



# Good News

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

Beloved Disciples,

2020 has been a year of unmet expectations. So many things we had been looking forward to needed to be adapted in real time. And some things that held great meaning in previous years just couldn't happen this year. I don't need to go over the list. You know it well.

In this season of Advent, we will explore some of the expectations we have: of this season, of ourselves, of God, and of the world.

Advent 1 is Nostalgia and will focus on Isaiah 64:1-9. Are there parts of our expectations that are based in memories of the way things used to be? How might we look back not with longing but with hope for the future?

Advent 2 is Gifts and will focus on Mark 1:1-8. Do we expect gifts that are for us or do we see gifts as a way to love our neighbor?

Advent 3 is Boxes and will focus on John 1:6-8 and 19-28. Are we limiting God by putting God in a box? Are we limiting others by putting others in a box?

Advent 4 is Peace and will focus on the Magnificat from Luke 1:26-38. How do we think peace will look and feel? Does God's peace look the same?

One of the greatest lessons I've learned this year is that managing my expectations helps me to enjoy the goodness in front of me. It helps me to see God in the midst of disappointment, heartbreak, and struggle. In this season where we wait in expectant hope, may the love of Christ fill the gaps between our expectations and reality and encourage us to live God's love in new and different ways! Some other things to look forward to in Advent:

Holden Evening Prayer on Facebook and Zoom each Wednesday evening at 7:15pm

Christmas Hymn Sing on December 14th at 7pm on Facebook and Zoom. We're partnering with St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Holgate to make this happen!

A Christmas Conversation premiere on Sunday December 20th at 4:30pm on Facebook and Zoom

Blue Christmas Worship on December 20th at 7pm- this is a service for those experiencing grief of any kind during this holiday season. It is a chance to rest in the midst of the hustle and bustle and to feel what you feel. (will be online if Henry County is Red)

Christmas Eve Online Worship- Will be posted on Facebook and emailed on December 24th in the morning and can be

watched whenever it fits your schedule!

Christmas Eve Journey- December 24th from 5-8pm. As we wrestled with Covid safety and sanctuary seating limits, we decided we're going to try something new! Arrive anytime between 5 and 8pm on Christmas Eve. You are invited to gather outside around a bonfire or wait in your vehicle. From there, family groups/ Covid bubbles will be invited inside to hear the Christmas story from Luke and prayers. From there you will travel to the sanctuary where you will hear music and receive Holy Communion. As you exit, you are welcome to go back to the bonfire or head home. It will indeed be a Holy night as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

Christmas Day worship at 9am (Seating is limited, please sign up starting the 1st week of December. Also, if the county is red this service will be online only)

Things will be different this year, but love will still show up and salvation will come in the birth of the Christ child. As Hamilton Wright Mabie brilliantly said, "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!" Live God's love into the world, dear ones, in this season and always!  
Pastor Janine



### **Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers Needed...**

Emanuel will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 12 at Walmart only! We will be covering both doors so I need 4 people total for each of the 2 hour time slots! Please call Denise Etzler (814-389-2973) for any questions.

## **ZOOM Mutual Relations Committee Meeting 11/12/2020**

Attendees: Pastor Janine, Lenny Sonnenberg, Lisa Walker, Phyllis Kloos  
Pastor Janine opened the meeting with prayer.

We shared our 'highs' and 'lows' since we last met.

We worked on a Relationship Building Exercise together and learned some things about each other that will help us understand each other better.

Pastor shared with us her concerns and ideas for celebrating the Christmas season in the time of a pandemic. (It was suggested she write a book!)

We discussed how this committee will work for the good of the congregation and the Pastor by advising the congregation that the committee is here to listen to their concerns, both good and not-so-good comments are welcome! We all want to make Emanuel a welcome place and if there is an issue you feel needs addressed, we are available to listen to you and bring your issue to the group for discussion. In the coming year, we will be working on understanding current job descriptions of paid employees of Emanuel. We will work with the employee to understand what their job entails and then review/revise the written job description as needed to reflect the current job. We will use the church Constitution and the job descriptions we were given as guidelines.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed with a Blessing by Pastor Janine. Next meeting will be January 14, 2021 @ 4:15pm

Submitted by Phyllis K.

