

THE GOOD NEWS NEWSLETTER ~~~ EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

241 South Prospect Street, Marion Ohio 43302-3984

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2015



I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Thank you so much for your labor of love serving on the 2014: Parish Planning Council, Boards & Committees; Women of the Church; Lutheran Men in Mission; Altar Guild; Quilters; Ushers; Communion Assistants; Audio/Visual; Lay Readers; Choir Members; Directors; Accompanists; Sunday School Teachers & Helpers; Youth, Youth Advisors; and the Church Staff (please forgive me if I forgot anyone). Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities has strengthened the mission and ministry of this church. You have also been an example of servant-leadership and giving. For all your time, effort, hard work, and prayers, please accept the thanks and appreciation of this church, and myself. You have truly been a blessing to this congregation!

With Sincere Gratitude,


Pastor Mark Schuring



Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate, Guideposts magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services.

Here are some other ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.

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I am the LORD your God...you shall have no other gods before me.

-Exodus 20

As I began cleaning up my desk top in this new year I found many other gods before me. Maybe even the fact that I insist on having piles on my desk top is a way of keeping other gods before me. So, I dutifully began getting rid of those papers that definitely were worthy of getting rid of and then I was pleasantly surprised that some papers were actually worth saving and even worth sharing.

One paper that I discovered was titled, *How can we put God first in our lives?* I have no idea where I acquired this, so I do apologize to whomever I stole it from, but I think we can find this simple exercise to be very helpful in our faith lives. In a world in which we see much darkness and many other gods tempting us, it is a challenge to put God first in our lives. So, how can we put God first in our lives? Here is a strategy that might work;

*First, mentally focus on your greatest accomplishments.

*Next, ask yourself if these were your successes or God's gifts to you.

*Finally, ask yourself if you can give those milestones back to God.

Putting God first in our lives and ignoring those other gods is certainly a challenge, but this simple exercise and reminding ourselves of Martin Luther's explanation of the first article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism;

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

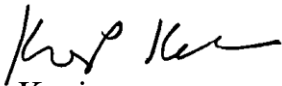
We can indeed put God first in our lives and by doing so God will be first in the lives of our congregation, our community and our world.

During a time that our world, locally and globally, is experiencing much darkness, let us continually to remind ourselves of the Christmas message from John's gospel;

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

With God first in our lives we can be assured that those other gods will remain in the darkness and with God first in our lives we can be assured that the world will experience more and more of the light of world that comes to us through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Until next time, may the peace of God be with you always.


Kevin



Ash Wednesday worship service will be held on Wed., February 18, at 7:00p.m. The service will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Lenten Worship Services will be held every Wednesday at 7:00p.m. The service will include Holy Communion. (Feb. 25-March 25) **Lenten Suppers** will be served every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30p.m. beginning with the Child Care Spaghetti Supper on Feb. 25.

May God bless our ponderings and guide us through the meaningful days of Lent.



This month I am writing about Martin E. Hollensen, the longest serving pastor at Emanuel. He served 35 yrs. beginning November 1, 1937 until his retirement December 31, 1972.

Martin was born November 14, 1906 in Chicago, Illinois the son of Mathilda (Behn) and Hans Hollensen.

He attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio from 1924-1928.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. He then went to what

then was called Capital Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Columbus and graduated in 1931 with a Bachelor of Divinity Degree. Martin was ordained June 14, 1931. Six days after his ordination he married Ruth Boyer on June 20, 1931. Ruth was born July 16, 1906 in East St. Louis, Illinois.

His first call was to Grace Lutheran Church in Eaton, Ohio. He served from July of 1931 to October of 1937. Rev. Hollensen was then called here to Emanuel and installed November 1, 1937.

On May 26, 1933 Ruth and Rev. Hollensen had their first daughter, Dorothy Ruth. Her married name, Baughman. On April 10, 1938 their second daughter, Carol Jean was born. Her married name, Heid.

In June of 1958 Rev. Hollensen received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Capital Theological Seminary. Also in 1958, the book he wrote, *Is It True?* was published by The Wartburg Press in Columbus. It is a book that explains what Lutherans believe.

As a side note, the church office was contacted recently by a woman in Florida looking for a copy of *Is It True?*. She was a member of Emanuel before moving to Florida. She had given her copy to her daughter and wanted a copy to give her son for Christmas. Darlene, the office manager, contacted me and I had a copy to send her. She was thrilled to have it. I'm sure some of you still have a copy. There is a copy in the church library.

