

January 2025

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 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



Thank you

To Everyone who had a
hand in putting
together a wonderful
Children's Program!

Merry Christmas!



Hark
the
Herald Angels
sing



Tell the Story

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

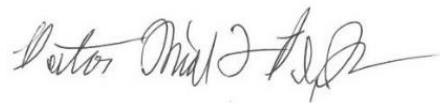
Luke 2:22-38

This story is known as the naming of Jesus. On a child's eighth day, they would be presented to the temple and their name would be publicly proclaimed and the child would be designated as holy to the Lord! The eighth day for Jesus would be January 1st (with his birthday being December 25). This event happened on what we know as the first day of the new year. This event was the beginning of his being publicly dedicated to God.

As we begin a new year, we should once again bring ourselves to the Lord, and allow ourselves to publicly acclaim that we are designated as holy to the Lord. We should publicly proclaim that we live our lives for God and not for ourselves. We are called to start this new year with a fresh start. It is a new year, it is a new day, it is a new moment to focus on God and do the work of the Kingdom.

Bishop Daniel has designed 2025 as a Year of Telling our Story and Listening to the Stories of others. The world should see our lives dedicated to God, and ask us about our faith lives. We need to be able to tell our story. It is also the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, and the offering of the Nicene Creed. So, we have a framework of the story of God for the world. It is also a Year of Jubilee, and we are sent to reset everything, because it's a new year, a new day, a new moment, a new breath.

Peace,



Pastor Mike



Thank you to all that helped decorate Emanuel to get ready for Christ's birth. The Altar Guild and all their helpers worked hard getting it all done. The tree, Gathering Space, Parlor, and outside Nativity look beautiful. Alicia

PD Ann's Corner - Meet Me at the Well

In 2025 I am going to write a series called, "Meet Me at the Well". I hope you enjoy the stories I tell about God's gift of water.

There was a man and woman named Abraham and Sarah. They were not able to have any children, so Sarah talked Abraham into having a child with her servant girl named Hagar. Hagar became pregnant which made Sarah jealous. She mistreated Hagar so that Hagar ran away. An angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert. Hagar learned that she would have a son. Hagar was told to name the son Ismael, which means "God Hears." When Hagar heard this, she gave a name to the Lord who spoke to her. She said "You are the God who sees me." Hagar went back to Abraham's family. Her son was born and grew. Sarah was still jealous of Hagar and so Abraham had to send Hagar away. They started wandering in the desert until they ran out of water. Hagar prepared to see her son die. God heard Hagar and Ismael crying and sent an angel to them. The angel told them not to be afraid. God heard them. God opened Hagar's eyes so that she could see a well of water. The boy and his mother lived.

God hears you when you cry. He hears you when you are lost, feel lonely, discouraged, and rejected. God hears you when your circumstances seem impossible. He will open your eyes to see the well of living water. He will provide for you in ways that you cannot imagine. Jesus said, "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." God sees you. So go to the well and drink the water of life that Jesus gives.



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

What Can Groups Do?

1. Influence public policy – discuss hunger issues with your elected officials.
2. Investigate hunger in your area and take steps to help – find them, learn from them, work with them. Take initiative where needed.
3. Worship – incorporate hunger into Sunday services.
4. Enlist others – tell stories about how they can make a difference.
5. Send letters to leaders 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.
6. Form coalitions with other groups for particular goals – combining efforts allow for accomplishing more than if done separately.
7. Sponsor events – find reasons to discuss hunger.
8. Make resource material available – make people aware.
9. Start a community garden
10. Feed people – there is no good reason to tell someone there is no food available for them.
11. 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.

Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness...

A Note from the President

As Reverend Hollensen used to say, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of each and every heart, be acceptable in thy sight O Lord, our strength, and our Redeemer."

I have enjoyed the Sunday School class for adults that started; Spiritual Gifts was an eye opener. Much conversation was had by the class as we searched out our own spiritual gifts. One test was centered on finding your own spiritual gift. Lannette and I took the test at home and compared with each other. Interesting as my gift came as faith, service, and administration.

