

April / May 2021

# The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

## Emanuel Lutheran Church

241 S. Prospect Street

Marion, OH 43302

740-383-2184

emanuel1@emanuellutheran.net

www.emanuellutheran.net

Find us on Facebook!

## Church Staff:

Pastor Mark Schuring

Deacon Kevin Kehn

Administrative Assistant:

Ashley Koehler

Financial Secretary:

Ed Stofcheck

Children's Ministry Coordinator:

Cindy Rinker

Building Supervisor: Carl Jones

Building Maintenance:

Frank Fanello

Child Care Director:

Abby Chase

Door Attendants:

Jim Stroupe, Brian and

Christy Penrod, Pat Thomas

Music Minister: Allan Lust

Assistant Organist: Sandra Becker

Part-Time Organist: Paul Burnside

Praise Team & Children's

Choir Director: Teri Turner

Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Sound Technician: Doug Ross



## The Call Process

As you are all aware now, Pastor Schuring will be retiring at the end of this year, 2021. While we will miss him so much, we wish him well and celebrate with him this new chapter in his and Diane's life.

In that respect, our church will embark on a process to call a new pastor to Emanuel. I am sure many of you have been through this process before, but I wanted to inform our congregation of how this will take place. Let's take a look at the Call process...

Continue reading on Page 4.

## A Note from Pastor Mark...

I want to thank everyone at Emanuel who has helped create, implement and follow our guidelines to stay healthy as we have navigated this pandemic. Since reopening last July, we have worked closely with the health department and researched CDC recommendations and best practices to remain open and do so in a safe and healthy way.

If you have not yet returned to in-person worship, a few of the changes we have made include temperature checks and sign-in sheets (which allow us to take attendance because we are not passing offering plates or yellow slips), wearing face coverings during service, roping off pews to maintain physical distance, and limiting contact by placing bulletins directly in the pews. We also removed hymnals from the pews and have included the words in the bulletins and on the overhead screens.

We are looking forward to the day when worship services will more closely resemble what they once were. With more people receiving vaccinations and covid numbers on the decline, I am meeting with staff again to review our guidelines and determine the next steps to reopening.

Our first step will take place Easter Sunday, when we reintroduce communion to all in-person services. For the time being we will use wafers, dropped into your hand, and individually sealed grape juice containers. Those wishing to receive communion, but not yet comfortable doing so in the sanctuary, will still be able to schedule a time with me in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

While it may be some time before we are able to gather for food and fellowship in our building, we hope to get creative as summer approaches with outdoor fellowship opportunities. We imagine small groups, such as the quilters and bible studies, will be able to resume in the coming weeks and we hope to welcome all our children back to Sunday School this fall.

Please remember that above all, everything we are doing is to help ensure the health of all. We need to be kind to one another. Not everyone is in the same health and not everyone has yet had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated. Please be gracious and loving to everyone as we navigate the remaining days of this pandemic and approach the light at the end of the tunnel.





*I am with you always*--Matthew 28:20



We know about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus primarily by what is recorded in the four gospels. Our three-year Sunday lectionary takes us through the three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, with readings from John's gospel interspersed throughout each of the three years. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, in his lectures and writings, emphasizes that the four gospels present us with four pictures of Jesus. Each gospel gives us a portrait of Jesus that is distinct from those of the other three. While we are tempted to combine all four portraits in order to obtain as complete a picture of Jesus as possible, Dr. Powell urges us not to do so. Our goal should instead be to recognize the four separate portraits that each gospel writer offers so we do not miss the particular image that each writer wanted to present. Along with the image of Jesus that each gospel writer presents, each gospel writer also is conveying to us a distinctive message.

In some study bibles you may find a chart or a table that lists the individual stories about Jesus indicating where you can find them in each gospel. By studying such a chart you will discover that many stories are unique to only one of the gospels, many of the stories are in Matthew, Mark and Luke and not John and only a few can be found in all four.

The readings for Holy Week and Easter give a very good opportunity to observe the differences in the storytelling of the four gospel writers. A good devotional practice for you during Holy Week and Easter this year is to read, study and pray through the four gospel narratives of the passion and resurrection. I think you will find this most revealing and a practice that will deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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

Deacon Kevin

**Shut-in visits** will resume on a limited basis beginning in the middle of April. By then, Pastor Mark and Deacon Kevin will have received both doses of their Covid vaccines and should be as protected as they can possibly be. Until care facilities are open completely, with no restrictions, we will always phone ahead and make appointments before we visit. In order to help prevent the spread of any germs, we will always wear masks, use hand sanitizer and will physically distance. Communion wafers will be packaged in a clear plastic envelope and instead of wine we will use pre-packaged grape juice cups. We will also limit the length of the visit. It would also be great that if the weather permits, we could visit on your patio or porch. If you are not yet comfortable with a visit, please do not feel pressured or obligated to have a visit. So we hope to see many of you very soon as we return a bit more to normalcy.

