

The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook!

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Coordinator: Cindy Rinker

Financial Secretary:

Stacy Hoch

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

Where Is God Calling Us to Go?

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. -Mark 1:29-39

Now in 2024, we will look at, "Where Is God Calling Us to Go?" In this passage of Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus continually moving his followers farther and farther out. First, they go to Simon's house. Then Jesus goes outside the house to do ministry. The next morning Jesus goes out to a deserted place, and the disciples follow him. From there, Jesus says they have to keep going farther because that's what he came to do.

We need to take a look of what needs to happen right outside our own doors, both here at Emanuel, as well as our own homes. Christ then calls us to go to the deserted places. Where are the deserted places around here that need attention. Christ then directs us to keep going farther and farther, because that is what we are here to do. Where do you think Christ will send us now?

As we celebrate our 150th year, we continue to discern what God has in store for us in the next 150 years. Let's keep this question in our minds: Where Is God Calling Us to Go?

Peace,



Pastor Mike

Post-it Tallies

If you attended the annual meeting, you were given a post-it note and asked to write down what you think God is calling us to do. Here are your thoughts!

What is God Calling us to Do?

Be more diligent about reaching out and caring for others – 20
Partner with those in our neighborhood – 9
Helping those in need – 7
Become a Mission Church – 7
Show that we are Christians through our actions and love – 6
Spread the Gospel – 6
Feed those who are hungry – 4
Become more welcoming – 4
Support our members – 3
Care for those who are Homeless – 3
Have just one worship service – 3
Reach out to absent members – 2
Be more faithful at having the mind of Christ / Live and share the life of Christ – 2
Better use of the all the property we have – 2
Open our hearts and minds to new ways / make changes to serve and praise God – 2
The Holy Spirit needs to be in us and we need to listen to the Holy Spirit – 2
Be more kind / less disrespect and conflict – 2
Be more patient – 1
Spend more time with youth – 1
Focus on families – 1
Prayerfully consider and call a new pastor – 1
Come together as a unified congregation – 1
Be more forgiving – 1
Be more compassionate and understanding of others – 1
Continue Bible Study – 1
Open our building to more groups – 1
Be a beacon of light to the community – 1
Continue to learn and challenge every aspect of our faith – 1
Be available when the need calls – 1
Sing in choir – 1
Learn to develop relationships – 1



You Know You Are a Steadfast Lutheran If...

- You secretly wonder who put the Song of Solomon in the Bible.
- You wonder if AAL and LB matched funds for the building of Solomon's Temple.

PD Ann's Corner

Psalm 24:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

Psalm 119:103 "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth."

In a recent devotional written by Vicki Kuyper, an Iranian born neighbor introduced her to Middle Eastern foods and ways to eat the food. When Vicki had finished the meal, her friend referred to her as a "true skekamu." The word "skekamu" is derived from the Farsi word for "stomach." In English the word was often translated as "fatty." Her friend explained that being a schema wasn't about gluttony. Instead, it was someone who enjoyed a deep appreciation of food almost like a gastronomical love affair. The author realized that she had a deep abiding gratitude for the gift of food. She had Someone to be grateful to. Her sense of taste led her to God's throne.



I was interested in looking up the definition of "taste" and information about the word taste. The first definition was the sensation of flavor perceived in the mouth and throat. Secondly, it is a person's liking for particular flavors. Third, it is the ability to discern what is good quality or high aesthetic standard taste in the ability to tell the difference between flavors. Is it salty, sweet, or sour? Your taste enables you to choose correct foods which are crucial for your existence, maintenance, and function. Taste is a bundle of different sensations like smell, texture and temperature that enhances the meal.

In scripture we are invited to "taste and see that the Lord is good." We are also taught that God's words can be sweeter than honey. It is important to dig into God's word and to ponder His words. What do you hear? What do you see? How does it taste when you use all of your senses to get into God's word? Does it supply you with the nourishment that you need to live out your daily life as a Christian? Does the world experience a taste of God's word and desire to experience that taste for themselves. In addition to tasting God's word do you see His hand in the awe-inspiring landscape, hear Him in the music of a bird singing, and smell Him in a garden of flowers? Are you a true "skekamu?"

