



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,

Today I'm struck by the ways that you serve God and each other. Today we gathered to celebrate the life and grieve the death of one of our dear ones. And you showed up to surround the family with love and food and memories and comfort. Some of you were in the kitchen preparing a meal for the families. Some of you assembled and participated in military honors in the cold. Some of you made sure the sound and video pieces were working. Some of you did behind the scenes stuff that often goes unnoticed but is so very appreciated.

This isn't unique. You do this each time we gather to celebrate the life and grieve the death of our dear ones—and sometimes even beloveds we don't know. You don't just show up for funerals, though. You show up each and every week for worship: reading, providing music, participating from the pews, and more. You do this when you teach Sunday School or provide a meal for confirmation. You do this when you send cards and make phone calls. You do this when you visit each other.

And that's just right here. That's not even looking outside of folks who are already connected with us. But you share God's love in those ways, too!

You take the "they will know we are Christians by our love" seriously. And for

that I'm truly thankful.

My grandpa wasn't the type to say "I love you" often. In fact, until the last few years of his life I don't know that he ever said it to me. Something changed, though, and he shifted to where he said it all the time. He wanted to make sure we knew that we were so very loved. We did know even when he didn't say it, but it was nice to hear.

So let me follow in his footsteps and once again say to you: Thank you. Thank you for the ways you show up and live God's love into the world here in this community and beyond. I'm so incredibly grateful that we get to do life and ministry alongside each other.

Thank you for being you!

Peace,
Pastor Janine

ORGANIST/MUSIC COORDINATOR

Dear Emanuel Family,

We are officially two months into the new year, and we have some exciting musical news to share! I wanted to thank my former piano professor, Dr. Solunnga Liu, for playing such a powerful and inspiring program for our first concert of the year. I consider myself very fortunate to

have studied with her for two years and only wish it had been longer! I have always admired her compassion, as well as her discipline when it comes to practicing carefully and ensuring each note is treated with special care.

Thank you to everyone who showed up and supported the concert series! I hope you learned something new or discovered a piece that you particularly connected with. Personally, I connected with Alexander Scriabin's *Vers la Flamme*. There is no doubt in my mind that the music evoked images of the horrifying wildfires in California. It was a bit emotional for me, but luckily, the last piece on the program, *Prelude, Choral et Fugue* by Cesar Franck, truly shined some light and reminded me that despite the horrible events happening in the world, there are also some really wonderful things to appreciate. If music can reach us on such a profound level, I can only imagine how essential it is in worship! Every time we stand and sing the Lord's Prayer, the Doxology, or even the Alleluia before the Gospel reading, I am amazed by the power everyone brings to their singing. Stay tuned for our next concert of the quarterly series, which will be coming up around April!

One of the ensembles I've been particularly excited about this year is our new youth bell choir. This is a fantastic group of kids who show up with such enthusiasm for the bells and work together to make music. It is a unique group for Tom, Joe, and me to work with because every week, it seems there's a new kid joining while another is out with a stomach bug or a sports event! This is challenging because you never know whether someone will be missing or if you'll be introducing the bells to someone for the first time. However, instead of being intimidated by the challenge, we've learned to welcome all newcomers and to expect occasional absences. Somehow, we've managed to have the kids play in church every third Sunday of the month and they continue to make such joyful music!

What's been really wonderful is the

positive feedback the youth bell choir has received. Many people have approached them to say how fantastic their performance was, and this encouragement is what I love to see. Everyone has to start somewhere, and perhaps a few kind words or a favorite song are all it takes to ignite a spark.

With the new liturgical season of Lent approaching, consider starting a new ensemble or encouraging your child to participate in youth bell choir! The more, the merrier—and who knows? You might find a song that resonates with you during this season of your life. If you have any questions about any of our groups, feel free to reach out to me!

-Vanessa Kwiatkowski

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 16, 2024

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

Devotions: Tom Jenny read devotions provided by Kelli Burkhardt. Sunrises hold promises. A new day is a fresh start. Should not let worry of tomorrow's troubles seep into today's.

Council Members in Attendance: Tom Jenny, Kenzie Vocke, Michelle Slee, Denise Etzler, Pastor Janine Shearer, Joe Kohout, Carey Plummer, Nanette Schwab, Abbie Rohrs, Joe Dilbone, Carol Castello, Matthew Van Gilder, Ron Wiechers with Guests Sue Mabee, Peggy Snyder, Ben Schwab, Tom Schwab

October Meeting Minutes – Michelle Slee – Meeting minutes from November 18, 2024, were emailed to be read prior to the meeting. Denise Etzler moved, seconded by Joe Kohout 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. Bills have been paid. Income is less than Expenses. The offering received 12/8 was

good. Motion was made by Ron Wiechers, 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. Caroling was done last week at Genacross. Jan 5th Apocryphal text study with Adult Sunday School. Shared value words list with Council to review. Study the words from the list and choose 10 that stick out. Live with those chosen words for about a week noticing which ones really stick, then narrow down further to 3 or 4. Live with those words for a bit and see if they fit. Request prayers for Bethlehem/ St Mark and Bethlehem Okolona as their Pastor and Deacon will be leaving at the end of the year for new calls which will locate them closer to family.

Property Board – Carey Plummer, Joe Kohout

– Koorson Fire & Security contract begins Jan 1, 2025. Inspections will be completed the first few weeks of January. Annual renewal occurs the first of every year. Carpet Cleaning to be done Tuesday and Thursday. Takes a few hours to dry. Everything will be moved back before worship on Thursday.