Our Constitution (C13.05) details our Call Committee. ***“When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of six voting members shall be recommended by the executive committee to the Parish Planning Council for approval and recommendation to the congregation for election. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor”***

The executive committee has already been in contact and are reviewing recommendations for potential members of the Call Committee. We ask that those asked to serve on the Call Committee will give this important service sincere consideration.

In addition, our current Bylaws (Article IV, Section 1 references ***“....the Call Committee shall seek the advice and help of the Synod Bishop to recommend an appropriate candidate or candidates... the Call Committee shall select a candidate to recommend to the Parish Planning Council, in concurrence with the current Pastoral Staff, who shall recommend the candidate to the Congregation. Election of a Pastor by written ballot shall require two-thirds total of the votes cast...”***

### **Northwestern Ohio Synod Course of Action**

We have been in contact with the Synod office to begin the necessary process with them. Deacon Sherry Krieger, Director of Leadership Development for Congregational Care, NWOS-ELCA has responded. The Northwestern Ohio Synod has developed a detailed call process to assist congregations, to bring closure to our present ministry, reflect on the congregation’s future, and initiate the search for our new pastor.

In general, the Northwestern Ohio Synod recommended call process includes the following elements:

- **Exit interview/Review of the Call Process**
- **Transition Team** – which is the prepare the congregation for a new pastor
- **Interim Ministry** – the Office of the Bishop appoints an interim pastor to minister within the congregation during the call process.
- **Healthy Congregation Workshop**
- **Five Developmental Tasks** – this is to determine God’s mission for the congregation and determine the qualities of the pastor best suited to accomplish God’s mission in the congregation.
- **Call Committee** – among other responsibilities, will interview candidates and make recommendations to the Parish Planning Council
- **Mutual Ministry Committee** – supports and prays with the new pastor and facilitates ministry within the congregation.

While Pastor Schuring has graciously provided Emanuel with ample notice of his retirement, it appears the call process will be somewhat lengthy. We ask your patience as we proceed through this mission.

We are blessed that Deacon Kevin Kehn, with support from Parish Deacon Ann Thomas, along with all the staff, will continue to be with us and available to provide for the congregation’s direction and needs as we proceed with the undertaking.

Rick Varner, Congregation President



*Happy Easter to all of you* – from Mrs. Rinker & Board of Education

Spring is my favorite season. I can't wait to open windows, feel the warm breeze surround me and hear the birds chirping. It's exciting to watch the daffodils, tulips and irises push through the soil and start to grow. The buds on the trees and my roses tell me that spring is here. Everything feels new, everything feels clean and everything feels hopeful. I thank God every day for His wonderful gift of creation.

But, without Easter, spring would not be so exciting to me. I also thank God every day for Jesus, who died on the cross for us and rose again. This also is a new beginning that frees us from sin, makes us feel clean and gives us hope. Please, find a quiet place outdoors, feel the sun on your face and pray. Thank God for His perfect creation, thank God for His son Jesus who loves us so much and thank God for hope, love, and joy.

I will continue to get Sunday School lessons to the children through the end of May.

Do you have a favorite Bible story? Call or text me and let me know what that story is. For June and July I plan to tell a story on Emanuel's Facebook page or on Faith Walking. Look for these stories on Sunday afternoons.

There will be no lessons in August, but we are tentatively planning a Sunday School picnic. Parents, I would appreciate thoughts and feelings on this.

Our plan is to begin Sunday School on September 12. Please keep this date in your prayers.

My hope, my prayer is that come fall, everyone is back at Emanuel praising God for His never-ending love. I am so proud of all of us and the safe, sensible way we have handled the Covid pandemic.

Please know your Emanuel family loves you, misses you and every day we pray for you and families.

Blessings,  
Mrs. Rinker  
and the Emanuel Board of Education





Happy Spring!

Our preschool and child care classrooms are in full swing and we are so excited for warmer weather! It was a long winter but with the sun in the sky and afternoons spent on the playground; we have a renewed sense of hope! We are beginning to see things “getting back to normal” and we are so thankful for that!

Recently, our preschoolers have enjoyed lessons on fire safety and firefighters, police officers and other community helpers. They loved getting a visit from Chief Makowski who talked with them about fire safety and brought his fire safety gear in for them to see and touch. We love our Marion City Firefighters!

We are hoping to once again plan our annual Preschool Graduation ceremony this May for our preschoolers that will be headed to kindergarten. It is a very exciting time for them and it should be celebrated! We are so proud of our hard working soon-to-be kindergarten group! Way to go kiddos!

We have missed seeing the smiling faces of the congregation members that we used to see each week walking through the hallways or participating in various activities at the church throughout the week. We are praying that everyone stays healthy and the church can become active again soon!



*Abby Chase*

### Child Care Wish List:

Items can be dropped off at the church office Monday-Thursday: Large Canned Fruit, Divided Plates, Animal Crackers, Cheezits, Baby Wipes, Tissues, Fresh Fruit (bananas, apples, oranges) Thank you!

