

February 2025

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

Children's Ministry

Coordinator: Cindy Rinker

Financial Secretary:

Stacy Hoch

Maintenance Support:

Carl Jones

Child Care Director:

Abby Chase

Door Attendants:

Brian and Christy Penrod

Pat Thomas, Rob Valentine

Organist:

Paul Burnside

Assistant Organist:

Sandra Becker

Praise Team Director &

Multimedia Technician:

Teri Turner

Emanuel Choir Director:

Steve deWeber

Emanuel Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:10

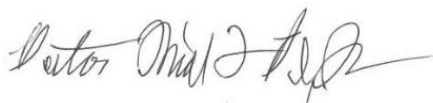
This is the watchword that was drawn for Emanuel for 2025. It comes to us from the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, in the Beatitudes. This is the beginning of Jesus' teaching. We are called by this passage to put everything on the line. Jesus understood that if we are doing the work of the Kingdom, we will be disturbing the status quo, we will be upsetting the power structures, we will be causing havoc. A kingdom life is counter-cultural. We are called as followers of Christ to place the Kingdom first and always.

This will anger people. This will cause others to work against the way of the Kingdom. This will cause those who are disrupted to take action, and many times, against those who are working for the kingdom.

As Jesus works through the Beatitudes, it becomes clear that if we follow his way, and work for the Kingdom, people will persecute us. And in some sense, if people are not being disrupted, we need to be working harder for the Kingdom.

Allow this passage to guide us this year. Bishop Daniel has offered the theme for 2025 to be the Year of Listening. Let us listen to the Holy Spirit to direct our ways, let us listen to Christ to serve as the example of the faithful life, let us listen to God to hear what God is calling for us.

Peace,



Pastor Mike

PD Ann's Corner - Meet Me at the Well

The ways of getting groundwater differ depending on local underground conditions. Water may be plentiful just 10 feet below the land surface or in some parts of the world, deep wells might have to be drilled hundreds of feet to reach groundwater.

When I was growing up my grandfather owned a farm. The house did not have electricity, an indoor bathroom or running water. The well was outside the kitchen door. My grandparents had to lower a bucket to bring water up for cooking, washing clothes, taking baths, or watering the plants.

In Abraham's day, wells had to be dug by hand. It would take many people working to dig in the desert sand with shovels and buckets to reach the water underground. Then the well would be lined with rocks and a cover would be put over the opening. Usually, the well would be put in an area where the whole community could come together to remove the cover and draw the water up with buckets. Individual homes did not have wells. In some situations, a set of steps would lead down into the well, so people had to climb down and back up to bring water to the surface. There could be problems over who owned the well. Water was a precious commodity and people would sometimes fight over who had control of the water. In Genesis 21:22-23 Abraham's servants dug a well. King Abimelech's servants seized the well that Abraham had built. A treaty between Abraham and King Abimelech was arranged. Abraham gave the king sheep and cattle showing that the well belonged to Abraham.

Throughout your life there will be times you have arguments with others. You may argue with a family member, a friend, or a neighbor. Both of you may have been hurt by things you said. It is hard to get rid of the hurtful things you have said. Maybe you have put a distance between you and the other person. You have not talked to them in a long time.

"You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So, then you must cloth yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Forgive others as the Lord has forgiven you." (Colossians 3:12) Maybe it is time to come back to the well of living water to receive healing and restore your relationship with that person. Jesus says, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38) Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to move in your life and to provide healing. Jesus can open the way to be reconciled with the person whom you have had an argument. It is never too late to reach out and receive the living water from Jesus or to offer the living water to someone else. You can ask for forgiveness and give forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to restore your relationship with the other person.

Forgive others as the Lord has forgiven you.

Colossians 3:12



DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?



