

# 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  
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, Rob Valentine  
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

### Our Journey Continues...

*God spoke all these words: ... "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.*

*Exodus 20:1, 8-11*

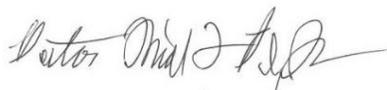
The one commandment that God gave us and told us to remember and keep holy is the Sabbath. Out of all the commandments, this is the one that God truly expects us to keep. The Sabbath is about rest. The Sabbath is about dedicating the cycle of time to God. The Sabbath is about dedicating our lives to God.

God rested on the Sabbath during creation. God commands us to rest. The summer months are a time for Sabbath rest. My wish is that each one of you take some time for Sabbath rest this summer. Take some time to enjoy the gifts of God.

God commands the Sabbath so that we can be refreshed to take on the next cycle of time. Theologian Marva Dawn once wrote about Sabbath Keeping that we should all take one Sabbath day a week, one Sabbath weekend a month, one Sabbath month a year. And one Sabbath year after every six years. Marva Dawn took this from scripture. It continues on the every seven yearly cycles, 49 years, you should take a 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year. That everything in the Jubilee year is reset. Everything is to return to as it was. This is a continuation in scripture of the Sabbath practice.

So take a day, take a weekend, take a month.... Maybe this is your Sabbath year. Bishop Daniel has taken a three month Sabbatical this summer, as a biblical practice, at the end of his 7<sup>th</sup> year as the Bishop of the Synod. May he find rest and refreshment. May you find rest and refreshment.

Peace,



Pastor Mike

## PD Ann's Corner

Earlier this spring there were dozens of buttery, yellow flowers all over my front lawn. Dandelions! Some of them had gone to seed and their fluffy white heads were being blown away. I have always thought dandelions were useless weeds. But, I have now learned the benefits of having dandelions. First, they attract insects and pollinators. Second, they break up the earth so that the dirt is not as compacted and the loose dirt allows oxygen to get in. Third, dandelions allow nutrients to come to the surface of the soil improving poor soil. The leaves can be used in a salad. The roots can be used to make tea. Dandelions have more protein than spinach. They are loaded with vitamin C, fiber, potassium, iron, zinc, magnesium, calcium, and phosphorus. The seeds can be blown up to 60 miles away to send out new growth wherever it lands.

These are some lessons you can learn from dandelions. You need to ask God to loosen the soil where you are planted. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life so that you can receive God's forgiveness and allow His love to permeate your life. It will free you to be able to grow a healthy faith and serve other people in His name.



Allow the fruits of the Spirit to be evident in your life—love, joy, peace, forgiveness, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. (Galatian's 5:22-23)

Let go of the fruit and let the Holy Spirit carry them wherever the breath of God sends it.

The next time you see a dandelion, may it remind you of God's love. May you become aware of how far and wide His love can go through your head, heart, and hands into the world.

### Can you help the Comfort Quilters?

The Comfort Quilters are looking for help to pack and take quilts to storage the first three Tuesdays of the month from 8:30- 11 a.m. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Thomas at 740-360-3546.

Thank you!

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



- You've been faithfully working on mission quilts for 35 years, but deep-down wonder if it isn't too hot to use them in Africa.
- You truly believe that wafers are more sacred than hunks of bread for Communion (even though we all know the miracle of Communion is believing the wafers ARE bread!).
- You secretly wonder just who goes downtown to the local liquor store to buy the Communion wine.

## Sunday School News

2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING – For youth entering 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade this fall.

This event takes place in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024

The theme for the 2024 gathering is "CREATED to BE" Primary Scripture will be Psalm 139, with specific emphasis on verse 14.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. "

Pastor Mike is willing to accompany a group from our congregation. Registration is in September of this year and it's time to start talking about this!!!

**An informational meeting is being held on Sunday July 30 at 12PM in the gathering space.**

### JULY DATES TO SAVE

July 16. Ice cream social and Pet Blessing

This all happens out on the green space starting at 4PM.

Bring your pets for Pastor Mike to bless... God created them all, dogs and cats, goats and birds. Surprise us with your special pet!

