



# *Emanuel* Good News

A Publication of Emanuel Lutheran Church, 810 Scott Street, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545  
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Volume 50 • Issue 5 • June 2025

**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,

Brad and I just returned from a wonderful vacation in New Orleans. It was weird to be there without our high schoolers and leaders, but we had a great time. One of the highlights of the trip for me was the stop in Biloxi, MS on the way home. It was so cool to be back in a place that changed so much for me.

In the spring of 2006 my parents' congregation (including my dad and brother) made their first trip to Biloxi, MS to clean up after Hurricane Katrina. Little did we know, this would be a huge part of our lives both as a family and as a congregation for years. Dad and Eric shared stories of the man who lived in the house they worked on. He had been through storms before and decided to ride out Katrina. They also brought back a great connection with people in the congregation that we didn't know well before. Most of all, they brought back God-sightings: opportunities to see God in each and every day.

In August, I had my chance to experience Biloxi for myself. Six of us loaded up in an old Astro van and drove the 14 hours to the coast. On our first day we met Josie. She was living in her back yard in a FEMA trailer nearly a year after the storm. She told a story of how her home filled with water and she stood on a chest

freezer. As the water rose higher and higher, she prayed, and the water swirled out the window and left the house. You see, Biloxi was both hit with the 20 foot storm surge and the water in the back bay rose at the same time, flooding everything in between. That week we painted, put a wall where a window was, and cleaned up. She wasn't too far from being able to move back in.

Three months later one van was replaced with five and 6 Ohioans replaced with 20+! We spent thanksgiving week in Biloxi again and this time my whole family was there. I begged my dad to let us go check in on Josie, and he agreed. We discovered there wasn't much left to do to get her moved in. While we weren't technically assigned to Josie's home, a group of us were there each day finishing things up. She asked what we had planned for Thanksgiving and invited us over for a traditional Southern style thanksgiving dinner—gumbo, and soft shell crabs, and fluff fluff cake included! She moved back into her home the day before and the first thing she did was cooked Thanksgiving dinner for a bunch of people she didn't know.

To say it was Holy Ground was an understatement. I knew at that point in my life that my I was called to help people, even if I didn't know exactly what that

looked like. I went to Biloxi a total of 7 times and my parents' congregation made over 25 trips in the following years. It was amazing to be back all these years later and see how much has changed and how much has remained the same. While Josie entered the Church Triumphant over a decade ago, seeing her home again made me feel close to her again.

Thanks for letting me share a bit of my story with you, dear ones. I want to hear your cool God sighting or mountaintop stories too!

Peace,  
Pastor Janine

## ORGANIST/MUSIC COORDINATOR

Dear Emanuel Family,

Welcome June! This past month, we wrapped up all of our ensemble rehearsals—and the brass ended on a high note with an exciting rendition of *Siyahamba*! And let's not forget to give a special shoutout to Marv for bringing all the fun on drums—his energy added so much life to our arrangements! Even though our brass rehearsals have concluded for the season, I was so energized by our “big-band” style church tunes that I went home and immediately began researching more music to plan for next season. I'll truly miss seeing everyone weekly for rehearsals, but I know that a little time to reset and rewind is exactly what we all need for a strong return. While a few musicians will continue to meet monthly over the summer, it'll be a nice chance to recharge.

I'm excited to announce that on Sunday, June 15th at 11am we will have the pleasure of inviting local violinist Jenna Mikuls to play at our concert series! “Jenna Mikuls is from Plano, Texas and currently resides in Napoleon, Ohio. She is a multi-instrumentalist and former high school English teacher. A lover of orchestral music, Jenna has performed with the Flower Mound Symphony, the New Texas

Symphony Orchestra, and BGSU's Philharmonia. Additionally, she performed The Magic Flute with BGSU's Opera Theater and an assortment of music with BGSU's Early Music Ensemble.” Her program will feature works by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Paganini, and Vitali. Some of the pieces will be for solo violin, and some will be accompanied by me on piano and organ! If you're looking for something to do on Father's Day after church, have a breakfast snack at our coffee hour and then stop by the sanctuary for a beautiful concert by a wonderful musician!