**Reminder:** All new council members are invited to attend the Zoom council meeting for Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.

## **Emanuel Church Council Meeting October 19, 2020**

President Barb Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Those in attendance: Barb Hoffman, Carey Plummer, Julie Kohout, Pastor Janine Shearer, Melinda Dachenhaus, Joe Kohout, Gayla Rohrs, Denise Etzler, Joleen Brubaker, Deanna McCabe, Ryan Hoffman, Joe Knepley and Kelli Burkhardt. A guest, Lori Sharp was present to discuss After School Club. Joleen Brubaker led us with devotion and prayer.

Minutes from the September 21, 2020 meeting were emailed to be pre-read. Julie Kohout stated that there is an error in the minutes as presented. The \$750 item that was expensed earlier in the year to the Youth Fund, was for part of Music Licenses, not Wi-Fi. With this correction, Denise Etzler made a motion to approve the minutes, Melinda Dachenhaus seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer reports from September were sent via e-mail earlier today, by Julie, to be reviewed. Kelli Burkhardt made a motion to accept the reports as presented, Joleen Brubaker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Property Board** – Joe Knepley reported that work on the kitchen remodel will be starting in late November or early December. We now have a cost estimate for flooring replacement of \$1,800 from Johnson Carpet. Pastor has received and is using her new computer. A reminder that fall clean-up is scheduled for November 7, 2020 at 9:00 am until finished. Most of the work is outside however there may be some inside work.

**Congregational Life** – Denise reported that Emanuel radio program, Word for the Day, is going well and has been well received in the community. Gayla stated that they are thinking about and making plans for Caring Corner and Christmas. Barb shared a text she received where Jeff Nolton is willing to continue sponsoring Word for the Day that if it brings one person to Christ it is worth it.

**Education Board** – Progress was discussed on the re-start of Catechism classes. The class will continue meeting on Sunday mornings following Church service for the rest of the year. Due to social distancing, presentation of Bibles to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will take place in the parking lot with the families and Pastor in attendance.

Joleen reported that Sunday school start up went well and is going well. She asked if Council would consider changing the start time to 9:45 am since Church services are finishing early and Sunday school does not have the whole group together for a morning startup meeting. Council was in agreement on starting this new time on Sunday October 25, 2020.

Lori Sharpe had emailed Barb about having After School Club and requesting to attend Council meeting. Barb told Lori she could attend Council meeting. Barb then received this email: "I have given some more thought to After School & Emanuel. I'm just going to remove myself from After School. I didn't get a very good response having to do with that program, due to mostly Covid 19. No one knows what next year will bring." Barb replied: "Thank you for your email and I am glad you brought it to Council's attention. You are right Covid 19 makes everything such a moving target. After your first email to me inquiring about After School Club I did discuss with Carey, Pastor, Joleen, Joe Kohout and Jack Robbins. This helped to raise our awareness to look at logistics, etc. If you are interested in planning materials, etc. that would be great, just let me or Joleen know since she chairs Education board. For Sunday school we are not letting them share material/supplies. Each student has their own but you could discuss with Joleen how they are maintaining safety. So we definitely can look ahead. We will have it on the Council agenda for tomorrow/Monday night because we know that the After School Club is a great ministry for the children. Council was in agreement that the After School Club is a good program but to not look into re-starting this program until there is some control of Covid 19.

**Finance Board** – Maxine Eickhoff's appointment to the Finance Board is ending on 12-31-

2020 and Ron Wiechers has agreed to serve on this Board. Per our Constitution, Council appoints the Finance Board. Kelli Burkhardt will remain on this Board. Joe Kohout made a motion to appoint Ron Wiechers to the Finance Board. Joe Knepley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Doctrine and Worship Board** – Melinda Dachenhaus reported that we have received comments from folks that Pastor’s microphone is greatly improved. Also very good comments on this week’s music. We have 2 and possibly 3 candidates to interview for the Music Coordinator/Organist position. A survey will be going out to all members regarding community participation in Thanksgiving services and how the Congregation would like to have Christmas services handled.

