



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.

Welcome to 2025 Dear Ones!

While I'm not a "New Year, new you" kind of person, I'm a big fan of finding focus at the beginning of each year. It gives us something we can use to notice the ways God is moving in and through our lives in a particular season.

For the Northwestern Ohio Synod, this is the Year of Listening. Our daily calendar practices will revolve around so many beloved hymns and other meaningful songs. In this year we will listen to God, listen to ourselves, and listen to each other.

During summer of 2024 I shared work I've done around values both personally and as part of the board of HopeWood Outdoors. I keep revisiting them in this season and wonder if you might join me in that adventure? In the first few months of this year, I would like us to wrestle with our individual values. In the season of Easter, we will compile and share them. Through the summer we will notice where our values overlap and any themes emerging. In the fall we will think about our values as a congregation.

As I shared last summer, values work was never one of my values (haha). It was only in conversation where I began to see how useful it could be. One of the things I love about us as a congregation is how strong our values are—even if we don't

always name them out loud. I think this will be a good opportunity for us to name and celebrate who we are and who God created us to be!

The first step is to spend time with a values list. Put a dot next to any words that stick out to you. Go through the dotted list and put a checkmark next to 10 of the words. Give yourself some time (maybe a week) and live with those words. Which ones are sticking with you? Narrow your list down to 3 or 4. Once you have those, add adjectives to give them some pizzazz and definition! Live with them for a little while and see if they fit!

What are your values, dear ones? I hope we can wrestle with values together in 2025 and beyond! Reach out with questions and look for opportunities to work on values together! Thank you for being you!

Peace,
Pastor Janine

Attention All boards!
Please have your Annual Reports
in the church office by
December 31!

ORGANIST/MUSIC COORDINATOR

Dear Emanuel Family,

Happy New Year! Wishing you all health, comfort, and joy in 2025. This past year has been filled with beautiful musical moments both in worship and beyond. Your voices and talents have added so much meaning to our worship, and I'm deeply grateful for your dedication and support.

In the new year, our youth and adult bell choirs will start rehearsals on Sunday, January 5th while our brass ensemble, adult choir, and praise group will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 8th. I look forward to this new year of music-making!

On a side note, our bell choir is in urgent need of substitute ringers. I'm deeply thankful for our dedicated ringers—both those who play weekly and those who step in whenever needed. However, as several of our ringers are retired and spending more time traveling or with family, it's becoming increasingly difficult to cover absences. I know I've mentioned this before, but as we step into the new year, I encourage anyone considering joining an ensemble to think about the bell choir. We would be thrilled to welcome you!

This past year the concert series invited many neighbors to our church and helped connect with the community. We received many compliments from St. Paul's in McClure from our brass ensemble and adult bell choir's music at the community carol service. Our adult choir went caroling at Alpine and we had many people singing along with us and some were even emotional at the sound of Christmas carols being sung. It's so important for us to not only make music for ourselves but to share with others. Through every hymn sung, bell rung, and note played, we glorified God together both with one another and with our community.

Looking ahead, I'm thrilled to share some exciting plans for the coming year! After the incredible turnout to the Academy

Brass Quintet's concert, we've decided to continue the concert series with a fresh approach. Rather than hosting monthly events, we'll transition to a quarterly series. This change will give us more time to plan and promote each concert effectively. **In the near future, I have the privilege of welcoming my former piano professor from BGSU, Dr. Solungga Liu, for a recital on Sunday, January 19th, at noon.** This event is free and open to the public but will not be live-streamed, so be sure to mark your calendars! Dr. Liu's program features an exciting selection of works by composers such as Griffes, Scriabin, Villa-Lobos, Franck, and more. These composers, representing many diverse nationalities, offer a variety of styles and genres—something I am sure will be captivating. Having studied with Dr. Liu during my graduate years, I can confidently say she is one of the kindest, most spirited, and encouraging professors a student could ask for. As a special coincidence, exactly one year ago, Dr. Liu visited Emanuel for the first time at our very first concert of the series! I was so excited to share our beautiful sanctuary and exceptional piano with my mentor and friend. I hope you'll join us for this remarkable performance!

As we embark on this new year, let us continue to sing, play, and make music with joy and gratitude. Whether you're in the pews, the choir loft, or the congregation hall, your voice is an essential part of our shared worship!

-Vanessa Kwiatkowski

Undecorate Church

Your help would be very much appreciated on
Saturday, January 11th at 9am
as we take down the Christmas
decorations!!!

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 18, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Tom Jenny.