During Rev. Hollensen's time here the first live broadcast of our 10:30a.m. Sunday Service on WMRN radio on January 31, 1943. That was 72 yrs. ago and is still broadcast every Sunday.

May 3, 1953 our educational wing was dedicated.

In 1958 air conditioning was installed and the south parking lot was added in 1962.

During this time he also served as Vice President of the Ohio District of the American Lutheran Church for a number of years; was on the Board of Publication for the ALC from 1946-1960; served as Chairman of the Literature and Periodical Committee of the ALC; and was President of the Marion Kiwanis Club in 1954 where he was a member for many years.

Rev. Hollensen and his family lived in the house that is now our church office until his retirement in 1972. He preached his farewell sermon on December 31, 1972. Upon his retirement he and Ruth were given use of a house on Bordeaux Ave. and lived there until their deaths. Ruth died April 7, 1991 and Rev. Hollensen April 14, 1998.

I have very fond memories of Ruth and Rev. Hollensen. He baptized me in July of 1957 and confirmed me in April of 1966.

I have pictures of Ruth and Rev. Hollensen that I am going to put in the archive cabinet in the church parlor. I hope you take a look.

The Altar Guild extends their thanks to those who helped take down the Christmas decorations. Also a **big thank you** to Carl Jones and Frank Fanello for all they do for Altar Guild throughout the year!



Health Notes by Joyce Butterman R.N.



Each year, millions of adults fall. These falls can cause moderate to severe injury to your body. They may cause hip and ankle fractures, head trauma or any number of other injuries. For older adults, injuries from falls are the leading cause of death. This is because the body cannot recover from traumatic injury which sometimes requires surgeries.

Here are some things we can do to prevent falls both outside and within our homes:

- When we have periods of snow and ice, SLOW DOWN and check your surroundings when you walk.
- Step down from a curb - not away from it.
- Take short steps and drag your feet.



Penguins have learned well how to walk in slippery conditions.

Here are some tips we can take from them:

- Walk flatfooted
- Wear footwear that provides traction
- Use your arms to balance

To help make your home safer:

- Remove things you can trip over (like papers, books and shoes) from the stairs and pathways through which you walk.
- Remove small throw rugs or use double sided tape to keep rugs from slipping.
- Keep items you use often someplace they can be reached without using a stepstool
- Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors
- Improve the lighting in your home, especially on stairs. As we age, we need brighter lights to be able to see well.
- Have handrails placed on both sides of all staircases.
- Always wear shoes. Avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers.



Exercise to improve your balance and increase strength

Exercises that improve balance and make your legs stronger lower your risk of falling.

- Lack of exercise leads to weakness and increase your chances of falling.
- Ask your doctor or healthcare provider about the best type of exercise program for you.

Wishing you safety and blessings during this season. *Joyce Butterman, RN*

Please Note: Joyce, is a retired nurse and is excited about sharing health information with her church family. She and Christy Penrod are also doing **Blood Pressure Screenings** the first Sunday of each month from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Library. They would love to have you stop by. **Thanks** Joyce & Christy for sharing in the Health Ministry of Emanuel!



"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

Many thanks to all who sent cards and personal greetings for my 90th Birthday. Blessing to all, you are the best! Love, Betty Smith

Thank You for all the cards, prayers, and for Pastor Mark & Kevin's visits. They were appreciated. Marjorie Lewis

Thanks: I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the assistance I recently received during some major problems I faced. Your help was a God-send. Thank You so much and may God bless you all. Doris Stanforth

Thank You so much for your prayers, support, love, hugs, and cards during my battle with cancer. I am proof you can have miracles and beat stage 4a cancer. Thanks also for supporting my parents and family. We are blessed to be a part of Emanuel's church family. Steve Schaadt.

I would like to Thank you all for the cards and prayers during my sickness and to everyone who remembered our family with prayers, support, and gifts in memory of my wife, June. Thank you, Dewey Yake.

Thank You for your kind expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness. The family of Dorothy Plough.

Thank you for your cards, prayers, the delicious meal prepared and served by Women of the Church, Kevin's message, the Lord's Prayer throw, and memorials in memory of my wife Velda. Thanks again, Bill Hoffman.

