May - June 2020

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Emanuel: God With Us ~ Loving Christ - Loving Others

Good News Newsletter



Rick Varner, Parish Planning Council President

"I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of our congregation, of thanking our pastoral staff, and all others who made the streaming Easter Service and radio broadcast available to our congregation and all others who had the opportunity to join us for the service. During this time of having to practice social distancing and not knowing when we can again get back to normal, the ability to see and hear the Easter message significantly brightened our day and overall outlook. You have strengthened the mission and ministry of our church.

I wish to also express our deepest appreciation to all others, in addition to the pastoral staff, who participated in the service Easter Sunday knowing you have left the security of your homes to provide for our congregation.

I also extend our deepest appreciation to all Emanuel staff members who are working, from home or a reduced schedule, to continue to provide the necessary services for our church family during this extremely difficult time.

Hopefully we will soon be able to meet and worship in our beautiful church. Until then we can hear our Sunday service at 10:30a.m.on WMRN and connect using our Facebook streaming video service.

May God bless each of you and may all of you and your families stay healthy and safe.



EARLIER THIS WEEK, I received a call from one of our members. I could immediately detect distress in her voice which became, for me, an urgency and seriousness. She admitted that she had been crying and when I asked her what was wrong, she blurted out "I'm upset that I can't go to church"

This member, I believe, is speaking for us all. She is grieving. She has had something very important taken from her. The Corona virus has turned our world upside down, inside out and every which way but loose. We are wandering aimlessly, like a ship without a rudder. For many of us, the church has been our anchor, our shelter in the storm, our oasis in the desert. Now, all those symbols of security and stability have disappeared from our sight, who knows for how long.

It's hard when one's way of life is disrupted. If I've heard it once I've heard it a thousand times, when we do not worship our week is thrown terribly off. Much of what we do flows out of that worship. And even though I've been able to experience more worship services online and see a multitude of sermons, it still falls short when it comes to fellowship.

Isolation is the worst form of punishment one can inflict on a human being. In prisons the worst inmates are placed in solitary confinement. One of the worst forms of torture in wartime is to take the enemy and put him in isolation and deprive him of the company of his fellow combatants. When children misbehave often they are told to go to their room. It is a scientific fact that newborns can die if they do not experience human touch. And even if they do not die, they may be psychologically scarred for life.

In short, our identity, our sense of worth and the character of our maturity are all shaped by the quality of our relationships, of our deep bonds with significant others.

"It is not good for the man to be alone," we read in Genesis. Nor is it good for the woman or the child or any human being for that matter.

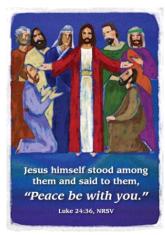
We are now forced to work from home, unless we're in an essential occupation. Even though there are advantages to not having to shave each and every day, it doesn't quite make up for the face-to-face contact I have with others.

Part of the sadness and frustration stems from the fact that we are powerless to do anything to resolve the problem of the Coronavirus. Isolation is a solution - or at least, a deterrent - but it doesn't meet our need for togetherness.

So here's what I'm thinking as we approach the weeks ahead as we brace for another weekend without in-person worship.

We heard the story of the disciples hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews and Jesus' post-resurrection appearance before them. Bears a resemblance to our homes as we hide ourselves for fear of COVID-19. Jesus came among them and the first words he speaks to his

disciples is "Peace be with you." Jesus proves his presence by showing them the marks of the nails in his hand. Then Jesus gives them a gift that was as powerful as it was poignant: "Receive the Holy Spirit."



The last Sunday of April, the 26th, we will hear about two disciples walking to Emmaus (practicing proper social distancing?) Jesus comes to them even though they don't recognize him. He asserts the Gospel of his own resurrection and at their meal it becomes clear it is true and they rush all the way back to Jerusalem to let the eleven know.

These stories are our stories and we will hear these stories in the comfort of our living room, not on a sometimes less-than-comfortable pew. And yet, I will venture to guess that the thought of sitting in that pew sounds better since we haven't sat in it for a half-month.

How will we hear these Gospel narratives compared to years past when we may have not paid attention? It will be different, I guarantee you.

Because this week, you will listen, not only with your ears, but with your heart. You'll hear and pick up on little details that you didn't notice before. You may get a chuckle out of socially isolated disciples.