July 22. Delivery of donations and a fun fellowship day

Sunday School is learning about God's perfect creation and the animals in our Bible. We are collecting cat and dog food for animal shelters in Marion and also collecting stuffed animals for children at Turning Point. We will deliver these items at 10 AM on July 22 and go on to the Exploratorium for fun and pizza. I gave the children a choice of picnic in the park or pizza and Exploratorium, they screamed Exploratorium!!!

July 23. We will attend as a class the worship at 9:15 to witness the baptism of Kendall Forshey

July 30. Last day of Summer Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on September 10

THANK YOU, MRS. JUDY ISHIDA,

Mrs. Ishida retired from our Sunday School at the end of May. We already miss her....our classroom seems empty without her! She knitted something for every child this year, dolls, frogs and so many other things. She shared stories with us, made us laugh and made us stronger little Christians.

Thank you, Mrs. Ishida, We love you ❤️



Thank you to Dee Rinehart for visiting Sunday School with her bird Finn!

## News from the Board of Fellowship

A **BIG** thank you to all the individuals, organizations, and boards who volunteered to host the Gathering Space refreshments on Sunday mornings. The food has been delicious, and the laughter and conversations have been heartwarming. Stay for a few minutes either before or after worship and enjoy the food and fellowship.

There are some Sundays this summer that are still available so check your schedule and volunteer. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space window.

**Join the Board of Fellowship for an Ice Cream Social in the Parlors on Sunday, July 16 from 4-6pm.**

**Bring your whole family and enjoy the day!!**

### **Why should I come to Emanuel's Ice Cream Social?**

1. Bruce Showalter is making his famous homemade ice cream
2. Ice cream is the perfect treat on a hot, summer day
3. Carol Laird is preparing her amazing gluten-free brownies
4. Other delicious sweet treats are on the menu
5. Pastor Mike is blessing pets
6. Other surprises are in the works
7. It's a scrumptious reward after attending Bible Study from 2-4pm
8. The ice cream social will be over in time to go to the summer concert in McKinley Park @ 7:00pm

Dear members of Emanuel,

What a wonderful milestone you have achieved. 150 years of ministry to the Marion community. My prayer is that you have many years ahead of you to continue this important mission to this town and county.

I think of all the firsts that the congregation has initiated over the years. The vision of ministry to the community and the beauty of the building. This is a cause of celebration.

I am honored to be invited to attend the special service on September 8<sup>th</sup> of next year. Donna Marie and I will be there to acknowledge this momentous celebration.

I will not be back to preach as the congregation has moved on, people have changed and I would not be able to know the congregation as I once did. My time has passed. It was a rich and meaningful ministry for 23 years. Or to put it simply, I am history.

I look forward to seeing you in September. God's blessing to you all.

In celebration with Christ,

Pastor J. Weston Jones

## Looking Back with Alicia

This is the first in a series I will be writing about former pastors that have served Emanuel over the years. Our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is next year so I will be writing these pieces as part of our preparation for our year-long celebration.

The first pastor I want to highlight is Pastor Henry Seibert. A lot of what I am writing are Pastor Seibert's words from what he wrote me to tell everyone what he has done and is doing in his life today.

Pastor Seibert was ordained December 12, 1971. His first call was to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Coldwater, Ohio. He served that congregation 3 ½ years and was then called here to Emanuel where he served as Associate Pastor under Pastor James Rave from June 15, 1975 – June 14, 1982.



Pastor Seibert along with Rev. Craig Lewis, Michele Rankin, Jean Smith and his wife, Becky.

While at Emanuel Pastor Seibert started Festival in Faith in 1981. This was an innovative Youth Ministry across the Ohio district of the American Lutheran Church at that time. He started it in consultation with Rev. Robert Berger of then St. Paul Lutheran in Sandusky. Rev. Berger had a similar program going which was two years old. The goal was to gather teens from the District over a weekend for an economical, inspirational, spiritual retreat. Our congregation housed the teens, musicians and speakers from within the District and adult advisors that came from all over Ohio and the District which reached down to the Gulf of Mexico.

