

August/September 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

"GOD IS
WITH YOU IN
everything
YOU DO."

GENESIS 21:22

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday August 22, 2021 immediately following the 10:30 am service** for the purpose providing information and ratifying decisions taken by the Parish Planning Council during the pandemic emergency.

Under the Constitution for Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, C10.02: "...The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted"

C10.04: "10% voting members shall constitute a quorum."

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Rick Varner, President

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23)

This spring I was invited by a member of our congregation to read a book by JR Briggs entitled, A Time to Heal, Offering Hope to a Wounded World in the Name of Jesus. He wrote it in response to the Covid 19 pandemic noting that pain and suffering have always been part of the human condition and that now, more than ever, we need healers – people who are willing to help others heal from the wounds the world has endured. His book offers a hope-filled vision for how everyday Christians can join with God in the healing of our world and become a movement of wounded healers in our time. The time for healing is now. Jesus is at work bringing the healing life of the kingdom. Will we join him?

As I read I took notes, realizing that what I was reading was indeed worth sharing. So over the next few newsletters I will be sharing with you the highlights of JR Briggs' book, A Time to Heal. I hope you find these thoughts of value in your faith walk.

The first element of Christian understanding is to unabashedly acknowledge that we cannot avoid suffering in our human condition and the Christian story actually teaches us that suffering can serve a greater purpose and deeper meaning beyond our immediate existence. Rather than asking in our suffering, why is this happening to me and when will it end, we should ask what is it that God might be wanting to show us through our experiences. In other words, where can our faith and hope deepen in our suffering. We are reminded in Psalm 23, and other places, that we are not alone in our suffering, that God accompanies us. Furthermore, suffering is most meaningful when others join us in it and suffering is most meaningful and bearable when it is embedded in knowing the suffering of Jesus.

As we read the gospels we will find that there are more verses about Jesus healing than any other experience, including salvation. There are 72 times when Jesus heals--physical, mental, emotional and spiritual illness, and raising from the dead. This was the mission of Jesus, a mission of shalom, restoring, redeeming and renewing of the world to peace, righteousness and harmony. In Numbers 21 we read of healing as Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. In John 3 Jesus reminds us of this as he offers Nicodemus and all believers eternal life.

The church is now called to be hospital of hope, to notice pain and look to aid in healing. Christopher Wright wrote, *It is not so much that God has a mission for his church in the world, but that God has a church for his mission in the world.*

In his book, Briggs points us to the Greek word, *sozo*, which means to save, to deliver, to rescue from danger or deliver from evil and to heal. From this we can equate that saving is healing and healing is saving. We are reminded that in the healing stories in the gospels not only does healing restore the physical state, but also the emotional state and communal standing--healing the whole person

One final thought for this newsletter comes from Christian hip-hop artist, activist and author Lecrae who said, *Wounds help us know we're not alone, scars help us know we can heal.*

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

Deacon Kevin



Sunday School Starts: September 12 at 9:15 a.m.

I'm so excited to invite everyone back to Sunday School, we have a lot of catching up to do!

This fall we'll be learning about Peter's Faith, we'll find out Who is the Greatest, and Sharing God's Love. Also, we'll have stories about Adam and Eve, Bartimaeus, Zechariah, John the Baptist and Jeremiah.

We can look forward to Service Sundays, fellowship with other classes and we'll be working together with some of Emanuel's Church Boards.

A Christmas program is a must for 2021 as we missed this wonderful and meaningful experience last year.

Your Board of Christian Education is planning for teachers, classrooms and curriculum. Everyone is so excited!

Watch for news in late August for teachers and classroom locations.

I pray we have a great year that is full of learning opportunities to grow our faith and serve the community and the church. Praise our awesome God for our children coming together to worship Him.

Blessings,
Mrs. Rinker

Children's Choir is returning
this fall!

Join Teri on Wednesday evenings at
6:00 p.m. starting August 25.
Children's choir is open to all
children ages 3 and up.



We Cannot wait to hear your voices
fill our sanctuary again!

Men's Bible Study Breakfast will resume on September 1 at 7:15 at the Marion Diner. We will meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month and study the week's gospel lesson. All are welcome.

Berean Sunday School Class: The Adult Sunday School class that meets in the lounge will resume in-person Sunday School class on Sunday, **September 5, 2021 at 9 a.m.** The Bible Study will be "Celebrating God" and includes scripture from Exodus, II Samuel, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Mark, Luke, Acts and Revelation. The class is taught by Parish Deacon Ann Thomas.

Confirmation Class will begin on September 19 on the fourth floor from 9:15 to 10:15. This class is for all seventh and eighth graders. This year we will be studying The Small Catechism.

The class will also meet on September 26. Additional dates for the fall will be announced at one of the first two meetings, once the preaching schedule has been set. We are tentatively planning on confirming the four second-year students on October 31, Reformation Day. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Deacon Kevin.

