

The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook!

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Director of Music Ministry:
Paul Burnside
Assistant Organist:
Sandra Becker
Praise Team Director &
Multimedia Technician:
Teri Turner
Emanuel Choir Director:
Steve deWeber
Emanuel Bell Choir Director:
Carolyn Fox

Tell the Story

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Luke 2:1-7

With December we begin a new liturgical year, this year hearing the story primarily through the Gospel of Luke. We have begun to write the story of ministry here at Emanuel for the next 150 years! We continue to write our faith stories as we serve God and God's Kingdom. And we are reassured that we have a place in God's story.

Advent is a time of preparation. God calls us to prepare for the telling of the story of the birth of Jesus into the world. Jesus tells us to prepare ourselves to be workers in the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit encourages us to prepare ourselves for an ever-changing world in which we are called as servants to announce to the world that they have a part in this story as well.

Advent is a time of waiting. We have to wait for Christmas. We have to wait to hear from God what God has in store for us. We have to wait for the return of Christ to usher in the new age.

Take some time this month to wait, to prepare, to reflect, to be moved, and to speak the story that we know so well. The story of God's interaction with the world through Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit. May we be filled with excitement and joy as we begin every new day journeying in our faith life for the Kingdom.

Peace,



Pastor Mike

PD Ann's Corner

Did you know that **the meaning of Holiday is Holy Day**? We have entered a period of holidays. By the time you have received this you will have celebrated the **Holy Day of Thanksgiving**. "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever" (I Chron. 16:34). "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Ps 100:4). Rejoice all ways, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's wish for you in Christ Jesus "(I Thess. 5:16-18). We need to celebrate this Holy Day of Thanksgiving every day.

There is the **Holy Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus**. "The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told" (Luke 2:20). The angel told the shepherds "This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:8-20). The wise men went to the house where they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their treasures and gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matt 2:11). Reflect on God's gift you have received then choose to help someone. Write a thank you note, pay for someone's meal, visit someone who has no family, or compliment a sales clerk, stranger, or family member. If you go through the drive thru for a donut and coffee, pay for the car behind you.

There is the **Holy Day to celebrate new beginnings - New Year's Day**. "You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your mind; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:22-24). "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come, the old is gone, the new is here" (II Cor 5:17) Reflect on the ways that you need to change. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew you in body, mind and spirit.

As you experience all these Holy Days make a deliberate effort to take time each week to thank God for giving you these Holy Days.



It is a privilege to serve Our Lord and Savior as Parish Deacon at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you for all the cards and treats during Pastor Appreciation Week. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in you as we receive His forgiveness, and serve each other and our community in God's love this coming year. Parish Deacon Ann.

A Note from Congregation President Don Davis

There are more and more positive newsworthy events happening at Emanuel. We have seen an increase in baptisms and weddings. The Luther League has seen an increase in activity. Feed the Need and Thursday Community meals are seeing an increase in numbers. Sunday Schools have seen a new beginning. Soon to be here is Thanks & Giving. Pastor Mike's interim call has been extended. With the good news and positive trend at Emanuel, the executive committee has considered keeping the Parish Planning chairperson's and committees in place for another year. With a few exceptions, the chairperson's and committees have committed to stay for another year. If you are interested in serving on a committee (Communications, Early Learning Center, Education, Fellowship, Finance, Properties, Social Ministries, Spiritual Life), please let the office or myself know. We are at a great place in the life of Emanuel Lutheran Church and you are all a part of the blessings and seeing the work of our Savior through all of us. God's work, our hands is here and thriving. We will continue our mission at Emanuel and remember always, Romans 8:28



Join us for Advent Potlucks & Worship Services on Thursday nights!

Thursday evenings during Advent (Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 19) we will have a potluck at 6pm followed by worship at 7pm. The worship services will cover the Advent Saints and follow the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Plan now to join us for fellowship and worship during Advent! Then Christmas Eve Services will be at 3pm and 8:30pm.

What Can I Do? (from "Bread for the World" by Arthur Simon) What Can Individuals Do?

