

# *Emanuel* **Good News**

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church, 810 Scott Street, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545  
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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.**

Hi Dear Ones!

I vividly remember last year when I thought we would be back in person for worship by Easter. I never would have imagined that this year's Holy Week and Easter would be full of planning outside the box ways of being Church still. But here we are. We will make the call for Holy Week based on the county color as of March 25th. We hope you will participate with us. Below is the rundown of what you can expect:

**Palm Sunday-** We will gather in the parking lot for a Palm Procession at 8:30am. You are welcome to walk around the building (distanced) or to stay in your cars and honk your horns! Worship will continue at 9am (online if red, inside if orange or yellow).

**Maundy Thursday-** Dinner Church is one of my favorite things and I will be sharing it with you online! We will eat together, share stories about important meals in our lives, do a liturgy for remembrance of communion, and witness the stripping of the altar. You are invited to make spaghetti so that we are all eating the same thing and have bread, water, a Bible, and a candle remembrance of communion! If you need spaghetti and sauce, reach out and we can provide it. For the best experience, gather on zoom (it will be shared to Facebook, but it won't be as fun there).

**Good Friday-** A community worship service will be available on Facebook at noon. If we are orange, there will also be a service in person at 7pm.

**Easter Sunday-** We will gather at Meyerholtz Park (1799 W Riverview) at 7am for Sunrise Easter Worship including Holy Communion. Bring a chair and dress for the weather.

- If we are red- Easter worship will be on Facebook and Zoom at 9am with drive thru communion from 10-11am. Bring your own elements if you would like!

- If we are orange or yellow- Easter Worship will be at 9am and 11am. Attendance is limited to 60 people per service and therefore RSVPs are necessary. Masks are required and we ask that you distance. Communion will be celebrated at the end of worship in the back of the sanctuary and from 10-10:45am in the elevator room.

### **Season of Easter Prayer Walks**

As the weather gets warmer and walks become more appealing, we invite you to participate in Prayer Walks in the season of Easter along with our siblings in Christ at St. Peter's Lutheran in Holgate. Prayer walks are an opportunity to connect with God and with our communities. A prayer walk can be as long or as short as you want—a trip to the mailbox totally counts!

You can walk one day a week or all seven. It's sort of a choose your own adventure! Use your senses and take note of what you see, hear, smell, touch, and even taste. Think about walking in all of your spaces (home, work, church, where you spend time, etc). Join our Facebook group Easter Season Prayer Walks 2021 to post what you're noticing and to answer each week's question. If you don't have Facebook, reach out and we will make sure you are connected with a conversation partner!

### **Confirmation**

Our celebration of the Rite of Confirmation will take place on April 25th during worship. If we are red, worship will be followed by drive through Communion and a car parade to celebrate the confirmands.

At the end of the day, Jesus is still risen. We are still loved by God and by our community. And grace still abounds. Thanks be to God for that!

Peace,  
Pastor Janine

## **Chicken and Rib Barbecue**

Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives is sponsoring a Chicken and Rib BBQ on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. in the alley beside the Learning Center at 720 N. Perry. (please enter the alley from North Perry). For \$8 you may have either Chicken or Ribs with a bag of chips, applesauce, and a dinner roll or meat only for \$6. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time, but drive-thru are welcome. To reserve your dinners, call Kelli Burkhardt at 419-579-0199 or email [togethernwoh@gmail.com](mailto:togethernwoh@gmail.com) or stop by Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives, 722 North Perry Street, during our hours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 to noon, Tuesday 3 to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. Chicken & Ribs prepared by Port-A-Pit BBQ from Edgerton, Ohio.



### **Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - February 15, 2021**

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

**Devotions:** Denise Etzler led devotions from I Corinthians 13:13, and prayer. – Volunteers to lead devotions are as follows: March – Kelli Burkhardt, 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, Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers, Joe Kohout and Laura Ellis-Kruse.

**January Meeting Minutes – Joan Collier** – Minutes from the January 18, 2021 meeting were emailed to be pre-read prior to the meeting. Denise Etzler moved, Ron Wiechers seconded the motion, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Treasurer – Julie Kohout** – Income, Expense and Budget reports along with financial (cash) balances were emailed prior to the meeting. Operating balance 1/31/2021 was \$54,297.28. The giving comparison report for January was reviewed; giving for January 2021 is low.

Obtaining a credit card for Emanuel is progressing. Financial information is being submitted. Kelli Burkhardt moved, Joe Knepley seconded the motion, to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

**Property Board – Joe Knepley, Kyle Borstelman** – Demolition of the kitchen is scheduled for this week (Wednesday). A church member has volunteered to donate the dishwasher.

Tree trimming is scheduled with Groll; time dependent upon weather.

Decision made to have the City do the parking lot restriping at this time and again in a couple of years when the parking lot is resealed. The handicap emblem will be the same as it is now with touch -up of the “blue” painting to be done ourselves.

Light in the elevator will be addressed in the annual inspection; the door will be checked by Shindler Elevator Inspection.

