.”

The “we” is the quote is us – and our friends, neighbors, and other caring people in hundreds of communities who walk each year in over 1,800 CROP Hunger Walks. The “they” are 840 million people who go to bed hungry every day. They are people just like you, but because of poverty, they must walk to accomplish the most basic tasks:

They walk for food.

They walk for water.

They walk for firewood.

They walk to escape violence,

They walk to seek shelter,

They walk to farm their fields.

They walk to find employment.

They walk to go to school.

A CROP Hunger Walk is fun, but it is also an opportunity to learn what millions of people have to do each day just to survive – they walk. When you walk in a CROP Hunger Walk, you walk with the world.

The 5th Annual Henry County CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, September 27, beginning and ending right here at Emanuel. To become a Walker or to sponsor our Walkers, please contact Carol Castello (419) 592-0847.

Membership News

Baptisms Loella Lindsay, daughter of Joe & Amanda Dilbone, was baptized on August 23. Loella's sponsors are Antoine & Rachel Childers, Natalie Hoover, Neal & Andrea Dilbone.

Weddings God's blessings to the following couples who were recently married:
-Jack Robbins & Paula Harms were married on July 25 at St. John Lutheran Church, Stryker.
-Kevin Perkins & Mariel DeMichiei were married by Pastor Castello at Nazareth Hall on August 1.
-Ryan Funchion & Hannah Callaway were married at Emanuel on August 15.
-James Campbell & Gloria Fonseca was married at Emanuel on August 23.

Funerals Pastor Castello officiated at the funeral of Bettie Maynard on August 6 at the Rodenberger Funeral Home.

New members We welcome to our church family Jeff & Terri Haase and sons, Tyler & Casey, who have transferred their membership from Bethlehem Lutheran in Okolona!

Congratulations to Randy & Deb Nation on the birth of a grandchild on July 22. His parents are Jerami and Lynette Nation and has a sister named Trinity.

Congratulations to Kathlean Ward on the birth of 2 great grandchildren: Aliza Faith was born June 1 to Joey Kieffer & his wife; Zoe Brooklyn was born to Brooke Carter & her husband on August 4.

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.

“Stuffed Tomatoes” = 1st Place!

And a “float-ful” of THANKS to everyone who helped us remind the community of “50 years of pageantry at the Henry County Fair...and Christ is KING!” with our 1st place award-winning float for the Tomato Festival Parade! From the kids who were so willing to be “stuffed” as our “tomatoes”; to the float designers, decorators, and/or candy passer-outers; to the driver; and to all of you who cheered for us along the route – it was a fun way to spread God’s love to Henry County (and we heard LOTS of positive comments!).

Thank you!

- ◆ Our thanks to Pastor Castello for the wonderful service and his many visits, to the ladies for the great food and to Angela and Marv for the beautiful music. And to the members of Emanuel for memorials, cards and words of comfort. God bless you all. -Hilda Nye & family
- ◆ What a pleasant surprise! Carolers in July! Thank you. -Ruth M. Eickhoff
- ◆ Thanks to all those who came caroling! We appreciated it very much! -Jay & Darlene Bostelman
- ◆ Thanks so much for keeping Dad in your thoughts and prayers over the last several years and for being a good Christian home for him. -Fred and the family of Carl F. Bockelman
- ◆ Thanks to everyone for your many cards, prayers and well wishes. God bless your thoughtfulness. -Joe Kohout
- ◆ Thank you very much for the graduation gift and all the good wishes. -Lance Grimes
- ◆ Thank you for your gift on July 23, 2009 of \$900.00 to ELCA World Hunger. Your gifts for ELCA World Hunger help fight hunger in over 50 countries – and in every synod of the ELCA – with a special focus on reaching people most in need and working efficiently and effectively...
-The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal
- ◆ I would like to thank the entire congregation and anyone who supported our youth group and advisors with our trip to New Orleans. Marv and Julie Mt.Castle and Holly Mohring did an outstanding job organizing fund raising events and the congregation was very generous in their donations at these events. The funds acquired not only fully paid for the hotel and busing, but also allowed each of us to have \$30 a day for food. But that wasn't all. When Carol challenged the church to send the "Jackson 5," or 5 \$20 bills, with each of us for the special hunger offering, we received \$1,200 in donations. That's \$171.43 for each person in our group! The 4-day total of donations given for the world hunger offering was \$120,000. That means that little Emanuel Lutheran of Napoleon, Ohio gave 1% of the total amount given by the entire 36,000 present at the gathering. In addition to the financial support given by the congregation, I would also like to thank you for the spiritual support. Your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated. I truly cannot wait to share our experience with the church next Sunday. The week in New Orleans was memorable, inspirational, and, most of all, fun for our entire group. Thank you. -Dylan Tonjes
- ◆ Thank you Emanuel for the Camp Scholarship. I went to Camp Mowana this summer, and I had a lot of fun. I learned new songs, made new friends, went swimming, and made crafts. I am excited to go back next year. -Ryan Kruse

Back to School means Back to "Soul Food"!