From Friday evening until after worship on Sunday participants worshipped, studied, served in the community, got to know host "parent" families, and interacted with other teens. They shared in a festival of the faith that all experienced together. Festival in Faith lasted 27 years and remained one of the significant youth programs in the ALC/ELCA for less than \$50 for the weekend. Pastor Seibert is very grateful for those who planned, participated, served dinners, and hosted teens and adults in their homes. He feels they were blessed to be a blessing.



Pastor Seibert left Emanuel in June of 1982 and served as Pastor of Grace Lutheran in Thornville, Ohio for 9 years and then served for 9 years as Pastor at St. John Lutheran in Vandalia, Ohio. He then went to St. John Lutheran in Bellevue, Ohio before going back to school to become an Intentional Interim. An Intentional Interim Minister is a specially trained Pastor who guides a congregation through an intentional transition process. His training for this was at the Gettysburg Seminary. Pastor Mike is also an Intentional Interim Minister.

All during those years he served with the ALC/ELCA National Youth Gatherings in the area of Hotel Life and Community Life. In the 1980's he worked with the Ohio District Luther League Gathering as Program Director. It was a ministry with youth and adults who work with youth and has always been his passion.

As an Intentional Interim Pastor Seibert was a Protestant Chaplain at St. Francis Health Care Center in Green Springs, Ohio for 3 months, St John, Marblehead for 2 years, St. Paul Danbury Township for almost 2 years , St Paul, Upper Sandusky for 2 years, Peace Lutheran and St. Thomas Episcopal, Port Clinton for 8 months, St. John, Cardington for 20 months, Solomon Lutheran Church and School, Woodville, Ohio, 14 months and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bowling Green for 1 year.

Since his retirement he has worked at Herman Funeral Homes in everything from pick-up to delivery as well as being their resident fill in pastor for families without a church. He currently serves as the Call Facilitator for the Eastern Conference for the Northwestern Ohio Synod in the area of congregational transition. He works with congregations going through a pastoral change from the point of an exit interview of the leaving pastor until the installation of the new pastor. This gives him the opportunity to not only meet with many pastoral candidates but also work with the congregations during fragile and challenging times. He went on to say, "In all things and in all ways, my theme is "Soli Deo Gloria" which means, for the glory of God alone.

Pastor Seibert and his wife, Becky, live on the family farm. They manage as the fifth generation on the farm and serve as hosts to many ministry groups as well as civic groups who come to the farm for events. They enjoy their yearly travels on Viking River and Ocean cruises.

Those of you who know Pastor Seibert have seen him different times over the years at celebrations and funerals at Emanuel.

There will be a poster in the Gathering Space with pictures from Festival in Faith over the years. Good memories from the past at Emanuel.

Until next time, Alicia



## Faith Journeys

We want to encourage our confirmation students going to camp, as well as other youth from our congregation who will be encountering God at camp.

Our book study this summer focuses on attempting keep the commandments. During the summer and fall, we will journey through the Ten Commandments on Thursday evening worship. Join us to hear God's Commandments in a new light.

Future Faith Journey Events:

Sunday-Friday June 25,26,27,28,29,30	Confirmation Camp
Thursday nights during summer	Ten Commandments

## Musings from the Church Mouse...

Hey, I hope to see you during these summer months. I need you to drop all them crumbs so that I can have a bite to eat on Sunday afternoons. All us mice love seeing your bright shiny faces. Be safe this summer, and...

See ya' at worship!

Church Mouse

## Social Ministry News

We finished collecting yarn in June, and thanks to *The Stitch and Skein* the Marion community participated as well all benefiting the Oak Unit Creative Crochet Therapy program at Marion Correctional Facility. Thanks to all who contributed what an awesome outreach and response!

We are looking for recipes for the August **Fresh Food Distribution** that include tomatoes, zucchini, and peppers. Recipes must be submitted by July 27. Thank you for supporting this mission.

What's coming up... **Medical Device Lending Ministry** and **God's Work Our Hands**. Join us as we serve our neighbors.

## Communication and Evangelism Team



We need your help and participation, Emanuel Family. The Communication & Evangelism team and Spiritual Life teams are working together to host a community blessing of the bookbag event on August 13 immediately following church services. We will have food, give aways (socks, underwear, bookbags...), and of course blessings. If you would like to help with this group, contact Dee Rinehart (740-215-0440). Thank you!



