

Emanuel



Good News

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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.

Thoughts from Pastor Janine...

Hi dear ones!

We had the joy of celebrating six young folks who affirmed their baptismal promises this week! This is the biggest confirmation class we've had since I arrived. It's always such a joy to watch young 6th graders grow into faithfully mature 8th graders by the end of their time. Here's what they've experienced in the last 3 years.

On the first Sunday of the month, students gather in the evening for Food and Fellowship. Parents provide a meal. While we eat, we share highs and lows (good things and hard things about our week). Sometimes we will have a lesson. Other times we will go to the sanctuary or chapel for a mini worship experience. Sometimes we play games. This year included a field trip to the crematory at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral home to learn about cremation and to burn the palms from last year that were used for ashes this Ash Wednesday.

On the other Sundays, we gather following worship on the 3rd floor. We use the "A Lutheran Welcome To" series that includes sections on Jesus, the Bible, Forgiveness, Communion, and Baptism. We also pair each lesson with a key scripture passage. Within the 3 year cycle, we also go through Luther's Small Catechism, especially around the Creed and Lord's Prayer. Occasionally on Sunday mornings we will also participate in a service project.

Knowing that many of our students have limited availability because of extracurricular activities, we also have a great opportunity to learn outside the classroom in the “Choose Your Own Adventure” booklet. In it there are activities around worship leadership, congregational life, community service, biblical literacy, Lutheran history and theology, understanding the wider Church, living a life of faith, and prayer and devotional life. All of these correlate with one of the baptismal promises that students take on as their own at confirmation. This book has been a new addition in the past two years so we’re still working out some of the rough spots with it. The goal is to prepare students to be adults in the Church by helping them experience so many parts of it!

One of the coolest parts of confirmation are the buddies! We are so grateful for fun adults who have said “yes” to being additional support people for our confirmands. Buddies are encouraged to write notes to their confirmand, share wisdom, and join us a few times a year for fellowship time. Thank you to all the buddies who have said yes! If you’re interested in being a buddy in the future, let me know. Yes, confirmation looks a lot different than when these students’ parents and grandparents went through, but we are still learning that we are loved by God and that we get to live God’s love into the world. We are still learning scripture and what makes our Lutheran faith different. We are so fortunate to have such awesome young people among us! Please celebrate them and their accomplishments well!

Peace,
Pastor Janine



A Message from Vanessa Organist/Music Coordinator

Dear Emanuel,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Last month was a whirlwind, but we’ve made it into May, and I wanted to share some updates with the music ministry at Emanuel. First, thank you to everyone who supported the youth bell choir’s trip to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Bowling Green for the handbell festival. It was such a neat experience to have the Emanuel bell choir on the road again, but this time with the youth! We were so fortunate to have 5 ringers participate, and this wouldn’t have been possible without the support from their families and the Emanuel members who came out to support them! The youth worked hard to prepare two solo songs, but they also took on a third optional song performed by all the ensembles. With only 2-3 weeks to prepare this challenging music, they learned new techniques such as martellatos (bell choir recognizes these as table damps) and martellato lifts (a table damp followed by a lift afterwards.) Not to mention, the song was 8 pages long so we had many page turns at a fast tempo. The first time we looked at the music, the majority of the ringers threw their hands up in the air and said it was too difficult. They couldn’t get the page turns in time and the techniques were way too challenging. But the second time, some kids were saying that the first half of the music was becoming a little easier, and by the third time we played along with the recording and were able to make it all the way through to the end! Their last Sunday to play in church will be May 17th -- you don’t want to miss it!

Now that May is here, our choir will be singing their last official Sunday of the season on May 3rd. It is bittersweet since I'll miss making music on a weekly basis with the choir, but I'm also grateful that everyone can have a break! The adult bell choir will be finishing their season on May 31st, and even though it'll most likely be a smaller group than usual due to summer break, I am super grateful for all of the hard work the group put in this year. We've had some busy seasons but my favorite moment of them all was having the entire bell choir plus a couple of substitutes play for Janis Dachenhaus's funeral. I'm always amazed with the way people at Emanuel show up for each other and this is just proof of one of the many ways that we care for each other. Despite having to cancel rehearsal at the last second due to a tornado watch, we were able to rehearse once before the funeral and do such a nice job with limited time. The brass ensemble will be playing their last Sunday on May 10th, however, if you still want to see them play again, we will be going "on tour" to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in McClure at 10:15am on May 17th after church! (Also, Matt Van Gilder will be preaching that day so it'll be a true Emanuel party at St. Paul's if you'd like to join!)

