



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.

Hello Beloveds!

I've missed seeing you in person and I'm so thankful we can do that in safe ways soon. I wanted to take this space to talk a bit more about Emanuel's Plan of Return found attached and answer some questions you might have.

First, a bit of history: In summer of 2020 Emanuel's Council determined that we would be online if Henry County was red or purple and limited in person if we were orange or yellow. In the summer, there were a few weeks of red after one outbreak, but we quickly returned to orange. As we all know too well, when we hit red in November of 2020, we haven't been able to find our way out. In January of 2021 Bishop Daniel Beaudoin addressed Rostered Ministers, Council Presidents, and other leaders asking us to keep doing what we're doing. We had just gotten through the peak after Christmas and it wasn't time to make plans to change what we were doing yet. In early March, he once again asked that we keep doing what we have been but also encouraged us to look forward and dream about what might be in the next few weeks/months. Part of that looking forward included contacting our local Health Department.

So we got to work. We formed a Plan of Return team with me, Carey Plummer (Council President), Joe Kohout (Worship and Doctrine), Joe Knepley (Properties), and Barb Hoffman and Phyllis Kloos (retired nurses). We had a meeting and created a draft plan that we spent about 2 weeks editing. Our plan stuck to the color guidelines. We sent the plan along to Joy Ermie, Henry County's Health Commissioner, and received affirmation that our plan was solid and would keep people safe as possible as well as some suggestions for moving forward. The thing that sticks with me most from our conversation is that spread in our community is happening at small un-masked gatherings like sleepovers and birthday parties. Our plan will keep people as safe as possible because masks are required over the mouth and nose for the entire service.

With this new information, the Plan of Return team met again and changed the plan, no longer being bound by the county colors. We edited the document several times and have shared it with Council. At the April meeting, Council approved the Plan of Return and we will enter Phase 1 on April 29th or when we turn orange—whichever comes first. The Plan of Return Team will continue to meet to assess how we're doing and when we might move to Phase 2. A huge piece of moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2 is mask compliance. Everyone needs to be wearing masks over their mouth and nose (with the exception of me and other leaders while actively leading) for us to be able to open up to the singing pieces in Phase 2.

But WIGIAT? Where is God in all this? God is in the hard conversations and the wrestling with what caring for our neighbor looks like. God is in the compromises. God is in the waiting. God is in each of our homes as we worship separately. And God will be just as present with us when we worship in person together. God is with the people who have found other worshipping communities for this season, and God is with our neighbors who don't yet know that God is with them. May we love each other well as we enter Phase 1, shift to Phase 2, and find our patience again as we wait for Phase 3. And may we know that God goes with us!

God's Peace to you dear ones,
Pastor Janine

ORGANIST/MUSIC COORDINATOR

Dear Emanuel Family,

Thank you so much for inviting me into your church and welcoming me with baskets full of goodies! I am thrilled to be joining this wonderful congregation and I look forward to sharing many Sundays in worship with you all.

I wanted to share a few notes about myself and some of the wonderful musical experiences I've had in my life. I started playing piano at the age of 5 after my parents surprised my sister and I with a 55-note keyboard for Christmas. Our keyboard used to play various songs and I vividly remember staying up late at night trying to learn Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5 by ear! My parents immigrated to the United States from Poland 35 years ago and raised my sister and I in a warm and cultural Polish community in Shelby Township, Michigan. The experience of attending church every Sunday with my family and singing in the choir as a child strengthened my musical skills and helped build the foundation of my musical career.

I did not always know I wanted to be an organist, but I started playing the pipe organ in my early 20's as an undergraduate student at Wayne State University and fell in love with the majestic instrument. What I love most about the organ is the ability to create sounds that imitate various instruments and in combination can sound like a symphony! Not to mention, I live for the moments I am able to play so loudly that the ground rumbles and shakes. One nice feature about the organ is that I am able to imitate flutes, trumpets, strings, oboes, and chimes. Another neat feature is the ability to play with a thick texture since the feet get to join in on all the fun as well!

