



Emanuel Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church, 810 Scott Street, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-2616 • emanuel@bright.net • www.emanuelnapoleon.org

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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!

What's your favorite Easter story? Mine isn't ever read on Easter morning. We only hear it once every few years on the Second Sunday of Easter. My favorite Easter story is in Luke 24:13-35. It tells the story of when Jesus encounters some of his followers in their grief on the road to Emmaus. Jesus walks with them, hears their struggles, and shares some good news with them. They still don't realize who he is until he breaks bread and then they realize Jesus had been with them the whole time.

My favorite part of that account, though, is just three words: we had hoped. I love it because it's so relatable. You can feel it deep in your soul when things haven't turned out quite how you expected them to. From sports outcomes to diagnoses to job interviews, in moments when we experience disappointment these words bring comfort. We aren't alone. And resurrection is sometimes standing right in front of us, even while we're consumed by what we had hoped.

For quite a while Brad and I hoped to grow our family. We had all but given up on that hope. We are excited to share that we are expecting a baby in November! We would love your prayers during this season.

We've had "we had hoped" moments

along the way. I know these sorts of announcements can sometimes be hard. If you find yourself there, I'm always glad to listen to your story and pray with you. If you need to process with someone other than me for this time, I have great colleagues I can connect you with.

The first part of the road to Emmaus story is walking together. The disciples and Jesus walk together. We will walk together in this season, too, just like we have for the last 4 and a half years. We will grieve together and celebrate together. We will break bread together and see Jesus together. We're so grateful to have you as companions on this journey. Happy Easter, dear ones!

Peace,
Pastor Janine

ORGANIST/MUSIC COORDINATOR

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!!!

As we dive into this new Easter season, there is so much to be grateful for—Pastor Janine's AMAZING news!!!!, new blooms, the sunshine, the rain, and all of your words of encouragement. After a beautiful and long-awaited Easter service, one of the things that I heard again and again was, "thank you for your words of

encouragement.” There were many moments when I wasn’t sure if our brass could handle a tricky section or if the choir could pull off a new song for Holy Week—but a little voice inside told me to keep going. I’ve come to realize that this little voice isn’t always my own—it’s often the echo of encouragement from the wonderful people around me who lift me up, and in turn, lift the whole group up.

I’m very grateful for this wildfire of kindness that spreads through our church and lifts everyone up in times of joy and sorrow. When some of our ensemble members are hurting, it amazes me how often they’ll say that what they needed was just that one song. When I first started at Emanuel, I thought the right thing to do was give people space—to not burden them with rehearsals if they were going through something hard. But boy, was I wrong! Something over the years switched and I realized that in fact the opposite was true. Now I make sure to invite people to participate but also let them know that if they’re not feeling up to making music, I’d understand. Somehow asking a person to participate in something like music-making can be exactly what makes them start to feel whole again.

Over the past four years (yes, four years... where has the time gone?!) I’ve seen people show up to rehearsal right after a tragedy—holding it together, then breaking down in a safe, supportive space. It’s powerful and it reminds me that healing often happens in community. I feel like the past few months so many people experienced heartache and disappointment and it’s so easy to stay at home but instead many people pushed through and fought to be with people and were lifted up in return.

One of the hardest things I’ve had to go through was putting down our beloved cat about a month ago and having to push through rehearsals, knowing that the inevitable was coming the next day. She was my fiancé’s rescue pet but throughout the almost 7 years that we’ve been together, she became my best friend who

never bit or scratched me, and only had love to give. The last thing I wanted to do was go through rehearsals, but at the end of the night, Karri came by and gave me the biggest bear hug without even knowing what I was going through! I didn’t know I needed it at the time and it felt so much better to be surrounded by people who care about you rather than going through it all alone.

