

The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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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

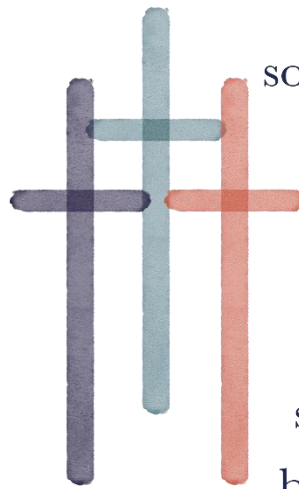
Praise Team & Children's

Choir Director: Teri Turner

Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Sound Technician: Doug Ross



For *God*
so loved the world,
that he gave
his only son,
that whoever
believes in *him*
should not perish
but have *eternal life*.

John 3:16

Preparing for Easter

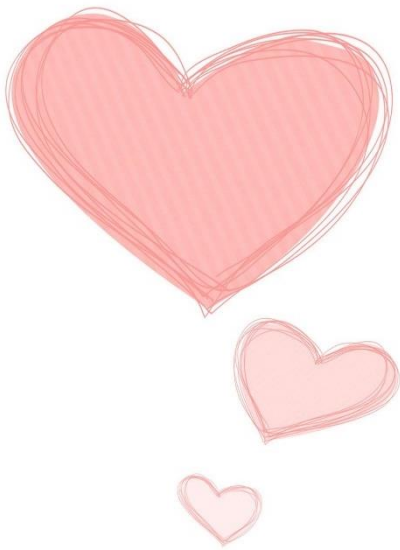
It was mid-Lent last year when our world came to a halt, services were cancelled, and hopes of reopening with an Easter celebration began. While it's not the celebration we had imagined, and it's much later than we predicted, this year the church will be OPEN on Easter! We will have one in-person worship service at 9:15 a.m. on Easter morning and we will broadcast online and radio at 10:30 a.m.

Inside this newsletter you will find more details on how we will be observing Lent with online devotions and streaming services.

**Easter Sunday, April 4th – In-person Worship at 9:15 a.m.
Or join us online and radio at 10:30a.m.**

*“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also”*

--Matthew 6:21



Bishop Beaudoin welcomes us to 2021 as the Year of Generosity. Bishop Beaudoin wrote, "Our focus this year will be on Funding the Mission. God has a mission, and God's mission has a church, and God's church is full of generous people who have abundant gifts and resources; gifts and resources that we are called to share. In the Book of Acts, Jesus reminds us that, "...It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35c). The spiritual practice of generosity is at the heart of following Jesus."

In the Sermon on Mount Jesus tells us, *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*. This will serve as our 2021 Year of Generosity memory verse. This powerful verse reminds us that the spiritual practice of generosity can transform our hearts and lives, and at the same time, renew our parishes and communities.

One of the most profound explanations of this bible verse is from the book Ask, Thank, Tell by Charles R. Lane. We studied this book a few years ago in an adult Sunday School class. He mentions that many people have misread these words of Jesus and imagined that he said, "For where your heart is, there your treasure will be also." Lane emphasized that Jesus said that where your treasure is, *where you put your money*, that is where your heart will be. In other words, where we put our money is where we will grow; our hearts will follow our treasures.

For example, when we purchase a new car or a new set of golf clubs, or whatever, we certainly do baby them, at least for a while. Our hearts are where our treasures are and that is what Jesus is telling us. We become closer to where we put our treasures so in regards to our spirituality Lane writes that *if you grow in your giving, you will grow in your relationship with Jesus*. Mark Allan Powell in his book, Giving to God, adds that *...your heart will follow your treasure* and that the prescription that Jesus offers in this memory verse *holds good news for all who desire a deeper, more spiritual life*.