This isolation that we're experiencing is a good time to engage more deeply with God's word to learn the story of Jesus, to hear the story more clearly.

+++

I've been searching high and low across the internet for prayers to conclude these weeks when we are at the mercy of an unknown illness that has forced us to rethink our priorities and challenged our faith.

I discovered a website titled <u>Faith & Worship</u>, by John C. Birch, a Methodist preacher from the U.K. What follows is one of several that he has written and appear on his page.

We pray for our communities - that snapshot of humanity with all ages, backgrounds, education, employment status, politics and religious viewpoint who are our neighbors in the streets where we live. We pray for all of them; not only those we know by name and chat to through the day, but also less familiar faces about whom we know so little and pass by with just a smile. All in need of your love at this time. Bless their homes and families, and let your love and peace so shine within this community that smiles turn to conversations, and strangers become friends.

Pastor Mark

A Message From Deacon Kevin

"We have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Colossians 1:9

This scripture passage was from the Daily Texts offered by the Moravian Church for March 24, the first day Ohioans were following a "stay-at-home" order as a response to the Covid 19 pandemic.



Some Bible historians tell us that Paul was writing this letter from prison to Christians living in the town of Colossae. Paul had not been to Colossae but had heard about the Colossians from a Christian minister named Epaphras. As Paul wrote this letter he was focusing on right and wrong Christian teachings and living.

Dr. Mark Allan Powell in <u>Introducing the New Testament</u> suggests that think globally, act locally could be the motto of this epistle to the Colossians. He explains that this letter adopts a cosmic perspective that views human existence from the vantage point of one who know the secrets of the universe. Isn't that exactly what we have desired during our time staying at home due to this pandemic that we are living through. As we have heard of the effects of this pandemic throughout the world and even throughout the country we are still most concerned with how to act locally as we ponder what the future holds.

Overall, Paul's letter to the Colossians emphasizes the important role Jesus Christ plays in God's plan of salvation and how Christians are now fully united with Christ. During this uncertain time of staying at home I pray that each and every one of you has spent time with scripture and in prayer realizing that even in the midst of a pandemic God is with us, God is healing us, God is strengthening us through God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

So let us pray together, Lord of our lives, thank you for being just and kind in all your ways with us. Forgive us when we stray from you and try to lead with our own minds and understanding. We praise you for bringing us back into the knowledge of your presence through prayer often prayed by others on our behalf. Amen.

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

Please Note:

The Northwestern Ohio Synod Council has decided to postpone this year's Synod Assembly until 2021.

Confirmation on May 31 has been postponed and rescheduled for October 25, Reformation Day.



Happy Easter!

LIVE THESE DAYS IN GRATITUDE

We are being called "to think and do" our lives differently right now! We all are grieving the loss of living our lives the way we had before Covid - 19. It's ok to feel this sadness, but, it's also a time when we can use our creativity and imagination to rediscover the

ways and means that we can learn to communicate and socialize. I am embracing this new challenge and opportunity we have been given and I invite you to do the same.

Always start your day with gratitude.

I'm thankful for the Holy Scriptures of the Easter season leading us through the journey of Covid -19. Our lives are mirroring the uncertainties of the very first Easter; sadness of the loss and fear and shock of the unknown ahead. As we go through those emotions, we always know our God loves us unconditionally, forgives us, repeatedly, and gives us eternal life, graciously. God sent Jesus to live among us. Jesus knows how we are feeling because he experienced these emotions. Thank you, God, for sending your son, Jesus.

Easter brings GOOD NEWS! He is risen! He has risen, indeed! ALLELUIA! The miracles of God surround us every day! Start a journal of pictures or stories of where you have seen God today. Thank you, God, for your great gifts to us.

The seeds we planted on the February Service Sunday have been growing - thanks to Bobb Davies and Daryl Kraner. These flowers will be ready to pass out for Mothers' Day. Since every week there are changes in our lives, I will let you know closer to that time how we will get these flowers to you. So be watching! Thank you, God, for your helpers on earth.