I know many people have been asking about when I'm getting married, and the answer is in a few months, on August 16th! I'm having a very small reception with close family and friends but I've heard that some of you would like to attend the ceremony, which I am perfectly fine with! Let me know and I will share the details. At the end of June I'll be going on a bachelorette party to Kelley's Island which I'm really stoked about! As for a honeymoon, we are going to stay on a quaint and peaceful farm in Wharton right outside of Findlay (not Columbus... thanks brass ensemble for that! Haha.) Maybe next year when Jeff has more vacation time we will visit our beloved Montreal again. I can't believe how quickly time flew by... It seems like just yesterday I was engaged and now I'm already a few months out from being married! In case anyone was wondering what kind of special music I had planned for the wedding... The answer is only the pipe organ. My summer project is to make an arrangement of Brahms' first symphony for organ as our recessional and then add in some prelude music by composers like Bach and Vaughn Williams. As important as music is in my life, sometimes it is best when it's simple!

In May, our wonderful bell choir met up during the week and had an end-of-the-year polishing party! It was incredibly messy (thank goodness we had on gloves or else our hands would still be stained today) but it was worth the mess because our bells are now blindingly bright! It's nice

to not only take care of our expensive instruments that help us make a joyful noise in church but to also have an opportunity for everyone to hang out outside of rehearsals. Thank you all who showed up and as Tiffany so wisely mentioned, “many hands make light work.”

If you're interested in singing about once a month with little commitment, consider joining our pop-up choir that meets on the first Sunday of every month in June, July, and August! Last year, Carol Castello coined the term “pop-up choir” and I love that it has stuck with us. If you've always considered singing with our choir and wanted to try it out, this would be an excellent time! For example you could pop in for the first Sunday in July, and decide this isn't your type of hobby, and not have to worry about being pestered about showing up at the next rehearsal! But who doesn't like singing with an awesome group of people? I hope to see you all at the next June 1st pop-up choir which will take place at 8:15am in the chapel!

-Vanessa Kwiatkowski

## **Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 21, 2025**

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

**Devotions** – Matt Van Gilder.

**Council Members in Attendance:** Pastor Janine, Denise Etzler, Sue Mabee, Matt Van Gilder, Peggy Snyder, Mackenzie Vocke, Kelli Burkhardt, Ed Biederstedt, Carey Plummer, Tom Jenny, Ron Wiechers, Nanette Schwab.

**Meeting Minutes – Sue Mabee** – Shared electronically. Motion to accept: First - Denise Etzler. Second - Ed Biederstedt.

**Treasurer's Report – Denise Etzler** – More money has gone out than been brought in, approximately \$1800. Waiting until Maxine returns soon to get more

specific details. Motion to accept: First - Kelli Burkhardt. Second - Peggy Snyder.  
**Pastor's Report – Pastor Janine Shearer** – Our Lenten extras (Accidental Saints book study and Bonhoeffer movie) were both successful! We had great discussions at both events. It sounds like people are interested in doing these sorts of things every few months. If you have ideas for a book study or for a movie day, let me know. The cozy new furniture in the study room was an added benefit! I am a board member for HopeWood Outdoors (LOMO). One of our goals this year especially for HopeWood Pines at LMC is connecting to the town of Fulton. Camp sits next to Fulton's cemetery, which connects to the rest of town. Last year AmeriCorp folks created a trail from camp to Fulton with the hope that more nearby neighbors can connect with God and creation. We were scheduled to have another AmeriCorp crew help this May/June but due to federal funding cuts to AmeriCorp, that is no longer an option. Not only does this make things harder to prepare for the summer, but as we strive to love our neighbors, we grieve for the hundreds of young folks who no longer have employment. Camp has graciously offered them employment opportunities for the season. Our confirmands have prepared their faith statements and are looking forward to being confirmed. This year we added the “Choose Your Own Adventure” book to add variety to the experiences of our confirmation students. Overall it went well. I will work on it over the summer so that there is one book for all three years. It has been cool to see the students learn what it means to be an adult in the Church! Endowment Committee has agreed to honor our request to use \$5000 from the Endowment Fund for missionary support through NW Ohio Synod. Bill Panning is stepping back from leading Dartball. Pastor announced she is expecting and due in November!