1. Become an advocate – Contact your elected officials at all levels
2. Give to a relief fund or agency – Overhead is low and delivery of assistance is high. These agencies do immeasurable good and deserve greatly increased support.
3. Become more informed – Read books, articles, and other materials. Start developing a file. Learn about (and from) people who are hungry in your area. The better informed you are, the more effective you will be.
4. Interest others – Share what you have learned, but do so in a kind spirit, without anger or self-righteousness, always mindful of your own limitations and the humanity of others.
5. Discuss the problem of hunger in your family – It needs to be on the supper agenda. Parents especially can do themselves, their children and others a great favor by putting this front and center in family discussions.
6. Write a letter to others who make decisions – Be brief; pick up on specific issues, preferably one that is known. Mention what you are doing and encourage the receiver of the letter to do something.
7. Reassess your own pattern of life – Perhaps you can consume less, waste less, eat, drink, drive or use electricity less. Cut down the use of fertilizer on your lawn. Fast on occasion and use money saved for hunger relief. Grow a vegetable garden and share the produce with others, especially those in need; or set aside for world relief the value of what you eat.
8. Help to form a local group – Groups can be formed within congregations, organizations or just getting people together. If one already exists, take part. Push for response on public issues.
9. Protect family farmers – Work for legislation to protect them against encroachments of corporate farming.
10. Pray – This belongs first, last, and always. Pray daily for those who do not have enough; for those who lead; for the wisdom to see our own part in the problem; and for grace to take appropriate action.

Sunday School News



Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Blessing Bags project! The children put several bags together and now families have them available in their cars to hand out when they see people in need. Next, we are focused on preparing for our Christmas Program!

Christmas Program Rehearsal – Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10am.

After rehearsal, we are planning a Sunday School party at Blue Fusion from 12-1. We'll eat, hang out with one another, and play arcade games. Parents are welcome to join us for pizza and fun. We know this is a busy time of year so we plan to finish right at 1pm. See you there!

Sunday School Christmas Program - Sunday December 8th at 10am in the Sanctuary

Please come and be part of our celebration of the Birth of our Savior and hear the greatest story ever told. Our children will be in costume singing their hearts out in praise. Our choirs and music will be glorious and....the congregation gets to sing too!!!

After the program, we will meet in the gathering space where we will decorate birthday cupcakes for Baby Jesus.

Adult Sunday School – Beginning an Advent Book Study

Beginning Sunday, December 1, the Adult Sunday School class will be discussing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: An Advent Study*. This book covers a deeper understanding of Advent as well as seasonal activities to share with family and friends. For more information and to receive a copy of the book, contact Jean Smith, 740-244-3701.

Communication and Evangelism Updates

As always, we have been busy bees...

- The team prepared a Sunday morning snack for the congregation in October and will again prepare one in December.
- We have prepared flyers to advertise Thanks and Giving and distributed them at October and November Community Meals.
- This month we created a bulletin board to highlight our food ministries and have a “live picture frame” to also highlight these ministries.
- We are preparing a special popcorn goodie for our Thanks and Giving guests to take home.
- We continue to plan for “All is Bright” Christmas open house. This year to include our homeless project with nativity sets.
- Finally, we will put our Prayer Wall up in the Gathering space to help us continue to strengthen our prayer lives.

Musings from the Church Mouse...

There has been a lot of movin' things around on the fourth floor, lookin' for all the decorations we haven't used in a year! The ladies started draggin' out the this big ole wreath with candles. I heard'em talkin' that it is an Advent Wreath.

I found a book layin' around in the library that said that pagan religions in Eastern Europe used an evergreen wreath with the lighting of candles to celebrate the winter solstice and the return of the sun in the dark time of the year. Lutheran Christians in the 16th century appropriated this custom using this fire/light to represent Christ's coming into the world. The Advent Wreath became a symbol of waiting, hope and expectation of Jesus' return. The wheel shape stands for the eternal victory over death. The evergreen is a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people. There are four candles that are for each of the weeks in Advent and a candle to represent Christmas. The Christmas candle is white. Three of the week candles are deep purple or blue and are lit on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th weeks of Advent. The third week is known as a more joyful week, so that candle is rose.