Welcome to Our Monthly Music Notes!

*Oh the weather outside is frightful...but inside the torrential rain was forgotten, at least for a couple hours, as we enjoyed a great evening of music here at Emanuel with the Cardinal Chorale! Those of us who braved the weather were treated to a professional-quality chorus of young musicians, performing a wide variety of choral styles, from Mozart to Gay Nineties to Garth Brooks. As fine as*

their performance was, what always makes the greatest impression on me is the love each performer has for the music, the director, and for each other. Music is not just about the technical ability to play the notes on the page, but the interpretation and emotion behind each note, each word of the song. The Chorale demonstrates both a high technical and interpretive skill at every performance. We are fortunate to co-host them every year on their annual tour.

I recently had the honor of playing the organ for a memorial service for a fellow Lutheran church organist at an out of town church. It was a fine service in a beautiful church, and the Pastor and congregation gave fitting and heartfelt tributes to a fine musician who had blessed them with his musical offerings for several years. He will be missed very much. This experience made me reflect on the joy I feel to be a Lutheran musician at Emanuel.

We are truly blessed to have an organ of the caliber of the Casavant Freres instrument to lead our services at Emanuel. I have often said how honored I am to be able to play this instrument every week, as it is a true showpiece for Marion and Central Ohio. It is an awesome responsibility. The organ committee, consultants, and builders did a remarkable job of designing this instrument to accurately interpret the literature of many different styles while also being able to lead a congregation in hymn singing every week. It ranks among the top organs I have had the pleasure of playing in my lifetime.

Those of you who attend the 8:00 and 10:30 services know that we have been singing the Doxology (ELW #885) as the Offertory Response since Trinity Sunday. Most of us have been singing this since childhood, and I can hear the enthusiasm for this hymn in your singing every Sunday. But how many of us have ever actually thought about the Doxology, which pastor and writer David Mathis calls the "single best-known verse of all Christian hymnology and poetry."

The term "doxology" is from the Greek, "doxa" (glory) and "logos" (word). Derived from the Jewish Kaddish, a hymn praising God recited during prayer services, which many believe was composed in 132-135 CE. The first recorded Christian usage is from the end of the 2nd century, at the end of Clement of Alexandria's sermon on "The Rich Man's Salvation". It is a short hymn of praise, typically to the Trinity, and is often added to the end of canticles, psalms, and hymns.

The response hymn which we sing today (the "Common Doxology") was written by Anglican Bishop Thomas Ken in 1674, as the final verse of his hymn "Awake, My soul, and With the Sun" (ELW #557). A mere 25 modest, yet memorable words, Mathis believes the greatest realities about God can be "captured in the humblest of terms, even as they are bottomless in their depth." There is deep substance and profound theological truths hidden in the brevity and singability of the Doxology.

One of the remarkable traits of the Doxology is how it can be adapted and expressed using different language and images. I will leave you with one example, from the final verse of "When Long Before Time" (ELW #861).

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Until next time, Soli Deo Gloria!

Paul Burnside

## CARDINAL CHORALE THANK YOU'S

The Cardinal Chorale Concert, held at Emanuel on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, was a big success!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the concert happen.

### *Donations:*

Lynette & Jeff Burris, Steve & Geri Lust, Pleasant Music Boosters, Marla Vance, Louise Vance, Norma Ward, Ed Baldauf, Emanuel's LGBT & Allies Group, Sandy Becker, Dick & Janet Bryson, and Ed Stofcheck & Matt Primmer.

### *Meal Preparation and Serving:*

Sue Rakow, Alicia Mayes, Steve Andrews & Scott Inskeep, Janet Musser, Barb Bosh, Vonda Riddle, and Carol Hoch.

### *Housing:*

Bob & Donna Bender, Dee & Darren Rinehart, Steve & Cindy deWeber, Brad Heller & Tom Stotts, David Fitkin, Glen & Lori Campbell, Dave & Stephanie Cook, Steve Andrews & Scott Inskeep, Heather & Blaire Smith, and Ed Stofcheck & Matt Primmer.