Save the dates: June 8-12- VBS. June 21- Emanuel evening at the city pool. July 20-

Bridal celebration for Vanessa following worship.

**Property Board – Carey Plummer, Ed Biederstedt** – Spring Clean-up: is scheduled for Saturday, May 17 at 9am. Joe and Julie Kahout have already begun outdoor prep. All Council members are being asked to help. Sanctuary Lighting: has been addressed and is working well. Eave spouting on the North side of building: still searching for a contractor who works with copper spouting. Fire and Security activity: Continue working on this problem. Will be meeting with Lanzer Company as they were the General Contractor on building construction and installation of the Elevator to gather detailed information on the Fire alarm subcontractor. It appears that this subcontractor may have some responsibility in fixing this problem. We also will obtain a quote from Koorsen Fire and Security on a new alarm panel so we can evaluate the best financial direction to take on this problem.

**Congregational Life Board – Nanette Schwab, Phyllis Kloos** – 45 Easter flowers were ordered from Country Sprouts Greenhouse in Stryker, OH. Thank you all. Palm Sunday Brunch potluck following the church services was 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 and Adult Services. 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 6 pm 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 Nantte 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.

**Education Board – Joe Dilbone, Laura Klein** – Easter Egg Hunt went well. May 18 is the last day of Sunday School until Sept. Confirmation gifts are bought. Graduation recognition is planned for May 18.

**Doctrine & Worship Board – Matthew Van Gilder, Peggy Snyder** – Thank you to all the volunteers that helped get through so many services through Lent.

**Finance Board – Kelli Burkhardt, Ron Wiechers** – Venmo, PayPal and Thrivent donations are going well.

**Old Business:** Review passing the Offering Plate (Lenten trial) - Council discussed and voted to continue.

**New Business:** Ed Biederstedt is taking the spot on the Endowment Committee for this year. Council host Summer Coffee Hour – June 1.

**Adjournment:** Motion to accept: First - Denise Etzler. Second - Sue Mabee. Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer. Next Meeting date May 19, 2025. Devotions: Phyllis Kloos. Submitted by Sue Mabee, Church Council Secretary.

## **Mutual Relations Committee Meeting Notes**

The Mutual Relations Committee met on Monday April 28, 2025. Attending were Pastor Janine, committee members Chelsey Saneholtz and Cheryl Huffman.

During this meeting, no concerns were brought to attention. Next the Committee reviewed the final chapter (Personnel Committee) in Pastor and People. This chapter discussed how the personnel committee is a group in the congregation that carries out the obligations of the congregation as an employer aspect and will make recommendations to the council to decide on action taken. Pastor Janine had shared that the council has done a lot

of work to get the church up to the synod guidelines. After, it was discussed how the pastor is usually considered an employee to the congregation and the pastor is also considered as self employed which Pastor Janine confirmed this and elaborated further what this entails. Then continuing education that Pastor Janine has to complete every year was shared as a required task of pastors, including types like mental health topics, boundaries training, etc. Finally, the meeting was rounded off with the topic of keeping a safe and secure environment.

Submitted by Chelsey Saneholtz

## **CARING CORNER**

**Caring Corner** for April we collected needs for the Supported Living at Filling Home. We also collected financial donations totaling \$80.

**Caring Corner** for May & June is food for local food pantries. Many local children home from school for the summer may not be getting meals at home so providing food for them is important.

Thursday evening Lenten Offerings totaled \$1177.75 which will be divided by 3 agencies: Sara's Garden, Hope Services and Northwest Ohio Sight Center.

Red Cross Blood Drive will be here on Friday May 23 from 12noon-6pm. For 2026, I will be passing the torch to someone else to head the blood drive. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

### **Looking Ahead....**

Summer Sunday Coffee Hours have been arranged and a list of who is hosting for each one will be listed in the June Newsletter. This is truly an effort of a few because the people involved in providing the food items are often involved in many of the same church groups. Nanette & I will be available on all the Sundays to help. July Caring Corner is Lutheran World Relief Kits.