Musings from the Church Mouse...

Did you hear all that ruckus??? I was just hanging out, starting to listen to the Praise Team practice, like I do every Tuesday night. Then all of a sudden there was a noise. It was a parade! A bunch of you were singing and playing instruments and wavin' your hands like it was a party or something. What in the world is goin' on around here. I will say that I got a taste of something called King Cake, that was on the floor later. It was delicious. And the parlor smelled delicious. There seems to be a lot of fun happening around here. You better be careful. Word may get out that somethin' is happenin' around here!

See ya' at worship! *Church Mouse*



National Quilt Day

“Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love”

Sunday, March 10 we will celebrate National Quilt Day which will be celebrated by quilters all over the world on March 16, 2024. Lutheran World Relief has been providing quilts for people in need around the world for 75 years. The Comfort Quilters have been making quilts at Emanuel for many years. Please stop in the gathering space before or after the 10:30 a.m. church service on March 10 to tie a quilt. Quilters will be available to help you learn how to tie the quilts and answer any questions you have about making quilts. You may also contribute to the comfort Quilters by bringing 2 yards of cotton material or sheets.

Oct. 2021-Sept. 2023 Quilt distribution around the world.

Country	Quilts distributed
Angola	24,140
Democratic Republic of Congo	12,375
Georgia	38,080
Guatemala	9,520
Tanzania	28,440
Türkiye	11,2880
Ukraine	24,740
Total Sent	194,983

School kits, personal care kits, baby care kits and fabric kits were also sent to other countries from Lutheran World Relief.

Join us Wednesday Evenings during Lent for Fellowship & Worship

Lent
B E G I N S

Lenten Meals will take place starting at 5:00p.m. on Wednesday evenings followed by Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00p.m. Please plan to join us!

February 21 – Meal provided by Child Care

February 28 – Lasagna provided by Altar Guild

March 6 – Soup provided by Board of Fellowship

March 13 – Beef & Noodles provided by Board of Spiritual Life

March 20 – Meal provided by Board of Finance

March 27 – Baked Potato Bar provided by Board of Communications

Sunday School News

Trip to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering

We are planning on taking a group of youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024. The group has several ideas for raising funds for the trip. We are also looking forward to getting together to do some group building prior to the trip. We are combining with group from St. Paul's (Waldo) for this trip.

You can support the Youth Gathering by attending our Dinner and a Show with Shovel City Improv group on Sunday, March 3rd immediately after worship! Suggested donation is \$20 for the meal and entertainment.



EMANUEL LUTHERAN GOOD FRIDAY DAY CAMP

Friday, March 29, 2024

9 A.M. - 4 P.M.



Together with HopeWood Pines (formerly LMC) and 2 of their staff, Emanuel is hosting this camp for children ages 5 through 5th grade. There are no fees for this adventure, all we are asking for are prayers for our children and leaders. We will begin in the Sanctuary with an opening of music and a story, from there we go to different stations for crafts, games, a reenactment of The Last Supper and many more activities. Lunch and a snack are provided. We are taking the day to teach the Easter story from the beginning to the Resurrection. We hope each child will learn and experience the sacrifice Jesus made for us and know the lifelong hope and joy it brings us. Please return the registration form on the following page to the office by March 15th.

For this event we need a few volunteers, 1 or 2 people to prepare lunch and snacks and a few people to help at stations or help move from station to station. Please call Cindy Rinker or the church office for questions or more info.

Schedule Notes

When there is just one service due to visiting pastors or holidays etc. we still want you to come to Sunday School. So here is our plan....Sunday School will host the Gathering Space and hold our class there too! This class will begin at 9:30 Everyone is invited to join us for a special time with one another. We are inviting parents to come to Sunday School with their children and attend worship after as a family. Maybe we could sit together in the Sanctuary as a class!

The next Single Service is March 10th.



This spring we collecting personal hygiene products for families without homes. Products suggested are : shampoo, liquid bath soap, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wash cloths, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, and bags to place items in. Donations can be placed in blessings basket by the elevator on first floor.

