

October/November 2020

# The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel Lutheran Church

## 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 Mark Schuring

Deacon Kevin Kehn

Administrative Assistant:

Ashley Koehler

Financial Secretary:

Ed Stofcheck

Building Supervisor: Carl Jones

Building Maintenance:

Frank Fanello

Child Care Director:

Abby Croman

Door Attendants:

Jim Stroupe, Brian and

Christy Penrod, Pat Thomas

Music Minister: Allan Lust

Assistant Organist: Sandra Becker

Part-Time Organist: Paul Burnside

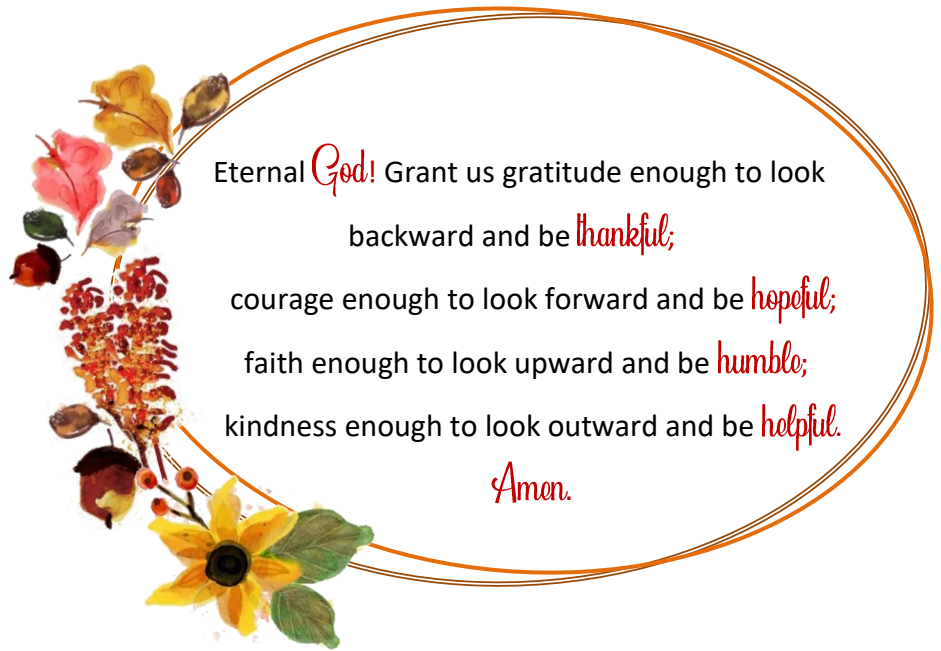
Praise Team & Children's

Choir Director: Teri Turner

Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Sound Technician: Doug Ross



### Updates on Worship and Covid-19

We are all anxious to get back to some kind of normalcy and worship together more often in our sanctuary. However, we must consider the health and safety of our congregation, our staff, and of the families we serve through child care. We recently received correspondence from the Marion county Health Commissioner stating, "Approximately 80% of our current active cases report attending religious services while contagious or being exposed to the virus by someone at church." We need to proceed with caution. To that end, we are continuing our rotating Sunday schedule through December and are currently looking at how we can safely host Christmas Eve or possibly Christmas worship services.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service**, November 25, will not be an in-person service, however it will be on radio at 7:00pm and livestreamed.

**Christmas Eve** services will be announced later.

You can always listen to us on WMRN Sundays at 10:30 and watch via livestreaming for our 9:15 (when scheduled) and 10:30 services.

## God at Work in Each of Us: A message from Pastor Mark

While I settled into my recliner with the perfect cup of coffee, I was drawn to the TV as a big-name hip hop star posed for the paparazzi. Now I don't want to play down the value of entertainers or the arts but as I watched her raise colorful talons to pouty lips and saw her in a totally impractical designer dress that gave the impression she was literally blooming from a flower, I thought to myself with a certain amount of urgency, "I've got to do something that makes a difference." Insert rueful smiley face ...