In the off-season months, we will continue to have pop-up choir on the first Sunday of each month, but we'll see what happens in August because in some other exciting news, Jeff and I are expecting a baby boy in August! We've always dreamed of being parents and are over the moon excited to meet baby Nicholas in a few months. We've been blessed in so many ways and I wanted to give a special thanks to Pastor Janine and Brad who so graciously donated multiple carloads (I'm not kidding) of baby items and clothes that were so loved by baby Clark.. I think it's safe to say we have an outfit for every hour of the day from newborn-6 months and are all set on baby items! I feel very grateful for everyone's outpour of love, support, and excitement. Thank you all so much!!

Welcome Bleu....From Denise Etzler



I want to take this opportunity to answer the many questions I have received over the past few weeks. After a 4 year wait, Bleu will be joining our family as my service dog and as Axle's little sister!

Although you don't see him anymore, Axle is still part of our family. He is now 11½ years old and is showing his age. Because of this, he is unable to complete many of the tasks I need him to do.

Bleu will be 2 years old in June. She comes from The Ability Center in Toledo. Bleu is a spunky and sassy girl who loves to be on the move. She is eager to go places which makes her a perfect partner for me! Bleu is smaller than Axle (52 pounds as opposed to 92 pounds). Again, in an attempt to answer many questions, the following are some of the many tasks that Bleu will perform for me.

Bleu will retrieve items that I drop, help me rise out of a chair, and help me maneuver steps if necessary. In order to help me emotionally, Bleu has been trained to quiet my anxiety and sleep next to me so her weight will help stop any nightmares caused by my Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She will help me by tugging off my socks, shirts, and jackets. She can open and shut doors, turn on/off light switches, and find my phone when I leave it somewhere in the house. She has been trained to find Larr or someone else in the house if I need help. In order to limit the time I spend standing while performing household tasks, Bleu will put items in the garbage or recycling bin, open/shut the refrigerator, take clothes out of the dryer and put them in a basket, and then pull the basket into the bedroom so I can fold them.

Now, I am asking for your help. It will take time for Bleu and I to develop a close working partnership. You will see her in church for the first time on May 17. Please do not attempt to pet her. I will be talking to the Sunday School kids about this. If Bleu is distracted by other people, she may miss a cue from me that she needs to see.

I will spend almost 2 weeks with Bleu at The Ability Center in training with her. I will introduce her to the congregation following any guidelines that her trainers will give to me. Until that time, please help me by not distracting her while she is working.

Confirmation was held on 4/26/26. The following students affirmed their baptismal promises and were confirmed as members of this congregation:

Connor Aschemeier, Greydon Dilbone, Jackson Groll, Tessa Knepley
Avin Rupp, Benson Schwab

Congratulations Graduates! Please join us for cake after worship on May 17, 2026. Our High School graduates this year are Ava Good, Taryn Kolodziejczyk, Kayla McCabe, Leah McCabe and Jackson Delaney. All graduates are welcome to submit information to be included in the bulletin.

A Special Thank You from the Family of Janis Dachenhaus.

Our family sincerely thanks you for honoring our mom with such a beautiful service and for sharing our mom's service on Facebook. Doing so allowed our family and friends to be a part of such a meaningful time no matter the distance. Thank you for sharing your gift of music, playing the bells, in honor of our mom! It was truly touching and made the service even more special. A big thank you for the gracious meal afterwards. Your acts of kindness were a reflection of Christ's love and brought us peace and comfort.

God's Blessings, Lisa, Ann, Rodney, & Ryan

Congregational Life

March Caring Corner collected \$20 to help assist with laundry expenses and enough laundry soap to clean 400 loads of laundry. Thank you to all who donated to this cause.

