

## Emanuel Lutheran Church

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### Church Staff:

Pastor Mark Schuring

Deacon Kevin Kehn

Family Ministry Coordinator:

Tanyce Addison

Office Manager: Darlene Schaad

Financial Secretary: Ed Stofcheck

Office Secretary: Ashley Koehler

Building Supervisor: Carl Jones

Building Maintenance: Frank Fanello

Child Care Director: Abby Reinwald

Door Men:

Bob Coffman & Jim Stroupe

Music Minister: Allan Lust

Assistant Organist: Sandra Becker

Part-Time Organist: Paul Burnside

Adult Choir Director:

Tanyce Addison

Praise Team & Children's Choir

Director: Teri Turner

Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Sound Technician: Doug Ross

Emanuel: God With Us ~

Loving Christ - Loving Others

## DECEMBER 2017 ~ JANUARY 2018 GOOD NEWS NEWSLETTER

### Advent ~ Charismas Schedule:

**December 10 @ 9:15~Sunday School Christmas Program**  
"Tell Me the Story of Christmas" Kathy Mullins, Director.  
We know the Christmas story, but we need to keep telling the Christmas story----to remind us that it is all real!

**Following the 9:15 and 10:30 services on December 10**  
Join us in the Gathering Space for "Comfort & Joy"  
While we are waiting and making preparations for the Christ Child, grab a bowl of chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes and bread - brought to you by our youth leaders! Donations will be taken to go towards future service projects!

**December 15 Child Care Christmas Program @ 7:00p.m.**  
All are welcome!

**December 17 The Emanuel Choir** will lead the 8:00 and 10:30 Worship Services. The service is "The Invitation" There will be songs, stories and scripture to prepare for the Gift of Jesus. Please join us.

**On Thursday, December 21** at the regularly scheduled 7:00p.m. Thursday Praise service we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Advent with communion.

### Christmas Eve

**Sunday, December 24** we will only have one morning service and that will be the **Traditional Service at 10:30a.m.**

Our **Christmas Eve services** will then begin at **noon** with **Gentle Worship** and communion. This Gentle Worship is a service that may appeal to those who have difficulty sitting through a traditional service.

**At 6:30pm we will have our Christmas Eve Family Worship.** We will continue with the tradition that we have begun the past several years with the service involving the giant felt board and the telling of the Christmas story and then moving into the sanctuary for communion.

**Our Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**, with communion, will take place at **8:15pm and 10:45pm.**

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**December 31 New Years Eve Worship** we will have one worship service at 10:30 with **Lessons and Carols.**



*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing good news of great joy to all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."* Luke 2:8-11

Dear people of God,  
One of the recurring themes of all the Gospels is the insistence on overcoming fear. Countless numbers of times we read the phrase, "fear not," "do not fear," or "do not be afraid." You can see it in the verses quoted above, a reading for Christmas Eve from the Gospel according to Luke. It was important for the shepherds to hear these when they saw the angel of the Lord.

It was just as important for the disciples to hear a similar message as Jesus prepared them for what they would face when he sent them out into mission.

Fear is a natural human reaction. The challenge comes in learning how to deal with it. Author Jeff Wise wrote a book entitled, *Extreme Fear: the Science of Your Mind in Danger*. In an article for *Psychology Today* he states: *"We spend most of our time trying to avoid fear, so we muddle along, rarely getting much better at the art of mastering it. That's a shame because with a little effort we can find the courage to push beyond our comfort zone and tackle new worlds."*

In the same article he proposes techniques to train oneself to become more courageous. While I cannot go into detail here, suffice it to say that fear is not insurmountable.

As I minister in your midst, I invariably encounter anxiety, if not outright fear. Paralyzed by national and local changes, violence which knows no bounds, financial strain, health concerns - you name it, fear is real in the face of real issues.

The message God would share with us is: Do not be afraid. God has led you this far. God will not leave you or forsake you. The question that we must never stop asking as a congregation is, "To what is God calling us at this time and in this place?"

It is never too early to begin that discernment process. Ignoring the challenge will not make it go away. It would be irresponsible to avoid wrestling with the question and its implications.

It may be that we must embrace change as the Spirit guides. As with everything and everyone else in creation, the things of this earth have a life span. It would be foolish to deny that reality. Only the Kingdom of God is forever. The courageous step for us is to consider our options for the future - now!