Congregational Life – Nanette Schwab, Phyllis Kloos – Wrapping up Angel Tree, 4 families sponsored. Organized pick-up for tomorrow afternoon. November Caring Corner - Christmas Cheer Donations – collected \$980.00. Poinsettia Orders, Flowers will be coming from Anything Grows, Only red will be available. January Caring Corner will be bars of soap and cereal (11 – 15 oz boxes) for Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives. Angels will be placed on trees when church is decorated. Starting with 5 families. Deadline for gifts is Dec 15. Future Caring Corners – suggestions are welcome for causes you would like to see addressed.

Educational Board – Abbie Rohrs, Joe Dilbone – Great Christmas Program performance by the children. Pizza was provided after rehearsal through a Thrivent

Action Team. Refreshments provided after program.

Doctrine & Worship Board – Carol Castello, Matthew Van Gilder

– December is full for worship assistants.

Working on finalizing Altar Guild.

Suggestion has been made to go back to having both Chair and Co-Chair for Altar Guild. Easter month has been separated from Christmas month.

Finance Board – Kelli Burkhart, Ron Wiechers

– Everything is in order

Constitution Review: Insurance/Bonding – adjusted wording. Formatted Constitution Document and included new picture of the Church. Will submit to Synod who reviews to insure required wording is correct.

Motion made by Tom Jenny, seconded by Denise Etzler to accept the revised Constitution as presented. Motion passed.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: No new business

Adjournment: With no further business for Council, Joe Kohout moved, Matthew Van Gilder seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Michelle Slee, Church Council Secretary.

Membership News

Transfer:

Brad, Jennifer and Zac Bergstedt transferred to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners.

Beloved who has died:

Please remember in your prayers the family and friends of this Emanuel family member who entered into the Church triumphant:

Richard Landversicht died on January 12th and a funeral service was held at Emanuel on January 20th.

SUB SALE

Emanuel Youth are selling subs for \$7 for Super Bowl Sunday. They will be available for pick up following worship on February 9.

Mutual Relations Committee Meeting Notes

The Mutual Relations Committee met on Monday, January 13, 2025. Attending were Pastor Janine, committee members Chelsey Saneholtz, Jeff Mires and Cheryl Huffman.

Pastor Janine opened the meeting with a prayer. There were no concerns brought to attention at this time. Then the committee reviewed the next chapter (Ministry Review) in Pastor and People. This chapter discussed the components of a review & evaluation including ministry goals, performance evaluation and planning for next year. Pastor Janine had shared that Emanuel had not done a ministry evaluation in the past, but staff evaluations are completed yearly. The book also had recommended the evaluation to be submitted to the church council and offered good examples of questions for the evaluations. Then Pastor Janine shared plans for future events including an event at the city pool in June, Easter sunrise at the river and working on values for the congregation. Also plans of a Thursday night service themed for "every day Saints" where a few people from the congregation can share their faith stories. Finally, the meeting was closed with a blessing by Pastor Janine.

Submitted by Chelsey Saneholtz

CARING CORNER

As I write this article for the February newsletter, the weather is typical Ohio weather for February-snow, sleet, rain, sun, warm & cold! Hoping we have an early spring!

In January, the Caring Corner collection was bars of soap and 11-13 oz. boxes of cereal. We are still in the process of collecting those items until the end of January so feel free to bring them to the Caring Corner Table still. We've had people ask what we are collecting each month so we will be posting a sign on the table what the collections and the recipients are for the month.

For the month of February, Caring Corner will be collecting financial donations for the Pillars of Success and Emanuel's Good Samaritan Fund. Pillars of Success is an arm of TWCMADI. The mission of Pillars of Success is to support & strengthen Henry County by providing emergency shelter & supportive services to employable homeless people, in an atmosphere of dignity & respect, with the goal of helping them regain quality of life. You can donate through Emanuel Lutheran Church; just designate the donation to the charity of your choice on your check envelope and place in offering plate.

February 9 is the Super Bowl and we will be "tackling hunger" with a "Souper Bowl of Caring" door offering to collect donations for the benefit of local hunger. It's still TBD who plays in the Super Bowl but you can put your money (or check made out to Emanuel-designate World Hunger) in the Soup Pot of your choice on February 9!

Looking ahead...if you are out shopping and see any winter coats on sale, please purchase them for our October "Coats for Kids & Adults" Caring Corner.

March brings us to Lent and we are seeking ideas for where to direct our Lenten offerings. Please reach out to Nanette or myself with any suggestions. We are planning a Shrove Tuesday (3/4) Pancake Supper with some New Orleans music! Thank you all for your support!

Phyllis Kloos and Nanette Schwab
Congregational Life

New Furniture in the Bible Study Room at Emanuel

Soon you will be seeing new furniture in the Bible Study Room behind the overflow area. The furniture is being paid for from the Memorial Fund monies donated to Emanuel over the years. This room is often seen and used by the congregation and the public for calling hours before a funeral and the furniture currently in there is looking very well used. We are slowly and thoughtfully purchasing this furniture. We feel blessed that our deceased members'

families donated the money to be used for the church. We are honoring their memory, and we feel they would be pleased with our purchases.

Congregational Life Board

Altar Flowers



February 2 - In honor of Steve's Mom Twila Kloos' 101st birthday on the 7th

February 9 - Ronnie & Kathy Rohrs in honor of their wedding anniversary

February 16 - Janice Rohrs in honor of Kurt Rohrs' birthday

February 23 - Ed & Tiffany Biederstedt in memory of Frank Gebers

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

Brookdale BG, 121 N. Wintergarden Rd
#141, Bowling Green, OH 43402

Cheryl Ritchey



THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

◆ Thank you for your generous gift of \$740.00 to the 2024 Christmas Cheer Program.

-LeRoy Helberg, President

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

**Walleye Hockey Faith &
Family Day March 9 at 5pm**
Tickets on facebook link.