Good Friday Day Camp Registration, Health & Permission Form

Please print legibly. Parent or guardian is to complete this form in pen. Thank you.

Camper Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Gender: _____ Grade Completed _____ Birthdate: ___/___/___
Home Church: _____ City: _____ Pastor: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

First & Last Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

Additional Parent/Guardian Information:

First & Last Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

Additional Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Name: _____ Phone: _____

The following person(s) is/are permitted to pick up my child from Day Camp:

- 1. _____ 2. _____
- 3. _____ 4. _____

List any disability or recurring illness: _____

Note any activities to be limited: _____

Specify any dietary concerns: _____

Include any current medication or treatment:

Name:	Dosage
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Note: All medications sent to camp must be in the original containers and given to the Church Coordinator.

Note all allergies: ___Bee Stings ___Aspirin ___Penicillin ___Peanuts ___Other: _____

Release: I hereby give permission for the camper, previously named, to participate in all day camp activities and off-site field trips, except as previously noted. I also consent to the use of any photograph or video recordings of my child or family in future HopeWood outdoors or ELCA publications.

I understand that every effort will be made to contact me if my child needs emergency medical-surgical treatment. But if it is important to do so, I hereby give my permission to the physician selected by Camp Staff to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order injection, anesthesia, x-ray, or surgery for my child as named above. I further authorize the church coordinator, or their designee, to administer over the counter drugs and medications as needed.

Date: _____ Printed Name: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Bible 3:16

Pastor Mike has taken all the 3:16 verses in every book of the Bible, and put them together into an interesting Biblical narrative. Pastor Mike has put together pictures with the verses into a presentation that tells the biblical story. We will experience this interesting presentation on Saturday, March 2nd at 10am. Come join us as we walk through the Bible one verse at a time.

Bible 3:16

News from the Board of Communications

Welcome centers

The welcome centers are a work in progress. These “centers” will be located in the narthex and in the gathering space. There will be a display with pictures from congregational events. We are adding “Swag bags” to these displays. These bags contain a Bible verse fortune cookie, a bookmark with instructions on how to “read the scripture” through the 5 Lutheran lenses, a key chain with a Bible verse, a bottle of water with our church name on it, and eventually a flyer about Emanuel. If you see a visitor or someone who hasn’t been to church in a while, either give them a bag or ask one of the ushers for a bag. We want to reach out to our visitors in a tangible way.

Holy Week Prayer

Last year the communication and evangelism team held a prayer vigil on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. We had a pretty good response. This year it will look slightly different. We will again provide prayer resources which include: a prayer journal for adults, a prayer worksheet for kids and a prayer journal for teens. We have others things up our sleeves as well. Watch the weekly announcements for more information on how you can participate.

Back to School Blessings

Yes, we are planning for our “Back to School Blessings” event. Our dreams for this event are even bigger this year! You still have time to jump on board and be a part of the planning committee. We will meet again on Tues., March 12th at 6:00 at Dee Rinehart’s house (689 Summit St.). Exciting things are happening...including Socks, Socks, and more Socks! We will again give away socks to our neighborhood participants. We are asking the congregation to donate children to adult sized socks. We are starting earlier this year in hopes of having lots to give away. A bin will be provided by the elevator on the first floor.

Emanuel LGBT Fellowship Group



The LGBT & Allies Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 6:00p.m. Upcoming meetings are: March 3 – April 7 – May 5 – June 2

All are welcome! This is a potluck format, so please bring a dish to share. Beverages (iced tea, lemonade, water & coffee) as well as table service will be provided.

Questions? lgbt.emanuel@gmail.com or call/text 740-262-2655

Faith Journeys

One of the disciplines that God calls us to do is continue our Faith Journey. We all need to keep on this learning journey. Our Faith Journey events are meant for all ages. In March, we have several Faith Journey Offerings. First is continuing the Seven Deadly Sins at the Lenten Midweek worship services on Wednesday nights. Next is the Bible 3:16 presentation on March 2nd. And we have a confirmation retreat this month as well.