This year, 2025, is the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, from which we received the Nicene Creed. The Lutheran congregations in the area will be gathering on a monthly basis to have discussions around the Nicene Creed and what we believe to be true. Emanuel will be hosting the first of these gatherings on Sunday, February 16th from 4p-6p. Come join others to begin this wonderful discussion. Bishop Daniel has made this year the Year of Listening. We are hoping these sessions allow us to listen to what we as Christians of the Lutheran tradition believe and what others might believe as well.

Sunday School News



Together with the Early Learning Center we are beginning a program focusing on creative development and opportunities for all ages. We are in the early planning stage and putting together a committee.....also looking for a catchy name.

Our first program is on February 6, 2025 from 5 PM to 7 PM in the parlor.

We are feeding you and..... plan on bringing your dancing shoes! Our own Stacy Hoch will be teaching and leading us in dance. We are hopeful that all ages, families, and singles participate. Plan on having a great time!

“Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16) Thank you to the following families for lighting the Advent wreath during the worship services in December: Varga family, Barger Family, Bayless Family, Hampel Family, Jolliff Family, Koehler Family, Rakow Family, Poole Family, and the Smith Family. You light up our lives with the love of Jesus shining thru you.



Musings from the Church Mouse...

A•men
(ā•men')
adv., interj.

I hear the word, “AMEN” said a lot around here. I wonder sometimes what it really means. You all say it after prayers. You all say it when you agree with something. You all say it when you wish for things to be different.

I was scurryin’ around the library and I saw a book. I opened it up and this is what was on the page:

“Be careful of simple words said often.

‘Amen’ makes demands like an unrelenting schoolmaster; fierce attention to all that is said; no apathy, no preoccupation, no prejudice permitted.

‘Amen’: We are present. We are open. We hearken. We understand. Here we are; we are listening to your word.

‘Amen’ make demands like a signature on a dotted line: sober bond to all that goes before; no hesitation, no half-heartedness, no mental reservations allowed.

‘Amen’: We support. We approve. We are of one mind. We promise. May this come to pass. So be it.

Be careful when you say ‘Amen.’

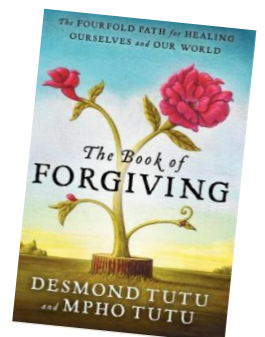
- Barbara Schmich

I hope to See ya’ at worship!

Church Mouse

Book Study

The first book study for 2025 is “The Book of Forgiving – The Four-Fold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World” by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. Feel free to grab a copy. We are currently meeting on Thursdays at 11:30am in the Martin Luther library. If you would like to participate in the Zoom session on Sunday nights, let Pastor Mike know and he can send you the link to join.



Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

In the January 5, 1993 Council Meeting minutes Betty White, from the Board of Music and Worship, said the board was recommending that the church purchase a Roland Drum System at an estimated cost of \$1900. The purchase would come out of the Mautz Fund. I wonder if that is the same drum set we have today?

I found a pamphlet in the binder with board minutes from 1993 about Children's Church. It began May 2, 1993. Some of you may remember Children's Church. It was designed for children ages 5 through the fourth grade. Children would go into the sanctuary with their parents on Sunday morning to begin our regular 10:30 church service and after singing by the cherub or junior choir they would be excused to go to the 1st grade Sunday school room accompanied by Children's Church staff. It was an option for the parents to keep their children in church with them or be excused to go to Children's Church. There was singing, lessons with games, puppets, video's etc. It was designed for children to attend the worship service so they would be part of the liturgy and rituals of the Lutheran worship but then go to a service for children. Kathy Mullins announced at Church Council May 11th that there were 16 children at Children's Church on May 2nd. It continued to grow and by September there were 30 children.

In April of 1993 it was stated at Church Council that Lexan Plexi-glass would be put over the stained-glass windows behind the altar in the chancel. The cost would be covered by an anonymous donor.

