

February 2023

# The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

## Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook!

## Church Staff:

Pastor Michael L. Poole Jr.

Parish Deacon Ann Thomas

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:

Brian and Christy Penrod

Pat Thomas

Director of Music Ministry:

Paul Burnside

Assistant Organist:

Sandra Becker

Praise Team & Children's

Choir Director: Teri Turner

Emanuel Choir Director:

Steve deWeber

Emanuel Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

*Micah 6:8*

We are beginning our second year in this intentional process of taking a look at ourselves. We spent last year asking ourselves, "Who Is God Calling Us To Be?" We are having some wonderful conversations in a wide variety of settings surrounding this question. As we look back on who we were as a congregation in January of 2022, we have come some distance. We are not the same as we were even a year ago. Things are changing. As we continue in 2023, this question of who God is calling us to be will remain, will change as we better understand ourselves, will project us into the future.

This year the pondering question is "What Is God Calling Us To Do?" We should be asking ourselves this question as individuals, in our groups, and as a congregation. This presents several options as we answer this question: what are we not doing now that we should be doing; what are we doing now that needs to be re-imaged into something new; what are we doing now that we should discontinue; and what are we not doing, that we should continue not doing.

I look forward to the conversations and discoveries that lie ahead for us in 2023!

Peace,



Pastor Mike

## Musings from the Church Mouse...

I was scurrying around the Gathering Space last Sunday afternoon, looking for cupcake crumbs to snack on. I heard someone ask, "It is almost Lent. Why are we not allowed to say, 'Alleluia' during Lent?" The other person said, "I don't know. It's always been that way."

I don't know that I had noticed that before, not saying Alleluia during Lent. I did some research. "Alleluia" is a Latin word, which comes from the Hebrew word "Hallelujah", which means "Praise the LORD!" This "Alleluia!" is also heard as the Easter victory cry of Christ over sin, death and the grave.

In the Western Church, It has been a tradition to not use this Easter victory cry during Lent. So we don't use liturgy that has the "A-word". We don't sing hymns and songs that has "A....." Then on Easter morning, we sing ALLELUIA as the celebration of resurrection!

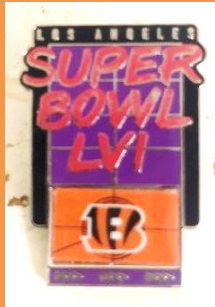
Some congregations have a tradition of "Putting away the Alleluias" on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday).

So, if you hear a high-pitched, squeaky voice saying, "Alleluia" over and over again, I'm just trying to get as many in as I can before Ash Wednesday.

See ya in worship!

*Church Mouse*

### Pastor Poole's Pins



Pastor Poole is a life-long Cincinnati Bengals fan. He was very excited last year when the Bengals went to the Super Bowl! They are having another successful year! You may see Pastor Poole wearing his WHO DEY attire at worship for a while: Super Bowl pin, and tiger stripe socks that are visible because of the orange kilt (which I hear he got 50% last year right before the Super Bowl!)

## You Know You Are a Steadfast Lutheran If...

...You still refer to the pastor who has faithfully served your congregation for twelve years as the "New Minister."

...Your congregation is as flexible as a monument in your cemetery.

... You still talk about "The Pastor" as the minister who served you for almost 50 years, but that was almost 50 years ago.

... You feel that pastors got more respect when they wore black robes and got two dressed-out chickens and a ham for Christmas rather than a pension.

## Young People of the Church Coming in February...

Did I hear you say Socks for Souls? What is Socks for Souls? Our youth are collecting socks to serve a basic need in the homeless community, hence the Socks for Souls. Donations will be accepted through February 12 and can be dropped off in the basket found in the elevator lobby.

