



# *Emanuel* **Good News**

---

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church, 810 Scott Street, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545  
419-592-2616 • emanuel@bright.net • www.emanuelnapoleon.org

**Volume 46 • Issue 3 • March 2021**

**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.**

Hey Beloveds!

Believe it or not, we have once again entered into the season of Lent. It seems weird to do that because it doesn't feel like we ever left Lent last year. We've adapted and overcame and adapted and overcame and adapted and overcame some more! I'm so thankful that Covid numbers in the county are dropping and I'm hopeful that Henry County will be orange or yellow soon so that we can meet face to face again soon.

As we've become accustomed to over the last year, that means a lot of things are up in the air. We are working to put together a Holy Week plan that is meaningful and transformative for all of us. We're still working on the details, so make sure to pay attention to announcements, bulletins, emails, and facebook post that make those details public once we have them.

For now, in this season of Lent, you are invited to participate in micropractices of faith. They will be posted to facebook each day, emailed out with each weekly email, included in the bulletin announcements each week, and a physical copy was sent to folks who don't have internet. They are little things you can do each day to be connected to God and to the world around you. We will also gather on Thursdays at 7pm for midweek worship (online only if we are red, in person if we are orange or yellow) around Loving God and Loving Others.

Be gentle with yourselves and others, dear ones. Live God's love into the world well!

Peace,  
Pastor Janine

## **VBS Coordinator Needed**

Emanuel is looking for a new VBS Coordinator. Laura Ellis-Kruse has graciously filled this position for several years and feels it is time to turn the reigns over to someone new. The VBS Coordinator is responsible for representing Emanuel in the Downtown VBS Program held every summer. Responsibilities include attending meetings, coordinating with the other churches on the curriculum, and the recruitment of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Deanna McCabe at 419-276-2709 or Kaitlin Cordes at 419-822-1762 or at [kaitlin.rohrs@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlin.rohrs@gmail.com).

## **Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – January 18, 2021**

**Call to Order:** President Carey Plummer called the Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Devotions:** Pastor Janine Shearer led in devotions and prayer. – Volunteers to lead devotions for 2021 were as follows: February – Denise Etzler, March – Kelli Burkhart, April – Jeff Mires, May – Joe Kohout, June – Joe Knepley, July – Ron Wiechers, August – Joan Collier, September – Andrea Van Gilder, October – Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes, November – Laura Ellis-Kruse, December – Deanna McCabe.

**Council members in attendance:** Carey Plummer, Jeff Mires, Joan Collier, Julie Kohout, Pastor Janine Shearer, Joe Knepley, Kyle Borstelman, Denise Etzler, Andrea Van Gilder, Deanna McCabe, Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes, Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers, Joe Kohout and Laura Ellis-Kruse.

**December Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the December 21, 2020 meeting were emailed by Carey Plummer to be pre-read prior to this meeting. Correction was made to include that decision was made to install 2021 Council members by Zoom. Denise Etzler moved, Julie Kohout seconded the motion, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

**Treasurer – Julie Kohout** – Income, Expense and Budget reports were emailed prior to the meeting. Operating balance 12/31/2020 was \$56,053.05; Building Fund \$61,784.97; Good Samaritan \$1,153.05.

Audit committee, Ron Wiechers, Ron Rohrs and Tom Hoffman met and reported that all Church operational financial accounts were found to be in order.

Julie indicated that it might be time to get a credit card. Henry County Bank does not offer a card; Premier Bank offers Visa. It would be helpful when renewing licenses and help eliminate individuals having to pay for items needed out of pocket and then being reimbursed. Kelli Burkhart moved, Denise Etzler seconded the motion, to apply for a credit card. Motion carried.

**Property Board – Joe Knepley, Kyle Borstelman** – Kahle's Kitchen Center will begin with the kitchen and coffee prep room update next week. B & I have submitted a bid of \$759.00 for a dishwasher. Electrical work will be done by Speiser Electric. Tacky floor paint will be used in the coffee prep room; Johnson's will install new flooring in the kitchen.

Hugh Schink has indicated that the City will be conducting restriping this summer or fall. It was last done in 2019. Discussion held if we should wait until 2023 when parking lot may be resealed. Striping at the present time is still satisfactory. Joe will contact Hugh.

Groll will be contacted to schedule the tree trimming.

**Congregational Life Board – Denise Etzler, Andrea Van Gilder** – The Caring Corner will be requesting donations in February to benefit Together We Can Make A Difference Initiative.

**Education Board – Deanna McCabe, Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes** – Catechism is going well.

Denise is continuing mailing material to the Sunday School students.

Distribution of the Bibles to second graders is still on hold.

The Board is looking for a Vacation Bible School Coordinator. A request will be placed in the church newsletter.

**Finance Board – Kelli Burkhart, Ron Wiechers** – Offering envelopes are getting out. Will connect with others to see if they can make some connections with family members, etc. for remaining envelopes.