Aside from practicing organ, I love to practice classical piano music, explore new trails outside, read a book with a warm cup of tea in hand, or listen to one of my favorite composers: Fryderyk Chopin, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Johannes Brahms. One interesting fact about J. S. Bach, one of the greatest composers of all time, is that he was a devoted Lutheran who composed hundreds of sacred works for his church and used his musical abilities as an offering for his faith. I too can say that playing the organ for church has brought me closer than ever to my faith and strengthened my relationship with God.

In addition to being a church musician, I've been teaching piano for the past 10 years to students of all ages and musical abilities. Some of my most fond memories are associated with my dear students and their families. Part of my new role at Emanuel is to teach lessons so if you are interested in learning more about music, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at vanessa.kwiatkowski95@gmail.com! I would be more than happy to answer any questions. As soon as we reopen in person worship, I would love to personally invite anyone who is interested in playing in the handbell choirs to please join -- even if you do not have a musical bone in your body! If you would like to join the choir once we are able to do so safely, please reach out and contact me. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you individually in the near future!

Sincerely,
Vanessa Kwiatkowski

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting - March 15, 2021

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

Devotions: Kelli Burkhardt led in devotions from Hebrews 3:1-6, and prayer. – Volunteers to lead devotions are as follows: 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, Denise Etzler, Andrea Van Gilder, Deanna McCabe, Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes, Kelli Burkhardt, Joe Kohout, and Laura Ellis-Kruse.

February Meeting Minutes – Joan Collier – Minutes from the February 15, 2021 meeting were emailed to be pre-read prior to the meeting. Denise Etzler moved, Julie Kohout 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 2/28/21 was \$53,673.07. The giving comparison report was even with January although down from last year; we are still in good shape.

The credit card applied for has been received. Kelli Burkhardt moved, Jeff Mires seconded the motion, to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

Property Board – Joe Knepley, Kyle Borstelman – The main part of the kitchen has been completed; i.e. cabinets and flooring. The sink faucets will be replaced. We are waiting for an estimate for cabinets in the coffee room. The main kitchen is ready to go. The dishwasher has been paid for; the dishwasher and sink faucets will all be connected at one time. Storage can begin if we want; a lock is still needed for one cabinet.

HVAC was checked. The kitchen and the table area has air; the restroom side does not. The door between the areas may need to be closed to maintain air flow for the bloodmobile.

Congregational Life Board – Denise Etzler, Andrea Van Gilder – Order deadline for Easter lilies is March 20.

\$120 as well as some products were received in February to benefit Together We Can Make a Difference Initiative. March donations will be for the benefit of the Filling Home. Suggestions were requested for April.

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

Education Board – Deanna McCabe, Kaitlin Rohrs-Cordes – Catechism is going well. Sunday School as well as distribution of Bibles to the second graders is on hold.

Some craft ideas for the children to do for several occasions have been discussed, i.e. Easter flower pots; something for Mother's Day and/or the last day of school.

Laura will continue to spearhead Emanuel's participation in the Community Vacation Bible School.

April 25 will be Confirmation Sunday. There are three confirmands for this year. Confirmation will be observed with communion and possibly a car parade.

Finance Board – Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers – All is good; a very nice deposit was made last week. We are hoping for more giving. Envelope distribution is progressing.

Budget will be discussed sometime before the next meeting.

Doctrine and Worship Board – Joe Kohout, Laura Ellis-Kruse

Holy Week services are set.

The Sunday after Easter will be the new organist first time. She has talked with Pastor, signed her forms, completed her fingerprinting and has spent some time practicing on the organ. More information on our new organist/music coordinator will be in the May newsletter with a brief bio in the Sunday bulletin.

Pastor Report – Pastor Janine Shearer

A Palm Parade will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday.

Dinner church will be observed at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday along with the traditional stripping of the altar.

Good Friday service at 12:00 noon will observe the stations of the cross. If Henry County is orange or yellow, a 7:00 p.m. service will also be held.