At that same April meeting Kim Becker was formally recognized for being bestowed the honor of becoming 1993 Miss Heart of Ohio. Kim is the daughter of Sandy Becker and now lives in Chicago with her two daughters. You might remember seeing Kim and her daughters now and then worshipping with us when they are in Marion visiting Sandy.

At the May 11, 1993 Church Council meeting it was approved to add infant care to the Child Care program. It was stated that no funds would be taken from the general operating budget to add this care. Infant care started August 2nd. The nursery was painted and 3 cribs were purchased.

It was stated in the Church Council minutes May 11th that Stacy Hoch would be traveling outside the U.S. with the Carpenter's Tools in the summer. The June 8th minutes stated that Stacy would be leaving Sunday, June 13th to tour in Zimbabwe for a month. I spoke with Stacy recently asking about her trip. She told me that Carpenter's Tools was a Christian singing group that came to Emanuel and she auditioned for the group for this trip. When she was accepted, they sent her music to learn and she met them in Minnesota for the trip to Zimbabwe that is located in southern Africa. There were 8 or 9 people in the group and they stayed in homes of different families. She stayed with 3 different families in that month. Stacy assured me that these homes had running water and inside plumbing. She was 16 at that time. Stacy said that was quite a trip for a 16-year-old in those days. I have looked up the Carpenter's Tools group on line and there is not much information about their beginnings. From what I did find the group started in 1989. If any of you have more information, let me know.



Stacy Hoch

In the July 13, 1993 minutes of Church Council Don Davis talked about the fellowship that took place on Saturday, July 10th when members of our congregation gathered to assist the Stiversons in building a new barn that had been destroyed by fire. The Marion Star, WMRN and the Mansfield station publicized this Christian event. Some of you might remember this and/or helped build the new barn

In the August 10, 1993 minutes of Church Council Pastor Jones read a letter from "Love in Christ's Name" Clearing House stating that a Lutheran Pastor named Gabriel, who had spoken with our Sunday School classes recently, sent a letter to us requesting money to get back to his country, Tanzania. He was in the U.S. getting his Ph.D. and Master's Degree in Education. Some of you may remember when he was at Emanuel and spoke. Also at that meeting, a letter was read from Navajo Lutheran Mission in Arizona requesting help. Their pastor was Martin Mier.

Many of you may remember Linda Luse who was the Cherub Choir Director. She retired from that position in September of 1993. She had been the director for 16 years. A reception was given in Linda's honor after the 10:30A worship service September 26th. A song was composed and dedicated to Linda.

The Marion Civic Chorus responsible for the yearly event, "The Messiah" was at Emanuel on December 5, 1993.

Cottage meetings that were held this past year to gather ideas about changing worship services and times were also held in 1993 for the Stewardship Campaign for 1994. The theme for that year's Stewardship Campaign was "The Ministry of Giving for Ministry."

In the minutes of the October 12, 1993 Church Council meeting it was announced that Jane Fogle, our church secretary for 17 years, was retiring effective January 1, 1994.

Also, in the October minutes it was suggested that there be a Child Care Board consisting of 4 members to be elected by the congregation. The person with the highest number of votes would represent the Board on Church Council. The 4 elected members would then elect 1 non-member parent to sit on the Board for a total of 5 members. The motion was approved and seconded to start this new board. Members would serve 2-year terms. Two members would be elected each year. It also stated that a special Congregational meeting would need to be held to vote on this new board.

In the November 9, 1993 Church Council minutes, it was stated that the refrigerator in the church kitchen had quit. A new one was purchased from Wasserstrom's in Columbus. It was a Polar Quest refrigerator that had a scratch on it so the price was dropped.

Also, at that council meeting it was reported that Pastor Gordon had witnessed two youth spray painting a car on a Saturday. As the youth passed by the church door, Pastor Gordon went outside and apprehended them. The police were then called and the youth were taken away.



Sue Dunn
Parish Secretary

At the Church Council meeting dated December 14, 1993 Pastor Jones announced that Sue Dunn was hired effective December 6, 1993 to be our new church secretary. Many of you might remember Sue. She was married while working at Emanuel and her name was then Sue Snyder.