Report received that a Sunday School Office table leg is broken.

**Congregational Life Board – Denise Etzler, Andrea Van Gilder** – The Caring Corner requested donations in February to benefit Together We Can Make a Difference Initiative. At the present time, monetary donations seem to work best.

Donations for March will be for the benefit of the Filling Home.

Lenten offerings will be for the benefit of the Good Sam Fund.

Easter lilies will be available for individual purchase; more information will follow.

**Education Board – Deanna McCabe, Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes** – Catechism continues online and is going well. Sunday School is presently on hold. Distribution of the Bibles to second graders is also on hold.

The Board is looking for a Vacation Bible School Coordinator. Crossroads will host the Vacation Bible School for this year; St. Augustine will not be participating.

Outdoor Ministries will be holding outdoor camps in Ohio.

**Finance Board – Kelli Burkhart, Ron Wiechers** – Most offering envelopes are out; working on the remaining envelopes.

**Doctrine and Worship Board – Joe Kohout, Laura Ellis-Kruse** – The prospective new organist/music coordinator is notifying the church she is presently serving and giving them an opportunity to find someone before she begins here at Emanuel. The Committee feels she is a really good candidate and will plan a welcome for her, perhaps a welcome basket of some type, as well as a thank-you to Karla for providing music during the interim.

Ash Wednesday service will include drive-thru communion with parishioners bringing their own elements (elements will be provided if needed). Approximately 50 participated in the February drive-thru communion.

**Pastor Report – Pastor Janine Shearer** – Welcome to Lent (almost)! Contact lists have been shared with Council members; please share any concerns with Pastor.

Midweek Lenten services will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays and based on “Love God and Love Others.”

Holy Week services tentatively include a Palm Sunday drive-by Palm Parade; Maundy Thursday - A Zoom dinner; Good Friday – Stations of the Cross; Sunrise service at the river on April 4, 7:00 a.m.

How many Easter services should be held? Should parishioners register ahead of time?

Innovator Academy suggests recording a Children’s Message prior to the Sunday service. This could be a good online ministry for children.

Our mission through and post covid19 needs to continue outreach to the community; begin Soul Food again when appropriate.

**Old Business:** Outstanding audits will be conducted in the next couple of weeks.

**New Business:** The Northwest Ohio Synod Assembly 2021 is rescheduled for September 24-25, 2021.

The Mutual Relations Committee will complete a six month review of Pastor Janine; they are presently working through job descriptions.

Joe will check to see if everything for the HVAC system is installed. The fan is on all the time; air or heat will kick on when needed. Is there air conditioning in the basement? Due to Covid, Red Cross can no longer bring in air units to get the basement cool enough for bloodmobiles.

**Adjournment:** Denise Etzler made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Julie Kohout seconded the motion. The meeting was closed at 7:15 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing by Pastor Shearer.

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

Submitted by Joan Collier, Church Council Secretary.

## **Mutual Relations Committee Meeting 3/8/2021**

Attendees: Pastor Janine, Lenny Sonnenberg, Phyllis Kloos; absent/excused Lisa Walker.

Pastor Janine opened the meeting with a devotion.

General discussion was about online worship and how 'drive through' Holy Communion was going, the plans for Holy Week and Easter Sunday worship and how our congregation is responding to adjusted ways of worshiping during the pandemic. All of us are anxious to return to in-person worship when the appropriate and safe time arises.

The next order of business was to discuss Pastor's 6-month review. We have met with Pastor Janine four times since she was called to Emanuel in September 2020. Our next review with Pastor will be at one year but she will continue to be present at our future monthly meetings.

After her first year with Emanuel, she will meet with the Mutual Relations Committee quarterly and on an 'as needed' basis. All of us agreed that Pastor Janine is moved by the Holy Spirit to lead Emanuel and is doing a great job of it.

We reviewed the Custodian Job Descriptions (we had 3 different descriptions to refer to) and asked Jack (Robbins) to review and revise as needed. Any revisions or suggestions will be discussed at the April 2021 committee meeting.

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

Next meeting will be Monday April 19, at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Kloos.

## **What does the Mutual Relations Committee Do?**

As a reminder the "purpose of the Mutual Relations Committee is to be a safe space to explore new ideas, share feedback on the things that have taken place since the Pastor has met with the committee, gain a general pulse for the congregation that the Pastor may not be aware of and to discern together where God is moving in their midst."

According to Emanuel's Constitution, "the Mutual Relations Committee that succeeds the Transition Team... is to support and pray with the new pastor, and facilitate ministry within the congregation. The Mutual Relations Committee continues to serve Emanuel as a liaison between the Pastor and the Boards, Congregation Council, congregation members and other church employees." We are currently reviewing staff job descriptions at the request of the church council president(s); we are "acting as a personnel committee." Our committee member terms are for one, two and three years commencing with year one on September 10, 2020; the technical year actually begins on April 1, 2021. One of us will 'go off' the committee in April of 2022 and a new member will be named.