As we go forward into the 501<sup>st</sup> year of the Reformation, it is reassuring to know that God also goes forward with us. God has done wonderful things through the work of this church. But, hear, in closing, the promises of God as written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*

Isaiah 43:18-19

May you be filled with God's richest blessings this Advent and Christmas season!  
In Christ,

*Pastor Mark*



*Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying,  
The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near.*

Mark 1

*The kingdom of God has come near.* These are the first words we hear Jesus speak in Mark's gospel. With the birth and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ the kingdom of God *has come near*. So what does that mean for us some two thousand years later? Well, I am pretty sure that we can safely say that God wants the kingdom of God to be present in *this* world. Jesus gave us instructions to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as yourself. If we do so, the kingdom of God will come near to us. Jesus instructed us to go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation, to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them. If we do so, the kingdom of God will come near to us.

During study a few weeks ago someone shared that they had heard the church referred to as the front porch to heaven. I like that idea and I think it can be used to better understand how the kingdom of God does indeed come near to us here and now.

So... the kingdom of God is like the front porch...an old farm house with a big front porch that wraps halfway around the house. There are chairs and of course a porch swing, maybe two and something to set your ice tea on. The front screen door is open and the windows are letting in the cool fresh air. Sitting on the front porch we can hear mom inside preparing dinner. In fact we smell the yeast rolls and the fried chicken on the stove. Along with the clanging of the pot and pans, we can hear the evening news on the television and we know we can take refuge inside if a late afternoon storm stirs. The safety and all the amenities that the house offers is near. We simply are passing our time on the porch until we are invited inside to be part of the banquet in its fullness.

As Advent season and a new church year is upon us and the cold of winter descends, let us keep close to the vision of the church as the front porch to the heaven. This is the very hope that we all live in as baptized children of God longing for the kingdom of God to come near.

Until next time, may the peace and healing of God be with you all.

*Deacon Kevin*



## Notes

Confirmation class meets during the 9:15-10:15 Sunday School Hour when Deacon Kevin is not preaching. The class will be on retreat at LMC April 20-22 and confirmation for the second year students will take place on the Feast of Pentecost, May 20, 2018.

**Pastoral Visits:** If you would like a pastoral visit due to illness, surgery, hospital stay, temporary stay at a care facility, or for whatever reason that may come about, please call us and we will be glad to get back to you in a timely manner to make arrangements—Pastor Mark and Deacon Kevin.



## Family Ministry Coordinator - Tanyce Addison

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Luke 2:10

This is one of my favorite Bible verses. The angel is speaking to the shepherds who were out in a field just going through their regular routine of taking care of their lambs. Can you imagine how you would have reacted? Those four words "Do not be afraid" are very powerful. The angel wanted to make sure they were calm and listening when the second sentence is delivered. "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Think about it. What happens when we are afraid? We guard our feelings, our actions, our responses. Picture those shepherds in the field. Can you only imagine how they felt and looked to each other as they walked to see the Baby Jesus? I love what this says to all of us. Let's go beyond our comfort zone and walk together to the Baby Jesus. Think of ways you can help lead the way for others to hear the good news! What would you do if you weren't afraid?

We are following the Seven Faith Practices we started at Rally Day believing in *Prayer, Study, Worship, Serving, Inviting, Giving, Encouraging!* We are trying some new ideas, events, and ways to share our faith.

- We have started The Sunday School Service Sundays working together to create gifts for others; Serving something to eat in the Gathering Space together; and participating in worship. This is only possible because people have stepped up and said, "I will help!"
- We held a Bible Study on Prayer and Study. A new one begins in January on Worship! We talked, we learned.
- We have scheduled a high school mission trip to Benton Harbor Michigan, June 24 - 29. We have great youth! Our Luther League is being led by President: Katie Vela; Vice President, Aaron Pirnstill; Secretary, Lane Craig; and Treasurer, Rachel Harbaugh!

### We look forward to December's Schedule:

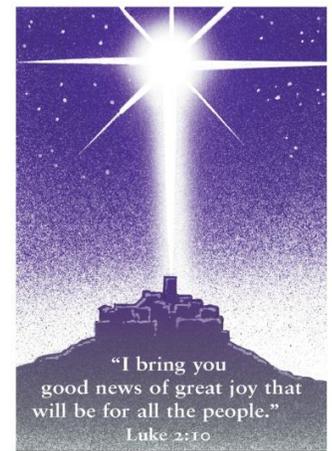
**Saturday December 9: Advent Adventure Celebration!** Following the **Sunday School Christmas Program practice at 10:00a.m.**, the Children, Families and Friends are invited to join Emanuel at Blue Fusion from 12 - 1! We have reserved the back 4 lanes of bowling! Free to the first 75! Pizza and pop will be served at 12:30. Donations will go towards our Good Gifts projects! We want to buy a GOAT and possibly more!

