

Emanuel Lutheran Church

241 S. Prospect Street
Marion, OH 43302
740.383-2184

Email:

emanuel1@emanuellutheran.net

Website:

www.emanuellutheran.net

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Church Staff:

Pastor Mark Schuring

Deacon Kevin Kehn

Family Ministry Coordinator:

Parish Deacon 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**



Advent & Christmas Worship Opportunities

"The Kingdom of God is Near!"

Join us on Wednesdays during Advent.

November 28 ~ December 19 @ 7:00p.m.

in the first floor Parlor.

This 30 minute service is filled with Advent Traditions in food, fellowship and worship.

Look for more information about this new service on page 4.



KEEP SEEKING HIM

Join us Sunday, December 23, for a special

Church Family Christmas Worship,

at our 8:00, 9:15, or 10:30a.m.

service with carols and a Christmas message for Young and Old Alike! You won't want to miss it.



December 24 Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

Our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at **8:15p.m. and 10:45p.m.**

Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services, along with the beautiful Christmas message and music in celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

Sunday, December 30, at 10:30a.m. (note, one service only) we will have our traditional "Lessons & Carols" service.

Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing us to realize that He for whom we are waiting has already arrived and speaks to us in the silence of my heart.

Just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in our lives, slowly and steadily and be received as the one we learned to know while waiting.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Genesee Diary*



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12.2

To be transformed by the renewing of your mind--this is what a deepened prayer life can do for each of us and the way to achieve a deepened prayer life is through practice.

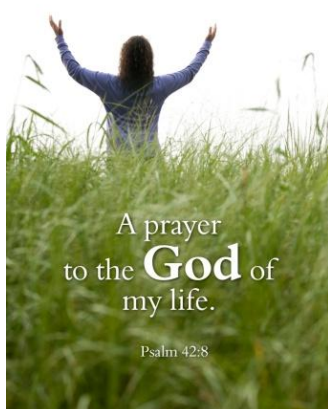
Now in this world we practice many things until they develop into habits that help us maintain ourselves. We learn early on to wash up before meals, to brush our teeth in the morning and at night, to eat three square meals and to get adequate rest. We learn that we must pay attention to instructions that will help us perform well in our job and we learn to budget our money so we can be somewhat financially stable. We do these things for our survival in this world.

As humans though we are amusing creatures. Are we as concerned about our spiritual lives as much as we are about our worldly lives? Do we practice our spirituality until it becomes a habit? I think it is safe to say that we all would like to have a closer relationship with God, but on the other hand we often seem to have difficulty finding time to do something about it. And of course what is ironic about that is that we will find time to play cards, watch our favorite television shows, read a murder mystery or simply go for a walk. In order for us to have a closer relationship with God, in order for us to be transformed, we must deepen our prayer lives through practice. Throughout the past year I have offered a few prayer practices for you to experience. As we begin a new church year I challenge you to return to some of these practices and spend time in those practices. In addition there are twenty copies of *Creating a Life with God* being passed around the congregation that offer you instructions on how to expand upon your prayer life. Also, in January we will begin a six-week book study entitled *Grounded in Prayer*. Details about that study can be found on page 4 in this newsletter.

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

Deacon Kevin

2019: The Year of Scripture



The Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA will be celebrating the *Year of Scripture* in 2019. Bishop Beaudoin has established a three-fold focus in regards to scripture: Bible reading, Bible reflection and Bible study. The memory verse for the year is Psalm 119: 105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* Bishop Beaudoin will once again be providing a six session Bible Study. This year the Bible Study will be on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). He is encouraging each of us to read through the bible in one year and we will be providing you with a plan to do so. The NWOS Book of the Year is *A Compact Guide to the Whole Bible, 2015*, edited by Robert W. Wall and David R. Nienhaus. There will be more information regarding the *Year of Scripture* coming up soon.