Vacation Bible School will still happen - but it will be different and we aren't sure exactly when! The Board of Christian Education members are considering many different ways this may happen. Do you have ideas to share? Front Porch Ministry, Vacation Bible School Parades, Messages in Grocery bags, Bible School Kits delivered in the mail or at food places, pen pals, parking lot stations, prayer trees, scavenger hunts for God sightings, etc. It's time to dream and think about how can we share the Good News of Jesus and have a great time doing it through social distancing! Thank you, God, for our great imagination.

Thank you for staying home and wearing a mask. Thank you for caring about everyone in this world. Loving God and loving your neighbor are two things Jesus told us to do. I'm praying everyday for all of you to be safe and well. I'm praying that you will focus on the presence of Jesus in your lives and truly hunger to know and love Jesus more every day. Thank you, God, for always being with us.

A Message From Emanuel's Treasurer, Rex Parrott



We all received the **Good News** on Easter as we celebrated Jesus' resurrection and the reaffirmation of our salvation! I'd like to now pass along some financial good news, that while not nearly as life altering, is nonetheless important. We've just closed the financial books on March and I'm pleased to report that the church is positive to budget year to date just under \$14,000.

This may seem like a lot of money, but it represents about one week of our average monthly expenses. March, also, only had one Sunday where we had no service. To maintain this condition, we need the Congregation to continue their financial support while worshiping at home because the mission of the church goes on nonetheless. You can continue your offerings by mailing them to the Church office, or by using the online bill paying function you have with your checking account. You just need to add Emanuel Lutheran Church as a payee, and we would ask that you use your envelope number as your account number. We already have a significant number of members using this process and we thank you very much!

I understand there are questions about where the church stands now during this Covid-19 virus crisis.

- Everyone on the church staff (including the Child Care Director) is continuing to receive their full paycheck and benefits, with the exception of the Child Care staff. The Day Care was closed on March 18th
- We have applied for a loan under the CARES Act recently passed by Congress and I was informed on Friday the 17^{th} that we were approved
- This funding will allow us to return the Child Care staff to the payroll at their full pay with their first paycheck going out to them this Friday April 24th

This does **not** mean all our problems are solved. As I said before we need the congregation's ongoing financial commitment. As we all heard the Bishop say in his message during this past Sunday's service, it would likely be appropriate for each of us to tithe at least 10% of our stimulus check to the church. We have created a new fund for this purpose which will be called the 2020 Special Needs Fund. The proceeds can be used for members of the congregation in need, need within our community, or perhaps even to take care of needs within our building. We no doubt have members of our congregation who have fallen through the cracks during this crisis and this is the perfect time for us to be united in helping one another. People who have such needs can contact the Pastoral staff to be considered for such help as we might be able to provide. What a perfect way for us to reflect God's mercy to us onward to others!

If you have further questions and concerns please feel free call me at 740-360-3632. Treasurer, Rex Parrott

News From The Social Ministry Board:

Emanuel's ministry is continuing to serve even as we remain sheltered in place. As Jesus says in Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me". Emanuel is part of a community of faith which serves a monthly meal to those who are hungry. The April 14 Community Meal served 80 and was a partnership between Emanuel and the Peanut Butter Jelly Truck. The PBJ Truck is part of a non-profit (Luke 3:11 Ministries) that was established by a local family with a mission dedicated to reducing poverty in Marion. They operate in the NE corner of Marion where they supply free laundry detergent and free PB&J meals to those in need.

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.



Way back on March 15 Social Ministry in conjunction with our Sunday School Service Sunday packed your numerous contributions to provide 5 Blessing Bags for Marion's Homeless Youth and 20 Shower Service Blessing Bags for Leapin' Ministries. We still have a need for a few items that will complete a good deal more bags. When we return to worship, if you are able, please consider helping with the following **travel sized** items: 13 shampoo, 20 conditioner, 18 deodorant, and 4 powder. We also need: 1 pair black adult size low rise socks and 15 journals. Barb Russo, Director

Hello Emanuel Friends!

I just wanted to take a minute and let everyone know how the Child Care is staying connected during this forced pandemic closure.

While it has been an adjustment for all of us, we have found ways to

communicate with almost all of our families online, through text messages

or via email. I was even able to create an online newsletter to share with our families.

As a staff, we are doing all that we can to make sure our families are doing well and have their basic needs met. In addition, we are posting age appropriate activities, schedule suggestions and other educational resources for our preschoolers.