Thanks for your donations to the Mitten Tree! 351 items were divided between the Christmas Clearing House and our Food Pantry.

Thank You for Your Support of the 17th Annual Thanks & Giving Dinner: 286 deliveries were made, which totaled 572 meals of turkey and ham, AND 273 people were served a delicious meal of turkey and ham in our Dining Room. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who gave of their time to organize, prepare, set-up, serve, deliver, and clean up. Because of the generosity of our church family this ministry continues.





A Message from Treasurer Ed Baldauf: Past Givers to Emanuel - continued: The first fund is from the will of Lester DeLong dated November 11, 2005. Mr. DeLong gave to Emanuel monies to be used in any manner deemed appropriate

by its advisory board. Some of Mr. DeLong's funds were used to seal and stripe the parking lot this last year. This fund is still active and being used at Emanuel. The second fund is from the estate of James (Jim) Helwig dated February 23, 2006. Mr. Helwig listed no stipulations for the use of the monies in his will. This fund is currently being used to offset some general expenses or other needs of Emanuel as they occur.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these gifts feel free to contact me.

Until next month, your Treasurer, *Ed Baldauf*.

Bd. of Education



News

Family Life Ministry: About 10 months ago, the Board of Education was presented with the concept of Family Life Ministry. This area has become a viable and productive part of a growing number of churches. It has combined the position of youth directors, education directors, adult activity organizers and others into one main supervisory position with specific hands-on areas. After much discussion, monitoring and prayer, the Board decided to proceed with this option. The job description and outline is currently being developed to Emanuel's needs. In the meantime, Bethany

Rice is in the position of interim. Once the description/ outlines/ expectations are developed, the position of Family Life Ministry Coordinator will be open for applications. We ask that you keep all those involved in the process in your prayers. *Linda Hoch*, 2014 Board of Education, Director

Attention Adults! Are you looking for an Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study/Sunday School Class? So are we! The Berean Class is very active and would welcome new members. A new class, or classes, would serve as an additional opportunity for others in our congregation. Is there a topic you would like to explore? Maybe you've led a study before, or would feel confident in leading one. The Education Committee is looking to provide opportunities for both the 9:15 and 10:30 times. We need your help! If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Harlan Needham, Board of Education Director, at: harlan_needham@hotmail.com or Tom Pannett, Board Member at: tpannett@mcspresidents.org We look forward to hearing your ideas.

Notes From Bethany:

Birthday Party Potluck!!! Your birthday's not in February? It doesn't matter. On February 22 at 5pm it's everyone's birthday.

- 12 tables will be set up, one for each month of the year.
- We need people to sign up to *either* decorate a birthday table *or* bring the birthday dessert for a table.
- Everyone sits at their birth month table. It's fun to see who shares your birth month! You might even meet someone new.
- Bring a main or side dish to share then find your favorite birthday dessert.
- Sign up for decorating a table *OR* bringing a birthday dessert will be in the Gathering Space.
- Contact a Board of Education member or Bethany Rice for more information.



Sunday School News: Sometimes it seems like we jump right from Christmas to Easter. We've been busy exploring what Jesus did between his birth and death and resurrection. We're seeing that he called his disciples and taught and healed. Oh and he walked a lot!

Youth News: 8 boys attended the New Years Eve lock in. They enjoyed bowling and other activities. Both the 6th/7th and 8th – 12th grade youth groups meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 6-8 pm. We will be planning the Easter Sunrise service in the coming months. We've enjoyed spending time together. Come join us for fun and Bible studies/conversations.

Sunday School needs: Construction Paper - 9x12 yellow, white, red, light and dark green; 12x18 white, yellow, light and dark green, light and dark blue, red ,pink; Chow Mein noodles; 3x5 and 4x6 note cards; foam cups- 5 oz cups.

High school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply for the Mather Scholarship if you plan to attend or are already attending an accredited ELCA college or you are pursuing a career in Lutheran social services. This scholarship is open to any young and confirmed Emanuel Lutheran Church member.



Applications may be picked up at the church office. **The application and other support information are due no later than March 1, 2014** to the chairperson, Rae Andrews at 379 Brightwood Dr., Marion, OH 43302.



Church Women News

Joyce Baumgartner

Bible Study for January and February in the *Gather* magazine continues to follow the theme *Transforming Life and Faith*.