Dr. Powell writes that there are three aspects of stewardship; "First, faithful stewardship involves giving to God as *an act of worship*. Second, faithful stewardship involves giving to God as an *expression of our faith*. Third, faithful stewardship involves giving to God as a *discipline for spiritual growth*." In regards to spiritual growth, Powell continues then; "We practice a degree of renunciation and self-denial in recognition of the spiritual principle that *where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*. When we do this we discover that such giving becomes a bond that brings us closer to God and helps us to become the sort of people we most want to be."

Finally, Lane concludes, *To put it as directly as possible--you have God's promise that if you grow in your giving, you will grow in you relationship with Jesus*. So as we enter into this Year of Generosity let us each find ways in our stewardship to grow in our faith and to place more and more of our hope in the hands of God.

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

Deacon Kevin

Lenten Schedule

There will be no in-person Lenten worship services during the week, however, Pastor Mark, Deacon Kevin, and Parish Deacon Ann will be providing weekly Facebook devotions each Wednesday following a bible study on the Jerusalem Collection. The introduction to this study and key scripture passages can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Join us online and on WMRN for our **Ash Wednesday** service, February 17, at 7 p.m. You may pick up a packet of “Ashes at Home” from the church office to follow along with the service.

Thursday, April 1, a **Maundy Thursday** service will be posted on Emanuel’s Facebook page in the morning and will be available to watch at your convenience.

You can join us again online and WMRN for our **Good Friday** service, April 2, at 7 p.m.

The **Easter** service will be in-person Sunday, April 4th at 9:15 a.m. and online and radio at 10:30 a.m.

“He is not here, for he has Risen...” Matthew 28:6



Update on the Church Roof...

As many of you are aware, we have experienced significant leaking of our church roof, causing serious damage in various interior locations. The Board of Properties, directed by Mike Phillips, has met with Durable Slate Company of Columbus, who specializes in churches and other slate roofed buildings, and have obtained estimates to repair and replace the roof components to remedy the condition of our roof. The contract for repair is \$102,425. While the amount is significant, this work must be done to protect the structural integrity of our church building.

In January, we mailed a ballot to congregation members to vote on entering this contract. We are happy to report we received an overwhelmingly positive response from members, 219 votes in favor and zero opposed, and are moving forward with this project. More details will come as they are available.



Looking back with Alicia Mayes...

The last newsletter piece I wrote was about our church parking lot. I'm still searching for more information. I will finish that story later.

In the mean time I have found another interesting story.



Confirmation class of 1933. Photo by Wark Photography.

As I was looking through the confirmation pictures, I have found several of the older pictures were taken by Wark Photography. The pictures have the words, "Wark Photography, Marion, Ohio" in the lower right-hand corner. I wanted to look for any information I could find about this photographer. This is the interesting story I found about Wark Photography.

James Wark was born in Ireland in 1847. He came to the United States at the age of 19 and apprenticed under photographer George Manly in Akron, Ohio. He then worked as a photographer in Kent, Ohio. He came to Marion in 1895 and started Wark Photography here. James Wark had a photography career for more than 60 years. He closed his business in Marion in 1933 at the age of 86. He died in 1934. In his obituary it said that he was believed to be the oldest commercial photographer in the country at that time.

Our 1933 confirmation picture was the last class Mr. Wark took here at Emanuel. I thought I would give you a few of the names of confirmands in that picture that some of you might remember: Mary Jeanette Rider Jordan, Mary Kay Alheit Mills, Luella Balsley (Tomi Bacon), Jean Pagnard Wells, Harry Crawbaugh, Dorothy Thibaut Alber, Irma Broadsworth Campbell, and Harold Baldauf.

At the same time I found out about Mr. Wark I found that some of the older confirmation pictures were in frames. The frames are from the Charles L. Murphey Company at 218 W. Center St. here in Marion. They sold art materials, frames and framing pictures was their specialty. I searched for information on the framing company and found an advertisement in what was then called, The Marion Daily Mirror Newspaper, Marion, Ohio dated April 13, 1912.

It was so interesting that I could find these connections Emanuel had with the business community so many years ago.