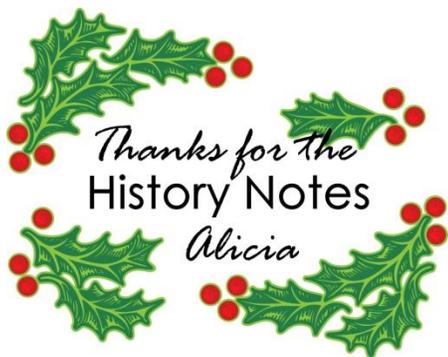
**December 10: Sunday School Christmas Program:** We invite you to come at 9:15a.m. for the Christmas program *Tell Me The Story*, directed by Kathy Mullins. Immediately following is our **COMFORT AND JOY** event! Life is hectic at this time of year - grab a bowl of deliciousness!

**December 17 @ 9:15a.m.** the Sunday School will be treated to a theater experience on the 4th floor! Popcorn and Candy Canes.

**December 24 and 31** there will not be "formal" Sunday School for Pre K- Grades 12. BUT, there will be Table Talk cards on the Gathering Space tables for you to share a Christmas conversation!

If you have ideas for **Service Projects** or more, please share them! And join us for our January Service Sunday!





As this year comes to a close I want to **thank all of you** that have given me pieces of history of Emanuel that you have come across in cleaning out things of your own and that of loved ones. I also want to thank you for your kind words of encouragement in this process.

It means a lot that you did not just throw these things away. Things that you may not think are important may be something we don't have in the history of the church. It is a privilege for me to go through the history and add the pieces that you give me or send in to the church office. I will continue to organize the archives and write

pieces in the newsletter where we all can learn about the history of Emanuel.

Remember, next year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our present church building. You will be hearing more about that in the year ahead.

Until next year, have a very, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year" from myself and all the ladies of the Altar Guild. Alicia Mayes



### December 7- 11:00a.m. - Fellowship Lunch

The theme is *Christmas and the speaker is Tammy Millisor from Kingston, speaking on, "Being Safe at Home."* The menu is: *meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, green beans, and cheesecake with cherries. Hope you will join us as we celebrate Christmas!*

**Sunday, October 15, Emanuel Lutheran hosted an 'Evening with Katie' as part of our Reformation 500 Celebration. Over 150 people enjoyed a German style meal, music and fellowship, followed by a presentation by Katie Luther herself! Thank you to the Fellowship Board and the church youth for helping to serve the meal, the Reformation Committee for planning the evening and everyone who helped make this event so successful. Here's to the next 500 years!**





Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

**Good Gifts** provide food and income to people in need within the USA and around the World. For example, 10 little chicks (\$10.00) make a big difference! Within months of birth, chickens are already laying eggs. With an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals and eggs to sell at the market, this gift is a great leap forward for a family struggling with hunger and poverty.

**Select an ornament** from one of the trees, located in the Narthex and first floor Elevator Lobby, representing the amount you would like to spend. If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it is easy to tell them by giving them the ornament. Order forms & payment instructions are available by the Good Gift Trees. The cost of the gift is on each ornament. This gift is sent directly to the ELCA....for more information check their website:

<https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts>

**Waldo Fresh Food Distribution** is starting up again for the winter months on Thursday, December 7 and continuing on the first Thursday of January, February and March. Distribution will take place from The Barn at All Occasions just south of Waldo. We will be collecting toilet paper every month and for December we will be collecting socks. Food distribution will begin at 11:00 and finish up at 2:00, workers need to report around 9:30/10:00.



**The Last Sunday in January, 1943** live radio broadcasts of our Sunday morning worship services began! Member Joe Peters engineered this program. January 28, 2018 will be the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of this ministry. The live broadcast is aired every Sunday at 10:30a.m. on WMRN, AM 1490.

We are thankful for the generous support of the Radio Ministry. Please note: If you have difficulty receiving this broadcast on any given Sunday, please let the church office know. 740.383-2184.