We all have gifts that God has blessed us with. Emanuel has so many opportunities for us to use those gifts to serve a living God, through Jesus Christ. We, in prayer and meditation, ask God in Christ to give us a heart open to each other's concerns and needs. We should ask each day for strength to endure the day and help make each day a better day for all who serve Him as our strength and our Redeemer.

Don Davis, Congregational President

Sunday School News

We had so much fun in December! After our Christmas program rehearsal we went to Blue Fusion, played games and ate a lot of pizza.

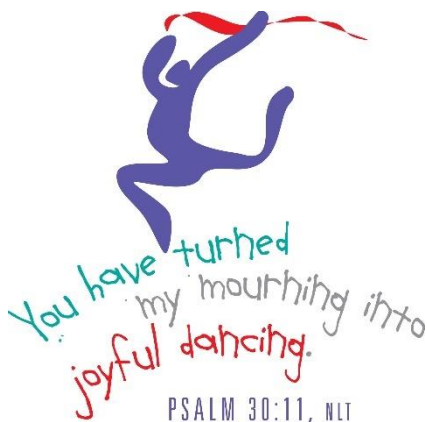
On Sunday we presented our Christmas program and it was wonderful. We all loved our costumes, the music was amazing, and so many people told us how awesome we were. I'm sure Jesus was very proud of the way we honored the story of His birth.

We want to thank Mrs. Becker and Miss Teri for their hard work, writing the script, practicing every Sunday, and putting it all together. Thank you to Mr. Barger for his wonderful narration. Everything was absolutely beautiful.

We are also grateful for our teachers, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Penrod, who hang with us all year long.

The Board of Education put out delicious treats for us in the Gathering Space, we had a hot chocolate bar and got to decorate cupcakes for Jesus' birthday. We can't wait for next Christmas!

Please Join Us.....



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!

Emanuel Congregational Birthday Celebration
JANUARY 26th – Following the Annual Meeting

Celebrate the birthdays of all your Emanuel friends and family. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space for each month of the year. We will need one person for each month of the year to provide decorations for their table – highlighting the uniqueness of that month and one person for each month to bring a dessert to share.

The Fellowship Board will provide lunch and drinks.

What an amazing way to celebrate all our birthdays!!

Looking forward to celebrating with you on January 26th



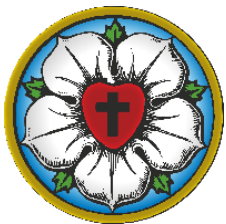
Musings from the Church Mouse...

There has been a lot of action in the sanctuary recently. I don't get to have my naps as often anymore. There has been work on makin' the lights brighter so that we can see! People have been talking about how we can update all the equipment to be able to enjoy worship both inside the room and virtually out in the world. This space has an impact on our worship, on our ministry, on ourselves.

We have important places in the worship space where God is encountered: at the baptismal font, at the place where scripture is read, at the place where the Word is preached, at the place where the people are. These are all sacred places, holy places, special places. Sometime, wander into the sanctuary when it is empty. Have a seat. I'll scurry up to you and you can tell me your memories of why this place is special to you! We are reminded in this holy place that we are holy people.

I hope to See ya' at worship!

Church Mouse



You Know You Are a Steadfast Lutheran If...

- ... You can't sing, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
- ... A midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnal to the new one.

Jim Creager celebrates his 92nd birthday on January 7th
Thirza Shaw celebrates her 95th birthday on January 9th

Let's remember Jim & Thirza with our cards and prayers!
Contact the church office for addresses.



Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

My newsletter piece this month starts with the happenings in Emanuel's history in the year 1992.

I found in the minutes of Church Council dated February 1992 that Interim Pastor Jim Graeser would be introduced to the congregation on Sunday, February 16, 1992 while we look for a new Associate Pastor to take Pastor Rob Carlson's place.