The teachers have been wonderful and have even posted videos of themselves singing our morning songs so the children can continue to sing them at home!

We are so excited to get back in the classroom and I am constantly researching ways we can make simple changes to help ensure the health and safety of our staff and students when we do return.

I hope everyone is healthy and I look forward to seeing my Emanuel family again soon!

Abby Croman Child Care Director

a fun place to play and learn!



I have been a reader for most of my life. My parents read to me and eventually I was able to read for myself and it opened up a whole new world. It had always been a dream of mine to write a novel. However, I never made it a priority. After finishing my masters which got me into a routine of writing, I decided it was time to give novel writing a try. With the support of family and friends, my first novel Turn the Page was published through

Amazon. It is a romance with a suspenseful subplot.

My favorite genre has always been mystery novels and fact crime books. My second novel Taking Care of Grace is a mystery that takes place in the fictional university town of Camden Falls, Ohio. Jack Phillips is a former cop who helps search for the missing teenage girl. There is a cast of characters that make up this small town and one source of support is Peace Lutheran Church. I hope to make this town and characters into a series and I am currently working on the second novel set in Camden Falls.

Thank you to everyone in my church family who has supported me in this new adventure.

Thanks, Jean A. Smith







Worship and Ministry Continues at Emanuel during COVID-19!

Sunday Morning Worship is broadcast live on WMRN-AM 14.90 and on Emanuel's Facebook Page @ 10:30a.m.

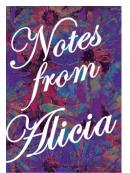
Our Website has information about the service and a link to our facebook page and WMRN.

Every **Wednesday** around noon our staff will share a devotional moment with you on our facebook page. Check it out!

We thank those who have worked hard to get our worship services on the radio and on Facebook. Many people have listened to the services and have appreciated this endeavor.



Sending our thoughts and prayers to our church family Emanuel Church Women



I was asked recently to do research into the start date of our Child Care Program. After looking through church council minutes, congregational meeting reports, and anything else I could find to get answers I found a lot of information. I found that even before the Child Care Program started there was more to the story.

The members of Emanuel voted to open a Latchkey Ministry at the congregational meeting January 29, 1989. The program was to be an after

school care program opening the 1989-1990 school year. The hours would be 3-6 P.M. Monday through Friday for children K-6.

A Latchkey Committee was established and before the program was opened the committee started research on funding. In January of 1990 at the church council meeting the new Director of the Latchkey Program was introduced, Rebecca Devany. There were lots of ups and downs for the program through 1991 when it was suggested by church council that the church should consider ending the Latchkey Program at the end of 1991.

While talk of ending the Latchkey Program was going on the Marion County Department of Human Services was urging the church to consider opening a Child Care Program, something that was much needed in our community.

The congregation voted to start a Child Care Program beginning January 1, 1992. That was 28 years ago. Emanuel's Child Care is going strong today. There have been several directors and staff of the Child Care over the past 28 years but I am happy to say that our present director, Abby Croman, was hired as a staff member in 1999 and then became director January 1, 2001. I spoke with Abby recently and asked her about the number of children in Child Care today and the number of Child Care staff. There are currently 8 babies, 8 toddlers, and 26 pre-school age children. She currently has 10 staff members for those 42 children. If you do the math you will see that Abby has been director of our Child Care for 19 years. Three of her staff, Tanya, Deb, and Amy have been with Child Care the longest. The number of years these three ladies have worked in our Child Care combined is over 60 years.

As you can see our Child Care Ministry at Emanuel has come a long way. It has been a wonderful outreach to our community. What a blessing it is that we can be a beacon of light for families that need this service.



A gift has been given to the Quilting Fund in memory of Rosie Tritch, friend of Cheryl Bayless.

Gifts have been given to Emanuel in memory of Jane Laucher by: Ridgedale Lions Club; Elsie Mitchell; Carol Denman; Tom & Diane Fetter; John & Carol Thiel; Roger Smith; James & Lynne Conway; Jim & Betty Anderson; Chuck & Shirley Marquis; Robert Lucas; Laurie Johnson



Thank You to the Board of Properties and Director Mike Phillips for the new flooring in the Church Office! It is beautiful. Mike we appreciate you sharing your time and talents to make it all possible. The Office Staff

Thanks to my Emanuel Family for the calls, cards, visits, prayers, and concerns on my surgery and especially for my continuing rehab. Love abounds, Norma Ward.