So, what do Socks for Souls and Service Sunday have in common, you ask? Our youth will engage on February 12 for a threefold Service Sunday in conjunction with the Education and Social Ministry Boards. On Sunday we will be packing up the collected Socks for Souls while others can be found in both the Gathering Space and the Narthex at 9:00 and 10:15 wearing football jerseys, (because it's also Super Bowl Sunday), holding bowls for a noisy collection. All of the socks and coins collected will benefit missions of the Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter. The third part of the Service Sunday involves working in the Gathering Space to decorate and sign Valentines for our homebound and nursing home members. Feel free to stop in and see what we're doing, share some goodies with us, and see what our young people are up to. Want to join in? We would love to have you help by donating new socks; bringing loose change with you to the service you attend or by helping decorate and address the Valentines. For questions see any member of the Education or Social Ministry Boards.

## Social Ministry News...

It's only January but lots of items are bubbling in the Social Ministry world. In January, we provided a number of recipes to recipients at the Fresh Food Distribution. Want to join in, February recipes should include Jell-O salads, pineapple or apples. March recipes should include potatoes, carrots, beets or turnips.

We have a GWOH opportunity to serve for anytime in the first quarter with the Peanut Butter Jelly truck making sandwiches on the first Saturday of **February, March and/or April** at 9:00 a.m. at Marion Church of the Brethren. To volunteer you need to contact Bev Young at 740 360-3704 (call/text) or [BevYoung40@gmail.com](mailto:BevYoung40@gmail.com) at least 1 week in advance.

**February** finds us working with the Education Board and our youth to benefit Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter with socks and a noisy collection while remembering our homebound and nursing home members with Valentines.

**March** finds us cooking a Lenten meal of chili on Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. Won't you join us for a yummy meal, fellowship and our Lenten worship?

**April** is our spring Laundry Day. We will again be working with Colonial Laundromats to provide washing and drying for our neighbors in need. Laundry products are still in good supply, but we must raise at least \$1000.00 in order to serve this need. Won't you prayerfully consider donating to this cause either with your money and/or your time? Contributions can be made at any time by designating Laundry Day on the item line. For more information about this mission read upcoming church newsletters, weekly bulletins, and our Facebook page or see a member of the Social Ministry Board.

Join us in any or all of these opportunities to serve the needs of the community from a Gospel perspective using our time, talents, and treasures.

## Faith Journeys

Our confirmation Faith Journeyers will be attending a three-day retreat this month at LMC at Hopewood Pines. Please keep them in your prayers during this retreat.

### Future Faith Journey Events:

<b>Fri/Sat/Sun</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>10, 11, 12</b>	<b>Conformation Retreat – LMC</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>March 1,8,15,22,29, 4/5</b>		<b>Lenten Lord's Prayer worship</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>9a-5p</b>	<b>Mission / Vision / Identity Workshop</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 22</b>	<b>6p-7p</b>	<b>Faith Journey Questions</b>
<b>Sunday-Friday</b>	<b>June 25,26,27,28,29,30</b>		<b>Confirmation Camp</b>

## Journey Through The Bible Together

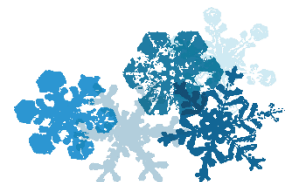
Pastor Mike has started a new Bible study on Sunday afternoons. We are taking time to read the entire Bible together, from Genesis to Revelation, from cover to cover. It is interesting that the vast majority of Christians have not actually read the entire bible once. This is the book that we confess to be the rule, source, guide and norm of all that we think, say, and do. Maybe we should actually read it.

We began with Genesis and will take one to three weeks working through each book, depending on the discussion and conversation. Pastor Mike has notes and handouts to guide us through this journey. This has always been an enjoyable journey for Pastor Mike in all his congregations. We have about 20 people gathering for this study, but there is still more room for you to join us.

We meet on Sundays from 2p – 4p. We will meet most Sundays. You don't have to be at every single week to get benefit from the study. We will let everyone know where we are in the Bible from week to week. So join us when you are able. We have just completed Ruth, so you can still jump in!