With the start of another school year, it's time to start our weekly Wednesday "Soul Food" suppers, too, the first of which will be on Wednesday, September 9, with serving from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. There is no sign-up required, and everyone is welcome. This serves as your open and ongoing invitation to come and enjoy! We are STILL and always in need of help with this weekly gathering. We will need salads and desserts each week to "fill out" the menus (and fill up hungry stomachs!), and we will need help weekly with shopping or cooking or clean-up.

The weekly menus will be posted and on the bulletin board by the church office and by the kitchen, but are, as always, subject to change (sometimes things just don't work out, and plans have to be changed!).

We may also be offering something new with a little "light exercise" following the meal. Phyl Kloos has energetically volunteered to lead some line-dancing for anyone who is interested. We just thought we'd give it a try...

Again, in case you've wondered, "Soul Food" is for everyone. You don't need to have kids in After School Club or catechism or be in the choir; you simply need an appetite on Wednesday evening. It is always our hope that we are feeding body and soul with the food and fellowship of these weekly meals. We are reaching out more to the community this year to welcome all who are in need. If you see someone you don't know, please greet them and welcome them. Offer to help them through the line and with the "routine" of the meal.

Filling Home 11th Annual Autumn Luncheon
Sponsored by the Filling Home of Mercy Women's Guild
Saturday, September 26, 2009
12:00 noon
(Table Preview - 11:00 a.m.)
Filling Home Therapy Center
N-160 St Rt 108, Napoleon, Ohio

A donation of \$10.00 per ticket is desired, with proceeds going to
The Filling Home Personal Assistance Fund
This unique fund raiser features tables decorated by the
hostess in a theme she chooses

A family style lunch will be served
Entertainment to Enjoy

For information on becoming a hostess for the luncheon, please call:
Merna Homier at 419-653-4473; Kathleen Wiemken at 419-758-3507;
or Filling Home at 419-592-6451 ext. 1226
Deadline for hostessing a table is Friday, September 11, 2009

WELCA News

Kathy Gerken, president

I hope that all of you have been enjoying your summer thus far. As always, it will be over before we know it.

September is fast approaching and for the women of Emanuel, this means the time to collect soap for Lutheran World Relief is nearly here.

We take it for granted that we will always have soap to bathe with, but for so many this is more of a luxury than a necessity. So begin now and add a bar of soap to your shopping list and by September you'll have a donation that will mean so much to another. All bar sizes in their original wrapper are accepted, but the 4-5 oz sizes are preferred.

Last year's collection of 192 bars of soap was outstanding. Let's see if we can do even better this year!

September is also Make-A-Kit Month.

Instructions for these kits will be handed out at the September General Meeting* which will be held on September 3 at 7:00. We will have our election of officers, so please plan to attend.

Don't forget to support your Bible Study group or any other and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the September meeting!

* The program for the General Meeting will be *Lefthandedness and Righthandedness in the Bible – and Beyond*. The Ruth Circle will be the hostess circle.

The new Bible Study, based on the Book of Romans will begin with our September circle meetings.

Filling Home Guild Annual 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. Thank you from Ellen Lange and Shelly Storch.

News from around the Synod and the Community

Red Cross Bloodmobile —

Wednesday, September 2 2-7 p.m. Mobile Bus at Curves in Napoleon
Tuesday, September 8 1-7 p.m. Napoleon VFW
Monday, September 14 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Henry County Hospital Mini Drive
Thursday, September 24 12-6 p.m. Double Red Mini Drive @ Henry Co Red Cross
Saturday, September 16 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Harley-Davidson Sales & Service

Divorce Care and DC4K

Divorced? Separated? Find help at **DivorceCare**. You don't have to go through it alone. Find help, discover hope, experience healing. Tuesday evenings, September 15 - December 8, 2009, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. All sessions will be held at West Clinton Mennonite Church, 18029 Co Rd C, Wauseon. **DC4K** helps children heal from the hurt of divorce. DC4K meets at the same times and location as DivorceCare. Call 419-337-4776 to register for both programs.