I know I end every newsletter with thanking everyone, but I truly mean it. I would never be able to do my job without you all and somehow you all manage to make the tough times better not just for me but for everyone who is going through something rough right now. Keep spreading the music and love around like wildfire! If you’re looking for a fun way to make music but not be committed to an entire season of rehearsals, feel free to join us this summer as we sing every first Sunday of June, July, and August. We will meet at 8:15am in the chapel and sing some easy, well-known anthems for church. I hope to see you all there!!!

-Vanessa Kwiatkowski

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 17, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Kenzie Vocke

Devotions: Ron Wiechers shared devotions: With a gracious heart, keep the Lord in mind.

Council Members in Attendance: Kenzie Vocke, Denise Etzler, Pastor Janine Shearer, Ed Biederstedt, Carey Plummer, Nanette Schwab, Joe Dilbone, Matthew Van Gilder, Ron Wiechers, Tom Jenny, Phyllis Kloos, Sue Mabee, and Peggy Snyder.

Meeting Minutes – Sue Mabee – Meeting minutes from January 20, were emailed to be read prior to the meeting. Pastor suggested an amendment of bylaws news. Ed Biederstedt moved, seconded by Denise Etzler to approve the minutes as

amended. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Denise Etzler – January giving is “off” General Fund is \$14,429; building fund is around \$4,000. Venmo and PayPal will soon both be up and running. Venmo requires a checking account rather than a savings account for funds to be deposited. Denise expects to open this account this week with council's approval. Matt Van Gilder moved to approve, Peggy Snyder seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Janine Shearer – Pastor reminded us that March and April's newsletter will be combined to make things a bit simpler during Maxine's surgery and recovery period. For the year of listening, I wanted to share some stories of ministry rather than just numbers. They will be loosely based around my personal values of meaningful connection, radical inclusion, and abundant love. I've had the joy of spending time with Char, Jeff, Kirk, and Ashley as they join/rejoin Emanuel. In both conversations one of the things that comes up again and again is how welcoming we are as a congregation. Folks reach out because they genuinely care. A special shout out to Phyl who connected with both these families. We celebrate this amazing gift of community and connection with folks we know and I encourage you to continue to introduce yourselves and get to know folks you don't yet know. We are better when we're together! The Super Bowl Sub sale was a great success again! Our young folks worked hard to prepare over 130 subs for people. Thank you to Kelli for ordering and organizing it and thank you to everyone who purchased subs. The money will go into the youth fund and will be used for our trip to The Dwelling for a service learning camp this summer and for any other youth activities. We heard Pastor Emily from the Dwelling speak at the gathering. I had asked a while ago if folks were interested in going and then honestly forgot about it. Our youth asked if we could still go, so yes absolutely! At the Rostered Ministers Gathering, Bishop

Daniel asked us what was getting us out of bed in the morning (joys) and what was keeping us up at night (concerns). I wonder if we could share these with someone sitting near us during the council meeting. One of the recent joys for me was going to Night to Shine as a buddy with Jen from Soaring Arts. One of the things that has been keeping me up at night is thinking of ways to connect deeper with one another and the community. What does it look like if you lean into making a difference in the thing that keeps you up at night?

Council members shared their values work.

Property Board – Carey Plummer, Ed Biederstedt – Carey discussed the Koorson inspection in a bit more detail. The control panel was done by Johnson, which has been bought out since installation. Carey noted that some of the smoke detectors failed the inspection due to lack of obvious wiring into the panel. Some of the emergency exit lights failed to pass therefore will need attention; cost may run around \$1,300. There are also concerns with sanctuary lighting; Spieser electric is expected to give a price for that project. Outdoor eaves will need to wait for warmer weather to inspect.

Congregational Life – Nanette Schwab, Phyllis Kloos – Caring Corner for January brought in boxes of cereal and bars of soap. The Souper Bowl pots brought in \$243, which will be divided between World Hunger and Good Samaritan funds. February Caring Corner is asking for cash donations to go to the Good Samaritan Fund and Pillars for Success. March Caring Corner will be “Clean Duds”. There will be a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner with donations supporting Natalie Long. Lenten Offering will be shared with Sight Center of NWO, HOPE Center, and Sarah's Garden. A Palm Sunday potluck brunch is being planned for after worship. Easter flower orders are being worked on.