## Book Study

Our Lenten book study is by the same authors as the one we just finished. The book is "The Last Week – What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem," by Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan. We have a virtual option on Sunday nights at 6:30pm, and in-person options on Thursdays at 11:30am and 5:30pm. Feel free to pick up a copy of the book. Let Pastor Mike know if you would like the virtual link. Keep an eye out for more information.



## Watchwords for 2023

On Sunday, January 8, 2023, as we gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Baptism Of Our Lord, we drew Watchwords for 2023. Watchwords are verses of scripture that are offered up to give guidance and encouragement throughout the year. Watchwords are drawn for congregations, groups and individuals. At the 10:30am worship that day, the youth drew a watchword for our congregation.

***"It is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost."***

Matthew 18:14

On New Year's Eve or New Year's Day many Moravian congregations offer an opportunity for worshipers to select personal watchwords for the upcoming year. We randomly "draw" short verses from scripture that are printed on cards and placed into a bowl or basket. The first watchword selected is for the congregation followed by an opportunity to draw a personal or family watchword that can become a guide or focus for the coming year. The "watchwords" are intended to be a guide for devotion and discernment throughout the year. In our movement and meditation we may utilize a positive affirmation or mantra to calm the mind or re-train a negative thought pattern, similarly, watchwords provide us with a focus for our meditation and in time we may discover an unfolding of its wisdom in our daily life.

The selection of a personal or congregational text near the beginning of the year provides an additional connection with the celebration of Epiphany. The word "epiphany," when used in general conversation, can mean a sudden appearance or insight. The gospel texts that we share in Stretch and Pray in this season after Epiphany point us to experiences of "epiphany" such as at Jesus baptism and Jesus' calling of the disciples.

Moravians around the world anticipate and recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in the selection of Daily Texts as well as in the drawing of annual watchwords from those daily texts. For a brief history of Moravian Daily Texts or to receive the daily texts click here: <https://www.moravian.org/2018/07/a-brief-history-of-the-moravian-daily-texts/> ). Each text provides us with an opportunity for "epiphany." If you were not present on the day we drew texts in worship, and you would like one, there are baskets at the entrances of the sanctuary for you to draw from. May we see how our watchwords guide, encourage, challenge, and comfort us in 2023.



Our group met on January 1st for food and fellowship. Our numbers were down with the holiday and the schedule change.

### 2023 Schedule

First Sunday Each Month At 6:00p.m.

February 5 <sup>th</sup>	March 5 <sup>th</sup>	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	May 7 <sup>th</sup>	June 4 <sup>th</sup>	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	October 1 <sup>st</sup>	November 5 <sup>th</sup>	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	

These LGBT and Allies Fellowship get-togethers are a potluck format, so please bring a favorite dish to share. Beverages (iced tea, lemonade, water & coffee) as well as table service will be provided.

Questions: email at [LGBT.Emanuel@gmail.com](mailto:LGBT.Emanuel@gmail.com), calling or texting 740-262-2655



## Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

In looking back over the minutes from Altar Guild meetings starting in 1977 I have pulled out some facts that I thought might interest you.

Our Advent Wreath was made in 1978. The eternal candle that is by the pulpit was bought in 1980. The red outer container used to have a real wax candle housed in a plastic that was changed weekly. Now we have a metal canister with oil that is inside the red outer container. It is refilled weekly. It was moved to its present location in 1991.

The kneeler we use for weddings, confirmation, etc. was redone over a period of years. The frame was stripped and painted. The material used to cover the kneeler has a needlepoint design. It was finished in 1993.

The decorations for the Christmas tree (Chrismons) were made in 1983 by a group of women in the church. There is a booklet with pictures and meanings of each and a list of the women that made them that is offered each year. The Altar Guild stores these decorations in a plastic tub with tissue paper to keep them clean and in good condition.

New glass communion glasses were ordered in 1984. They were a gift from the Confirmation class that year. To my knowledge these are the communion glasses we are using today.