A Midweek Devotion is posted on our Facebook page every Wednesday morning. The Morning Prayer from the ELW is used and a short lesson regarding the upcoming gospel lesson is presented. These devotions, along with our Sunday worship services that are streamed, remain on our Facebook page and can be watched at your convenience.

First Communion instruction will resume in the fall. Watch for an announcement in the bulletin.



The last pictorial directory of the congregation was completed in 2014, and it is time to update. Pastor Schuring has been gracious in giving us advance notice of his December retirement so we are planning a directory with lots of memories of his ministry, while also creating a useful updated reference tool for our new pastor.

Everyone who has their portrait taken will receive an 8x10 at no charge and a copy of the directory. Because we receive credits for the number of portraits taken toward features in our directory, photography is open to extended family and friends. They will not be in the directory, but

will receive a free 8x10. We are also extending this opportunity to our Daycare families.

Our photography dates are Tues-Sat **AUGUST 24 - 28**. You can schedule your appointment yourself at www.ucdir.com click on **schedule appointment**. Our church code is **oh2483** and the password is **photos**. Online registration is open Monday – Friday to avoid double booking people on weekends.

We will also have a sign up table for appointments before and after every service. Join us in making this an excellent directory and resource for our congregation. Times will fill up fast.

Looking back with Alicia Mayes...

This is the 2nd half of the piece I started in the June-July Newsletter about the Radio Ministry here at Emanuel.

“Yes, Raymond sang on the afternoon program and I accompanied him....That afternoon program went on for many years....Once our choir appeared in an outdoor concert and it was broadcast on this program....In fact, I remember the time Raymond surprised his wife by singing on the air “Sweet Little Woman O’ Mine.”

Mrs. Minnie Ackerman

“WMRN went on the air in 1940 and Emanuel Lutheran Church began broadcasting on January 31, 1943. It was actually a 13 week trial basis as some felt the broadcasts would hurt church attendance. But, this soon proved that it not only did not hurt church attendance, but attendance continued to increase. At the end of the 13 weeks the Vestry decided to assume the responsibility of Radio Broadcasting as a mission to shut-ins....Letters from listeners have been received from as far away as Columbus and other communities in a fifty mile radius of Marion....Many visitors have come to worship and mentioned that they listened to the radio every Sunday....Many others continue to support the broadcasts with their checks to insure its continuation....The Christmas Eve service has been broadcast almost as long as the Sunday services....Special services expanded the time on the air to include Confirmation, dedication services, etc. In the past year some of the Lenten services have now been included on the radio schedule....It was in 1960 that the church purchased and installed new public address equipment as well as new microphones and the radio station hooked its equipment into the new system....From time to time the microphones were added to until there are now 14 in use some Sundays....And, two years ago the church purchased and installed new Public Address equipment and a new permanent set-up is available for not only the Public Address System but the Radio Broadcasts as well.” Joe Peters

I hope you’ve enjoyed reading these statements shared with you by people who have been involved in the development of our radio ministry these 35 years. In fact, Mrs. Roecker shared with me a recording of the 25th anniversary in 1968 and a copy of that ceremony is now in the church files for permanent record. Emanuel not only agreed to not plead for funds over the air but continues to support these broadcasts without pleading for funds even within its own membership. We have a phenomenal record of continuing support from members and friends who listen to the broadcasts, appreciate their ministry, and recognize their benefit for the whole community, and then contribute through offerings in memory and honor of loved ones. This is the commitment which keeps us “on the air.” And, we have shared the Gospel through broadcasts of our Sunday morning service now for 35 years, 1,820 consecutive Sundays, and one-third of our total ministry. The important measure of our radio ministry coming in the hospital room, the home of the shut-in, and when the sounds of our choirs and our words are heard ringing through the hallways of so many near-by rest homes on any given Sunday morning. We shall continue to broadcast and continue to expand our ministry by radio. God’s word is powerful and “shall not return void” as long as it is proclaimed to the world with authority and zeal. Our radio broadcast continues to grow in popularity as measured by constant growth in financial support, letters which come in, and comments heard. God has blessed this ministry and we pray it will continue to be a blessing. In Christ, Pastor Rave

Something you might be interested to know, the radio broadcast in 1949 cost \$2600 a year. Today the broadcasts are \$8140 a year.

Until next time,
Alicia



Emanuel Ice Cream Fellowship

Sunday, August 15th

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Parlor and North Lawn



In The Parlor:

- Famous Showalter Homemade Ice Cream
- Individually packaged brownies, rice crispy treats, and cookies
- Fresh popcorn
- Bottled water
- Bible Bingo hosted by Daryl Kraner

On The North Lawn (weather permitting):

- Assorted lawn games: bean bag toss, croquet, bad mitten, frisbee, etc.