Future Faith Journey Events:

Lenten Midweek services 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 3/28, 3/29, 3/31 – Seven Deadly Sins

Saturday March 2 10am – Bible 3:16

Friday – Saturday, March 15-16 – Confirmation Retreat

Saturday April 6th – BIBLE'S BIG STORY OUR STORY – 8am-4pm

MAY – CONFIRMATION PRACTICE - TBD

JUNE – CONFIRMATION CAMP – TBD

Bible's Big Story – Our Story

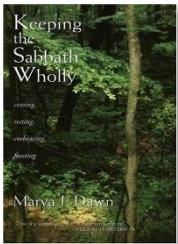
For our April Faith Journey event, we will work through the Crossways program, “The Bible’s Big Story - Our Story.” It is an overview of the Bible. There is a student workbook for the program. If you would email Pastor Mike and let him know you are interested in attending. That way we can order enough books for everyone. For more information, feel free to go to www.crossways.org. We will meet on Saturday, April 6th from 8am – 4pm.

Journey through the Bible Together

Pastor Mike still has a 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 meet on Sundays from 2p – 4p. We 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 started the New Testament. So, if you'd like to join us for the second half, feel free! We are currently in Galatians.

Book Study



Bishop Daniel has stated 2024 will be the Year of Rest. To join in this process we will work through “Keeping the Sabbath Wholly – Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting” by Marva J. Dawn. This book is more about living a holistic spiritual life, and goes far beyond just keeping Sabbath. We will be working through this book for most of 2024. We 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.

Bishop Daniel responded to Pastor's Mike invitation to join us here at Emanuel for a conversation on rest and Sabbath. Bishop Daniel will join us on Thursday, April 25th. Pastor Sarah and Deacon Sherry will also be with us for the day. They will take the book study time (11:30a and 5:30p) to discuss rest and Sabbath. All are welcome to the discussion, even if you are not participating in the book study. Bishop Daniel will also preach and preside at worship that evening at 7pm. Bishop Daniel and the Assistants to the Bishop will have time for a conversation with the PPC during the afternoon.

Part 8 of Emanuel's history

The first mention of an Altar Guild was in the minutes of Church Council November 12, 1975. Virginia Plumley asked on behalf of the ELCW Board for Council to approve the appointing of an Altar Guild. It was approved by council.

It was reported in the minutes of Church Council February 11, 1976 that the church had hired Wilmer White for the job of custodian of the church.

A letter was read at the Church Council meeting in April of 1976 from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Bear Branch, Indiana announcing the dedication of their new church on May 23, 1976. Their church and parsonage was destroyed by a tornado two years prior. Emanuel had contributed \$2,000 right after the tornado.

At the April 14, 1976 Church Council meeting it was announced that a new asphalt shingle roof on the Education Building and the replacing of some slate on the Sanctuary roof was under way. Quality Maintenance was doing the work at a cost of \$940. If we could just have those prices again.

It was announced that the librarian for the Church Library will be Lois Morgan with two assistants April 14, 1976.

On May 31, 1976 Beverly Quaintance, our church organist, handed in her letter of resignation. She and her family were moving to Connecticut due to her husband's transfer with his job. A committee to find an organist consisted of, Stephen Gast, chairman, Rodney Mitton, Keith Becker, Jane Fogle, and John Ludwig.



Jane & James Fogle

At the May 12, 1976 Church Council meeting Pastor Seibert gave a rundown on the Lutheran Memorial Camp in Fulton, Ohio. He stated that an Ambassador Family had been appointed as a communication link between the camp and our congregation. The Bob Lehner Family had accepted the appointment for a 2-year term and would be attending Ambassador Weekend over the Memorial Day weekend that year.

At that same council meeting John Ludwig from the Board of Elders stated that the chaplaincy program was under way for the 2 hospitals in Marion. He said that one-third of the patients in the hospitals have no pastor and the man hired for this job would be trained as a hospital chaplain. The Marion County Ministerial Association would like to know by the end of May what amount Emanuel would be willing to give to this program. It was stated that our church pledge \$1500 to the program and the amount would be placed in the budget for the next year. All was approved. Emanuel was a part of starting this program back then. Now there are several chaplains at Marion General.