Setting Apart: On Sunday, November 11, Tanyce Addison was commissioned as a Lay Parish Deacon. Those *Set Apart* to be Parish Deacons are accountable to the pastor and serve in the congregation. Through words and actions the parish deacon brings God's love to all people. Tanyce is the first person to be commissioned as a Parish Deacon at Emanuel Lutheran. **Congratulations Tanyce!**

I want to thank Pastor Mark, the Parish Planning Council, and all of you here at Emanuel for this wonderful opportunity to serve as a **Commissioned Lay Parish Deacon**. A very heartfelt thanks to the members of the choir for the beautiful flowers adorning the Altar and the delicious cake in the Gathering Space! Also, thank you to Cindy and Dave Strazalka for honoring my commissioning with the donation of the elements of Holy Communion. The cards, the words,

the blessings and prayers touched my heart. With God as my guide, I look forward to this commission to serve and grow in Christ.

With all that being said, you may be asking what does the term Parish Deacon mean in easy terminology.

- It is a "non -salaried" position - volunteer.
- It requires graduation from the Diakonia curriculum, an approved internship plan, a psychological evaluation, an intense plan approval from the Parish Deacon Steering Committee (consisting of 4 pastors or more), as well as the Pastor and Parish Planning Committee of the church where you will serve.
- A Parish Deacon serves in the means that is agreed to serve the congregation best using the individual talents. It could be in pastoral care, teaching, preaching, prayer, Bible Study... the possibilities are great.
- A Parish Deacon is supervised directly by the pastor. If the pastor would leave the congregation, that would also end the parish deacon's service. The new pastor could recall the parish deacon if he/ she would choose.
- Pastor Mark Schuring is rostered as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
- Deacon Kevin Kehn is rostered as a Minister of Word and Service.
- Tanyce Addison is a Commissioned Lay Parish Deacon.



Sunday School Christmas Program Practice is on Saturday, December 8, at 10:30a.m. After the practice join us at Coopers Bowling (old Southland Lanes) from 12 -1p.m. Bowling, Bowling Shoes, & Pizza are FREE ! We will be receiving donations for the ELCA Good Gift Farm Animals! Bring a friend!
Church Family..... mark your calendars
Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 9 at 9:15a.m.

All Are Invited to the Southeastern Conference's Annual Epiphany Party at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Waldo, Friday, January 4, 2019. Worship at 6:00p.m., dinner to follow. Bring a dish to share for the potluck. Please RSVP by December 28 by emailing stpwaldo@gmail.com



"THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR! Luke 21". Advent is darkness, waiting and preparing our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. During this busy season, it really is important to focus on the Advent message of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Where: We will join in the Parlors on the 1st Floor. Seated around the Advent Wreath.

Come and See!

When: 7:00p.m. each Wednesday of Advent. We invite you to take the time to join us. Put us on your schedule!

High school seniors and current college students are encouraged to apply for the Robert and Margaret

Mather Scholarship Fund, Agnes Baldauf Scholarship Fund, and The Hollensen/Dennis Fund 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 Friday, March 1, 2019 to the chairperson, Rae Andrews at 379 Brightwood Dr., Marion, OH 43302.

Rae Andrews (740-387-5432)



Margaret Miller will celebrate her 92nd birthday on December 19.

(Primrose #222, 1550 Wellness Dr.)

Betty Smith will celebrate her 94th birthday on January 13. (165

Pole Lane Rd.)

Betty Cocherl will celebrate her 93rd birthday on January 29. (537 Wheeler Dr.)

Let's remember them with our Cards & Prayers!



Don't Forget to order your Christmas Poinsettia - order forms are available in the Sunday bulletin or in the church office. Cost-\$9.50.

Wednesday Evening Advent Service

Come And See! It's a new and exciting way to Celebrate Advent. It's an evening service with beautiful music using the Holden Evening Prayer Service, scripture, prayers, candlelight meditation, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It's around 30 minutes in length-filled with opportunity of Advent Traditions in food and fellowship. Our theme is



Grounded in Prayer: A Small Group Training Guide for Congregational Prayer by Brent W. Dahlseng will be offered as a book study on **Mondays, January 28**

through **March 4**. Sessions will be offered 11:00-11:30a.m. and 6:00-7:30p.m. This book reminds us that in the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20), the seed of faith falls on four types of soil: the hardened path, rocky ground, thorny ground, and good soil. This book explores how the Holy Spirit works in our hearts to break up the hardened soil of the path, unseat the rocks of distraction, uproot the thorns and thistles of the world and plant the seed of faith deeply into good soil. This introductory study covers six themes:

Week 1: The Groundwork of Prayer

Week 2: Sharpening Your Personal Tools for Prayer

Week 3: Praying for the Hardened Path

Week 4: Praying for the Rock Ground

Week 5: Praying for the Thorny Ground

Week 6: Blessing the Good Soil

Grounded in Prayer provides daily exercises for each of the six weeks. Use the prayer exercises to deepen your own prayer life and develop or strengthen your daily discipline of prayer and reading the Bible. This book can serve several purposes; to launch new prayer groups, strengthen existing groups and emphasize the importance of prayer in the congregation.