****Reminder**** We are very excited to be offering fellowship opportunities at the church again, but we are still asking those who have not been vaccinated to please wear a mask. Thank you!



Quilts for the High School Graduates

The Comfort Quilters are making quilts for the high School graduates. Due to the Pandemic, the quilters were not able to start making them until May. A special thanks go to Cindi Bentley for embroidering the Bible verse on each quilt:

"For with God nothing will be impossible" -Luke 1:37

The quilts will be delivered the end of July to Austin Bosh, Hunter Bosh, Lane Craig, Lauren Crouch, Ellie Grills, Sterling Houpt, Olivia Jordan, and Katelin Vela.

News from the Social Ministry Board....

While currently in the heat of the summer we are already working on projects for the 2021 God's Work Our Hands initiative which begins on Sunday, September 12. Details will be mailed, (same as last year), in mid-August. We hope you will select a project and/or perhaps include some friends to share in God's Work using your hands.

New for this year are several other congregation-wide programs geared toward serving members of the Marion community. Slated in the fall is a laundry initiative. Did you know a single load of laundry at a laundromat costs around \$4.00 just to wash? Beginning in September, we will be asking the congregation



for soaps, quarters and dollars as part of this project. As details roll out in the next few months, please prayerfully consider lending your time and talents toward helping others by participating.

We also want to make everyone aware Emanuel will again not be collecting school supplies, since this year's items will be supplied by Marion City Schools.



LGBT & Allies Group



We have had good attendance at our first meetings back, approximately 20 people each meeting - enjoying food and fellowship, along with Bingo last month. For those that are fully vaccinated, our meeting schedule for the rest of the year will be 6 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Emanuel.

August 8 – Sept 12th – Oct 10th – Nov 14th – Dec 12th

Each meeting will be a potluck format, so please bring a favorite dish to share. Beverages (*bottled water, lemonade, iced tea, and coffee*) and table service will be provided, with fellowship during and following dinner.

If you wish to bring someone who hasn't attended before, please make sure that they are fully vaccinated and then let us know (*so that we can be sure to have enough seating*), by emailing LGBT.Emanuel@gmail.com, or by calling/texting 740-262-2655, by noon that day.

To our Emanuel family,

The Board of Spiritual Life would like to thank you for your patience during COVID-19. While it is not completely over, steps are being taken when possible to get back to normal at our church. Following CDC and other government guidelines we are gradually reopening. This Board has been together for three years and we have experienced the good, the bad and the ugly. We know it is impossible to please everyone every time, but we do the best we can. We have met every month for the past three years except for the first month when the Pandemic shut everything down. Our meetings can sometimes be intense given the tasks and responsibilities we have, but we always end our meetings in a good place and with decisions we are all comfortable with pertaining to the people of our church as a whole. While conflict is never good it can also be healthy if everyone is willing to consider why things sometimes have to change, and remember our main reason is to come together as one to give thanks to God for all we have and all we are able to do.

As of June 13, 2021 if you are fully vaccinated you no longer have to wear a mask in the Sanctuary. When meeting in groups the same will apply. We trust that if you are not vaccinated you will follow government guidelines and continue wearing your mask as this protects you and especially others who are not vaccinated as well. We are also, as of June 01, 2021, offering three different options for worship; Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., Sunday mornings at 9:15 for contemporary worship and 10:30 for traditional worship. We are currently discontinuing the 8:00 a.m. Sunday worship service, as it has been increasingly difficult to find help for three worship services on a Sunday morning. Our number of worshipers has decreased and we still have no knowledge of how the Pandemic will affect how many people return to church and when. Please bear with us as we see our way out of this pandemic, just as all of you are considering how to resume life moving forward.

Board of Spiritual Life





Peggy Hall celebrates her 92nd birthday on August 6

Norma Fanello celebrates her 93rd birthday on August 9



Dorothy Taylor celebrates her 93rd birthday on September 13

Jane Fogle celebrates her 91st birthday on September 17

Joann Coutts celebrates her 90th birthday on September 30

Jeanette Mawer celebrates her 91st birthday on September 30

Contact the church office if you would like addresses to send birthday cards. They are also printed in the weekly bulletins.

Amazing Grace How sweet the sound

Choir Rehearsals will kick off on Wednesday, August 25th. The Emanuel Choir will begin at 6:00p.m. and the bells will start at 7:00p.m.

The season premiere of the Emanuel Choir during worship services will be Sunday, September 5th.

Please contact Carolyn Fox if you are interested in joining either of these choirs!

Hope defined

Hoping does not mean doing nothing..... It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying.

And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it.

—Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

PARKING LOT



To benefit Emanuel Childcare & Preschool

Saturday, August 7, 2021

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Stop by the church parking lot to do some shopping and grab LUNCH
to support our Childcare!

Prepared Especially For:

*Return Service Requested.

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