## *Looking back with Alicia Mayes...*

I have been reading through the bulletins that were found boxed in the back of the closet just inside the Pleasant St. door. I thought I would write about some of the interesting things I have read.

October 3, 1948 – After completing two years as church secretary, Miss Mary Barkley resigned her position, yesterday, Saturday, October 2. About November 1, Mary plans to board an airplane in San Francisco and fly to the Philippine Islands, where she will be married to Mr. Keith Stafford, a local Marion youth, who is now the superintendent of a coconut grove there owned by Lever Brothers Soap Co. On behalf of Emanuel Congregation, we wish to extend to you, Mary, the sincere thanks and appreciation of all for the service you have rendered in the past 2 years, and also, to assure you that the prayers of all of us go with you and Keith as the two of you plan your future together. May God continue to bless both of you.

Many of you, I'm sure, remember Mary Stafford. She always attended the 8 am service on Sunday mornings and as my family always put it, she sat in the "Barkley Row" with her brothers and sisters. In more recent years that row got smaller and smaller and she and her sister, Jean Hodges, sat together. Mary died November 3, 2019 at the age of 95.

In the same bulletin I read this story:

It is our privilege this morning to hear Mr. John Dennis, spiritual "Son of Emanuel" and theological student in our seminary at Columbus, deliver the sermon. After having completed a year of intern work at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, with the Rev. William Nies, pastor in Detroit, Michigan, John has returned to Capital University to complete his studies for the Christian ministry. Besides Mr. Dennis, Emanuel congregation has two other sons in the ministry, the Rev. Merton Baseler of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the Rev. Rennix Van Scoy, Crestline, Ohio.

Many of you remember Rev. Dennis as "Jack". Rev. Baseler was our first "Son of Emanuel", Rev. Van Scoy our second and Rev. Dennis our third. Rev. Dennis died September 19, 2008.

Until next time, Alicia

### Estate Planning

Emanuel received a gift from the estate of Dorothy Twigg. This gift was placed in the Emergency Fund. Emanuel is able to engage in the missions it does thanks in large part to the generosity of past members who, through their estate planning have provided support to Emanuel. Many of the programs we provide and the missions we are able to offer would not be possible if not for their generosity.



## Volunteer Opportunity!

Some of us that plant the cross and flowers in front of the church need some help. We are getting old and it is harder to get up and down etc. We need 4 to 6 volunteers to help this year.

Two periods of two hours (perhaps two days) with 4-6 new volunteers will be needed to plant the flowers about the middle of May.

Then we will need 2 or 3 volunteers to feed, water, weed and dead head the flowers at least once per week. Weather Permitting this maintenance would take place on Fridays or Saturdays.

Please leave your name, address and phone number at the church office; we will call you to further explain and set up a possible schedule.

Thank you very much; the current helpers: Kevin & Chris Kehn, John Kyle, Carol Hoch, Daryl Kraner, Bill Lambert, and Bobb Davies.



## A Trip to the Holy Land

Three members of Emanuel are heading to the Holy Land from January 11-20, 2022. Christy and Brian Penrod and Joyce Buttermann are going on this trip led by Jim Lichtenberger. Jim is the brother of Joyce and is a retired ELCA pastor. The cost is \$4297, which includes air fare out of Columbus, hotel, tips (except for lunches), two meals a day, and present fuel costs.

Recommended travel insurance is extra. This will be Jim's fourth trip to Israel, seeing sights such as Nazareth, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Qumran, Masada, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. There will be time each evening for devotions and planning for the next day.

More than a trip, this experience is a pilgrimage to the heart of our faith. Besides seeing the various sites, there will be time for reflection and meditation as we walk where Jesus walked. If you are interested, please contact Jim at 765-476-1318 or talk to Christy, Brian or Joyce. If you want to see a video about this trip, go to this link. <https://youtu.be/TQgvSMYNFnA>



**Thank you for all the cards, calls, prayers, and memorial donations for Dale Yake. They were greatly appreciated by Jean Yake and family.**

## Waldo Fresh Food Distribution

The St. Paul's Waldo Fresh Food Distribution Drive-thru was held on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at All Occasions. The 10,782 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs, and bakery items were donated to 219 families. We had 23 volunteers.

The next two distributions will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m. They will be collecting Cleaning Products and Personal Hygiene/First Aid items. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to Jackie Price by calling 740-361-5373.





Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV



Eileen Buttermann celebrates her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Nancy Mash celebrates her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday April 25<sup>th</sup>



JoAnn Blank celebrates her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Dewey Yake celebrates his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday May 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Jean Roecker celebrates her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday May 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Juanita Hartman celebrates her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday May 18<sup>th</sup>.  
William Van Riper celebrates his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday May 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Virginia Klingel celebrates her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday May 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Donna Key celebrates her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday May 30<sup>th</sup>.



**!Loving! embraces**  
Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



**What you need:**

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

**What you do:**

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.

Non-profit Organization  
PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #116  
Marion, OH 43302

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

\*Return Service Requested.

Prepared Especially For:

