

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

419-592-2616 emanuel@bright.net www.emanuelnapoleon.org

Pastor Janine Shearer

330-524-2552 jshearer520@gmail.com

First Sunday in Lent † February 21, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,

¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is

with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to

Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10

¹To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured,

now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well

pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus

came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer especially we remember those in our hearts and minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

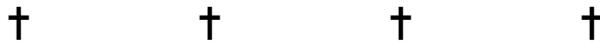
BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by the Biederstedt family in loving memory of Frank Gebers; and by Nancy Schink & family in loving memory of Ron.

This week please hold in prayer: Evelyn Allen, Karl & Oneta Wiechers, Mary Lou Zwiebel, Colleen Cable, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

BIBLE STUDY: Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25, Gospel: Mark 8:31-38. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

JOIN US in reading the New Testament in chronological order in 2021! This week's readings are:

February 21: Romans 4
February 22: Romans 5
February 23: Romans 6
February 24: Romans 7

February 25: Romans 8
February 26: Romans 9
February 27: Romans 10

Lenten Micro Practices

Quiet Time - 2-22 - Day 5 - PRAY

Spend 10 minutes today in silence and prayer. Is that easy or hard for you?

Let Go - 2-23 - Day 6 - FAST

It is human nature to hold on to resentment and grudges. **Today practice letting go of resentment and open your heart to new possibilities.**

Clear Out - 2-24 - Day 7 - GIVE

Donate personal possessions such as clothes, books, shoes, to live a second life. Take time to figure out what is essential and what is extra.

Start Seedlings - 2-25 - Day 8 - MORE

Plant seeds in small jars and place them in the light. Let them be physical reminders that we partner with God in creation.

Finger Prayer - 2-26 - Day 9 - PRAY

Use your fingers to guide your prayer.

Thumb: Those close to you.

Pointer: Those who point the way.

Tall finger: Those in authority.

Ring finger: Those who are sick, poor, in need.

Pinky: Your own needs.

Unplug - 2-27 - Day 10 - FAST

Unplug as much as you can - perhaps even the wifi router! Make room for connection with those close to you.

Nourish - 2-28 Sunday 2 - GIVE

Cook a meal for a friend or neighbor. We never know what people are going through, and even a simple meal can make a big difference in someone's life.

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.

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 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 for a scholarship application.

Offering

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

Available now, Mobile and OnLine Donations

GivePlus Mobile App

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2. Find our church by our zip code **43545** or by searching for the name of our church.

GivePlus Online

1. Visit our website at **EmanuelNapoleon.org**

2. Locate the link Give at the top of the page.

You can make a one-time contribution or a recurring gift. Any questions, please contact Julie Kohout.