Until next time, Alicia

Annual Congregational Meeting Announcement

Our Annual Meeting was scheduled for January 24, 2021. With the Covid19 pandemic conditions we are experiencing, it was felt it would be irresponsible to hold any type of *in-person* meeting to consider elections and the business of the church. While important, these issues do not warrant jeopardizing the health of our members.

After much consideration, the Parish Planning Council has voted to ask our current officers and board members to extend their service until we can again safely meet in-person to conduct our Annual Congregational Meeting. With vaccines emerging, we will hopefully be able to congregate again in the near future. At that time, when it is safe to do so, we will reschedule our Annual Meeting.

Parish Planning Council has also voted to extend the 2020 Budget until the new 2021 budget can be approved by our members at the rescheduled Annual Meeting.

We look forward to the day we can all gather together again soon!



Welcome to the Year of Generosity!

Two years ago, many of us journeyed with the Northwestern Ohio Synod through the entire Bible in one year. This year, as we take a deep dive in to generosity, we are going to focus in on the New Testament, but in chronological order!

If you haven't started, you can jump in on today's date and finish at this time next year.

The full reading guide is available on our website and printed at the church office. We also share the weekly readings on our Facebook page!

Join us in welcoming Cindy Rinker as the Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator! Cindy has been involved with Emanuel's Sunday School for many years and is always willing to give Children Sermons on Sunday mornings. She is eagerly planning for the day we can resume our classes and is working on creative ways to engage the children until that is possible. Welcome, Mrs. Rinker!



Joan Chapman celebrates her 93rd birthday February 11.
Kay Atkinson celebrates her 100th birthday February 15.
Nellie Cahill celebrates her 93rd birthday February 18.



Maxine Marshall celebrates her 93rd birthday March 8.

The Jerusalem Collection: An Introduction

St. Paul of Tarsus was a man with a God given mission, and his mission was three-fold. First, Paul was called by God (Acts 9) to make disciples, though curiously, he never uses the word “disciple” in his writings. Instead, Paul forms and nurtures new disciples by encouraging them to “imitate me” (1 Corinthians 4:16; Philippians 3:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:7), which is exactly what Timothy, Titus, Silas, and Phoebe do. They imitate Paul and become faithful followers of Jesus.

Second, Paul was called by God to establish house churches, which he does with a group of traveling companions in places like Galatia, Philippi, and Ephesus. Many of Paul’s letters are addressed to these newly established house churches. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul writes about his call to form and nurture new communities of faith. “Thus, I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else’s foundation, but as it is written, ‘Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand’” (Romans 15:20-21).

Finally, Paul was called by God to raise funds, to take a collection for those experiencing hardship and poverty in Jerusalem. In addition to helping those in need, the Jerusalem Collection also served to break down barriers and bring unity to the early church. This call to take a “collection for the saints” (1 Corinthians 16:1), is always present, right below the surface of many of Paul’s letters.

The Biblical narrative of the Jerusalem Collection begins in the Book of Acts chapter 11, which records the church in Antioch responding to a famine in Judea. A Christian prophet named Agabus predicts the coming of a severe famine (Acts 11:28). Ancient historians, including Josephus and Tacitus, record that several famines affected wide areas of the Roman Empire during the reign of Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD). Josephus writes that the area of Judea was hit particularly hard by famine. The church in Antioch sent Barnabas and Paul with a financial gift to help those who were suffering in Judea (Acts 11:30). Some Bible scholars call this relief effort from Antioch to Jerusalem, Paul’s “Famine Visit”.

This “Famine Visit” was Paul’s 2nd trip to Jerusalem and is most likely the same trip recorded in the Letter to the Galatians chapter 2. It is during this trip that Paul’s mission and ministry are affirmed by the “pillars” of the Jerusalem Church (James, Peter, and John), as Paul is entrusted to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul is also encouraged to continue to “remember the poor” (Galatians 2:10), which Paul is eager to do through his call to organize the Jerusalem Collection in his newly formed Gentile house churches. We read in Acts 12:25, that Barnabas and Paul return to Antioch after completing their “Famine Visit” to Jerusalem.

In Paul’s 1st and 2nd Letters to the Corinthians, we learn about the Jerusalem Collection in greater detail. In 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, Paul offers practical advice about the collection. He encourages the Corinthians to take up the collection before he arrives. The best way for them to do this is to set aside and save from whatever extra they earn. There is no compulsion here, this is a voluntary collection. After Paul arrives, he will arrange (with the help of the Corinthians) the transport of the collection from Corinth to Jerusalem.

In 2 Corinthians chapters 8-9, Paul provides an in-depth look at the theology and principles behind the Jerusalem Collection. After writing 1 Corinthians, Paul learns that the “collection for the saints” (1 Corinthians 16:1), has stalled because of conflict. Paul writes 2 Corinthians, to address the conflict and to encourage the Corinthians to restart and complete the collection. Paul begins by pointing to the Macedonian churches as an example of generosity and encourages the Corinthians to imitate them (2 Corinthians 8:1-6).

The Jerusalem Collection: An Introduction

For Paul, the Jerusalem Collection is more than a financial transaction; it is a response to the goodness and the grace of God. He uses theological terms to describe the collection. It is a “sharing” (2 Corinthians 8:4), that shows the unity between Gentile and Jewish Christians. It is a “ministry to the saints” (2 Corinthians 9:1), and a particular way of serving those in need. It is also an “act of grace” (2 Corinthians 8:6,7,9), which is a direct response to the grace the Corinthians have received from God. According to Paul, generous giving is faithful, thoughtful, proportional, and voluntary. Generous giving is an act of faith given out of gratitude for the grace all of us have received from God.

At the end of Paul’s Letter to the Romans 15:22-33, Paul shares his intended travel itinerary with the Roman Christians, while he is on his way to Jerusalem. He shares that the Jerusalem Collection was fully funded by the churches in Macedonia (Philippi and Thessalonica) and Achaia (Corinth), to provide relief for the poor in Jerusalem (Romans 15:26). Paul states that the task of receiving the collection is complete, and only the delivery remains. Paul concludes this section of the letter by asking the Roman Christians to pray. His request for prayer is two-fold: first for his personal safety, and secondly that the collection would be received favorably by the Church in Jerusalem. Even as Paul fulfills his God given call to raise funds to alleviate suffering and to “remember the poor”, he still has doubts about how the distressed Jewish Christians will receive this generous financial gift collected by a growing Gentile Church.

According to the Book of Acts, chapter 21, we read that Paul finally arrives in Jerusalem, though there is no mention of the Jerusalem Collection and how it is received (or not received) by the Church in Jerusalem. We might speculate, and many Bible scholars do speculate. Or we can simply find hope in the promise that God’s grace is sufficient and our simple and generous response to that grace is always reward enough.

The Jerusalem Collection

Passages and Verses

Key Scripture Passages

Matthew 6:19-21	Sermon on the Mount "Concerning Treasures"
Acts 11:19-30	The Church in Antioch
Galatians 2:1-10	Paul's Famine Visit to Jerusalem
1 Corinthians 16:14	Directions for the Collection for the Saints
2 Corinthians 8	Complete the Collection for the Saints
2 Corinthians 9	Generosity: Theology and Principles
Romans 15:22-33	Paul's Travel Itinerary
Acts 21:17-19	Paul Arrives in Jerusalem

Memory Verses

Study 1: Matthew 6:21

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Study 2: Acts 11:26c

"...and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'."

Study 3: 1 Corinthians 16:2a

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn..."