A special Congregational Meeting was held March 29, 1992 to vote on whether to extend a call to Pastor Robert Gordon as our new Associate Pastor. Information was given to the congregation about Pastor Gordon and his family and a vote was taken. The vote was unanimous to extend a call to Pastor Gordon.



Robert A. Gordon
Associate Pastor

The May 12th minutes of the Church Council it was announced that Pastor Gordon had accepted the call from Emanuel to become our new Associate Pastor. He was installed on July 5, 1992. Pastor Gordon and his family officially joined Emanuel as new members, December 13, 1992. Those same minutes announced that Jonathan Bull would be ordained at Emanuel on June 28th at the 10:30 service.

Also, in those minutes it was stated that the 75th Anniversary Committee was making plans for our 75th Anniversary Celebration of our present church building. If you can believe that was 51 years ago. Our present church building is now 106 years old. In the minutes it stated that on the preaching schedule so far for the anniversary year were Pastor Dick Williams, Pastor James Kennall, and Pastor Jonathan Bull. If you remember we did the same thing for our 150th Anniversary Year of Emanuel.

Also, in the May minutes it was stated that two bids had been received for the new air conditioner. The lowest bid came from Rhodes Heating and Air Conditioning for \$53,000. Pete Miller submitted a bid for \$62,000. Denny Rhodes got the contract and it was projected that it would take two weeks to complete. How prices have changed in the past thirty two years.



CLINTON (BUD) LOWER
BUILDING SUPT.

In the July 14, 1992 minutes of Church Council it was stated that Trinity Seminary had a program to involve students in the activities of a church. The student would work on Sunday mornings and 2-3 hours during the week. We participated in this program and Philip Welch was sent to Emanuel. Maybe you remember him.

In the minutes of the Board of Trustees dated October 6, 1992 it was stated that Bud Lower our custodian at the time was going to retire after eleven years at the end of October. A reception was to be held in the church parlor to honor Bud's years of service to Emanuel. A lot of you might remember Bud. He was such a nice man. A new person was hired for the custodian position, Rick Mahaffey.



Custodial Staff: Rick Mahaffey

In the October 6th 1992 meeting of the Music and Worship Board it was stated that Ann Thomas and the Anniversary Committee would be making the Advent Banner for that year. That was 32 years ago. Ann is still making banners today. She is over the Quilters and headed the committee that made the beautiful banners for our 150th Anniversary Celebration. Ann is so talented and is also our Parish Deacon.

In the October 13, 1992 Church Council minutes Kathy Mullins announced that the summer singing group Kids Praise Kids was over for the year and that 50 kids had participated. At that same Council Meeting it was stated that the church had been broken into and several items were taken. A claim was filed with our insurance carrier.

In November of 1992 a new choir was formed at Emanuel. The choir was called the "Chancel Choir" and all age groups were welcome. Practice was held during the Sunday school hour.

Marge Hite reported in October of 1992 that she was forming a "Beginner's Bell Choir" that would be meeting at 6P on Wednesdays.

Kathy Mullins presented a picture of the Child Care sign which was approved by the Child Care Board and the Board of Education in 1992. The sign was designed by Jeffrey Hall. The sign was to be placed on the front lawn in front of the office, pointing toward the side entrance on Pleasant St. Four hundred dollars was donated by Lutheran Brotherhood toward the purchase of the sign.

On November 17, 1992 there was a presentation to Emanuel Church Council regarding the Child Care Program. It was stated that in December of 1991 81% of the members present at the Annual meeting voted to establish and support a child care program. It was also stated that in just 10 months 22 families who had not previously been involved with Emanuel now have a reason to be here on a regular basis. Our Bible School had 17 additional children in the summer because of the program. The question was stated, does this program fill a need in our community? In October of 1990 key community leaders participated in a Marion County Community Needs Assessment and child care was high on the list of needs in the Marion Community. There is also quotes from the licensing review on November 10, 1992 which states that there are only a couple of centers in Marion that are the quality that we have at Emanuel. It also states that they don't want to see this program end and they will offer to help in any way possible. As stated above there were 22 families in the childcare program at that time. All of this is a testament as to why our Child Care is still going strong today.