A Childs Funeral Pall was ordered in October of 1985 by Mary Baldauf in memory of her husband, Bob. Mary was one of the original members of Altar Guild. She was made a Lifetime Member of Altar Guild in 1985.

In 1986 when Pastor J. Weston Jones came to Emanuel he asked for the wooden butterfly stand that is still used at the altar today. He also asked for a small dish for olive oil for baptisms. That dish is a gold shell. It is still used today.

The Processional Cross that is carried in at different times in our church services was purchased in 1988 for \$315.00. It is in the wall stand at the left side of the chair by the altar. You will sometimes see it in a floor stand in the Narthex when it is put there to be carried in for a service.

The needlepoint picture of "The Lord's Supper" was placed over the fireplace in the parlor in May of 1983. In the last 5 years that same picture was cleaned and reframed by Sherrie and Rick Haver.

On July 3, 1994 the outside lights that light up the stain glass windows behind the altar were dedicated.

The two big candles on the altar and the candelabra candles were real wax candles that were replaced every week until 1996 when we purchased oil candles. New blue oil candles were bought for the Advent Wreath in 1998 at a cost of \$300.00.

In the early 2000's it was decided that our communion trays that hold the communion glasses should be refinished. I had just started as Altar Guild chair. I contacted Bron Shoe in Columbus to take one of the trays with lid to see what needed to be done and the cost. They were silver plated. I got a phone call from Bron Shoe shortly after taking the trays down to Columbus telling me that they had never seen anything like it. When the workers removed the silver plating on one of the lids they discovered that brass was under the silver plating. I remember Pastor Jones, our Senior Pastor at the time, was so thrilled to hear of the brass. It ended up that the cost was so much less then we first thought because instead of refinishing the trays and lids with silver plating they removed the silver plating and we then had brass communion trays that we still are using today. The owner of Bron Shoe said he had never seen brass covered with silver plating.

February of 2005 was when the Altar Guild served a Lenten Supper for the first time.

There are many more facts about what has happened through the years with Altar Guild. I will write more about those things in the future.

Until next time, Alicia



## Welcome to the February Music Notes!

As I write this, I reflect on the wonderful past Christmas season at Emanuel! A huge Thank You to everybody who was involved in the 10:30 service on December 18<sup>th</sup>, with so many folks involved – the Adult, Children's, and Bell Choirs, the Sunday School youth, and the Praise Team! It was a truly meaningful way to share the message of Advent and Christmas.

It was a Great Joy for me to be able to celebrate my first Christmas as your Organist and Music Director. Unfortunately, the weather prevented us from getting together in person on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but the recorded services were exceptionally uplifting. There was so much Love and Joy in the handful of us that gathered that cold afternoon to present the services for you. I felt that I was experiencing something greater than any of us, and that we were given a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness the Spirit working through us as never before. There was an intimacy and a camaraderie that I believe is apparent in the services. If you have not yet had the opportunity to watch them, I highly recommend that you do so. The music and messages will inspire you, and help to carry you through the new year.

In celebration of Black History Month in February, I will once again focus my organ music on Spirituals and compositions by Black composers. I am pleased that Steve has joined me in this effort, and chosen choir anthems based on Spirituals. I hope that you will enjoy this special month of music, and that it will serve as witness that we are all God's Children, One People, Equal in God's Creation.

The first Sunday in February I will celebrate the 1-year anniversary of joining you full-time at Emanuel. And what a year it has been! I wasn't sure what to expect a year ago, and I must say it has been a wonderful challenge above and beyond my expectations!

As much of a Joy it is having the privilege of playing the magnificent Casavant organ every week, of planning worship services with Pastor Mike and Deacon Ann, of working with the other fine musicians and the rest of the staff, there is one other thing that brings me the most Joy. That is having the chance to be with all of you, the Congregation, every week. I'm still getting to know many of you, and every week that I meet someone new, or really talk with someone for the first time is a blessing.