January's focus is on *Repent and Forgive*. This study may help you with a restored relationship. February's focus is on *Making Conversation Last*. What example in your own life indicate such transforming changes and the value that has come from them?

There are many interesting articles in the *Gather*. A copy is available in the church library.

The Women are planning some workdays for making more double fleece blankets to be shipped with the Lutheran World Relief Quilts. The dates and times will be printed in the bulletin and posted on the Women's Bulletin Board in the Parlor, late Spring or early Summer.

Thought - What examples in your own life indicate such transforming changes and the value that has come from them?

Happy 92nd Birthday to Bill Hoffman on Feb. 12

Happy 92nd Birthday to Charles Baker on Feb. 21

Happy 91st Birthday to Harold Rainier on Feb. 22

Happy 93rd Birthday to Doris Reed on Feb. 28

Happy 93rd Birthday to Mary Tong on March 8

Happy 102nd Birthday to Eileen Carpenter on March 22

Happy 91st Birthday to Mary Stafford on March 28

Let's remember them with our prayers, cards and visits!

November - January Official Acts:

Wedding: Janice Guthrie & Charles Campbell November 29

Baptisms: 12/14 Sophia Rose , daughter of Branden & Emily Staiger;

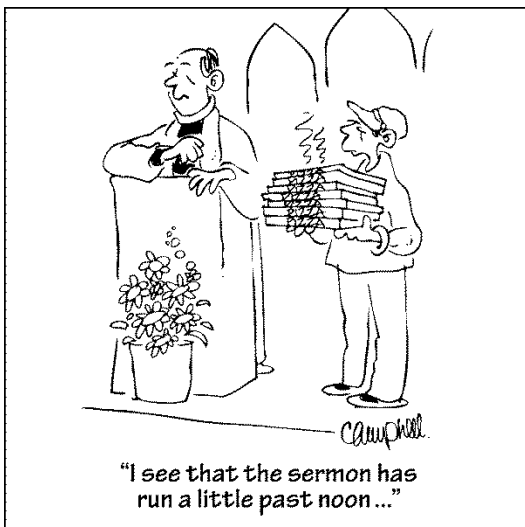
12/14 Benjamin Davis, son of Jamie & Christopher Fish

12/19 Zooney Iszabella, daughter of Maegan Schaadt & Christian Espinoza

Funerals: 1/9 Velda M. Hoffman; 1/10 Dorothy Plough; 1/13 Sue Coffman

Happy Birthday Children of Emanuel:

Colin Jordan 2/5; Jack Showalter 2/5; Jase Craycraft 2/7; Lexie Spoon 2/10; Bryce Mitchell 2/12; Reagan Lynch 2/14; Mackenzie Pryor 2/17; Aleigha Thacker 2/18; Tim Kuhn 2/21; Olivia Moore 2/21; Arielle Stump 2/21; Zachary Beavers 2/24; Carson Wiedlebacher 2/26; Olivia Houpt 3/1; Samantha Kollas 3/7; Kaleb Rawlins 3/7; Hillary Rawlins 3/12; John Charpie 3/13; Richard Yendrek 3/16; Dylan Clark 3/17; Ellie Grills 3/17; Tristen Singh; 3/17; Kelsey Stiverson 3/17; James Lemley 3/18; Caitlyn Lust 3/18; Bogdan Short 3/18; Brody Thomas 3/18; Jason Joehlin 3/21; Kaitlyn Lemley 3/21; Cadence Tighe 3/21; Camryn Tighe 3/21; John Issler 3/26; Jarrett Dirst 3/26; Morgan Lott 3/26; Samuel Lust 3/28; Emily Pike 3/29; Colleen Gilpin 3/30; McKayla Graff 3/30; MaKayla Lawrence 3/30; Logan Pirnstill 3/30; Adam Joehlin 3/31



2015 Parish Planning Council & Boards:

President, Judy Lehner

Vice President, Scott Blackford

Secretary, Elaine Merchant

Treasurer, Ed Baldauf

Bd. of Child Care: Carol Phillips, Director Designate, Brian Schaadt; Jackie Dietsch; Sally Houpt; Carl Emigh; Amy Pirnstill

Bd. of Communication:

Betty Anderson, Director

Designate, Joyce Buttermann; Jack Bull; Christy Penrod

Bd. of Education: Harlan Needham, Director Designate, Phil Hundley; Carolyn Bailey; Tom Pannett; Cheryl Williams; Heather Smith

Bd. of Evangelism: Donna Thomas, Director Designate, Sandy Needham; Ashley Varga; Ann Thomas; Jennifer George; Tanya Vela

Bd. of Fellowship: Carol Hoch, Director Designate, Kathy Sherman; Jean Yake; Joe Yake; Chris Kehn; Dianne Schuring

Bd. of Properties: Rich Tubbs, Director John Kyle; Mike Phillips; Bob Lehner

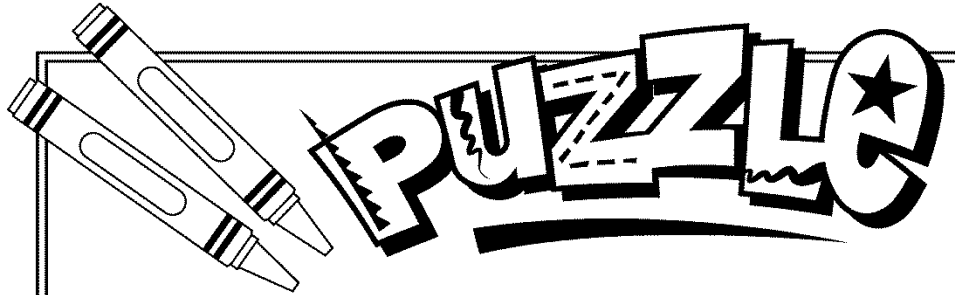
Bd. of Social Ministries: Matt Primmer, Director Designate, Lauren Gilbert; Kelly Hundley; Betty Jo Lill; Chad Wiedlebacher

Bd. of Spiritual Life: Tom Crowe, Director Designate, Jerry Leydens; Sue Sours; Sandy Lust; Connie Pannett; Kevin Davidson

Bd. of Stewardship: Bob Lill, Director Designate, Paula Burnside; Ron Farson; Michele Rankin; Carol Eilola; Steve Musser

Youth Representative: Logan Pirnstill

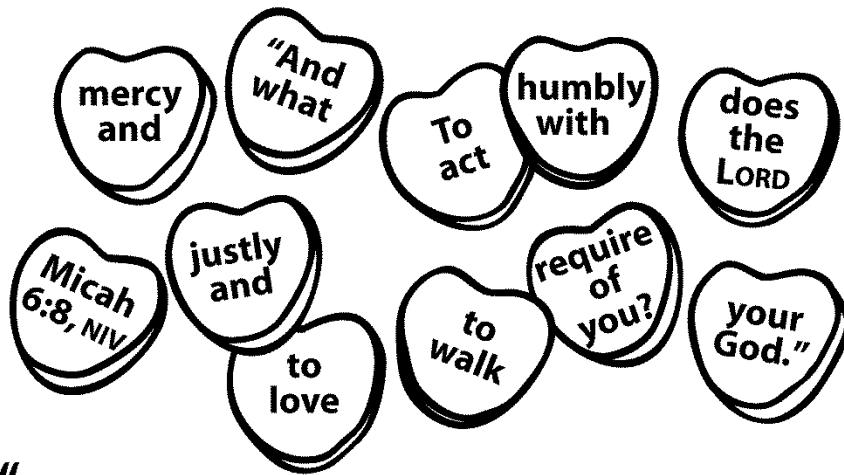
Thank you all for sharing in the ministry of Emanuel.



Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



“ _____

 _____ ? _____

 _____ ” _____
 _____ 6:8 _____

Answer: “And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8, NIV

PRAYER



Use this fun family activity to remember to pray for other people.

What you need:

- White index cards (at least six)
- Markers or colored pencils (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown)
- M&M’s candies



What you do:

1. On each card, write a group of people to pray for (family members, friends, teachers, sick people, etc.). Use a different color of writing utensil for each card.
2. While sitting at a table, divide the M&M’s among family members.
3. Spread out the cards and explain that each color represents a group of people to pray for. Have each family member choose one candy and consider who they’ll pray for.
4. Designate one person to start praying aloud. Go around the circle, and have the last person close.
5. At the end of that round, eat those M&M’s.
6. Continue until you’ve prayed for all the cards. (Make more, if you’d like!)