### *Sound:*

Teri Turner

### *Everything Else:*

Carl Jones & Frank Fanello

Thanks again,

*Ed Stofcheck*



## THE CARDINAL CHORALE CONCERT



Much planning between Emanuel and Prospect Street United Methodist Church happened in the months prior to the concert. On Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> the Chorale arrived around 2:30 p.m. to unload the tour bus and get acclimated. Then they rehearsed from 3 – 5 p.m. At 5 p.m. dinner was served by Sue and her crew. The tacos and dessert were outstanding. Next the Chorale prepared for the concert to begin at 7 p.m. It lasted about 90 minutes with one intermission. Following the concert members of the Chorale visited with the audience. Thereafter, the host

families met with them in the parlor before leaving for the various homes for the evening. Everyone returned the next morning by 8:30 a.m. in order for the Chorale to sing to the Child Care kids around 9 a.m. before loading the bus for the next stop on their tour.



## ALSO, DURING THE CARDINAL CHORALE CONCERT

Midway through the concert, Emanuel's own Ed Stofcheck was called up front and presented with a Medal of Distinction from Charles R. Snyder, director of the Cardinal Chorale, in recognition of extraordinary support and devoted service to the Cardinal Chorale, with great appreciation and gratitude.



## HEAVENLY METAL By Batina Belfry

SU-U-U-MMER T-I-I-IME, AND THE LIVIN' IS E-E-E-EASY; BUGS ARE BU-U-ZZIN' AND MY DINNER IS NIGH!



Okay, so bats don't really sing, but I just couldn't resist a little Gershwin since there's no bell choir for a while. It's really quiet up here on Wednesday nights, though not for long (in human years). AND there are still a couple of ringers who need to be introduced before the new season begins, so HE-E-ERE'S CAROLYN BAILEY!!!

As one of our newer ringers, Carolyn has worked really hard to maintain our bell choir's high standards: show up, play well, and enjoy the fun. She grew up right here in Marion County - Pleasant Township all her young life. After getting her Associate Degree in Medical Technology at Marion Tech, she attended the University of Cincinnati and received her BS degree in Medical Technology. After completing her stint in the academic world, she joined the work force in the Marion General Hospital Laboratory, eventually becoming supervisor.

So what's work without a family to care for? Not exciting. That's where her husband and two sons come in handy. Now the Bailey family numbers eight with the addition of 4 grandchildren.

From her Pleasant beginnings she has traveled around the entire world and visited all but 3 U.S. states. One item still on her travel bucket list is France and various WW II sites.

Although raised in Trinity Lutheran Church, Carolyn and family transferred to Emanuel with the arrival of Pastor Schuring and she has blessed the Praise Team with her musical talent that began while playing flute in school. After retiring from her laboratory career, she succumbed to Teri Turner's insistence to join the bell choir. We couldn't be happier with her dedication and willingness to learn the tricks and trickiness of handbell playing. She has also served on Emanuel's Board of Education and Board of Social Ministry.

A professed foodie, she loves to cook (my kind of gal) and reads all types of books.

Speaking of food, my echolocation has just zeroed in on my supper. YUMMY! So it's back to the rafters for another month.

Fly straight and enjoy the flight! BB

## Faith Journeys

Our book study this summer focuses on attempting keep the commandments. During the summer and fall, we will journey through the Ten Commandments on Thursday evening worship. Join us to hear God’s Commandments in a new light.

Future Faith Journey Events:

Thursday Nights

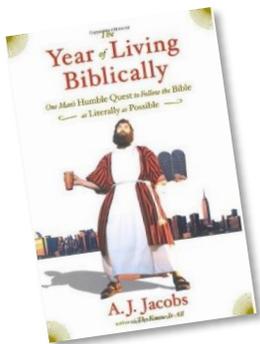
Series on the Ten Commandments

## 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 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 18 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 will start Isaiah on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, so if you would like to work your way through the Prophets jump in!



### Book Study

The summer book study will be “The Year of Living Biblically – One Man’s Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible”, by A.J. Jacobs. A year or so ago, there was a television series (very short lived) that was based on this book. We will be starting up the first week of May, so go ahead and grab your copy of the book. We will have in-person gatherings on Thursdays at 11:30a and 5:30p. We will also have a virtual session on Sunday nights at 6:30p. If you would like the zoom link for the virtual session, send an email to Pastor Mike.