Maybe you have these things at home too? Well, pull'em out and dust'em off. Get that lighter ready and let's bring some more of the Light of Christ into the world!

I hope to See ya' at worship!

Church Mouse



You Know You Are a Steadfast Lutheran If...

- ... You only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color.
- ... During the entire service you hold your hymnal open but never look down at it.

Thank you to the Board of Fellowship for hosting a Staff Appreciation Lunch!



Social Ministry Updates

The Mitten Tree is up and ready for your annual donations. Mittens and hats can be placed under the tree in the Gathering Space, or in the donation shelves by the 1st floor elevator.

Laundry Day will be Saturday December 7. Donations of laundry detergent (pods would be appreciated) and fabric softener (dryer sheets are preferred) along with monetary donations are needed. Last spring we had our most successful Laundry Day and our supplies were depleted. Donations may be placed on the shelves by the 1st floor elevator.

No Room in the Inn: A new project concerning Homeless Awareness called "No Room in the Inn" will be featured during the Aspire Ministries "All is Bright" Christmas Church Tour on December 14. We will be asking the community to share their Nativity Scenes in a display in our Gathering Space. There will be a "People's Choice" award determined by donations to the Homeless Shelter and Turning Point.

Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

I want to start this newsletter with more details about our present organ that was installed in 1990.

The president of the congregation at that time was George Stanforth. The chair of the organ committee was John Walker. This is the information I took from the organ dedication booklet that I have found dated November 18, 1990. When the committee looking into what company we might buy the new organ contacted 19 organ companies. Fifteen of those companies gave presentations. The committee traveled at their own expense to tour organ companies and hear organ recitals and heard a wide variety of organs in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Quebec, Canada.

In the end the committee determined that the best company was the Casavant Organ Company in Quebec would best fulfill our present and future needs of a pipe organ for our church. The organ company was founded in 1837. I have the drawings for our present organ. There are 5 pages to the drawings and each page measures 34" x 22".

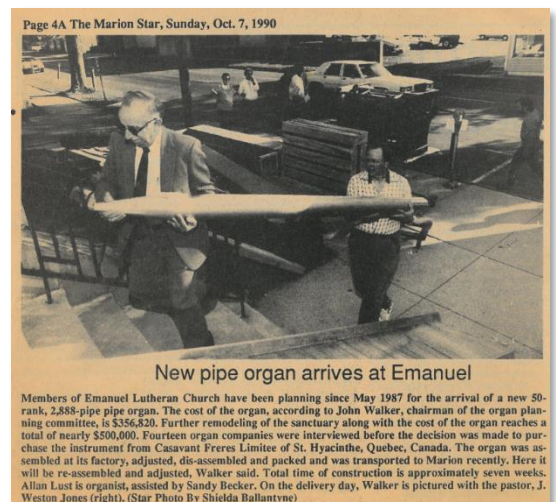
The day of the dedication of the new organ was coupled with the dedication of the renovation of the sanctuary including stripping and refinishing of the pews, refinishing woodwork and ceiling, new chancel hardwood floors, interior painting and gold leaf, new aisle carpets, new chancel lighting and a new sound system put the total renovation cost including the organ at \$500,000.

It took a year and a half to design and build the organ in the factory in Canada. When it was finished it was disassembled and brought to Emanuel to install. It was reassembled then tuned so that each pipe had the correct pitch. As I said in October's newsletter, the organ cost \$356,820.

The new organ has 34 stops, 50 ranks and 2,900 pipes. If you walk up in the chancel you can see the many pipes on the left and right sides of the altar on the walls. The newspaper article that told about the new organ dedication told that the theme for the day was "Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

There was an organ dedication recital on February 10, 1991 at 3:30 p.m. There was a guest organist that day, W. Robert Morrison the Minister of Music at the Church of the Savior United Methodist Church in Canton, Ohio. A piece in the newsletter dated February 1991 stated that Mr. Morrison's church is historically famous as the church in which President McKinley worshiped. The newsletter piece also stated that it was customary to have a guest organist showcase the new instrument at the recital. I also found a newspaper article with the story of the dedication with a picture of Allan Lust, our organist at the time, sitting at the organ.