Respectfully, Phyl Kloos and Nanette Schwab

## **Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group**

Pastor Janine and Beth Jenny are partnering with the Henry County Senior Center and the Alzheimer's Association to host a Caregiver Support Group on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11am. This is a space for caregivers to process, vent, share stories, and connect with others experiencing similar things. We are also partnering with Soaring Arts Studio who will provide a space for art for the people living with alzheimers or dementia. Please share this info with anyone who could use some extra support in their caregiving. **Our first meeting will be on June 11th at 11am at the Henry County Senior Center.**

## **Emanuel's Vacation Bible School June 8-12 6-8pm**

Join us for Road Trip on the go with God. Kids ages 3 thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to register online or thru the office.

## **Emanuel's evening at the city pool June 21 6pm**

## **Take me out to the ballgame!**

Faith and Family day at the Mudhens is on June 29th this year. We have a block of tickets reserved. Tickets need to be purchased by June 15th. You can purchase your ticket at this link:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Emmanuelutheran5>

# Altar Flowers



**June 1** - Louis & Mary Lou Streicher

**June 8** - Larr & Denise Etzler wedding anniversary

**June 15** - Rita Kryder in memory of George

**June 22** - Carey & Brenda Plummer

**June 29** - Drew Behnfeldt's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday

## OPEN DATES:

August 31                      October 5, 12, 26  
November 9, 16              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



## Pentecost

You are invited to wear RED on Sunday, June 8 to recognize the Holy Spirit's presence in our midst.

## 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

## **2025 - Summer Coffee Hour Hosts**

June 1 – Church Council (Kenzie Vocke)  
June 8 – Adult Choir - Altos & Baritones (Carol Castello)  
June 15 – Adult Sunday School (Chris Peper)  
June 22 – Adult Bell Choir (Peggy Snyder)  
June 29 – Altar Guild - January, February, March (Julie Callaway)

July 6 – NO COFFEE HOUR (Holiday weekend)  
July 13 – Brass Ensemble (Vanessa)  
July 20 – Vanessa's Bridal Shower (Phyl & Nanette)  
July 27 – Church Council (Kenzie Vocke)

August 3 – Adult Choir - Sopranos & Tenors (Nanette)  
August 10 – Altar Guild - April, May, June (Julie Callaway)  
August 17 – Soul Food (Kelli Burkhardt)  
August 24 – Adult Sunday School (Chris Peper)

Detailed Instructions will be placed on the stainless steel cart in the kitchen.

Coffee hour "hosts" responsibilities:

- Ask the members of your group to provide the breakfast foods for the Coffee Hour on your particular Sunday. (donuts, bagels, cookies, coffee cake, fresh fruit, pastries; these can be homemade, or store bought)
- Make coffee in the coffee pots in the back room of the kitchen; make 2 pots of regular and 1 pot of decaf; pour the coffee from the glass pots into the appropriately labeled carafes to keep warm.
- There will be a metal cart set up in the kitchen area with plates, napkins, silverware, cups, sugar, sweetener, creamer, stir sticks; a dishwasher utensil basket for used utensils will be on the lower shelf of the cart
- There will be OJ and milk in the kitchen refrigerator. Pour each in a plastic pitcher (found on the metal cart) & bring those up on the cart
- After the Coffee Hour, please wash off the tables in the overflow with the cleaner and paper towels found in the cabinet under the coffee maker in the overflow.
- Take the cart back to the kitchen and wash it off; put \*food and milk and juice away as directed below

If you have any \*food "leftovers" that you don't want to take home, please put them in the zip lock bags (lower shelf of cart) and place in the either freezer in the room behind the stoves in the kitchen. Perishables such as fruit, juice and milk can be used at Soul Food on the 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesdays; just leave them in the refrigerator in the kitchen. Please do NOT refrigerate any leftover coffee; it does not get used. Rinse out the coffee carafes and place upside down to dry on the counter by the coffee maker. Put the dirty utensil basket in the dishwasher or wash utensils by hand and leave to dry in the drying rack. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Nanette Schwab 419-283-1240 or Phyl Kloos 419-260-6582. Thank you!