May and June Caring Corner will be collecting food for local food pantries. Many local children home from school for the summer may not be getting the proper meals at home so providing food for them is very important. When donating please consider food items that kids would like eating as well as foods that are good for them. You may consider complete meals or food staples such as peanut butter, snack bars, and cereal, etc. You can also consider a monetary donation, this can be placed in an envelope labeled Caring Corner and place in the offering plate.

Lenten Offering totaled \$1,680 which was divided by 3 agencies: The Sight Center of Northwest Ohio, Hope Services, and Sarah's Garden.

Summer Sunday Coffee Hour begins on June 7 in the Bible Study Room off the overflow...look forward to spending some time with your church family and enjoy some breakfast treats as well!

Coffee Hour "hosts" will be contacted this month and assigned a Sunday date. Hosts will be asked to help in the set-up, on your Sunday, as well as asking members of your group to bring breakfast treats. Thank you, in advance, for your help!

The Laundry Soap Fundraiser is underway!!! Order forms can be picked up at the front or back of the church, in the church office, or you can ask one of our youth. **All orders and payment should be turned in to the office by May 17th, 2026.** All proceeds will benefit the youth.

Old Hymnals We have many of our old green hymnals that we no longer need. You are welcome to take as many as you like for free. They will be located at the front and the back entrances of the church. Any questions please see Peggy Snyder.

Palm Sunday Potluck was held after church. There was a great variety of main dishes and desserts that **filled** the serving table. Good food and good fellowship!!

As a reminder the flower sign-up sheet and the reader/Communion/Usher sheet are located beside the church office. There are many dates in May open on both of them. Thank you!

Emanuel Office Hours Are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:30am-9am and 12:30pm to 5pm, and Tuesday and Thursday 7:30am-2:30 pm.

Altar Flowers



5/3/26 In Honor of Stella Smith 10th Birthday.

5/10/26 To the Glory of God.

5/17/26 To the Glory of God.

5/24/26 To the Glory of God.

5/31/26 From Larr and Denise in Honor of their Granddaughter.

A Space to Grieve

Carol Castello and Pastor Janine invite those of you who are grieving to a time to check in, hear scripture, and share stories on **5.26.26** at **10am** in the Bible Study room. As the Honduran proverb goes, "Grief shared is half grief. Joy shared is double joy." Let us hold some of your grief for you.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Each 2nd Wednesday of the month Pastor Janine, Beth Jenny, and others gather at the Senior Center at 11am for an Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. We help folks process their experiences, share tools and resources, and build community with others who get it. If you are caring for a loved one who is struggling with memory in any capacity, you are welcome! This month's meeting is Wednesday **5.13.26** at 11am.

Remember our Members in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Lutheran Home & Alpine Village
(1032 – 1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon)
Ken Lange
Oneta Wiechers

Vancrest Nursing Home
(600 Joe E. Brown Avenue Holgate, OH 43527)
Ed Panning

Brookdale BG
(121 N. Wintergarden Rd., #141, Bowling Green, 43402)
Cheryl Ritchey

The Mutual Relations Committee met on Monday April 13, 2026. Attending were Pastor Janine, committee members Marvin MtCastle and Chelsey Saneholtz. Cheryl Huffman was unable to attend.

In this month's meeting Pastor Janine started the meeting with a prayer. There were no concerns with the congregation, so the third chapter (Expectations of Pastoral Ministry) in Pastor and People was reviewed. This chapter revolved around all of the roles that a pastor takes on like preacher, teacher, administrator, ambassador, midwife for life passages, etc. It was shared how eye opening this chapter is to what was not known about all the pastor does in their role. Also shared about how hard it must be to remember everything that people have confided and expect the pastor to remember. Pastor Janine shared an example of how at first she didn't realize how much of her job

would involve the midwife for life passages. Then the rest of the meeting revolved on reviewing the Emanuel Church's secretary job description including sick/vacation time regulations to be recommended to the council to approve. The meeting was closed with a prayer lead by Pastor Janine.