Devotions: Nanette Schwab led devotions – Thanksgiving and reminder of what it is. Memories of feasts at Grandparents with games and family time. An invitation to God's presence, but it's very important to remember that God invites us all year long. Meal prayers are always important. Psalm 95 – A Psalm of praise and thanksgiving. Phillipians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Council Members in Attendance: Tom Jenny, Kenzie Vocke, Michelle Slee, Denise Etzler, Pastor Janine Shearer, Joe Kohout, Nanette Schwab, Phyllis Kloos, Abbie Rohrs, Matthew Van Gilder, Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers

October Meeting Minutes – Michelle Slee – Meeting minutes from October 21, 2024, were emailed to be read prior to the meeting. Denise Etzler moved, seconded by Phyl Kloos to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Denise Etzler – Income, Expense and Budget reports along with financial (cash) balances and the giving comparison report through October were emailed prior to the meeting. Expenses exceeded income by \$9,700.00. Christmas is coming which typically brings increased giving. Sale of the harp helped to keep the finances in the black for September. Motion was made by Kelli Burkhardt, seconded by Kenzie Vocke to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Janine Shearer – A report detailing Pastor's activity for the month was forwarded to Council members for review prior to the meeting.

Christmas Events

Dec 8 @ 6:30pm - Christmas Carols with Bell Choir and Brass Ensemble at St Paul

McClure

Dec 12 @ 4:45pm - Caroling (meeting at Alpine)

Dec 15 – Children's Program

Dec 19 @ 7pm - Blue Christmas Worship (with Holy Communion)

Dec 20 - Academy Brass Ensemble Concert

Dec 24 @ 4pm & 10pm – Christmas Eve Worship (with Holy Communion)

Dec 29 – Christmas Hymn Sing with Reflections by Martin Luther

Property Board - Carey Plummer, Joe

Kohout – Roof is fixed and completed.

Koorson Fire & Security – received formal quote of \$850.00/yr. Fire Alarms & Services, Fire Extinguishers, Exit Lights.

Carpet Cleaning Quote - \$2,000.00 -

Cleaning includes carpeting in office, Sanctuary and balcony stairs. Cushions on pews and chairs (chairs that are used, approx. 60). To be done before the holidays on Thurs/Friday. Will not be scheduled Christmas Decorating weekend

Congregational Life - Nanette Schwab,

Phyllis Kloos – Coat donations, 21 Coats, 21 pairs of gloves, 14 hats. November

Caring Corner - Christmas Cheer

Donations. Poinsettia Orders - Forms will be in the back of the bulletin through Dec 8th. Will be in church Dec 22nd. Angel Tree

- Angels will be placed on trees when

church is decorated. Starting with 5

families. Deadline for gifts is Dec 15.

Salvation Army Ringing Bells at WalMart to

be held Saturday, Dec 14th. Sign up

sheets will be outside church office.

Educational Board - Abbie Rohrs, Joe

Dillbone – Denise is working hard with the children on the Christmas program.

Doctrine & Worship Board - Carol

Castello, Matthew Van Gilder – Nothing to report

Finance Board - Kelli Burkhardt, Ron

Wiechers – Venmo – still trying to

coordinate. Required minimum distributions

– people will begin doing this before the end of year

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Constitution Review.
Adjournment: With no further business for Council, Denise Etzler moved, Joe Kohout seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.
Submitted by Michelle Slee, Church Council Secretary.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 26
Annual Congregational Meeting
immediately following the
9am worship service.

New 2025 Church Council
members will be installed during
worship that day too!

CARING CORNER

As we near the end of December the gifts are gathered, wrapped, and delivered to our four families we sponsored through "Henry County We Care". Thank You for your caring and generosity to put smiles on many faces this Christmas!

Our congregation gave \$980 dollars to "Christmas Cheer" in November, again Thank You for all the families you helped.

We ran into a little problem when we were ready to order our poinsettias. Apparently there was a major crop failure at Kirchers' and we were told they didn't have any for us, so we had to scramble to find another place to get them but they could not get white or pink. We appreciate your understanding and willingness to change your orders at the last minute. All of the poinsettias will have labels with your names on them for easy pickup following the Christmas Eve service or when you are able. Big Thank You to our Salvation Army Bell Ringers!

"Caring Corner" in January will be dedicated to collecting bars of soap and 11-13oz cereal boxes of any kind for "Together We Can Make A Difference". We're told both are very much needed. If you have any suggestions for a cause you'd like to see us take on please let us know.