**Doctrine and Worship Board – Joe Kohout, Laura Ellis-Kruse** – The job search continues for an Organist/Music Coordinator. Another application has been received from a Northwest Ohio individual.

**Pastor Report – Pastor Janine Shearer** – Pastor presented a PowerPoint on What Is Church? What is Essential to be Church?

A letter has been received from Bishop Daniel. He emphasized to hold in place and prepare for re-entry; define mission. Celebrate what will be; embody grief and hope to come.

Pastor will be asking Council members to participate in connecting with church members; more information to follow.

The baptism of Emma Kay Klein will be held Saturday, January 23, and will also be virtually included in the Sunday worship service.

Communion will be held the first Sunday of the month between 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. If Henry County is yellow or orange, we will do communion as before; if it is still red, participants will be asked to bring their own elements, i.e. bread, crackers, wine, juice. Prefilled communion kits will be available if needed. Members will enter the parking lot from Clinton Street, remain in their vehicle, When it is your turn, Pastor will be at back corner of building, say a prayer and bless the elements and you will exit through the alley. Laura asked what difference the County color makes; Carey stated with the vaccine taking place during the next 2-3 months, on a positive note, we are almost there. We are committed to support our Pastor.

Ash Wednesday: Ashes will be available in the mailbox by the back door to pick to pick up in advance. Pastor will be at the back door from 12-1:00 p.m. and from 5:30-6:30 p.m. offering ashes and communion. Members will put the ashes on themselves and bring their own communion elements. Prepackaged elements will be available if needed. Full Ash Wednesday liturgy will be on Facebook and Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten services will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. If the County remains red, services will be online only. Decision will not be able to be made until after 2:00 p.m. on Thursdays, so members will need to check email and Facebook.

Pastor conducted the installation of Council members for 2021 and will be included in the Sunday church service on Facebook.

**Old Business** – It was reported that all Board Reports have been submitted.

Discussion was held on Vacation Bible School for summer of 2021. There are usually approximately 100 children participating. Early discussion will be held with the planning group. Do we need to make arrangements to hold at another location? Other churches are holding in-person services. Deanna McCabe will see if we can switch with Crossroads and hold VBS at Emanuel in 2022. We could still help with hosting.

**New Business** – Financial audits still need to be held for the High School Youth Fund, Bell Choir Fund, Good Sam Fund, and Soul Food Fund. WELCA appoints a committee each year to conduct an audit of their funds. Ron Wiechers will contact the audit committee.

**Adjournment** – Joe Kohout made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Denise Etzler seconded the motion. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting of Council will be held Monday, February 15, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Joan Collier, Church Council Secretary.

## EASTER LILIES

Prior to the pandemic, our altar on Easter Sunday has always been beautifully decorated with lilies and hyacinths purchased by individuals at Emanuel. I have talked with Nye's Greenhouse and they tell me that lilies and/or hyacinths are available this year.

In the past, the cost has been \$10. I do not yet know what the cost will be but Nye's Greenhouse felt that the cost would be \$10-\$12. Individuals who purchase flowers will be able to take them home after the late service on Easter Sunday. If we are still worshiping online, we will make arrangements to get the flowers to those who purchased them.

If you would like to purchase an Easter lily and/or hyacinth, please watch your bulletin. I will get more information out as I learn it.

Denise Etzler

Congregational Life

## Mutual Relations Committee

### Meeting 2/1/2021

Attendees: Pastor Janine, Lenny Sonnenberg, Lisa Walker, Phyllis Kloos and guest Carey Plummer

Pastor Janine opened the meeting with a devotion.

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

\*Our last meeting was November 12, 2020. We did not meet in December as this month kept our Pastor busy planning services for Christmas during the challenge of the pandemic. We also did not meet in January as we had a committee member with medical conflicts.

Pastor Janine shared her plans for Holy Communion distribution, the upcoming Lent season including Ash Wednesday, the Season of Easter and Holy Week. Some plans are a work in progress so information will be posted on Emanuel's Facebook page and the Sunday bulletins as they evolve.

Pastor Janine asked the committee if they would help with outreach to some of our congregation members that are alone, especially during the pandemic.

Pastor Janine shared she is 'thinking ahead' as to what our goal for post-pandemic will look like for Emanuel.

Next month will be Pastor Janine's 6 month review by the Mutual Relations Committee and we have a tool to complete this with her. Lisa asked Pastor how she thought things were going for further discussion.

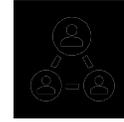
Bill Panning, Bell Choir Director joined the group for the last part of the meeting to review his written job description with the group.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed with a blessing by Pastor Janine.

Next meeting will be Monday March 8, 2021 at 4:30pm.

Submitted by Phyllis K.

## CARING CORNER



Thank you to all who contributed funds to Emanuel's Good Samaritan Fund in January. We collected a total of \$1,040.00!