In January there will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space for those who are interested. Books will be provided for all participants, partially funded by a Thrivent Financial grant.



God's work. Our hands.

God's Work Our Hands Service Projects organized by the Board of Social Ministry was a wonderful success! Thank you to all who offered your time and talent to support the community outreach projects. Many responded that they felt as blessed by the opportunity to give as those that received. Relationships were created. The firemen were appreciative and surprised with all the cookies that were delivered, Turning Point expressed their gratefulness for all the laundry and cleaning supplies that will help their families in need, and several people expressed their appreciation in taking the opportunity to thank military folks with care packages and letters. People were happy to be able to brighten the day for some of our homebound members with cards and notes. More than 57 projects were signed out and all eight community organizations and groups represented were recipients of multiple outreach gifts. Giving continues! A work crew is being formed to work at the Habitat for Humanity house that is being built on Columbia Avenue and lunch will be provided to the work crew on the same day. The February service Sunday will be dedicated to filling and mailing the remaining 7 military care packages as well as an opportunity to write letters/cards to military family members. Watch for information in January bulletins for ways in which you may help and participate in this activity! **Thank you** all for opening your hearts and spreading many acts of kindness!



Give something
unexpected
this
Christmas.

Good Gifts provide food and income to people in need within the USA and around the World. For example, a

gift of 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. You can select an ornament from one of the trees located in the Narthex and first floor elevator lobby

from November 30 through the end of December, 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. Payment instructions are on the order forms by the Good Gift Trees and the cost of each gift is on the ornament. You will then send your gift donation directly to the ELCA....for more information check their website:

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



By: Alicia Mayes

This time it's only appropriate for me to tell you about

"Cheer Plates".

There is a long history for "Cheer Plates" given at Christmas time from the church. This ministry was started many years ago. Records were found recently that go back to 1978 but I remember and others have told me "Cheer Plates" were started long before 1978.

Women of The Church Circle ladies were the ones that planned, bought what goes into the plates, put them together, and delivered them back then to the shut-ins and members in nursing homes. They consisted of fruit, cookies, etc. The containers at one time were pie plates donated by Ponderosa Steak House and the fruit was bought from Lawrence Orchard.

Since 1988 there is a chairperson, (the same person today) that organizes and gets volunteers to assemble and deliver "Cheer Plates". They are not exactly the same as years ago but very similar. Today they are delivered to shut-ins at home and in assisted living facilities but not nursing homes. Nursing homes limit what their residents can receive so they receive a non food item as a gift. I have seen the faces of a lot of the people that receive a "Cheer Plate" and they are so happy to know the church remembers them at Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from the Altar Guild.



Blue Christmas: A Service of Reflection for the Longest Night

Not all Christmases are white - some are blue. Chances are that you or someone close to you has felt sad or depressed during the holiday season because of loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, health, faith, joy or loved ones. When it seems like the whole world is covered in lights, celebration, friends, and family, many among us feel a sense of loss, and grief. The Blue Christmas Service reminds us that even in our darkest times,

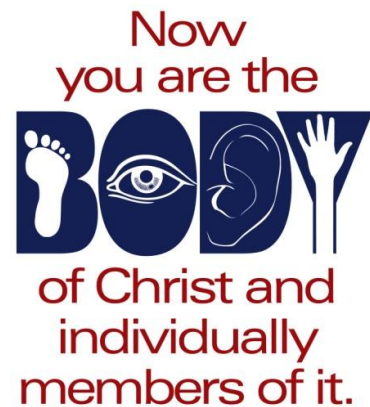
God offers us hope and comfort if we are willing to bring our fears and feelings into the light of God's love. In the Blue Christmas Service we remember Jesus' promise: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

As part of her third year Diakonia project on "Losses Across Our Lifetime", Beth Lauer will lead a Blue Christmas Service on the longest night of the year, Friday, Dec. 21st, at 7 p.m., St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Prospect.