Again, Thank You, and wishes for a safe and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,
Nanette Schwab/Phyllis Kloos
Congregational Life

WORD OF THE DAY

Have you been listening to WNDH radio in the mornings and heard the Word of the Day? We have had many people help us in recording these radio clips. We are always looking for people who want to write a small devotional (1 minute long) and/or read the devotional. Our next chance to do so will be on Wednesday, January 15. This is the night of a Soul Food Café meal. We will have the recorder at the church from 3:30 – 6pm. If you want to read a devotional that was written by someone else, we will have some available. Any questions, please contact Denise Etzler at 814-389-2973.

Children's Christmas Program

The children's Christmas program was fantastic! Those who were present would agree that the children did a wonderful job portraying Jesus' birth! I want to acknowledge the hard work of our young people. Also, thank you to Vanessa, Sunday School teachers, and all of our parents who helped me behind the scenes. I couldn't do it without all of you.

Denise Etzler
Christmas Program Director

HEALTH INFORMATION

Sue Barnes will be available after church on Sunday, January 12, for those who would like to have their blood pressure checked.

As winter sets in, make sure you are prepared for winter weather by planning ahead, getting supplies, and making sure your home is ready. Have you done the following?

1. Each winter season have your furnace system and vents checked by a qualified technician to ensure they are functioning properly.
2. Install a smoke detector AND a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector near the area to be heated. Test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year.
3. If you or a loved one are over 65 years old, place an easy-to-read thermometer in an indoor location where you will see it frequently. Our ability to feel a change in temperature decreases with age. Older adults are more susceptible to health problems caused by cold. Check the temperature of your home often during the winter months.

By doing these simple activities, you rest assured that you are ready for winter weather. Start a puzzle, cook up a batch of homemade soup, start a new hobby, or enjoy some family time with the kids!

SOME FUN FACTS ABOUT SNOW

The largest snowflake ever recorded was 15 inches wide.

Chionophobia is the fear of snow.

Snow can be different colors.

Six New Year resolutions

1. Forget the past and honor God more.
2. Live for Christ in the world.
3. Trust God with a strong faith.
4. Remain faithful to my church.
5. Witness to the lost.
6. Cultivate the talents God has given me for His glory.

Altar Flowers



January 5 - Jacob, Ethan & Carey Plummer
January 12 - OPEN
January 19 - OPEN
January 26 - OPEN

Sign up for flowers in the narthex or call the office. The cost is \$20 and checks can be made to Emanuel Lutheran Church. You may keep the vase or return it.



Remember our members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in your prayers and with cards and letters.

**Lutheran Home &
Alpine Village**
(1032 - 1036 S. Perry
St., Napoleon)
Ken & Nancy Lange
Ed Panning
Oneta Wiechers



Membership News

Transfer:

Alan & Shelly Storch transferred to Napoleon Church of the Nazarene.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship - 9am
In person - Online Facebook
Thursday Worship - 7pm
In person only

Communion Services

First Sunday of the month - 9am
Third Thursday of the month - 7pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday - 8am - 5pm

Pastor

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

Parish Secretary

Maxine Eickhoff

Organist & Music Coordinator & Bell Choir Director

Vanessa Kwiatkowski

Custodian

Terri Sedam

Altar Guild Chairman

Julie Callaway

Prayer Chair Co-ordinator

Phyllis Kloos (419-260-6582 or
phyllis_kloos@yahoo.com)

2025 Church Council

President - Kenzie Vocke

President-Elect - Tom Jenny

Secretary - Sue Mabee

Treasurer - Denise Etzler

Doctrine & Worship Board

Matthew Van Gilder & Peggy Snyder

Congregational Life

Phyllis Kloos & Nanette Schwab

Board of Education

Joe Dilbone & Laura Klein

Properties Board

Carey Plummer & Ed Biederstedt

Finance Board

Kelli Burkhardt & Ron Wiechers

FOR THE NEW YEAR

Before resolutions, reflection.
Last year merits a moment
for setting free both grief and
gratitude for what has already
been, things within and beyond
my control.

Remembering grants time to ask,
Am I running away from what
was or toward what still might
be?

Perhaps this year's resolve is
to heal who I already am.
My person does not need
fixing or replacing so much
as mending and gentle
attention.

This requires deeper promises,
a sacred acceptance of the one
who deserves so much more
than this annual beat down,
this withholding of grace and
tenderness.

Begin by reacquainting yourself
and confessing the fear of being
truly known.

That is resolution enough
today and every day.

By Meta Herrick Carlson