You might recognize that star's name, but here's a name few will: **William Tyndale**. Tyndale, who the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) commemorates on October 6, was an English scholar during the time of Martin Luther. This professor, a lover of language (and a master of eight), made a lot of firsts in the "language" of faith. He created the first English Bible directly translated from Hebrew and Greek texts and the first one produced by using the printing press. His translation was the first English Bible of the Reformation and the first English translation to follow English Protestant Reformers' preference to use "Jehovah" as God's name. He was also the first to coin many phrases in his translations that we still recognize today: "my brother's keeper", "knock and it shall be opened unto you", "let there be light", and (in whom we) "live, move, and have our being" to name a few.

Yes, it would seem this biblical scholar was bound for fame and fortune but instead, he spent the later part of his life in hiding and was unable to complete his translation before being burned at the stake as a heretic. Among the charges against him: Breaking the law that stated no one was to possess an English version of the scriptures since the Roman Catholic church mandated scriptures be interpreted by clergy only.

And yet God had plans. William Tyndale's work lived on and a few years after his death, four English translations were published by the king's command, all based on Tyndale's work. Though he didn't live to see all of the fruits of his labor, through him, God's word to Jeremiah in Chapter 29 verse 11 came to fruition for many more: "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'" (NRSV)



For I know  
the plans I have  
for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans for welfare  
and not for evil,  
to give you a future  
and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

God has plans for each of us. Sometimes we see them unfold before us, and it's delightful and satisfying. Other times, as for Tyndale, the results may not come about in our lifetime or for many lifetimes, and it can be disappointing and discouraging. But never doubt God is still at work. Jeremiah verse 12 continues, "Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you." God's willing to walk with us, no matter how we do it. Wonders can happen in big, loud thunderclaps or soft, quiet wisps of air, but we all have it in us to be a light in the darkness, a voice in the silence, and hope in the face of despair.

You don't need to put on fake nails or fancy clothes to make a difference. You don't need a golden voice or a cadre of fans to make an impact. You don't need to be a rock star. Just be who you were created to be and let God do the rest.

***Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."***

John 8:31,32

***I will put my law with them, and I will write it on their hearts;  
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

Jeremiah 31:33

During the past six months or so there has been much said about freedom and the law. As I was going through some of my paper piles on my desk recently, I came across a weekly lectionary study that included comments about both freedom and the law. I would like to share some of my gleanings with you.

First of all, Johannes Oecolampadius, a German reformer who lived at the same time as Martin Luther, wrote about what he considers to be true freedom. He wrote that as Christ is the Son of God and as we are children of God by grace and adoption, since Christ is free, we obtain freedom through him. We experience true freedom when we cling to Christ and are made children by him and in this way we will be heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. His most compelling statement for me in this commentary is that *true freedom is found when one has come to know Christ and is able to call on God with a clean conscience.*

In regards to the law, the source included in this commentary was an analysis by Pastor Paul Jaster. He commented that written laws (like the Ten Commandments, U.S. Constitution, marriage contracts, Hammurabi's Code, Torah, traffic laws) are a great blessing. They keep societies "civil." But they are also a great curse. For they damn and condemn us (even before we keep them or not) by the very fact that they exist and are needed. He then continued writing what stood out most me, *"Laws were made to be broken," the saying goes. Oh no! Laws were made because we are broken.* This is the *theological use* of the law.

Finally, from a God Pause devotion that I saved from June 26, 2019, Pastor Shelly Cunningham reminded us that Martin Luther wrote in his treatise, "On the Freedom of a Christian, *"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.* To this she added that former Minnesota senator Paul Wellstone used to say, "When we all do better, we *all* do better."

During this time of frustration and strife in our world, I pray you can all find some peace, the peace that we are graced with by God, through the salvation that we live in through Jesus Christ and are guided by the Holy Spirit.

Until next time, may the peace and healing of God be with you all.

--Deacon Kevin



Dear members of Emanuel Lutheran,

It's been a very different year for all of us with the church building closed and a reduced number of services being conducted for much of the year. Due to public health orders to maintain social distancing, many of us have lost touch with our neighbors and fellow members. As restrictions are gradually lifted, we need to think about how we reestablish those connections and come out of this pandemic even stronger than we were before. This is where Emanuel needs your help.