The old Moeller organ was purchased by Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Medina, Ohio. The removal of the organ from our church and rebuilding it at Prince of Peace was done by Carl W. Emerson, a pipe organ builder in Cleveland, Ohio.





I also found a newspaper article about Allan Lust and his family that was named 1990 Music Family of the Year by for the state of Ohio Federation of Music Clubs. It showcased Allan, his wife, Sandy, and their 2 daughters, Katy and Jennifer. You may remember Allan's wife and daughters sang at church services especially on Christmas Eve. See the picture to the left from this article.

I have been looking for the answer to the question: where did the dinner size plates that were found with a picture of Emanuel on the front with the words Emanuel Lutheran Church also on the plate, come from and how old are they? In the December 11, 1990 minutes of Church Council Pastor Jones announced that 103, 30-year-old plates depicting Emanuel Lutheran Church on the front were found. The Elders and the Pastor suggested offering these plates for sale to the congregation for \$10 each and the money would go to the Organ Fund. I still haven't found why we have them, but know now how old they are. If they were 30 years old in 1990 they would be 64 years old now. A lot must have been sold at that time because I have maybe 6 in my office that I have either found or have been given to me.

The Annual Report for 1990 told that the Lutheran Men in Mission was a new church wide organization for the men of the ELCA. The monthly meeting was a Bible Study that started in April of 1990. It was the Lutheran Men in Mission that started the monthly Care and Share Sunday. It was always the last Sunday of the month. At that time one fourth of the contributions of food went to our food pantry at Emanuel and three fourths went to the community food pantry housed at the Salvation Army at that time. Some of you will remember Bob Coffman and Richard Straub that headed LMM for many years.

I found a letter from Pastor Rob Carlson, our associate pastor at the time, dated January 31, 1991 telling the congregation that he had accepted a call from Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Okolona, Ohio. Okolona is 7 miles southwest of Napoleon in Henry County. His last day at Emanuel was February 28th.

I looked up Bethlehem Lutheran Church and read that Pastor Carlson left Bethlehem Lutheran when he received a call to a Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin in 1996.

In the October 8, 1991 minutes of church council Rebecca Devany, Emanuel's Latchkey Director, along with Nancy Kinney and Kathy Hill from Human Services spoke on the increase of federal and state funds available for child care and the possible expansion of Emanuel's Latchkey Program into a full-time daycare center. The ladies from Human Services stated at that meeting stated that there were 58 children on a waiting list at Human Services and our facilities would be ideal to start a childcare for the need in our community.

Emanuel's Latchkey Program was an after-school program for children with working parents. This is the first I have read in church council minutes that Human Services was involved to help us turn the Latchkey Program into a full time childcare. On October 20th a special meeting of the church council was called to talk about changing the Latchkey Program to a Daycare. There was much to discuss. The proposal with the projected income and expenses were looked through and it was decided to accept the proposal to further explore the details for establishing a childcare and it should be decided by December 1.

In the minutes of the Church Council dated November 12, 1991 the Latchkey Program would be eliminated effective January 1, 1992 and be replaced by the Childcare.

In the minutes of Church Council dated December 10, 1991 Rebecca Devany, the then Childcare director, reported that there were 11 children enrolled in the Childcare Program. This program was showing progress. As we all know, the Childcare has grown over the years and now is called a Learning Center. It's now in its 32nd year.

More history to come, Alicia

Steeple Sightings



Yippee! or rather, Hallelujah!!! For me it's that most wonderful time of the year--- could someone write a song about that, I wonder. There is so much going on around here that I can hardly keep up. First was the Thanks and Giving meal which meant FOOD, especially crumbs; and very soon that most important event: Christmas. In between these awesome celebrations many changes happen. My favorite is the beautiful decor all over the place. What neat, wonderful places for a bat to explore and snuggle into for naps, the trees being the best. Still, no Christmas season is complete without the music, and Emanuel seems limitless in its diversity. Our choir keeps getting bigger and better. One reason is the return of Jim Anderson due to the worship change.