**Video Study**--As an initiation into the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Emanuel worshipping in our present building a 6-week video study entitled "WE MUST PLANT THE CHURCH" The Story of Lutherans in America will be offered on Mondays beginning **January 8** and concluding **February 12**. The study will meet in the Gathering Space and will be offered at 10:00am and then again at 6:00pm. Each video is between 20 and 25 minutes long and then we will have about a half hour for discussion. This series on the history of Lutherans in America transports learners through four centuries of the planting of the Lutheran church in this new land. Henry Muhlenberg provides the title for this series. His motto was *Ecclesia Plantanda: "We must plant the church."* This story is characterized by the tension between honoring the European roots of the church and adapting to the new realities of American life. The Lutheran church, from its earliest days, faced religious pluralism, intolerance, lack of state support and diversity of languages and traditions. It wasn't easy then, and it isn't easy now. But understanding American Lutheran history can change the way we see ourselves and our future.





**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 Christian ministry or 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 Thursday, March 1, 2018 to the chairperson, Rae Andrews at 379 Brightwood Dr., Marion, OH 43302. Rae Andrews 740-387-5432



20 Personal Care Kits; 14 School Kits; 3 Baby Care Kits; 14 Fabric Kits; 31 Fleece Blankets; 22 Blankets; and 275 Quilts were shipped to Lutheran World Relief! Thanks to Bruce Showalter for renting the truck to carry the boxes to Waldo. Thanks also to all who work on preparing the quilts, kits, and supplying the materials we need to carry out this project. The Quilters are always looking for people to come on the first three Tuesday mornings @ 8:30a.m. to help us make the quilts. Check with Ann Thomas for more information.



**Happy Birthday!**

**Let's remember the following with our prayers and cards!**

**Ruby Snyder** will celebrate her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 5. (227 Malo Dr. Marion)

**Margaret Miller** will celebrate her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Dec. 19. (7936 Mt Olive Green Camp Rd. LaRue 43332)

**Tom Porter** will celebrate his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Dec. 25. (443 Richland Rd. Marion)

**Betty Smith** will celebrate her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Jan. 13. (165 Pole Lane Rd. Marion)

**Betty Cocherl** will celebrate her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on January 29. (537 Wheeler Dr. Marion)



**A thank you** for all the cards and personal greetings I received for my 90<sup>th</sup>

birthday. Also a big thank you to the staff who prepared my surprise party. God Bless, Frank Fanello

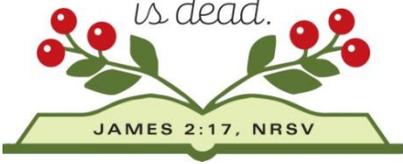
**Thank you** to our Emanuel Church Family for your concern, cards and especially your prayers during our recent medical challenges. We are so blessed to have you and God on our side! Blessings and love to you all. Thankfully, Ed & Shirley Baldauf.

**I would like to thank you** for all the cards and notes of encouragement I received for my birthday. What a wonderful extended family I have with my church friends. God Bless and keep all of you safe during the coming holiday season. Virginia Leffler

**To my Emanuel Family, thank you** for all your prayers, visits, cards, and care for us during Rich's last days. It is such a blessing to feel God's love through you all. The throw has already given me much comfort. May the Lord continue to bless you! Carolyn Fox and Family.

**Many Thanks** to Emanuel Lutheran Church for the throw that was given to the family in memory of Fredericka Nelson. One of the granddaughters is enjoying its warmth along with the memories of her grandmother. Our sincere gratitude to Deacon Kevin Kehn for the many visits to our mother along with delivery of communion the last few years of her life. She truly treasured his visits. Kevin's message was comforting, faith-filled, and a fitting tribute to her. The funeral meal was lovingly prepared for a grateful family. We were touched by the thoughtfulness in making sure there were plenty of child friendly options. Thank you to all Emanuel members who took the time to write a note of sympathy or visit during the calling hours. God's Blessings, Carol Columber & Family, John & Denice Best & Family, Eric & Joyce Peterson & Family, Brian & Patricia Nelson.

So faith by itself,  
IF IT HAS NO WORKS,  
is dead.



Did you know if you are a member of Emanuel and a woman, you are also a member of The Women of Emanuel? Also you are invited to attend a morning, noon, or evening Bible Study each month. A list of the dates, time and place is listed on the bulletin board in the parlor, the Elevator Lobby and the Gathering Space.

The Thankoffering envelopes will be in the pew racks until after the Thanksgiving Eve Service if you would like to make a monetary gift to Women of the ELCA. The gifts are used in ministry around the world. The deadline to turn them in is December 3.