Entering the final quarter of this year, it's time to prepare a list of candidates for the offices and administrative boards of the congregation. In addition to the position of Vice President and Secretary there are openings on each of the following administrative boards:

- **Spiritual Life** - Evaluates how effectively the goals of the congregation are being met for both ministries within the congregation and to the world. This board's primary duties are support for the church staff and coordination of the various aspects of worship service.
- **Communications and Evangelism** - Brings the Gospel to the unchurched and enlists Church members in the work of spreading the gospel. Publicizes the works of the Congregation and represents the Congregation in community activities.
- **Finance** - Ensures financial stability of the Congregation and helps with the development of good stewardship practices within the Congregation.
- **Fellowship** - Provides social opportunities that will foster mutual cooperation, trust, and enjoyment among members of the Congregation.
- **Social Ministry** - Informs the congregation of social needs of the community from a gospel perspective and seeks responses to those needs from the Congregation's time, talents, and treasure.
- **Christian Education and Youth** - Support and supervise the Family Life Ministry Coordinator and assist in the implementation of family, youth, education, and intergenerational programs and events.
- **Church Properties** - Responsible for the maintenance and renovation of the building structure and related property.
- **Child Care** - Oversees the Child Care program.

If you or anyone you know has an interest in an office or any one of these boards please contact a member of the nominating committee and let them know you'd like to get more involved with your church. If you're still not sure and just have more questions then please contact a member of the nominating committee. Your nominating committee is: Pastor Mark Schuring, Rick Varner, David Strzalka, Betty Anderson, Paula Burnside, Christy Penrod, and Cindy Strzalka.

Thank You,  
David Strzalka, Council Vice President



Hello Emanuel Friends and Family!

I just thought I would take a minute to update everyone on the child care program and all of the good things happening our way!

After a mandatory shut down per the Governor, we reopened June 1st under strict guidelines set by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Health. With smaller group sizes, lower ratios, and more cleaning protocols than ever; I will admit that our "new normal" has been difficult at times. However, with the support of the Child Care Board and the amazing child care staff; we have made the best of our circumstances and have continued to provide outstanding care for our families. We have been healthy and operating as expected since our reopening. This has been no easy feat and I am so proud of our staff and families!

Within two weeks of reopening, we had a surprise inspection by ODJFS. As a result of the inspection we were awarded our Step Up to Quality 3 Star Rating. We earned our 1 Star rating in December of 2018. The staff worked extremely hard, completed many hours of training and spent hours learning new ideas and practices to better

### Child Care Wish List

Items may be dropped off at the church office Monday - Thursday.

Divided Styrofoam plates, Animal Crackers, Fresh Fruit (apples, bananas, cuties), Frozen Red Baron Pizza, Gold Fish Crackers, Lysol Wipes, Tissues, #10 Canned Veggies



our center. I couldn't be prouder of our accomplishments.

In addition to awarding us a 3 Star Rating, our inspector commented on our exceptional practices and ability to adapt quickly to the policy changes. She was not only impressed by our reopening plan, but at the way we executed the plan as well.

Over the summer months our center was able to participate in the Marion City Schools free summer meals program. MCS provided free breakfast, lunch and fresh produce from June through August. We are grateful for their contribution and commitment to providing healthy meals to the children in our community.

As a way to help offset the loss of income due to lower ratios and class sizes, the State of Ohio has offered monthly grant incentives to centers that reopened under the new guidelines and have maintained the reduced class size requirements. We have received the grant funds for June, July, and August and have been approved for additional funds for September and October. Again, we are thankful.

As we head into fall and look toward the holiday season; we pray that our staff and families remain healthy and our center continues to find ways to make the best of 2020.

Abby Croman



Fellow members of Emanuel. I want to update you with some good news, but first, as Treasurer, I would like to thank our members for their ongoing generosity during these uncertain times. Because of you, Emanuel remains in good financial condition and giving has remained close to on budget.

The good news about which I want to inform you is the generosity of one of our former members who passed away last year. Carrying on a tradition of members going back many years, Rita Herbst made Emanuel an important part of her estate planning. She asked that we create a scholarship fund to benefit Emanuel's members and to that end we have received nearly \$350,000 to date with a final distribution to come at a later date. The Board of Finance, after much discussion, has decided to create the Emanuel Lutheran Rita M. Herbst Scholarship Fund at the Marion Community Foundation. The first distribution will be in 2022 and can be used to award scholarships across a broad range including colleges, trade schools, and retraining for older members who may be displaced from employment.

As I said, this generosity from Ms. Herbst continues a long tradition of both individuals and families whose faith extended into their financial planning.