Organist Allan Lust -- 1976

At the June 9, 1976 Church Council meeting it was stated that Sandy Becker and Tim Fields would be subbing as church organists until a new organist is hired.

The August 11, 1976 Church Council minutes reported that Allan Lust was the only person, of the 7 interviewed for the organist position, qualified and capable of taking the job of full-time organist. A contract was approved and would take effect September 15, 1976.

At the October 13, 1976 Church Council Meeting Pastor Rave read a letter from Catherine Baer stating that she was resigning as our church secretary effective October 8, 1976. In the January 2024 newsletter piece Catherine was hired in October of 1973.

In the November 10, 1976 minutes of the Church Council Pastor Rave submitted the name of Jane Fogle for church secretary. She started work on November 1. Church Council had given Pastor Rave permission to hire who he saw fit. Church Council approved hiring Jane so that made it official.



JANE FOGLE - SEC'Y

In the minutes of Church Council December 8, 1976, it was reported by Charles Lewis that the Luther League would like to convert the large room on the east end of the fourth floor into a lounge with the Leaguers doing the work and paying the bill. Their request would have to go to the Trustees and then brought before Church Council for approval. At the Board of Trustees meeting the request was approved and the large room on fourth floor be made into a lounge for Luther League.

The first writings that were found for Altar Guild are from 1977. That is when Pastor James Rave was senior pastor at Emanuel. The Guild met on a need only basis at first. The first regularly scheduled meeting was held May 5, 1981. The names on the first list I found are: Mary Baldauf, Co-chair with Wanda Straub, Mary Jeanette Jordan, Mary Dean, Ada Augenstein, Nancy Mash, Joyce Lehner, Ruth Sautter and Jean Conklin. These names of the ladies serving on Altar Guild at that time show how many years ago it has been. Nancy Mash is the only one on that list that is still alive.

As I looked over the list of duties at that time, I see that a lot of those duties are relevant today.

The purpose of Altar Guild then and now is to make sure everything is ready for all church services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, parament changes, candles filled, communion set up, any decorating, Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc. Anything that needs to be done to help all serves run smoothly.

At the January 12, 1977 Church Council meeting Pastor Seibert told that the teacher (22 teachers) training classes for the Bethel Series was going well. He also reported that the Bethel Series would start for the congregation on Wednesday, November 2, 1977 at 7:30P.

At that same meeting Pastor Seibert invited all to be present for the Jesus Christ Power and Light Company concert on Sunday, January 16 at 7P. I looked this group up and found that it was a dynamic Christian fellowship singing group that started in Northern Virginia in the early 1970's and lasted approximately 10 years. I was wondering if any of you remember this group.

It was stated in old business at the January Church Council meeting that there was a Christmas Decoration Committee for Christmas in 1976. There was a chairman and three others and the 2 pastors were advisors. These were all men. Today the Altar Guild is in charge of the Christmas decorating in the sanctuary and the outside doors. The Altar Guild right now is all women and recruit men to help with the tree and some of the things up high that we need a really tall ladder.

Jerry Laucher, manager of Emanuel's softball team asked for approval of \$100 to be given to the team so they can register with the Marion County Softball League. The request was approved at the March 9, 1977 Church Council Meeting.

In the 1970's Emanuel had Lenten Luncheons on Wednesdays instead of Lenten Suppers that we have today on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

As plans continued for the Bethel Series to start it was announced that there would be a fee of \$3.25 per person for a 7-week unit. There would be 3 units that would run between November 2, 1977 and May 10, 1978. The notices about this series even stated that there would be no memory work or tests. Some of you may have attended this series. I know I did. Jerry Emery was the leader in my group.

At the March 9th meeting of Church Council in 1977 the Trustees approved the plan to proceed with painting and first aid to the church parlor.

In the June 8th minutes of Church Council, it was reported that a bucket of paint being used to paint in the sanctuary was spilled by the contractor and did at least \$1700 damage to the organ. This damage will be covered by the contractor's insurance.