Everyone is invited to attend. We will have a time of fellowship with cookies and coffee right after the service.

Faith Stories Coming in January 2019 - Ann Thomas

I have been gathering Faith Stories from members of Emanuel as part of my Parish Deacon Internship this year. Look for a booklet of the Faith stories to come in January. As Lutherans it is important to share our faith stories with family, friends, and the community as part of our responsibility to carry out the "Great Commission" God gave us in Matthew 28:18. The booklet will include the questions I used in the hope you will spend time answering them and sharing them with others. There will be a page on devotional resources and favorite scripture verses. Thank you to all of the members who were willing to share their stories. You have shown me how God is active in your lives and encouraged my belief how God is active in the members of Emanuel Lutheran Church.



1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV



Did you know Emanuel Lutheran Church operates a food pantry?

People in need are referred to our pantry through Love INC and can schedule a time with them to pick up food at our office.

Emanuel's Food Pantry is stocked through both in-kind and monetary donations from the congregation. The third Sunday of each month we list our current needs in the bulletin and those items can be

dropped off the following Sunday during any church service. If you miss the collection box, you are always welcome to drop donations, either in-kind or monetary, off at the church office as well.

Food Pantry Items:

Pasta	Canned Veggies	Canned Fruit
Rice	Spaghetti Sauce	Tuna Helper
Tuna	Instant Potatoes	Canned Soups
Baked Beans	Macaroni & Cheese	Peanut Butter
Cereal	Canned Beef/Chicken	Crackers



by Joyce Baumgartner

All Women of Emanuel Lutheran Church are considered as helpers with the projects we try to take care of throughout the year! Ann Thomas is in charge of quilting; the Mary Martha Circle is in charge of Fleece Blankets; the Lydia Circle does many projects like Cheer Plates to shut-ins at Christmas and funeral meals; The AM2 Circle does the Luke 14 Dinner.

The bulletin board in the parlor (first floor) is a place to check for upcoming projects of the Women's work to help others. Helping hands are always needed!

The Gather Magazine, the magazine for Women of the Church, has a monthly Bible study and interesting articles. Copies are located in the Library for you to borrow.

As days turn into weeks and weeks into months, please take time to check for helping with the projects Women of Emanuel do to help others in our church and also in need of help. Thank you for considering these projects as they will be listed on the bulletin board in the Parlor.

Lutheran World Relief items delivered in October: 358 Quilts (57 boxes); 38 Fleece Blankets (5 boxes); 3 Blankets (1 box); 64 School Kits (8 boxes); 5 Personal Care Kits (1 box); 4 Sewing Kits (1 box). These gifts will be sent around the U.S. and the World to those in need.

Thanks everyone for your support!



Christmas Elves
greeting
those who attend the
Wednesday Eve
Advent Service.
Join them every
Wednesday
during Advent at
7:00p.m.



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were therefore buried with him
through baptism into death in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a _____.

Romans 6:4, NIV

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Thank you to the Altar Guild and crew for decorating our church so beautifully for the Advent/Christmas Season. **Thanks also** to men of Emanuel for putting up the outdoor Nativity display. Beautiful!

Thanks: I've so much to be thankful for: what a wonderful family of God to be a member of! Thank you for the visits, the prayers, the throws, and the fantastic dinner provided by the Kitchen Committee. A special thanks to Deacon Kevin and Allan for the beautiful memorial service which did both bring Glory to God and honor to Ed. God is so good! Thirza Shaw.

Emanuel Lutheran Church
241 South Prospect Street
Marion, Ohio 43302-3921

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Join Us In Worship:
Sundays:
8:00 or 10:30a.m.
Traditional Worship
9:15a.m. Contemporary
Worship
Sunday School @ 9:15a.m.



UNTANGLING THE MEANING OF
Christmas



**The Sunday School Christmas program will be
December 9 at the 9:15 Worship.**

Please join us for "Comfort and Joy" Lunch. It will immediately follow at 10:30 with chicken and noodles/ mashed potatoes and dessert in the Gathering Space! All donations will go to our Youth Service Programs!!

**Our Advent/Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
in on the first page of this newsletter.**

**Join us as we celebrate the birth of the
Christ Child!**