The staff recognized Jane Fogle's retirement. Jane requested that no formal recognition be made other than staff.

At that same council meeting it was stated that Cindy Rinker had accepted the position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. It was also stated that Alan Lust would be stepping down as choir director but continue as our organist.

More history to come, Alicia

Faith Journeys

Our Faith Journey gathering in February will be on Saturday, 2/15 from 9am-4pm. We will be working through the book, "Honoring Our Neighbors' Faith." This book looks at a wide variety of Christian traditions, as well as non-Christian religions. We will talk about how we can learn more about each other by listening to the faith stories of other traditions. Books and a light lunch will be provided. It is open to all.

Looking ahead at Faith Journeys in 2025:

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.

Thank you to all who helped altar guild take down the decorations in the sanctuary and the Nativity scene!

Alicia Mayes

Steeple Sightings

Hi, again, from on high.

It's still cold up here, but VERY soon it will be Spring. Church Mouse told me we are right in the middle of the church season named Epiphany. What an interesting name; maybe C.M. will tell more about it. I love the sounds of different names, 'course being a bat, I love all sounds. The choir member I am highlighting this time has the special name of Juanita, as in Oiler.

Juanita was born and raised here in Marion County, attending Pleasant Schools where she was also in the choir and drama group productions. She has lived all over the Eastern US including Georgia and Arkansas, and earned her master's degree in Christian counselling. This has allowed her to work full time as a medical social worker for ViaQuest Hospice, and parttime doing telehealth with Senior Adults. She also serves on the Board of Joyce's Angels, plus does fulfilling work as a children's caseworker, supervisor, hospice, and foster care.

Her home life includes Wynnston the dog and Wattson the cat. They help with her interests of flower gardening (Wynnston's department), crafts (Wattson's specialty). Juanita is also an avid reader and photographer, which came in handy during her trip to Israel several years ago. Travelling stateside, she has spent time in Arkansas, the Ozarks, and Hot Springs.

She transferred to Emanuel from the Marion Church of the Nazarene, and has performed on the Palace Theater stage in "Christmas at the Palace" and "How Great Thou Art", doing many narrations. She had also teamed up with her dad performing duets and mini-concerts around the area.

Despite the weather at this time, she really appreciates the warmth and grace provided by the Lord through Emanuel, and passes them on to whomever needs it. What a Gal!

Warm blessings to all of you down there.

As always, Batina Belfry

Scholarship Opportunities

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



Gerry Merz celebrates her 90th Birthday on February 2nd

Galen Teel celebrates his 92nd Birthday on February 21st

Elsie Mitchell celebrates her 91st Birthday on February 23rd

Contact the office for addresses

>>> February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 – EWL Service 10 – Education & L. League Brunch 11 – Praise Worship 6pm Luther League	10am Rider Visitation 11am Rider Funeral 5pm Bd. of Communications	8:30 – Quilters 6pm Praise Team & Bd. of Properties 7pm Marionnaires	9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 5pm Bd. of Fellowship 6pm Choir Rehearsal	11:30 Book Study 5pm Create Arts Meal & Dancing		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 – EWL Service 10 – Education 11 – Praise Worship 6pm Luther League		8:30 – Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	10am Staff Meeting 11:30 Book Study 4:30 Community Meal		9am-4pm Faith Journeys
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 – EWL Service 10 – Education 11 – Praise Worship 4pm Do you Believe? 6pm Luther League		8:30 – Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	11:30 Book Study		
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
9 – EWL Service 10 – Education 11 – Praise Worship 12 – Mutual Ministry 6pm Luther League	7pm PPC Mtg.	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells			



"If we had
NO WINTER, THE SPRING
WOULD NOT BE SO PLEASANT.

if we did not sometimes taste
of adversity, prosperity would
not be so welcome."

—Anne Bradstreet

Emanuel Lutheran Church
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