So, I thank all of you for making the past year a blessed journey of discovery for me. Thanks to you I believe I have grown this year, as a musician, and as a person.

I will leave you this month with Verse 3 of "Blessed Be the God of Israel (ELW #552) which we will sing together on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,  
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;  
oh, bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

Until next time, Soli Deo Gloria!

Paul



## HEAVYMETAL



The rafters are alive with the sounds of music. And we need to look no further than table #6 of the bell choir for a contributor to Emanuel. Yes, it's our very own Sandy Becker! This dedicated musician has blessed us with her talents and services for decades, even beyond the bell choir.

Sandy began her musical life with piano lessons in Louisville, Ohio, then continued her journey at Heidelberg and added other various institutions' courses to her education. Without a break in her career, she raised 1 daughter, Kim, and now thoroughly enjoys her 2 granddaughters, also.

She is a group-loving musician which is evidenced by her services in all aspects of Emanuel's programs. She is currently the assistant organist, a member of both adult and the bell choirs, plays for the children's Sunday gathering, and on Thursday nights can be counted on to provide the music for services. Previously, she was part of the committee that selected our organ and was the teen choir director for 30 years.

Outside of church activities, our Sandy is involved with the Marion Concert Band, the Marion Music Club, Madrigal Singers, the Recorder Consort, and is on the board of the "Messiah". Even though she has retired from teaching in the Marion school system, she stays active in education by accompanying groups at Elgin and River Valley. Accompanying groups is her favorite part of her career. Music, she believes, helps to keep the mind sharp and to reach people in a vast variety of ways.

When she has time, she can be found in the presence of her plants, enjoying time with her girls in Chicago, and taking vacation breaks in Florida.

Always ready and willing to help others in any way, Sandy is a deeply appreciated servant for our Lord. Well done!

Who will be the next ringer you meet? I don't know either, but together we will soon find out.

From the heights of Emanuel,  
Batina Belfry

*Thank you in for everyone who helped Altar Guild with Christmas decorating and taking down the decorations!*



Lucille Steward celebrates her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday February 7<sup>th</sup>

Nellie Cahill celebrates her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday February 18<sup>th</sup>

Galen Teel celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday February 21<sup>st</sup>

**Let's remember Lucille, Nellie and Galen with our prayers and cards!**

(contact the church office for addresses)



# February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b> 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 2pm Bible Study 6pm - LGBT & Allies	<b>30</b> 4pm - Child Protocol 6pm Communication 6pm Properties 6:30 Spiritual Life 6:30 Fellowship	<b>31</b> 8:30 Quilters 6pm Praise Team	<b>1</b> 9:30 Bible Study 10am - Social Min. 6pm Adult & Children's Choirs 7pm Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship	<b>3</b> Waldo Food Distribution	<b>4</b> Confirmation Retreat (LMC)
<b>5</b> 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 2pm Bible Study 6pm - LGBT & Allies	<b>6</b> 8:30 Quilters 6pm Praise Team	<b>7</b> 9:30 Bible Study 6pm Adult & Children's Choirs 7pm Bell Choir	<b>8</b> 10am Staff Mtg. 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship	<b>9</b> Confirmation Retreat (LMC)	<b>10</b> Confirmation Retreat (LMC)	<b>11</b> Confirmation Retreat (LMC)
<b>12</b> Confirmation Retreat (LMC) 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	<b>13</b> 8:30 Quilters	<b>14</b> 9:30 Bible Study	<b>15</b> 11:30 Book Study	<b>16</b> 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 2pm Bible Study	<b>20</b> Office & Childcare Closed 6pm Finance Bd.	<b>21</b> 8:30 Quilters 6pm Praise Team	<b>22</b> 9:30 Bible Study 6pm Adult & Children's Choirs 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>23</b> 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 12pm Mutual Min. 2pm Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7pm PPC	<b>28</b> 6pm Praise Team	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



# Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:8

\*Return Service Requested.

Prepared Especially For:

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Marion, Ohio 43302-3921**

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