Jim was born in Marion, but raised on a farm in Richwood and attended the North Union school system. He was a member of 4-H as a youth showing Grand Champion beef twice and in high school performed in the band, choir, and Junior and Senior class plays, including "Lil Abner". After graduation he worked at Kroger's various locations in central Ohio, filling in all positions including supervisory duties. His most important experience there was meeting a girl named Betty and a year later they were wed. The music world has been extremely grateful.

He originally retired in 2010 but rejoined the workforce as a custodian then as a supervisor in the Marion Schools system. After retiring (again), he returned, this time as a classroom teacher/assistant/substitute.

His church activities have included directing and accompanying the younger choirs; being a head trustee; working on the organ installation and church renovation projects (1989-1990); League advisor with Betty; co-chairing Christmas programs with Tanyce Addison; served on the Shepherding Committee; and is currently the organist at Prospect St. Methodist Church for 25 years. He is also a member of the Marion Music Club, and twice succumbed to the siren call of greasepaint for "Annie" and "1776" at the Palace.

It's not surprising that this farm boy enjoys gardening, especially flowers. Just can't get out of the dirt.

He and Betty have 3 children and 6 grandchildren whom they enjoy visiting when not globetrotting between here, Europe, the UK, and north to Alaska (another song, perhaps?) But no matter how far away they roam, there is no place like home. And we are very grateful for that blessing.

So, have a Blessed Christmas, everyone, remembering the love of God in His ultimate Gift. Batina Belfry



Dec. 7 - Robert Brown celebrates 92!
Dec. 15 - Mary Hoover celebrates 92!
Dec. 26 - Winona Fogle celebrates 95!

Let's remember Robert, Mary and Winona with our cards and prayers! Contact the church office for addresses.

Faith Journeys

During the month of December, our faith journey will be the Advent midweek service and Christmas Eve.

Looking ahead at Faith Journeys in 2025:

January 18, 9a-12p – Use and Means of Grace

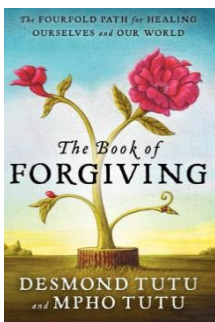
February 15, 9a-4p – Honoring our Neighbor’s Faith

March 21-22 – Confirmation Retreat

April – Lenten Midweek, Holy Week and Easter Sunday services

Faith Journeys is open to everyone. Come join us for some wonderful conversation.

Book Study



The first book study for 2025 will be “The Book of Forgiving – The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World” by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu.

Feel free to grab a copy. Groups will start either the end of January or beginning of February.

forgive



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.

The Rita Herbst Scholarship Fund is now available and it is open to any Emanuel member furthering their education in any field or at any educational institution.

Applications may be picked up at the church office. The application and other support information are due no later than Saturday, March 1, 2025 to the chairperson, Rae Andrews at 379 Brightwood Dr., Marion, OH 43302.