Fall Festival and Benefit Auction

Sunday, October 4, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m. at

Camp Mowana

just north of Mansfield off US 42 on Fleming Falls Road

Benefit Auction begins at 3:00 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Free Admission and Parking

All proceeds benefit summer camperships for deserving youth
Financial support for this event is provided through the *Care Abounds in
Communities* program of *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends

Fall is coming. "Fall" in love with your spouse all over again? Find out ways to enhance and deepen the relationship you started years ago on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! L.M.E. sponsors a unique retreat where couples get away from jobs, chores, kids, etc. to focus on each other in a safe, encouraging atmosphere. If you value your marriage, you'll love a Marriage Encounter Weekend - coming Oct. 9-11 in Solon OH at the Springhill Suites by Marriott, or Nov. 6-8 at the Commodore Perry Inn, Port Clinton. Just \$45 reserves your place. Send a check to Ohio Registrars, John & Robin Legan, 2325 Meadowood Blvd, Twinsburg OH 44087. If you have questions, call them at 330/425-2176 or try robin.legan@gmail.net. You can also register through www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

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

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

Marge Gathman

Alfred “Petey” Ruetz

Paul Panning

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

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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www.emanuelnapoleon.org

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

Custodian - Jack Robbins

Bones of the church

The “body” of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?

Worship participants in September

Lay Assistants

8:00 (6) Helen Lange
 (13-20-27) Bonnie Palamara
 10:30 Karri Ashbaugh

Ushers

8:00 Sonny Babcock, Ron Wiechers,
 Terry Hershberger, Tom Hoffman
 10:30 Terry Walther, Karl Wiechers,
 Larry Ashbaugh, Mark Tonjes

Acolytes

8:00 Sarah Yaney & Taryn Conklin
 10:30 Hannah Plummer & Chandler Burken

Altar Guild

Donna Meyers & Esther Dennie

Altar Flowers

September 6 - Gary & Jamie Bostelman in honor of their 34th wedding anniversary
 - Brian & Dea Plummer in honor of their 2nd wedding anniversary
 September 13 - In honor of Ryan Kohout's 11th birthday
 - Ruth & Terry Hershberger in honor of their 12th wedding anniversary
 September 20 - Arlene & Jim Hershberger in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary
 September 27 - In loving memory of Jim Sosebee

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.

Statistics — from 7/23 through 8/16

Total Thursday attendance	Total Sunday attendance	Communed	Offerings
149	811	214	\$19,373.51 *

* includes:

- \$870 Building Fund
- 685 memorials to Bldg Fd - Carl Bockelman
- 646 memorials to Bldg Fd - Gale Nye
- 70 World Hunger
- 140 Good Samaritan Fund

Church Council Highlights - August 17, 2009

- Council was given a presentation on the work thus far by the Endowment Committee. An Endowment Amendment to the Church Constitution was presented and discussed, with questions answered by Ron Meyers and Martha Young. With a few minor suggestions by the Church Council, a motion was made and approved to present this Endowment Amendment for a congregational vote at the October Congregational Meeting. Currently, there is \$43,144.25 in the Endowment Fund. Prior to the Congregational Meeting, a few “Temple Talks” will be given at church services to explain the Endowment Fund Amendment to church members.
- With funds from the 2009 Properties Board budget, attic insulation and replacement of 2 to 3 church windows will be done. Currently, there is no insulation in the church attic. Three shrubs need to be removed from the front of the church. Suggestions for replacement landscaping will be solicited from congregational members.
- The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to secure candidates to fill Church Council positions for 2010.
- The Congregational Life Board’s Fair Float won first place in the Henry County Fair Float judging with a prize of \$150 awarded.
- The Congregational Life Board will soon decide whether to have another church directory published in 2010 or 2011. Church Council left this decision to be made by the Congregational Life Board.
- Earlier this year Juanita Clausen gave \$1,000 to the high school youth going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, as well as \$500 for the catechism age students. Discussion took place regarding using the not yet used \$500 toward a new larger screen television to be used during Catechism classes.
- Sunday School Rally Day will be held on Sunday, August 30, with a theme of “Beach Party.”
- Council approved the transfer to Emanuel of the following individuals: John Janick, the Haase family (Jeff, Terri, Tyler, and Casey). The Congregational Life Board will be sending welcoming letters to these people and informing them that a New Member Reception will be held at a later date.