Educational Board – Joe Dilbone, Laura Klein – Vacation Bible School surveys showed more interest in 6-8pm timing, during the week of June 9-12. Thrivent

Action funds were secured to rent the pool, June 21, 6-9pm.

Doctrine & Worship Board – Matthew Van Gilder, Peggy Snyder – Passing of offering plates will begin Ash Wednesday and run through Lent. Ushers most likely will need to ask for additional help for this to run smoothly. Council will discuss the passing of plates at the April/post-Easter council meeting. The Altar Guild needs leadership; Peggy is helping at this time and asking to be contacted if supplies are needed.

Finance Board – Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers – Choice dollars should be in by March. It was brought up that occasionally offering envelopes are submitted empty. It is asked that a note be put in the envelope if it is intentionally empty.

Old Business: Tom Jenny is looking for suggestions for the presentation of the constitution to the congregation. This will be done by the October congregational meeting.

New Business: In light of recent string of bad weather, Pastor Janine proposed a weather policy: Decision is to be made 2 hours prior to the event. If Henry County is at a level 1 and leadership can get to Emanuel safely, activities will continue. Leadership will not report for work if a county they must travel from/through is at a level 2. If Henry County is at a level 2 all activities and worship will be canceled. The only exception to this will be for a funeral. If school is canceled for snow/ice, morning activities like Bible Study/ A Space to Grieve will be canceled. If school is canceled for temperature/fog, the group gathering will make the determination. Announcements about events canceled will be posted on Facebook and communicated to those directly affected. Announcements about worship being canceled will also be sent through the prayer chain. Council leaders will be informed and asked to tell others who may need to know. Motion made by Denise Etzler, seconded by Joe Dilbone to accept the weather policy as presented. Motion passed.

Adjournment: With no further business for Council, Matthew Van Gilder moved, Peggy Snyder seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer. Submitted by Sue Mabee, Church Council Secretary.

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 17, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by President Kenzie Vocke

Devotions – Peggy Snyder

Council Members in Attendance: Peggy Snyder, Denise Etzler, Pastor Janine Shearer, Carey Plummer, Ed Biederstedt, Nanette Schwab, Matthew Van Gilder, Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers

Meeting Minutes – Sue Mabee – Minutes were shared via email. Denise Etzler moved, seconded by Kelli Burkhardt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Denise Etzler – Peggy Snyder moved, seconded by Nanette Schwab. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Janine Shearer – For the year of listening, I wanted to share some stories of ministry rather than just numbers. They will be loosely based around my personal values of meaningful connection, radical inclusion, and abundant love. In February I went to the community meeting at the Senior Center to ask about what they were doing for Alzheimer's/ dementia care and how we could partner. It seems like the best first step (that was already in progress from the senior center) is an Alzheimer's Association caregiver support group. I'm working to find a co-facilitator and have done the necessary training and shadowing. Hopefully we will be able to begin soon! I hope that this can be the beginning of a partnership that can blossom over the next few years. The need is great and will continue to grow as Baby Boomers age. Our High School youth decided to go to Faith and Family Day at

the Walleyes rather than meeting for our usual Dinner Church. We had a great turnout and a whole lot of fun. At one point all the High School students ended up in the same corner hanging out. It's so life-giving to see the ways they care for each other! I also got to hang out with Morgen, who was baptized on March 2nd for a large part of the game. That was a gift as well! Denise and I attended the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy annual meeting on March 10. It is always an amazing time hearing what Filling Home, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services are doing in our community and in the area. Last year alone they were able to impact 30,000 lives through the ministry we do together. Some highlights of the day were the elementary school children who raised almost \$300 for Luther Home of Mercy after visiting this Advent, bookmarks from our friends at Soaring Arts, and popcorn from an entrepreneur with Luther Home of Mercy. We also remembered Carol Dille and gave thanks for her commitment to Filling Home. If you would be interested in attending next year's LMM annual meeting, reach out to Denise.