It was announced at the August 10, 1977 church Council meeting that a chaplain had been hired who would serve the two hospitals in Marion as of September 1. The chaplain is Rev. Carver Williams, an American Baptist, who came from Riverside Hospital in Columbus and was the chaplain there. Many of you might remember Carver Williams. He was chaplain here at Marion General for many years.

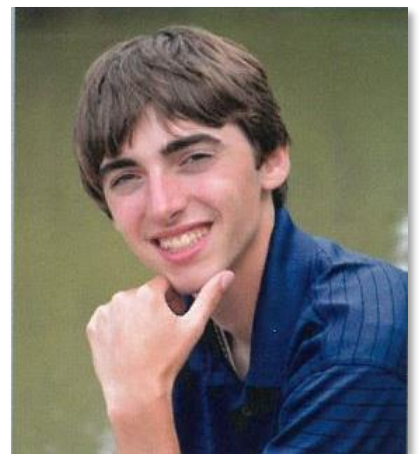
Pastor Rave stated at the August 10th Church Council meeting that he had met with Allan Lust and Keith Becker and was bringing to Council a proposal to form a Worship and Music Committee to consist of two members from the choir, two members from the Board of Deacons, and two members from the congregation with Allan and Keith serving as advisors.

I have learned many things through my reading all of the history over the years. It has also highlighted things I remember, good memories. I hope it does the same for all of you.

More history to come, Alicia

Introducing Guest Pastor Mark Schuring

Pastor Mark Schuring will be our guest pastor March 10th. We look forward to seeing Pastor Mark and Dianne.



Pastor Mark was born December 1, 1955 in Middletown, Ohio, the son of Emery and Ethel (Porter) Schuring. He was baptized when he was a baby at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Middletown.

His family moved to the Dayton area and Pastor Mark was confirmed at the age of 17 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dayton. You were confirmed at an older age in his church. He graduated from Centerville High School in 1974. While Pastor Mark was still in high school his pastor, Douglas Myer, asked him to be a worship assistant.

His parents had taught him through his young life that God is faithful and likes surprises, when you encounter surprises look for the hand of God.

Easter Sunday, March 26, 1974 is when Pastor Mark, as a worship assistant, knew that this was his call to the ministry. He was 18 years old.

In the fall of 1974, he started college at Miami University. He graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. In the fall of 1978, he entered Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus and graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree in June of 1982. He was ordained July 4, 1982 in his home church, Epiphany Lutheran in Dayton.

Pastor Mark's first call was to St. Mark's Lutheran in Orlando, Florida. He spent 4 years in Orlando and then was called to St. Mark's Lutheran in Butler, Pennsylvania. There were 4 Pastors on staff at St. Mark's and Pastor Mark was the Youth

Pastor. In 1988 the Bishop in the Pittsburg area asked him to come to Emanuel Lutheran in Pittsburg as Senior Pastor. Fellowship and community relationship was restored during his ministry there.

While Pastor Mark was serving Emanuel in Pittsburg, he met Dianne Tack. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran in Butler, Pa. at the time. They were married May 19, 1990 at Emanuel Lutheran in Pittsburg by Bishop Donald McCoid. You can see a pattern here with St. Mark's and Emanuel's.

In 1994 Pastor Mark was called to Grace Lutheran in Rochester, Pennsylvania as Senior Pastor. In 1997 he was called to the Marion area to Trinity Lutheran Church close to Pleasant High School Looking back, I remember meeting Pastor Mark in 2000 when I attended a memorial service at Trinity for a member of my husband's family.

In 2005 Pastor Mark was called here to Emanuel, to serve as Associate Pastor with Pastor J. Weston Jones. Pastor Jones retired in October of 2009 and we voted to have Pastor Mark as our Senior Pastor. Pastor Mark then retired in December of 2021.

I wrote in 2014 that Dianne was a teacher at Pleasant Elementary and she is still teaching at Pleasant today. She teaches 3rd grade. She also teaches evening classes on line. Dianne still quilts as much as possible.

Since his retirement Pastor Mark is enjoying working out at Planet Fitness and says, it has greatly improved his health.