Thank You: To put it mildly, it has been an arduous month for me. The severe infection that claimed me before Christmas and persisted through much of January had me wondering, at times, if I could beat it. I did find comfort in

the words "O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee." And God, yet again, proved steadfast. With God's guidance, Riverside Hospital's medical team seemed to find the answer to this enigma that had been plaguing me for some time. I can honestly say that, as of the writing of this, that I am well. But it wasn't simply a medical team that moved me to wellness. It took much more. And God again proved steadfast in sending me you. To offer my deepest thanks for all you did while I was healing seems so inadequate. From the meals prepared for us to the cards and well wishes and prayers offered on my behalf, I am eternally grateful. For the visits by friends bringing emotional support and Holy Communion that helped remind me that you are my family. I am eternally grateful. To your patience allowing me to take a breath and regain my strength, I am eternally grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for moving me to wellness. Pastor Mark

Thank You to my church family for remembering my birthday with your prayers and cards, and also for your prayers, cards, and visits during my surgery and now recovery. God bless you all, Betty Cocherl.

Dear Friends, Thank you so very much for the gorgeous flower arrangement and all the cards and prayers during my recovery. Thank you also for leading, filling in, and worshipping while I was off. I have the most wonderful Church friends in the whole world! Thank You again. Love, Teri Turner

Words can't express how thankful we are for our Emanuel Family. Your support over the years and at the time of Gary's passing has lifted us in so many ways. We will always be grateful for the calls, cards, gifts, music, food, Kevin's beautiful words, and the many heartfelt hugs and prayers. God bless you all, Sue Sours, Amy, Heidi, Sarah, Amanda and Families.

Emanuel Lutheran Church Family, We want to thank you for the beautiful afghan entitled "The Lord's Prayer." You compassion, cards, reaching out to us definitely lifted us through this difficult time. Calling upon Deacon Kevin several times, needing words of comfort, the ladies who prepared the luncheon and those who brought food for our family was so appreciated. As I look back this all couldn't happen now as the state the country is in. We pray you all stay well. Mike & Karen Winders and Jerry & Linda Laucher.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES!

JoAnn Blank Happy 91st Birthday on May 3 (Marion Manor #55A, 195 Executive Dr. Marion);

Dewey Yake Happy 91st Birthday on May 6 (Kingston, 464 Jameway Dr. Marion);

Jean Roecker Happy 91st Birthday on May 9 (126 Dix Ave. Marion);

Jane McMahan Happy 96th Birthday on May 17 (1349 Evergreen Dr. Cardiff, CA 92007);

Juanita Hartman Happy 93rd Birthday on May 18 (Primrose #104 1550 Wellness Dr. Marion);

William VanRiper Happy 92nd Birthday on May 19 (1165 Wilshire Dr. Marion);

Virginia Klingel Happy 93rd Birthday on May 24 (865 Richland Terrace, Marion);

Donna Key Happy 93rd Birthday on May 30 (8073 Tylersville Rd. #157, West Chester, OH 45069)

Betty Miller Happy 91st Birthday on June 23 (3200 Smeltzer Rd Lot 66, Marion);

Peggy Caserta Happy 91st Birthday on June 26 (400 Mt Vernon Ave. #6, Marion)

Let's remember them with our prayers and cards!

Watch for other Church Family Birthdays on our Facebook page.



It's the year we're all learning how to pay tribute to each other from afar because of COVID-19 and shelter in place orders. This has all been especially hard on our 2020 graduates. Most traditional graduation ceremonies just aren't happening this year, but it doesn't mean the grads' hard work shouldn't be given a big giant nod and long-distance high five!