Property Board – Carey Plummer, Ed Biederstedt – Fire and Security activity: All fire extinguishers are in compliance. All exit lights have working batteries and bulbs and are in compliance. One stairway emergency light fixture needs to be replaced. We have a new light and we will have Speiser Electric install it. Problems with Smoke detectors in duct work not connecting to the alarm panel is being researched by Speiser Electric and Koorsen Fire and Security. We are keeping in communication with Napoleon Assistant Fire Chief on all progress. Sanctuary lighting problems: Scaffolding will be needed to reach the lighting problems and Speiser Electric wants to wait until after Easter to attempt fixing these problems because of the clutter and disorganization that will take place. The Council and Pastor was hoping that this would be completed before Easter. The Property

Board will see what they can come up with. Eave spouting on the North side of the building: The repairs that were made last fall did not work and fixing this will be addressed. We have learned that this problem goes back to the remodel completed many years ago. While still under warranty, Council tried to get the original roofing company in to fix the problem; that company filed bankruptcy so nothing was done to repair this problem. This will be fixed. It will take some time and research but it will be done.

Congregational Life – Phyllis Kloos, Nanette Schwab – Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Dinner Fundraiser for the Jason & Natalie Long Family raised \$1329 plus \$500 from Live God's Love Fund. Caring Corner for February raised money for Pillars of Success & Emanuel's Good Sam Fund. Caring Corner for March continues. We are collecting quarters or cash/checks plus laundry soap; laundry bags for Operation: Clean Duds. Caring Corner for April will be items for the Filling Home Supported Living & Adult Day Services Programs. Lists of needed items will be located at the main entrance of the church and the credenza in the overflow entrance. Thursday night Lenten Offerings will go to the Sight Center of NWO, Sarah's Garden in Wauseon and Hope Services. Sarah's Garden is a non-profit organization that specializes in Autism Intervention, Conductive Education, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration and Speech-Language Pathology services. Easter flower orders are due TODAY! We are hosting a Palm Sunday Brunch Potluck on April 14 following the service. The Blood Drive at Emanuel will be Friday May 23 from noon to 6pm. Looking ahead...Summer Sunday Coffee Hours after the church service starting June 1. We will be asking church groups to host.

Education Board – Joe Dilbone, Laura Klein – Working on VBS - trying to get Thrivent Action \$\$\$. Getting gifts for Confirmation kids.

Doctrine & Worship Board – Matthew Van Gilder, Peggy Snyder – Needed April ushers and readers. Lots of council members volunteered and filled the deficits. Struggling to get people to sign up in general - talk to your friends, get them to usher, read, and be communion helpers! Put a reminder in the bulletin to get people to volunteer. Thursdays are always covered. Ushers will start to open the outside door when ringing the bells. Thoughts on passing the offering plate - No empty envelopes yet! Looks fluid, seems to be working.

Finance Board – Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers – Venmo is up and running, paypal is up and running. Can pay for flowers or anything through it! Giving is good. Thrivent Choice - 2024 needs to be done by the end of March. If someone wants it to go somewhere specific, they have to let us know. We just get a name and amount.

Old Business: No old business

New Business: No new business

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

Membership News

Beloved who has died:

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

Margaret Busch died on April 18 and a funeral service was held at Emanuel on Wednesday, April 23.

Transfer:

Jeff Mires transferred to St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Archbold, Ohio.