The Music and Worship Committee minutes of November 2, 1992 stated that the Altar Guild was asking for people to help decorate the church for Christmas. At that time the decorations were put up at 7P in the evening. We just decorated for Christmas on Friday, November 30th at 9A in the morning. What a difference 32 years make.

In the December 8, 1992 minutes of Church Council it stated that Chapel Communion was held in the chapel on Monday, December 7th with approximately 18 people attending. That was an afternoon service, if you remember. Most of the people attending that service were folks that it was hard to get to church on Sunday morning so we provided an alternative service with communion. It's hard to believe that 32 years have passed since that December 8th council meeting talking about Chapel Communion. I joined Altar Guild in 2002 and we were still setting up for that service at that time. So many years ago and so many changes with more to come.

Until next time, Alicia

From all of us on Altar Guild we wish you a "Happy and Healthy New Year"!

Social Ministry Updates

From Colonial Coin Laundry Thank you for letting us partner with you for the event! Our community turnout was very good at both stores and higher than either of the last two events. Up 64% over a year ago! I have added up the final totals for your free wash day at the two Colonial Laundry stores. You did 3.3 tons(6575#) of laundry for the community this fall. You spent \$1,456.50 washing and we donated \$322.50 in drying. Leslie and I along with our staff are glad you gave us the opportunity to partner with you again and hope to have a great turnout next spring. Hope you all have a great Christmas with friends and family celebrating Christ's birth.

December 7, 2024 Results

Store	Bellefontaine	N. Main St.	Total
Number of washes	93	79	172
Pounds washed	3365	3210	6575
Wash money spent	\$789.50	\$667.00	\$1,660.00
CCL Dryer contribution	\$173.50	\$149.00	\$322.50

Steeple Sightings

Whew! We made it through another holiday season. Now it's time to hunker (upside-) down for the winter weather ahead. Even though many activities here at Emanuel are over, the music groups continue to practice, play, and sing. I noticed a new member in the choir so I thought I'd better swoop down for a little bat-chat with Sherryl Patterson.

Sherryl was born and raised in Circleville, Ohio and Trinity Lutheran Church. She added choir to her school studies. After graduating from Circleville High School she started working various jobs for a temp agency, then settled as a secretary for a tractor supply company.

During the year she would attend weekend retreats. (See Sherryl's article on the next page) On one of these occasions, she became acquainted with another weekender and they continued to communicate afterwards. Of course, as with all things ordained by God, she became Mrs. Dennis Patterson in May of 1989.

They lived in many places around Ohio as his jobs required. Eventually settling, they joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Marion, where they stayed as long as possible, following Paul Burnside to Emanuel. Wherever she has been, she has always sung in the choirs.

Sadly, Dennis passed away in 2009, but she enjoys continued contact with his 2 sons. She is also kept company with her Maine Coon cat-Jonah, and enjoys playing piano, singing, and cooking. Sherryl has been an asset to the soprano section and we look forward to seeing her in the choir for many years.

Well, it's dark and cold up here in the steeple---whoever said heat rises never slept here. But winter will be here for a while and since I have my new winter fur, all will be well, especially on the evenings of the community meals. Church Mouse is so generous with sharing his crumbs since my food supply of insects has greatly dwindled during this time of the year.

Blessings from the steeple tower, stay warm and safe.
Batina Belfry

Via de Cristo Weekend – May 1-4, 2025

Hello Friends of Emanuel Lutheran. I am Sherryl (Sherry) Patterson and May 29-31, 1981 I made a Via de Cristo weekend. You ask what is a Via de Cristo weekend? It is a three-day retreat which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and in turn their families, congregations, and the environment in which they live, work, and play. Via de Cristo is a combined effort of laity and clergy working together to bring renewal to the church.