Emanuel Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
Council Minutes 3/16/2026

Open: Devotions, Terry Hershberger: Job's Patience and perspective. February minutes approval, motioned by Denise Etzler, second by Ed Biederstedt, Approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Passed out revised January and February Balance reports and YTD expense/budget report. There will be copies on the credenza available for the congregation. Motion to approve report: Terry Hershberger; Second: Ron Weichers; approved

Finance Board: Kelly not there, Ron had nothing to add

Pastor's Report:

- Confirmation is April 26th with "Rehearsal" at Thursday April 23rd service
- Vicar Alan Fuhrhop is now PASTOR Alan at Bethlehem Lutheran Okolona through a program called Journeying Together
- Favorite Hymns will continue through Easter.
- Holy Week schedule is out

Property Board:

- Feb 18th conversation with Johnson Control: we have their panel box; it will need to be replaced in 2-3 years. Ed working on getting a cost from them
- Koorson has a dialer to replace on the control panel, waiting on a cost.
- Ceiling light on the 3rd floor landing was replaced
- Copiers are here
- 2 "Trucker lights" in sanctuary (one above the piano and one by Martin Luther) need fixed/replaced
- Finishing the blinds is still on the to-do list
- Ed looking into a camera by the back door
- Joe Kahout replaced batteries
- Water heater issue was a clogged screen. It was cleaned by Elling's and is back in working order.
- Broken hinge in kitchen is not fixed. It had to have been broken for a while. Make sure things are being properly communicated.

Congregational Life

- February Caring Corner raised \$85 for Pillars, and \$35 for Good Sam.
- Caring Corner for April is for the Filling Home. They are providing a list of needed items
- Shrove Tuesday pancakes was a success
- Planning a Brunch for after Palm Sunday service
- 36 flowers were ordered for Easter, proceeds to go to Good Sam Fund

Educational Board:

- Information about Hopewood Camp is in the bulletins.
- We will have an Easter egg hunt after the 9 am festival worship service during the Sunday school hour with other activities for the kids
- We missed out on securing a day at the pool and are looking into inflatables for a family day instead
- May 17th is the last day for Sunday school and will have graduation recognition during worship that day.

Doctrine and Worship Board:

- We are in need of helpers for Holy week-readers, ushers, and communion assistants

Old Business

Administrative handbook, policies and procedures:

- Updated the secretarial position job description. We need one for Pastor, Music Director, and Janitor that outlines vacation time, sick leave, a probationary period, policies for a raise, procedures for disciplinary actions. Make a worksheet based off the job description to evaluate strengths and weaknesses that can be used to correct weaknesses, with procedures on how to release someone from employment and what documentation needs to be on file so everything stays transparent
- Peggy asked if the ELCA has employment Guidelines. Tom will check in to that
- Record retention policy. Per the Synod, do not purge anything yet. They sent a multi-page report on what to keep and how long to keep it. We are looking into a locking filing cabinet to keep on the third floor and possibly implementing a process to “check out” items if needed (i.e. family records). Also looking into digital file storage so it is all clearly marked, organized rationally, and easily accessible.
- Website: We have access! We will be updating it as we can. Ryan Kohout will stay on as Admin for the time being

New Business

- Word of the day on WNDH needs updated. Denise will get with the radio station and get it done.

Adjournment: Motioned by Denise, Seconded by Peggy

Next Meeting date April 20, 2026

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship -9am

In person Online

Thursday Worship – Facebook 7pm

(In person only)

COMMUNION SERVICES

First Sunday of the month – 9 am

Third Thursday of the month - 7pm

Pastor Rev. Janine Shearer
330-524-2552 or

jshearer520@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Sally Roehl
**Organist & Music Coordinator &
Bell Choir Director** Vanessa
Kwiatkowski
Custodian Terri Sedam

2026 Church Council

President – Tom Jenny

President-Elect – Dea Plummer

Secretary – Mary Eickhoff

Treasurer - Denise Etzler

Doctrine & Worship Board

Peg Snyder & Julie Mt Castle

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Wednesday-Friday 7:30 am
to 9am & 12:30pm-5pm

Tuesday & Thursday 7:30am-2:30pm

Altar Guild Chairman Julie Callaway
Prayer Chair Coordinator Phyllis Kloos
(419-260-6582 or
phyllis_kloos@yahoo.com)

Congregational Life

Nanette Schwab & Julie Callaway

Board of Education

Laura Klein & Sarah Ruffer

Properties Board

Ed Biederstedt & Terry Hershberger

Finance Board

Ron Wiechers & Kelli Burkhardt