Emanuel Lutheran Church Constitution

Over the last year, council has reviewed an updated constitution, chapter by chapter. The present constitution was reviewed and adopted in 2016. There have been a lot of changes in the world, church, and synod over that time and we needed to update the constitution, so it reflected those changes. Council has reviewed it and voted to accept it. The NWO Synod has reviewed it and accepted the changes and wording. The next step is for our congregation to vote on it. The plan is to do that at the October annual meeting. Prior to that, there will be an opportunity for anyone interested to review and ask questions about the updated constitution and by-laws. This will happen on Tuesday, June 3 at 7pm or Wednesday, June 4 at 10:45am. Much of the new wording uses more legal phrasing and is mandated by the synod. There will be copies available after Memorial Day starting on May 28 if you want to look through it prior to the presentations.

Tom Jenny

Constitution facilitator

Attention all graduates!

We would like to recognize all of those that are graduating soon from high school or college. Please send information (name, school, degree and future plans) to Joe Dilbone or Laura Klein. Or fill out the link on the facebook page.

End of Sunday School and Graduation Celebration

Please join us following worship on May 18th for an end of Sunday school and graduation celebration. We will have pizza and cake to celebrate all the things!

CARING CORNER

45 Easter flowers were ordered from Country Sprouts Greenhouse in Stryker OH. Thank you all.

Palm Sunday Brunch potluck following the church service on April 13.

March Caring Corner collections for Operation: Clean Duds-we collected \$230 in monetary donations and 183 pods of laundry soap.

April Caring Corner continues with collections from the needs list for Filling Home Supported Living & Adult Services.

Looking Ahead...

May/June Caring Corner will be collecting non-perishable food or monetary donations for local food pantries.

Emanuel's annual Blood Drive is Friday May 23 from noon to 6pm in the church basement.

Summer Sunday Coffee Hour begins on June 1 in the Bible Study Room off the overflow area. Coffee Hour 'hosts' are assigned by this board, but if the assigned date is not workable for you or your group, please let Nanette or Phyllis know ASAP so different arrangements can be made. Hosts are asked to help in the set-up on your Sunday as well as asking members of your group to bring breakfast treats. Hosts will be contacted in the next month to make sure they are OK with the date their group is assigned and they are willing to be hosts.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Kloos and Nanette Schwab

EMANUEL DARTBALL

After 50 years of both playing and coaching the Emanuel Dartball Team, Bill Panning has decided to step down. If anyone is interested in taking over the managing duties, Please call Bill at 419-966-6216 and he can give you all of the information that you need.

-Bill Panning

BLOOD DRIVE

Emanuel will be hosting a **Blood Drive on Friday May 23**, 12noon-6pm in the afternoon in the church basement. We have moved the date to a week earlier this year, hoping to avoid the heat of summer and have some more donors! Last year we had a fair turn out and we'd like to increase that turn out for 2025!

If you are a donor, **please consider donating at our church drive!** Just a reminder...56 days between blood donation or 112 days between double red donations. This is a great community outreach for our church as we have been hosting blood drives for over 20 years.

You can register to donate online at the American Red Cross website to schedule your donation appointment, the schedule is open NOW! If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me and I will assist you. (419.260.6582 or email: phyllis_kloos@yahoo.com). If I don't answer, please just leave a voicemail and I will return your call.

We are also in search of **volunteers** to man the canteen and escort the donors. You can work 2- or 3-hour shifts. If you have volunteered in the past, we'd love to have you help again...we do have a nice time visiting with each other! If you have not volunteered in the past and would like to help out this year, please call or email me; we'd love to have you! (PS...if you have volunteered in the past, I'll probably be reaching out to you for this year too.)

As a nurse, I feel so proud that our church family is so strong in their willingness to help patients in their time of need.

Thank you for your participation in the past and we look forward to seeing you give the gift of life on May 23. Phyl Kloos

Altar Flowers



May 4 - Michelle Slee in honor of Dylan's birthday

May 11 - Louis & Mary Lou Streicher in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary

May 18 - Larr & Denise Etzler in honor of granddaughters 13th birthday

May 25 - Sue & Norm Kruse in memory of Juanita Clausen

OPEN DATES:

August 24, 31 September 28
October 5, 12, 26 November 9, 16, 23
December 14

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



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 - 9am - 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