Study 4: 2 Corinthians 8:7

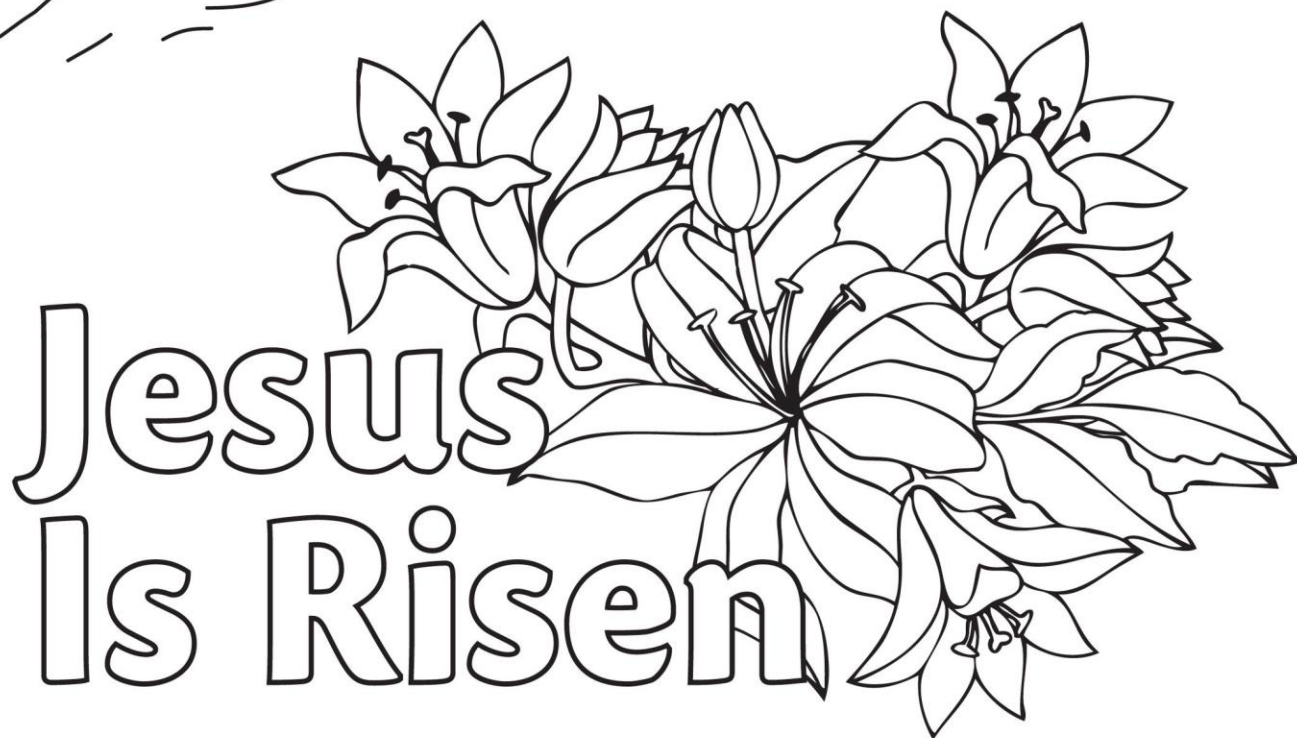
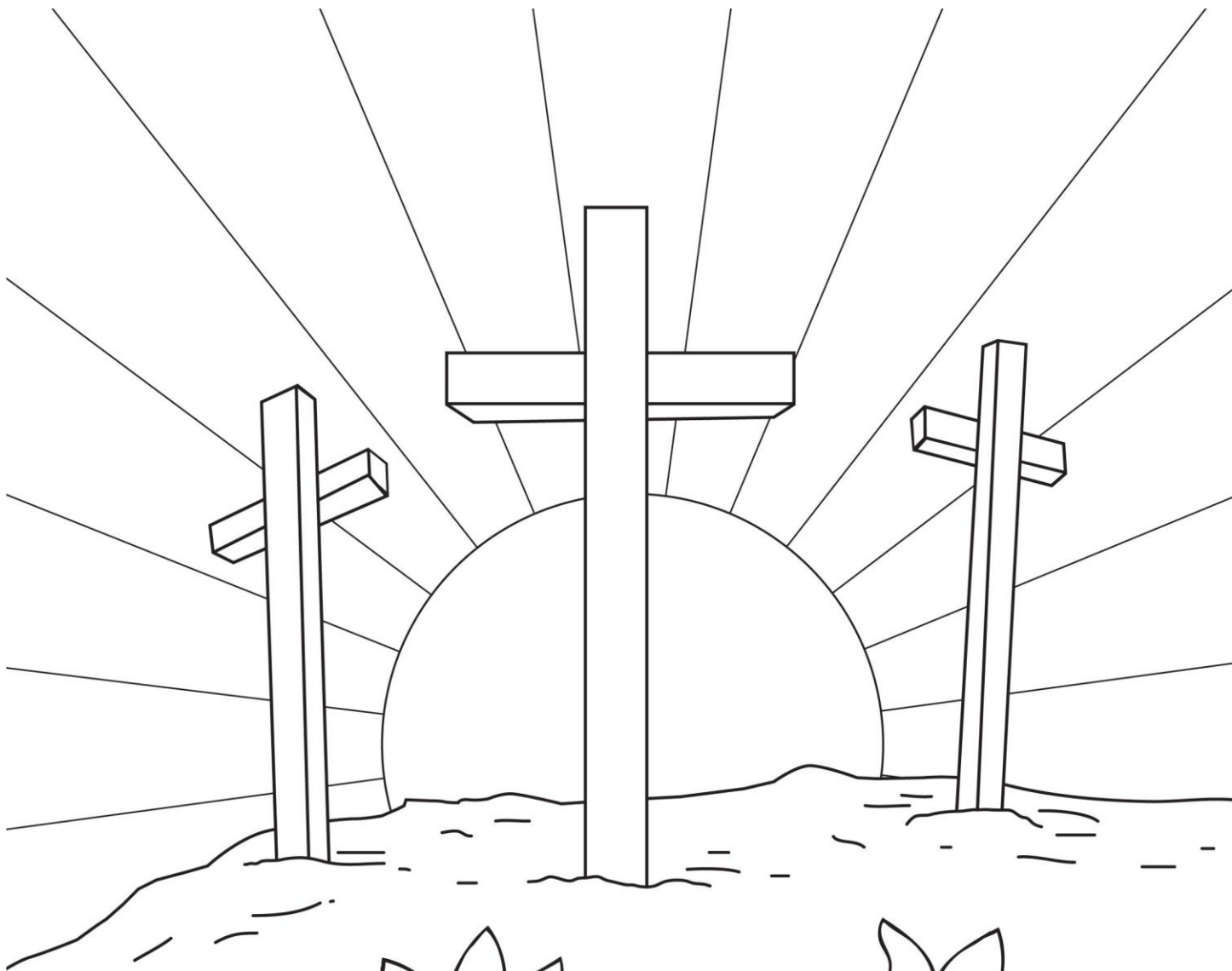
"Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you – so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking."

Study 5: 2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Study 6: Romans 15:26

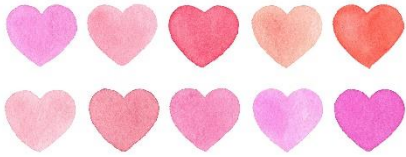
"For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints of Jerusalem."



Jesus
Is Risen

Color an Easter picture for someone you love.

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



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Join us for any of our In-person worship services:

March

March 7 @ 8:00 a.m.
March 14 @ 9:15 a.m.
March 21 @ 10:30 a.m.
March 28 @ 8:00 a.m.

April

April 4 (Easter) @ 9:15 a.m.
April 11 @ 10:30 a.m.
April 18 @ 8:00 a.m.
April 25 @ 9:15 a.m.

May

May 2 @ 10:30 a.m.
May 9 @ 8:00 a.m.
May 16 @ 9:15 a.m.
May 23 @ 10:30 a.m.
May 30 @ 8:00 a.m.



Join Pastor Mark,
Deacon Kevin and Parish
Deacon Ann Thomas
each Wednesday for a
special Lenten Devotion
streamed on our
Facebook Page!