For March, we would like to highlight Filling Homes. As most of you know, Filling Homes is a faith based not for profit organization that provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Henry, Fulton, Williams, and Defiance Counties. Pastor Moser from Emanuel became the Homes first administrator in 1958! Emanuel has a long history with Filling Homes.

We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting Filling Homes. As we have done with other Caring Corner ministries, we are asking for monetary donations. It is easy to contribute monetarily. Simply mark the amount you would like to give on your offering envelope. If Emanuel is still doing services only online and you mail your offering to Emanuel, simply insert a note.

Also, we are in the period of Lent for the church year. This year, we are marking any donations received from our mid-week Lent service to benefit the Good Samaritan Fund at Emanuel. Pastor Janine has used this Fund to help individuals purchase gas, phone, and/or utility bills. All of this enables individuals who are seeking employment and those who are working to get to work or to job interviews.

Thank you for considering a contribution to this important ministry. If you are aware of an opportunity for Caring Corner to help with, please come to us with your ideas!

Denise Etzler/Andrea Van Gilder  
Congregational Life

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent Member, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to a charitable organization: Emanuel Lutheran, Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives, Henry County Civic Center, Filling Home Foundation, Henry County Hospital Foundation, and Henry County Humane Society to name a few.

### *How to Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars*

#### **Online**

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)
  2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, select the "Get started now" link.
  3. Log in and enter your user ID and password and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access".)
  4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct on the right side of the screen.
  5. Locate the organization you want to direct to:
    - a. To direct to a previous organization:
      - i. Click "Direct Now: next to the organization name;
      - or
      - ii. On the Activity History page, scroll down and click the name of the desired organization.
    - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, city, state, etc. Click "Find."
  6. Click "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now."
- Follow the prompts on the confirmation window to direct Choice Dollars.

#### **By phone**

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
  2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear "Thrivent Choice program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
- Note: Please have your nine-digit Member Identification Number or contract number available.
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

The Thrivent Choir charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and chapters in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions, available at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).



◆ Members of Emanuel – We Thank You all for your donations and expressions of sympathy received upon the passing of Julie. There are not enough words to express our "thanks" for the visits and meals provided to us during our difficult days. Your prayers, support and generosity are truly appreciated.

-Jeff Mires

◆ I want to thank you for the cards, prayers, meals, and phone calls during my recent hip replacement surgery and recovery. A Special Thank You to Pastor Janine, Kelli, and Denise for helping out in the church office. I appreciate all that you have done!

-Maxine Eickhoff

◆ Church Members, Thank You for the donation to Stein Hospice for our mother Margaret.

-Connie Castello & family

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship - 9:00 am  
In person - Online Facebook & Zoom  
Thursday Worship - 7:00 pm  
In person only

### Communion Services

First Sunday of the month - 9:00 am  
In person or 10:15-11 am Drive in  
Third Thursday of the month - 7:00 pm  
(If Henry County is Red  
services will be online.)

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Pastor

Rev. Janine Shearer  
330-524-2552 or jshearer520@gmail.com

### Parish Secretary

Maxine Eickhoff

### Bell Choir Director

Bill Panning

### Living Spirit Director

Holly Mohring

### Custodian

Janitor Jack Robbins

### Altar Guild Chairman

Julie Callaway

### Prayer Chair Co-ordinator

Phyllis Kloos (419-260-6582 or  
phyllis\_kloos@yahoo.com)

### Women of the ELCA President

Rita Schweinhagen

## 2021 Church Council

**President** - Carey Plummer

**President-Elect** - Jeff Mires

**Secretary** - Joan Collier

**Treasurer** - Julie Kohout

### Doctrine & Worship Board

Joe Kohout & Laura Ellis-Kruse

### Congregational Life

Denise Etzler & Andrea Van Gilder

### Board of Education

Deanna McCabe & Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes

### Properties Board

Joe Knepley & Kyle Borstelman

### Finance Board

Kelli Burkhardt & Ron Wiechers

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)

Rick Ford



## January 2021 Offerings

1/1/2021 through 1/31/2021

Building Fund	755.00
Endowment Fund	5.00
Flowers	20.00
General Fund	12,910.00
Good Samaritan Fund	1040.00
Soul Food	40.00
Thrivent Choice	606.00
Vanco Processing	32.50
World Hunger	25.00
Youth Gathering	835.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS</b>	<b>16,268.50</b>

## January 2021 Attendance

Worship - In-person - 24

On-line - estimated amount - 395

**Calling All Campers!**

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio is back open and currently taking registrations for summer camp! Programs are available for grades K-12 Please visit [Lomocamps.org](http://Lomocamps.org) for more information on the programs being offered this summer. Scholarships are available! Please contact Deanna McCabe at 419-276-2709 or Kaitlin Cordes at 419-822-1762 or [kaitlin.rohrs@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlin.rohrs@gmail.com) for a scholarship application.