He went on to say, "thanks to Pat Thomas, I have been teaching beginners guitar lessons at Musicians 1 Stop at 173 S. Main St. in Marion. I have found it immensely rewarding. My young students and their growth in learning pleases me to no end. In addition to teaching, I will preside at an occasional funeral. I also supply pulpits for different denominations. All in all, that is as busy as I want to be. I have made some new friends and rekindled older friendships. I highly recommend retirement."

Pastor Mark has a daughter, Bethany. She is married to Douglas Nichols and live in Butler, Pennsylvania. They have 2 sons, Landon and Lucca.

A lot of you remember, David, Dianne and Pastor Mark's son. He lives in Wapakoneta, Ohio and works as a process engineer. He is engaged to Ali but they haven't set a wedding date yet.

I'm so glad that Pastor Mark's retirement is going well.

Until next time, Alicia



Pastor Poole's Pins

Pastor Poole has marched in several St. Patrick's Day Parades. He learned to play the bagpipes playing with the Shamrock Club Pipes and Drums of Columbus. That brought many parades in Downtown Columbus. While in NYC, he played with the Richmond County Pipes & Drums (Staten Island). That brought about several parades in the metro NY/NJ area. But it also includes two trips in the NYC St Patrick's Day Parade. Now a days, he marches with the Richens/Timm Academy of Irish Dance or the Columbus Celtic Dancers.

MUSIC NOTES

Welcome to the February Music Notes!

*Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.*

As I write this, I look out my window and see a pair of mourning doves perched on an electric line. Looking especially plump from their extra body fat to fight the winter chill, this is probably the same pair that has been enjoying my bird feeders the last couple weeks, lured by the false sense of spring brought on by the abnormally warm temperatures. Mourning doves are among my favorite birds. Their soft coos and murmurs are a comfort, and I imagine them as kindly and gentle, although I have seen them chase away blue jays! I love all of my birds, but my mourning doves are dear to my heart.

Several times while filling my feeders, I've come upon a startled mourning dove in my yard that hasn't flown away quickly enough as I've approached. They look at me nervously and warily, as I talk to them in gentle and reassuring tones. I worry that perhaps they are sick or injured, unable to fly away, but once I walk away, they take off, joining their mate or flock. Although they have excellent vision, doves do not have peripheral vision, which is why they do not always see me coming.

We are familiar with the importance of the dove in the Bible. Noah released a dove to search for dry land, and its return with an olive branch is a sign of the restoration of peace after the catastrophic flood. During Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descends upon him in the form of a dove, symbolizing the divine presence and marking the beginning of His ministry. In these examples, the dove serves as a reminder of God's promise of peace and redemption.

The dove is a powerful symbol of peace, love, and the presence of the divine. The image of a dove with olive branches is often associated with peaceful resolutions and restoring harmony. Its gentle nature and soothing cooing are believed to bring a sense of calm and spiritual guidance, a reminder of the importance of love, compassion, and unity in our daily lives.

Again, this year for the midweek Lenten services we will share as a common Hymn of the Day, "That Priceless Grace" (ELW #591). A simple hymn from the West African country of Ghana, it beautifully and effectively encapsulates the message of John 3:16. The text is by Emmanuel F.Y. Grantson (b. 1949), Pastor of St. Michael's Truth Lutheran Church in Mitchellville, Maryland (D.C. Metro area), and is written in a traditional African style with short, repeated, almost percussive phrases. The understated text contains the basic essence of Lutheranism – Jesus' life, blood, death, and word is "priceless grace". This "priceless grace" has taken away our sins and brought us eternal life.

During Lent, and all all year long, may you be comforted by God's presence all around us, in the mourning dove, in all of His creation.

I will leave you with Verse 1 of "That Priceless Grace"
(ELW #591):

That priceless grace, that priceless grace,
that priceless grace, which gave me life:
Jesus' life is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.

Until next time, Soli Deo Gloria!

Paul



Steeple Sightings

Greetings from above! Feels like Spring is on its way, and the farmers will be out in full force soon.