## Emanuel LGBT Fellowship Group



2023 Schedule

First Sunday Each Month At 6PM

July 2nd  
October 1<sup>st</sup>

August 6<sup>th</sup>  
November 5<sup>th</sup>

September 3rd  
December 3rd

These will be 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.

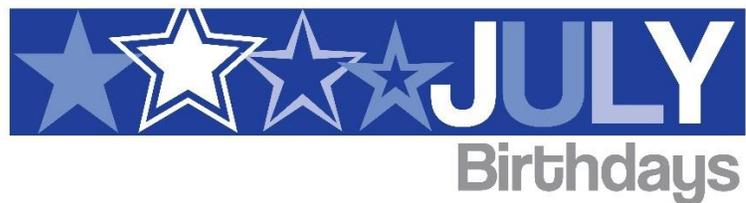
If you are LGBT or an ally, you are welcome to attend.

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

## Pastor Poole's Pins



June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was the 248<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Army. Pastor Mike served in the U.S. Army / Ohio Army National Guard from 1982-1992. He served as a Military Police Officer and as a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Specialist. Pastor Mike served in Germany, as well as being stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, MO, Ft. McClellan, AL and with the National Guard in Columbus. Pastor Mike's Father, and two uncles retired from military service. As well as his grandfather and great uncles served in WWII.



Beulah Owens will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 10<sup>th</sup>

Jack Bull will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Let's remember Beulah and Jack with our cards and prayers!**



The Hour of Prayer group meets the second Monday of each month. They will meet July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00p.m. at McKinley Park. Everyone is welcome to join! Contact Parish Deacon Ann with any questions.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

Dear reader

As you have likely read in the March issue of *Living Lutheran*, the magazine will cease its print publication with the November/December 2023 issue. This does not mean, however, that we will stop telling stories of this church when the print magazine ends. Throughout the past several years, LivingLutheran.org has been the magazine's online platform, and we are excited about the ways in which we can enhance how you are able to experience the stories and lives of Lutherans throughout the ELCA as we transition to a fully online approach. You will start to see us employing these ways throughout the year, with videos, audio stories and more. This transition will also include a more robust social media presence and more opportunities for user-generated content with the potential for greater engagement from you, our most loyal readers.

The ELCA and its predecessor church bodies have been printing periodicals since 1831, when *The Lutheran Observer* began. Spreading the gospel and sharing the stories of our church have always been at the foundation of who we are as Christians and Lutherans. As many of you probably know, the cost of printing a magazine—including paper, ink and postage prices—has steadily increased, especially during the pandemic, making it difficult to financially support a print edition. Being good stewards of the generous support given to the church is of the utmost importance to our team. While we will no longer print a magazine each month, the sharing and spreading of the good news continues every day.

By focusing on creating more online content and new channels for distribution, we will have more flexibility and options for how we tell the stories of this church. Storytelling will still be at the core of this work. We understand there are a lot of questions regarding your subscription, how the ELCA will reach readers who don't rely on the internet for information and how we will assist those who use *Living Lutheran* for church resources and group discussions. We are still working out answers to those questions and will provide them as soon as possible.

We are excited about what is ahead for the ministry of *Living Lutheran* and the future possibilities of reaching even more people about the great work people are doing in God's name.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# >>> July 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDA	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>8:00a.m. – Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12 Mutual Ministry 2pm Bible Study 6pm – LGBT &amp; Allies</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office &amp; Childcare Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Waldo Food Distribution</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:00a.m. – Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 2pm Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5pm Hour of Prayer 6 - Communications 6:30 Spiritual Life</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am Staff Mtg. 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11am Wedding</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:00a.m. – Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 2pm Bible Study 4pm Ice Cream Social &amp; Pet Blessing</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Sunday School Fellowship Day (Humane Society &amp; Exploritorium)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:00a.m. – Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 2pm Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:00a.m. – Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12pm Youth Mtg. 2pm Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Worship</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>



**It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then,  
and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.**

**Galatians 5:1 NIV**

**Prepared Especially For:**

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