

# Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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**Confirmation    †    Fourth Sunday of Easter    †    April 25, 2021**

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**    -Ashton Delaney

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

#### **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**    -Ashton Delaney

Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do in our daughters and sons. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good works that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **HYMN**    *We All Are One in Mission*

### **SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 2:23--3:7**    -Avary Miller

<sup>23</sup>Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called  
Woman,  
for out of Man this one was  
taken."

<sup>24</sup>Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be

opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her,

and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** by Avary Miller

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Baptized and Set Free*

### **BAPTISMAL PROMISE**

Yesterday we welcomed Elaina Naomi Knepley into God's family through Holy Baptism. As we welcomed her, you have a roll to play, too. People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her life in Christ? **We do and we ask God to help us**

Let us welcome the newly baptized

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

*Let us pray.*

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

### **AFFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Let us pray.*

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Ashton, Avary, Sophia, the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*Let us pray.*

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS** -Sophia Good

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you, and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **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

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Consecration of Elements

## **PRAYER**

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you feed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**COMMUNION SPECIAL MUSIC**    *What Feast of Love*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

## **BENEDICTION** -Sophia Good

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL** -Sophia Good

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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## **Altar Flowers**

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt in honor of their 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

## **Baptism**

God's blessing to Elaina Naomi, daughter of Andy & Abby Knepley and her big brother Rohan, who was baptized yesterday at the church. Elaina's sponsors are Joe & Molly Knepley and Lucas & Samantha Bauer.

## **Confirmation**

God's richest blessings to the following young people who are affirming their baptismal vows this morning.

**Ashton Macallister Delaney** - Jeremiah 1:5 - son of Laura Speaks and Mitch Delaney

**Sophia Kevin Good** - Proverbs 16:3 and Luke 1:37 - daughter of Kelli & Kevin Good

**Avary Alison Miller** - Ruth 1:16 - daughter of Kristie & Kyle Miller

**This week please hold in prayer:** Karl & Oneta Wiechers, Mary Lou Zwiebel, Rick Ford, Paul Mowery, Juanita Clausen, Karen Fruth, the family of Rick Panning as they mourn his death, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

## **Drive Through Communion and Car Parade**

Today we will have drive through communion and a car parade to celebrate our confirmands. Enter off Clinton Street and greet our confirmands. Then head to the Northeast corner of the building where Pastor Janine will be waiting to serve you communion. Bring your own elements if you would like (we have extras if not).

**BIBLE STUDY:** Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21, Gospel: John 15:1-8. 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!!

### **GENACROSS ADOPT-A-THON**

Please donate a plush or stuffed animal that Genacross Lutheran Services will use in a pet shop format. The residents will be able to shop for, and adopt, an animal of their choosing. Each animal will come with a plaque containing a fun history and character traits of their new pet! You can put a donated stuffed animal in the mailbox behind the church. If you desire, monetary donations will also be accepted. Send monies to the church office and someone will do the shopping for you! Donations are due May 5. Thank you for your willingness to bring some fun to the senior citizens of our community! Any questions, call Denise Etzler at 814-389-2973.

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

April 25: Matthew 16  
April 26: Matthew 17  
April 27: Matthew 18  
April 28: Matthew 19

April 29: Matthew 20  
April 30: Matthew 21  
May 1: Matthew 22

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

After much consideration, with so few weeks remaining in the current Sunday School year, the decision has been made to postpone Sunday School until the new year begins in the fall. More information will be sent out regarding the exact start date.

Please also keep a lookout for information regarding the community Vacation Bible School which will also be coming to you at a later date as well. On Sunday, May 23rd the 2nd grade Bible presentation will be held. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding this year as we have tried to navigate through things as safely as possible!

### **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**

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
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.

### **PLAN OF RETURN**

We will return to in person worship on Thursday, April 29th at 7pm and Sunday, May 2nd at 9am. Masks, physical distancing, and handwashing remain extremely important. Please see the Plan of Return document for further details!

# Plan of Return

We look forward to being in person for worship again soon!

Here are some reminders as we dream and move forward:

- Masks, distancing and hand hygiene are key!
- Get vaccinated when you can! If you need help registering, call the office M-Th 9-5 and we will help!
- If you have symptoms, stay home!
- Worship will be available online as well as in person.
- The HVAC has been set up and it is running continuously. When the fan is on the air is turned over frequently and goes through a filter as well as a UV light that was installed specifically to kill covid and other germs.
- Keep in mind that not everyone is vaccinated. This includes those who choose not to be vaccinated and those under age 16.
- Weddings and funerals will follow these worship guidelines.
- The Plan of Return team (Pastor Janine, Carey Plummer, Joe Kohout, Joe Knepley, Barb Hoffman, and Phyllis Kloos) will continue to meet to advise council when we move to the next phase.

## PHASES

### Phase 1:

Orange or April 29

- Masks required the whole service over mouth and nose
- Every other pew\* used along with balcony distancing and overflow seating
- Stay home if sick
- Enter through North door or Elevator, exit through South door or elevator

### Phase 2:

- Plan from Phase 1 remains
- Soloist can sing unmasked 9ft away from others
- Final hymn can be sung by masked congregation (with time for folks to leave before if uncomfortable with communal singing)
- Meetings of more than 10 people can happen- still masked and distanced

### Phase 3

(we are far from this)

- Pass offering plate
- Handshakes for peace
- Coffee hour/potlucks
- Congregation sings all the hymns.
- Choirs return

When appropriate

- Doors unlocked during day
- Contact tracing list replaced by checking cameras
- Enter/Exit any door
- Soul Food- Fall start is goal

### Why Now?

- We followed Bishop Daniel Beaudoin's guidance to "hold steady" in January and again in March. He invited us to dream forward in March and to connect with our Health Department. They have approved our plan.
- Anyone 16 and older who wants to be vaccinated can be, which adds an extra layer of protection.
- Henry County spread is happening mostly in small, unmasked gatherings. We are committed to masking, which keeps us safer.

\*Every 3rd pew was used previously. We are shifting to every other pew. Pews are 5.5ft apart. Sit at an angle from the person in front of you to achieve 6ft distance.