## CONFIRMATION

Sunday, April 25, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

The following young people are ready to affirm publicly the baptismal covenant God made with them in Jesus Christ and to take on greater responsibility with us in the mission of the church. Please keep these young men and women in your prayers that they will continue to grow in faith in the Spirit as witnesses of new life in the crucified and risen Christ.

*Ashton Delaney*

*Sophia Good*

*Avary Miller*

## WELCOME

Please welcome Vanessa Kwiatkowski, our new Organist and Music Coordinator. Vanessa is an accomplished musician with a Bachelors from Wayne State University and Masters from Bowling Green University both in Piano Performance. She has been playing for almost her whole life and has been teaching private lessons and accompanying other musicians (instrumental and vocals) for over a decade. Vanessa's first worship service will be April 11th. Welcome, Vanessa! We're so glad you're joining us!

## CARING CORNER



Thank you to all who contributed funds to Together We Can Make A Difference in February. Monetary gifts of \$120 were received as well as many individual items such as toothpaste and toothbrushes.

For April, we would like to highlight ELCA World Hunger. Specifically, we would like to get the children at Emanuel involved this month! In the past, the Sunday School children have used their offering monies to purchase animals such as pigs, chickens, and cows. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. This can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

Please talk with your children and/or grandchildren! Do they want to give part of their weekly allowance? Maybe they are willing to complete chores around the house in order to earn some money! We want them to be able to choose the animal/animals that we will be purchasing. In May (once we see what funds have been donated) we will be asking our Sunday School children for their input!

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.

Easter lilies have been ordered for those of you who have purchased them. If Henry County is no longer RED, you may take them home after the last church service on Easter Sunday. If we are still worshiping only online, we will make arrangements for you to pick the lilies up at the church during the week after Easter. Thank you to those who help to beautify our altar on Easter!

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



My Dear Emanuel family,

Thank you so much for your thoughts - prayers - cards and picture Christmas Cards now and all year long. I am so thankful and Bless you all.

God Loves you as I do  
Virginia Dillon

## *Membership News*

### **Called Home by God:**

Please remember in your prayers the families of these members of our Emanuel family who recently were called home by God:

Connie Beltz on February 18, 2021, Pastor Bob Mix on February 19, 2021, and Evelyn Allen on February 27, 2021.

## **WELCA REPORT FOR ALL WOMEN OF EMANUEL**

It's been over a year since our ladies have been able to congregate due to the pandemic. I do believe that Covid-19 has changed the way we look at a lot of things. Our WELCA group is no exception. We wanted to remain safe and we wanted all of you to remain safe. At this writing people 50 and over can get the vaccine. It won't be long before everyone who wants it will be able to receive it. Our church has been closed for most of the time, but with a little bit of luck, will open soon. For this reason, I have not scheduled any meetings.

Even though we are not meeting, we are the Women of Emanuel and are proud of it. This in itself is a calling to be of any assistance we can as a member of Emanuel. We do have some pretty interesting meetings and will continue to do so as soon as the church is open. Listed below is a list of the people who were in attendance at our July 1, 1996 meeting. Recognize anyone?

Denelda Rohrs  
Julie Meyer  
Minnie Meineke  
Martha Young  
Norma Strayer  
Donna Peper  
Ruth M. Eickhoff

Rita Schweinhagen  
Pastor Joy Miller  
Shirley Casteel  
Marie Plassman  
Martha Eickhoff  
Jean Mader

Dora Titgemeyer  
Janice Rohrs  
Hildegard Reiser  
Lois Gerken  
Margaret Fahy  
Grace Harbinger

Although I realize that many of these people are no longer with us, just ask yourselves who will take their place. Some of you will say that you're just too busy, others, they just don't care to be considered a Woman of Emanuel. Think about this long and hard and decide if you will be taking someone's place. At this time, I am looking at a possible meeting in May or June. We will let you know through the weekly bulletin or through announcements in church.

We are still in need of some officers. Please give me a call if you are feeling the call to serve. (419-592-4606)

And, I remain your servant and fellow worker with you in Christ, Rita Schweinhagen

## 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

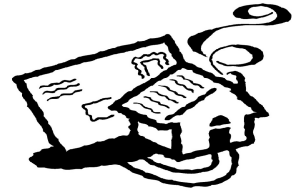
Kelli Burkhardt & Ron Wiechers

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



## February 2021 Offerings

2/1/2021 through 2/28/2021

Building Fund	3,389.95
Flowers	20.00
From Building Fund	6,250.00
General Fund	13,440.00
Good Samaritan Fund	230.00
Lenten Offering	260.00
Soul Food	45.00
Thrivent Choice	735.00
Together We Can	120.00
Vanco Processing	43.75
World Hunger	60.00
Youth Gathering	175.00

**TOTAL OFFERINGS** **24,768.70**

## February 2021 Attendance

Worship - In-person - 36

On-line - estimated amount - 344

Communed - 78