The name Via de Cristo is a Spanish expression meaning, "Way of Christ." Via de Cristo is the Lutheran expression of "Cursillo de Christian dad." (Trademark by the Catholic Cursillo Community.) The history of Via de Cristo began when laymen and clergy attend a Catholic Cursillo in 1971, both in Iowa and Florida. Via de Cristo is the Lutheran expression of the Cursillo method which is currently being used in many denominations including: Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterians, and Reformed churches. The name "Via de Cristo" was adopted by the Lutheran community in February 1986.

Christians who believe their spiritual lives need strengthening; who have many unanswered questions about prayer, study and sharing the faith; who understand being a Christian involves responsibility and would like to have both the spiritual foundation and moral reserve to carry out in their lives; who are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an on-going manner, are the best candidates to attend a Via de Cristo.

Via de Cristo begins on a Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. You live and study together with a long of singing, prayer, worship, and discussion; around the talks given by laity and clergy. The talks center around the grace of God, its reality in your life and how you can live the life of grace, imparting grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and you begin to understand the real presence of Christ in His Body of believers. I have a Pilgrim's Registration for and Sponsor's registration for, if you wish to make the Via de Cristo weekend on May 1-4, 2025 at Hopewood's LMC Memorial Camp on Route 61. You can reach me at 740-751-0989, and I would be more than happy to help you fill out these registration forms. There is a fee of \$25.

Faith Journeys

Looking ahead at Faith Journeys in 2025:

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

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

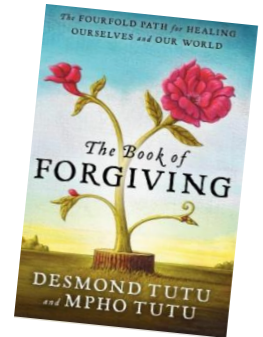
March 21-22 – Confirmation Retreat

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. We will meet on Thursdays at 11:30am in the Martin Luther library beginning January 30th. 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.