Had a visit with a good bat-friend from the north and we got into old songs we used to hear when we soared above the ceilings of the school. One that came into my little batmind was "The Farmer in the Dell". Now where is a dell? The bat search is on! Who should know better than a farmer. Aha. We have plenty here at Emanuel, so my next highlighted member of the choir is Dennis Swartz.

For Dennis, the dell was Wyandot county's Salem Twp Rural School. Before graduating, he had been a member of the band, marching band, chorus, a vocal quartet, and the sports teams in basketball, track, and baseball. In junior high he also was on good terms with an accordion.

After graduation he was happy on a dairy farm raising Brown Swiss cattle, then set his sights on higher education from the Ohio State (moo-)niversity in vocational agriculture and education. The world was his, or at least central Ohio was. He worked many jobs from teaching at Paulding, Elgin, Ridgedale, and Tri-Rivers to administrative positions at OSU, Tri-Rivers, and the Ohio FFA Foundation.

"The farmer takes a wife..." . In the 60's Dennis did just as the song said. He met Mary Ellen on a blind date and eventually there were little Swartzes all over.

Now retired from the world of academia, he enjoys his life of music with the Marionaires as a singer and business manager; the board of Habitat for Humanity, Kiwanis; making plaques for achievements out of barn siding; and the Mid-Ohio Electric for community grant funding.

Formerly a member of First Lutheran Church in Upper Sandusky, they transferred to St. Paul's by the Marion hospital and then to Emanuel and became involved here in the choir as the strong member of the bass section.

Our Lord has blessed us with the gift of you, Dennis. All glory to Him.

And "the bat (with the cheese) stands alone" until next time.

Batina Belfry

Thank you!!

My family and I would like to thank Pastor Poole and Parish Deacon Ann Thomas for their kindness and prayers during the illness and death of Jim Stewart, husband and father. We would also like to thank the people who prepared and served the delicious meal following the funeral. We are grateful for everyone who sent cards and other expressions of sympathy. From Janice Stewart and family.



Happy Birthday!

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group wishes Elsie Mitchell a very happy 90th Birthday!

>>> March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 12pm Improv Lunch 6pm LGBT & Allies	4 10:00 Anniversary Committee Mtg.	5 8:30 - Quilters 6pm Bd. of Communications 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	6 9:30 Bible Study 5pm Lenten Meal 6:00 C&A Choirs 7:00 Worship	7 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study	8	9 Showalter Baby Shower
10 Guest Pastor Mark 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 12pm Luncheon 2pm Bible Study	11 6pm Bd. of Spiritual Life (offsite)	12 8:30 - Quilters 11:30 Bd. of Childcare Mtg. 6pm Properties Mtg. 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	13 9:30 Bible Study 5pm Lenten Meal 6:00 C&A Choirs 7:00 Worship	14 4pm Comm. Meal	15 Confirmation Retreat	16 Confirmation Retreat
17 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 2pm Bible Study	18 5pm Hour of Prayer	19 8:30 - Quilters 1:30 Finance Bd. Mtg 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	20 9:30 Bible Study 5pm Lenten Meal 6:00 C&A Choirs 7:00 Worship	21 10:00 Staff Mtg. 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 6pm Bd. Social Ministry	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship 2pm Bible Study	25	26 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	27 9:30 Bible Study 5pm Lenten Meal 6:00 C&A Choirs 7:00 Worship	28 11:30 Book Study 5:30 Book Study 7pm Maundy Thur. Worship	29 8am LMC Day Camp 12pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Good Friday Worship	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00a.m. - Worship 9:15 - Worship 9:15 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship	1	2 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	3 9:30 Bible Study 5pm Lenten Meal 6:00 C&A Choirs 7:00 Worship	4	5	30



Have you ever considered Hosting the Gathering Space on a Sunday Morning?

There are plenty of dates available in April, May and June to sign up to host the Gathering Space refreshments. The sign-up sheet is on an easel in the pass-through window - please take a look when you stop by for coffee or juice. Haven't hosted before, or would like someone to co-host with you? Please contact Lori Campbell and we can pair you with someone to host with you.

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