Easter Sunrise service will be held at 7:00 a.m. at Meyerholtz Park with online service at 9:00 a.m. and drive-up communion from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. In-person services will be held at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. if Henry County is no longer red.

Communication from Bishop Daniel – The pandemic is not over; continue to be careful; reminded us of our Christian values; love is the greatest force; spiritual and emotional ultimatums. We must be mindful of kids not being vaccinated.

Plan of Return: There is no set date at this time. Carey and Pastor have selected a committee consisting of Pastor, Carey, Joe Knepley, Joe Kohout, Barb Hoffman and Phyllis Kloos to develop a “plan of return”. This plan will be presented to Council for their review and action and will then be announced to the Congregation.

Prayer Walks are encouraged right in the spaces where you are.

Ideas for Pocket Park Prayer on Washington Street on Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. when the weather is nice.

Old Business – All financial audits have been completed. There is one with a problem; will report back on that issue.

New Business – Carey and Pastor Janine have appointed members to the Mutual Relations Committee for terms to start effective July 1, 2021. Members and terms are: Lisa Walker, one year term; Phyllis Kloos, two year terms; Lennie Sonnenberg, three year term.

Adjournment – Denise Etzler moved to adjourn the meeting; Julie Kohout seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

The next scheduled meeting of Council will be held Monday, April 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Joan Collier, Church Council Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS AND TEACHERS

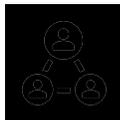
After much consideration, with so few weeks remaining in the current Sunday School year, the decision has been made to postpone Sunday School until the new year begins in the fall. More information will be sent out regarding the exact start date.

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!

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.

CARING CORNER



Thank you to all who contributed funds to The Filling Home in March. Monetary gifts of \$80 were received.

For May, we would like to highlight the Community Pregnancy Center. As we look ahead to Emanuel opening up for in-person services again, we would like to give you the opportunity to purchase items that are needed. For those who are not familiar with Community Pregnancy Center (CPC) Women's Health Resource, this is an agency that provides much more than just pregnancy counseling. CPC offers post-abortion support, parenting classes for men and women, ultrasounds, and baby items in addition to pregnancy counseling. It is located on Oakwood Avenue in Napoleon.

Items may be dropped off at the Caring Corner located next to the overflow area in the sanctuary. Specific items that are needed are:

- Diapers (sizes 2-6)
- Baby wipes
- Crib sheets
- Onesies
- Receiving blankets
- Burp cloths

As always, you have the opportunity to also give monetarily. It is easy to contribute monetarily. Simply mark the amount you would like to give on your offering envelope or insert a note if you mail your offering to Emanuel.

If you are aware of an opportunity for Caring Corner to help with, please come to us with your ideas! We are excited to partner with you as we support individuals in our community!

Denise Etzler/Andrea Van Gilder
Congregational Life

March 2021 Offerings

3/1/2021 through 3/31/2021

Building Fund	1,050.00
Easter Flowers	120.00
Endowment Fund	1,405.10
Filling Home	80.00
Flowers	20.00
From Building Fund	2,759.97
General Fund	19,323.07
Good Samaritan Fund	550.00
Lenten Offering	1,075.00
Soul Food	90.00
Thrivent Choice	587.00
Together We Can	5.00
Vanco Processing	20.00
World Hunger	55.00
Youth Gathering	50.00
TOTAL OFFERINGS	27,190.14

March 2021 Attendance

Worship - In-person - 48
On-line - estimated amount - 336
Communed - 60

Pentecost

On May 23, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ's resurrection.

To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.

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 10-11 am Drive thru
Third Thursday of the month - 7:00 pm

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

Organist & Music Coordinator

Vanessa Kwiatkowski

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



Membership News

Baptism:

April 24 Elaina Naomi daughter of Andy & Abby Knepley and her big brother Rohan, was baptized at Emanuel. Elaina's sponsors are Joe & Molly Knepley and Lucas & Samantha Bauer.

**EMANUEL IS NOT HOSTING A
BLOOD DRIVE THIS JUNE.**