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

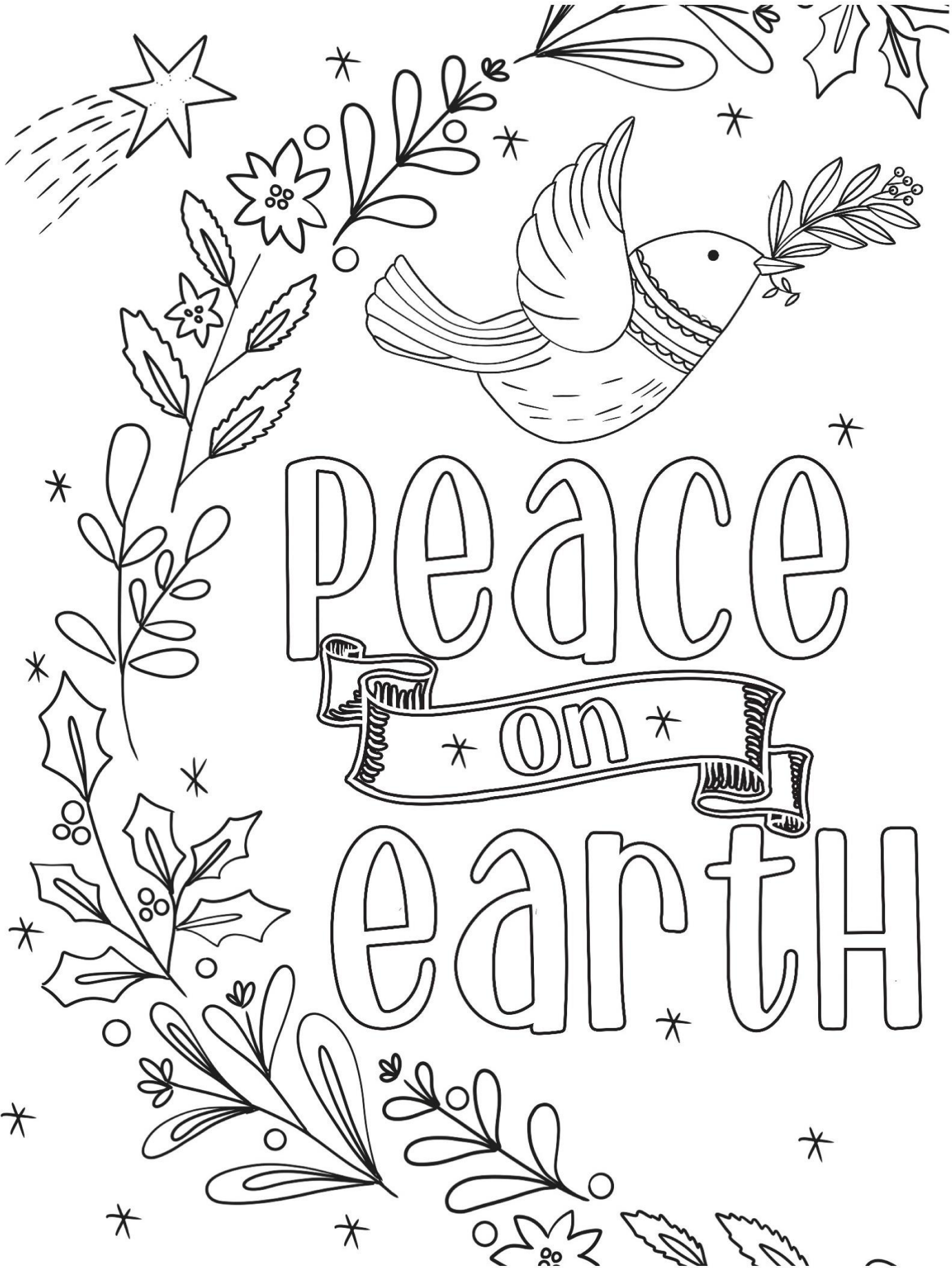
Pastor Poole's Pins



This month we have Pastor Poole's tai chi pins. Pastor Mike has practiced tai chi for almost 35 years. He has been an instructor since 2013. He is currently a Senior Trainer with the Tai Chi for Health Institute (TCHI), based out of Sydney, Australia. He also holds rank in tai chi with his martial arts association. He serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Tai Chi Community. He has attended three weeklong workshops in the US through Dr. Paul Lam and TCHI. He is a certified instructor in several tai chi for health programs. And this summer, he was nominated to become a Master Trainer with TCHI. Pastor Mike will travel to Australia the first two weeks of January to complete this process.

>>> January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League	30 5pm Bd. of Communications	31 8:30 - Quilters 6pm Properties Mtg 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	1 New Year's Day	2 4:30 Community Meal	3 Waldo Fresh Food Distribution	4 9am-12pm Faith Journeys
5 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League	6 8:30 - Quilters	7 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	8 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Education Mtg. 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	9 10am Staff Meeting	10 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	11 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Education Mtg. 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells
12 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League	13 6pm Spiritual Life (offsite)	14 8:30 - Quilters	15 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Education Mtg. 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	16 10am Staff Meeting	17 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	18 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Education Mtg. 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells
19 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 6pm Luther League	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 8:30 - Quilters	22 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	23 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	24 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	25 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires
26 9 - EWL Service 10 - Annual Meeting & Birthday Party 6pm Luther League	27 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	28 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	29 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	30 11:30 Book Study	31 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	1 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires



Notice of Annual Meeting – January 26, 2025

Our bylaws state that our **Annual Congregational Meeting** shall be held on the fourth Sunday in January. For 2025, **that will be Sunday, January 26**. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 9:00a.m. service. There will be only one service that morning at 9:00a.m.

Annual reports will be available in the Gathering Space the Sunday before the Annual Meeting. In the event of a level 2 weather incident, the lack of a quorum, or if the service is cancelled for any reason, the meeting will be held the following Sunday.

ANNUAL MEETING

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works”

Hebrews 10:24

Prepared Especially For:

*Return Service Requested.

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