Barb reported that Mary Boals from the Synod reported to her that a guest pastor we had shared with her that of the 26 churches he has been to that our congregation members are one of the most welcoming Churches he has been in.

**Pastors Report** – Pastor Janine shared with Council the Brave Space Guidelines she is sharing with the Catechism class and is also hoping Council will also adopt the Brave Space Guidelines. She read the guidelines and Council approved.

Pastor Janine is asking all members to pray for Emanuel at 8:10am and 8:10pm daily.

She is working on a branding project (Color, logo, etc.) for Emanuel

She intends to have a 7:15pm Wednesday service during Advent.

**Old Business** – Arrangements are complete for the Annual meeting.

Barb and Carey have met with all staff regarding budgeted salaries.

Council is in agreement to **not** open the basement up for Congregation families use during this Covid 19 pandemic.

**New Business** – Decorating the Church for Christmas was discussed. We all want the Church decorated and will all help where we can.

The topic of amending the hours that the Church is locked during the Covid 19 pandemic followed. Council was in agreement that the Church will be **unlocked** on Saturdays and Sundays 8:00 AM through 12 Noon. Property Board will arrange changing the door timer.

Denise Etzler made a motion to adjourn, Ryan Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next meeting will be held November 16, 2020 at 6:30pm **by Zoom**.

Respectfully submitted,

Carey Plummer, President Elect

**October 2020 Offerings**

10/1/2020 through 10/31/2020

Building Fund	1,295.00
Endowment Fund	-463.07
General Fund	15,648.00
Good Samaritan Fund	45.00
NWO Synod Discipleship	-483.00
Soul Food	40.00
Sunday School	40.00
World Hunger	25.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>16,143.93</b>

**October 2020 Attendance**

Worship - In-person - 296  
 On-line - estimated amount - 202  
 Communed - 99

Remember our members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in your prayers and with cards, letters, but no visits at this time:

**Lutheran Home**  
(1036 S. Perry St.,  
Napoleon)  
Marg Lanzer



**Alpine Village**  
(1032 S. Perry St., Napoleon)

**Glenn Park Assisted Living**  
(2429 William Diehl Ct,  
Defiance, OH 43512)

**Laurels of Defiance**  
(1701 S. Jefferson Ave.,  
Defiance, OH 43512)

**Van Crest Health Center**  
(600 E Joe E Brown Ave.,  
Holgate, OH 43527)

**Orchards of Northcrest**  
(240 Northcrest Drive,  
Napoleon, OH 43545)



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Dora Titgemeyer  
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Bell Choir Director - Bill Panning  
Living Spirit Director - Holly Mohring  
Parish Secretary - Maxine Eickhoff  
Altar Guild Chairman - Julie Callaway  
Custodian - Janitor Jack Robbins

## 2020 Church Council

**President** - Barb Hoffman  
**President - Elect** - Carey Plummer  
**Secretary** -  
**Treasurer** - Julie Kohout  
**Doctrine & Worship Board**  
Melinda Dachenhaus & Joe Kohout  
**Congregational Life Board**  
Gayla Rohrs & Denise Etzler  
**Board of Education**  
Joleen Brubaker & Deanna McCabe  
**Properties Board**  
Ryan Hoffman & Joe Knepley  
**Finance Board** - Kelli Burkhardt

## Membership News

### Baptism:

November 28 Brayden James and Cole Timothy, sons of Nate & Nicole Frey, were baptized at Emanuel. Brayden's sponsors are Jennifer McMahan, Joel Frey and Nancy Schink. Cole's sponsors are Sarah Kiger, Todd Schink and Nancy Schink.

### Memorial Service:

Pray for God's comfort for the family of Donna Kruse who passed away on November 1. A private memorial service was held at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home on Wednesday, November 4.

Attention All boards!  
Please have your Annual Reports  
in the church office by  
December 31!