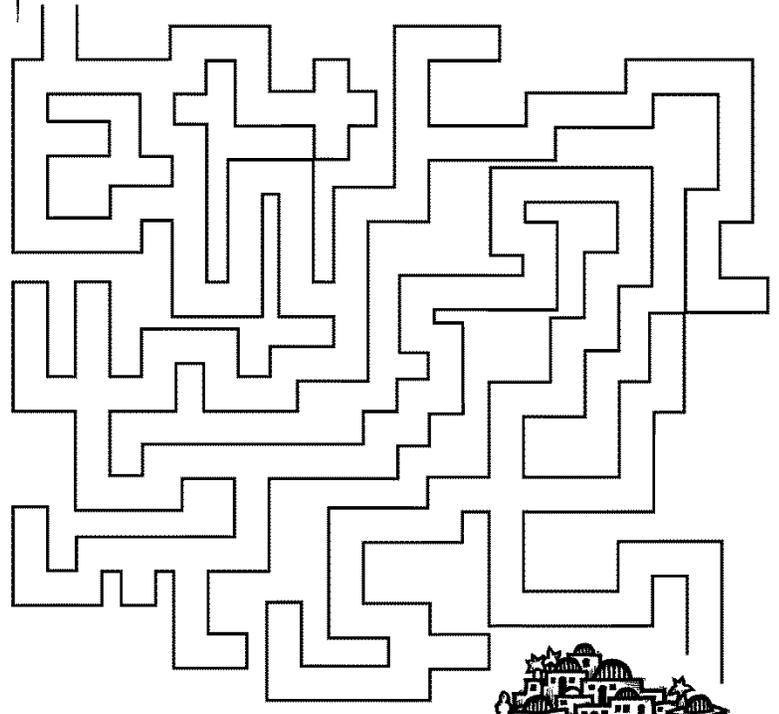


# PUZZLE

JOURNEY TO  
**BETHLEHEM**

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

 **START**     *Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*



**BETHLEHEM** 



## The giver

Many Christian families struggle with what role – if any – Santa Claus should play in their Christmas celebrations. No matter what you decide, it's fascinating to know the history of the real-life St. Nicholas.

Born about 270 A.D., Nicholas was a bishop in Myra, or modern-day Turkey. In the year 325, he was part of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed.

Nicholas, known for his generosity, often gave away his money anonymously. According to tradition, he secretly provided dowries for the three daughters of a bankrupt merchant. Nicholas threw two bags of gold through open windows and placed the third in a stocking hanging by the fireplace to dry. Thus began the Christmas tradition of placing gifts in stockings.

St. Nicholas is quoted as saying, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."



Please Note - Emanuel's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, at 11:30a.m.

## ANNUAL MEETING

**We extend our thanks** to Altar Guild and their helpers who yearly decorate our church so beautifully for the Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas season. Thank you also to the Board of Properties for displaying our outdoor Nativity Scene. They are always so beautiful and mean so much to many. **Thank you** for sharing your time and energy involved in these projects.

### Note from Christmas Program Director, Kathy Mullins

Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on **December 10** during the **9:15 worship service**. The title is: "Tell Me the Story of Christmas".

The theme of it is that we know the Christmas story, but we need to keep telling the Christmas story----to remind us that it is all real. And with it being a Sunday School program, we're trying to keep it real by using words understood by children, and sort of 'fleshing out' the biblical narrative. It also tries to give the congregation a way to re-affirm that ---- as the reader will speak and the congregation will respond, this baby was God. The congregation will get to affirm their faith in God by using Martin Luther's

explanation of the Apostle's creed to again, sort of 'flesh out' what we say in the Apostle's Creed each week. The children extend to you an invitation to join them as they share this Christmas Story.

**Hope to see you on December 10 @ 9:15a.m.**



**COMFORT AND JOY! December 10 starting at 10:30** in the Gathering Space! 'Tis the season to celebrate Advent! While we are waiting and making preparations for the Christ Child, grab a bowl of chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes and bread! This will follow our Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:15! This is being brought to you by our youth leaders! Donations will be taken to go towards future service projects!

**Hauling Hope** is the furniture ministry of Love In the Name of Christ. Four churches in Marion are involved with this ministry. The churches provide volunteers to either pick up donations or deliver furniture to those in need. *We currently are in need of useable living room, dining room, and bedroom furniture. If you have any furniture to donate please contact Love INC at 740-382-3340, office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9-11:30 am or email at [mail@loveincmarion.org](mailto:mail@loveincmarion.org).* Emanuel will be delivering and picking up furniture in February.



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