If you are graduating this year from high school, college, tech school, - please email us a senior picture, your name, parents and family, and

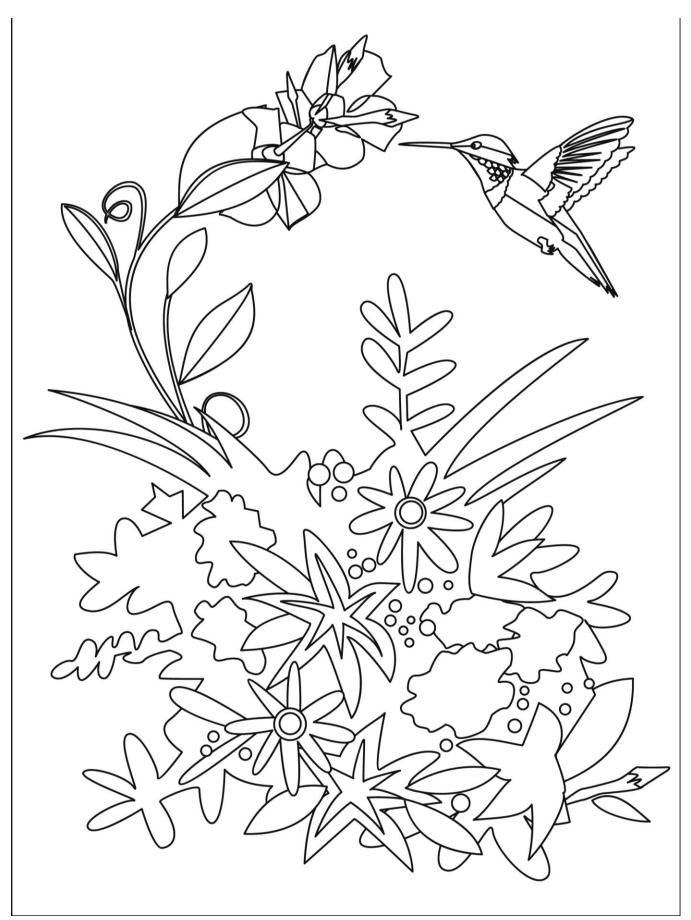
something about yourself. Send it to our church email. emanuel1@emanuellutheran.net

Church Office Notes: At present, the Church Office and Church Building are closed, but ministry continues:

- 1) Offerings: We ask that you mail your offerings to Emanuel (241 South Prospect Street) Financial Secretary Ed Stofcheck receives the mail.
- 2) Phone Messages are checked on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 3) A Free Food Box is also located on the front porch. If you would like to donate to this ministry place your donations in a plastic shopping bag; (reminder this would be for one family); tie the bag and place in the box. Bring in as many bags as you wish.

Please Note: Does the church office have your current address; email address or your phone #? Please send them to: darlene.schaadt@emanuellutheran.net. We will be corresponding with our Church Family thru mail, email, our website, and facebook.

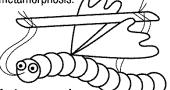
At a staff meeting a while back - Pastor Mark gave the staff a box of crayons. Encouraging them to take the time and color. It is a great way to relax! Enjoy



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CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.

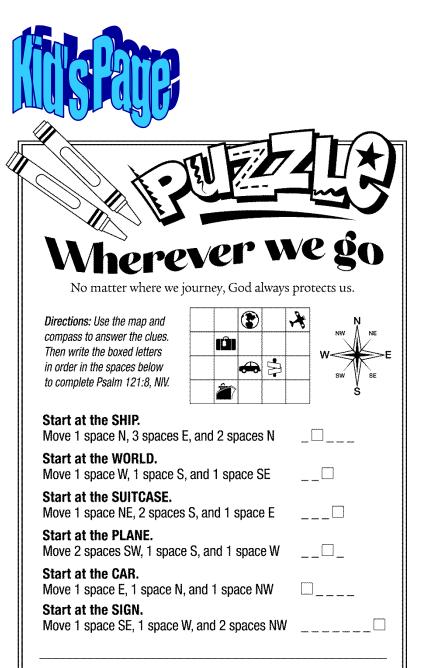


What you need:

- Needle and string
- Scissors Googly eyes
- 12 small pom-poms • Coffee filter
 - Glue
- Wooden craft stick
- Markers

What you do:

- 1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
- 2. Thread another string up through the first pompom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
- 3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
- 4. Glue on eyes.
- 5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
- 6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.



The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng both no_ and for_vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, MIV Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over

Kids don't forget

May 10





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

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Prepared Especially For:







Memorial Day - May 25 We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit. May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