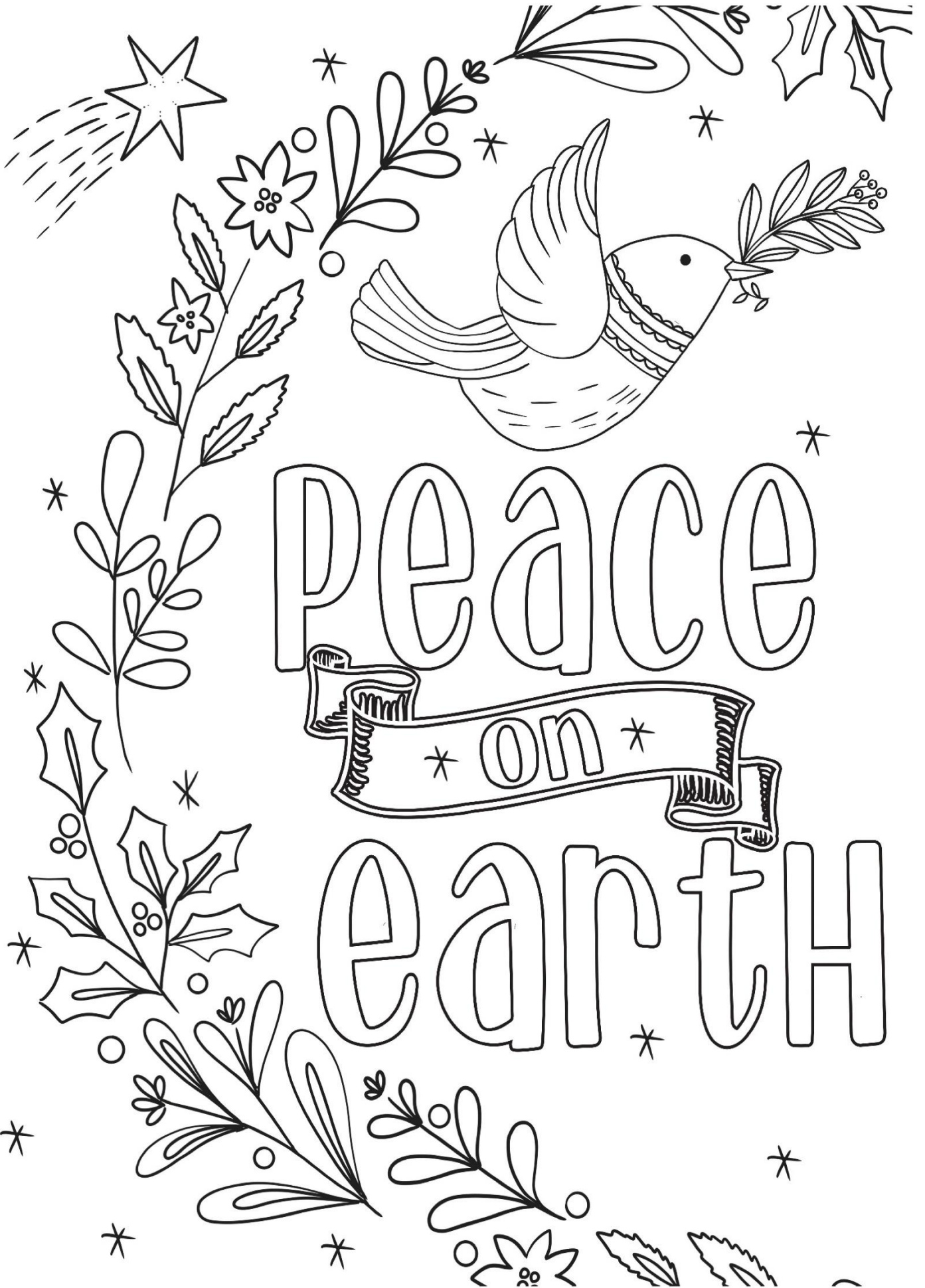
Rae Andrews

740-387-5432

Pastor Poole’s Pins



This month we have Pastor Poole’s family crests. The one on the left is the Poole crest and the one on the right is his mother’s side, the McLoughlin clan crest.



Peace

on

earth

December 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5pm Fellowship Mtg. 5pm Bd. of Communication Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 - Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm Potluck 7pm Advent Worship Service</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Waldo Fresh Food Distribution</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Laundry Initiative Day</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 - EWL Service 10 - Children's Christmas Program 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 - Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3pm Staff Lunch 4:30 Comm. Meal 6pm Potluck 7pm Advent Worship Service</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6pm Learning Center Christmas Program</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5pm "All Is Bright" Church Tour & No Room at the Inn</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5pm Hour of Prayer 7pm PPC Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 - Quilters 1:30 Bd. of Finance 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm Potluck 7pm Advent Worship Service</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Worship 3:00pm 8:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>



Christmas
Eve
SCHEDULE

Please Join us for Worship on Christmas Eve!

Family Worship at 3:00p.m.

Traditional worship at 8:30p.m.

All services will be livestreamed.

Prepared Especially For:

*Return Service Requested.

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