Rex Parrott, Treasurer

**God's Work Our Hands:** The Social Ministry Board wants to remind the congregation that Emanuel's monthlong projects for God's Work Our Hands is in full swing. There are 11 projects to choose from with at least 1 to fit your schedule, resources and/or interests. Each project is designed to help others, or reach out to those far from family and home or to provide a ray of sunshine to those homebound. None of the projects involves a lot of time and can be done either solo or in a group. Students, do you need to complete a community service project for school? These projects can help. Want to reach out in your community? These projects can help. Want to share the love of God, show love in action? These projects can help. If you have questions or want to select a project please reach out to: Barb Russo (740-369-1137 or [russofarm3@gmail.com](mailto:russofarm3@gmail.com)), Betty Jo Lill (740-225-4531 or [bjlill@me.com](mailto:bjlill@me.com)), Cindy Schifer (740-360-8431 or [tcschifer@roadrunner.com](mailto:tcschifer@roadrunner.com)), or the Church Office (740-383-2184)

In each case we need your name, address, phone number and the project(s) selected so materials can be mailed to you. Thank you for sharing your talents!



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. Applications may be picked up at the church office. **The application and other support information are due no later than Monday March 1, 2021** to the chairperson, Rae Andrews at 379 Brightwood Dr., Marion, OH 43302, 740-387-5432.



2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least. We have had many discussions regarding how to handle Thanks & Giving during the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

In reviewing the process, it was amazing to see just how many people it takes to accomplish this event. Lots of concerns were discussed, such as having 120 people in the parlor for dinner at one time with another 30 people helping in the kitchen and dining area. In addition, the delivery room has been packed with people, most of whom were over 65 years old, thereby in the high-risk category for the virus.

**So... the decision has been made to cancel the event for this year.**

We will however contact our church shut-ins to make sure that they have plans for Thanksgiving. The Board of Fellowship has agreed to contact these individuals to find out if they need a meal that day. We believe that we can handle a small number of meals that would need to be delivered. This way we can limit the number of people involved to make the meals.

Our church and community members have been generous over the years enabling us to purchase the food and supplies that will be needed for this year. Therefore, we will not need food or supplies donated this year. Monetary donations to the Thanks & Giving fund are always appreciated.



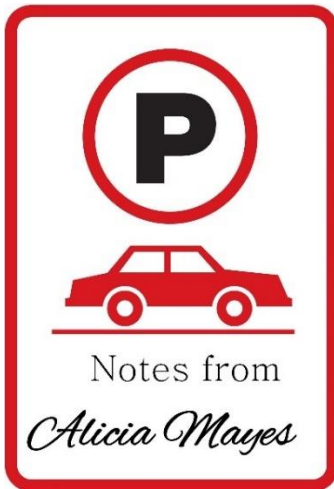
**On a side note, Matt will not have to provide Temple Talks this year with his #10 can of sweet potatoes....**

Traditionally we have provided turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, rolls, and pie. Based on the need, we may scale back the menu, but at least provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, and pie.

**We don't want to miss anyone, so if you need a Thanksgiving meal or know of a church member that needs a Thanksgiving meal, please call Ed at the church office, 740-383-2184.**

Based on the number of our church members that request meals, we may need help with deliveries and will reach out for that help closer to Thanksgiving.





In my research through the boxes of archives that I have found in different places in the church I found an architect drawing of the parking lot on the south side of Emanuel, it was dated 1962. The architect was Ronald Steward from Steward Construction. Ron Steward was a member

of Emanuel, Bruce Showalter's uncle, Bruce's mother's brother. I then went to the minutes of the council meeting's, called Vestry Meetings back then. This is what I found:

The minutes dated 1/17/1962 stated that the trustees of the church were to look into a solution to the parking problem at Emanuel. The next month the minutes stated that the trustees were looking into purchasing the properties directly south of the church for a parking lot. The owners of the 3 properties were as follows:

Property #1 was owned by the Davidson's; Property #2 was owned by the McCormick's and #3 owned by the Nickel's. These 3 properties would make 60 parking spaces.

At the Congregational Meeting dated Sunday, 5/6/62 the congregation voted to purchase these 3 properties. It was decided at that meeting to launch a Capital Funds Drive in the fall of 1962 to raise the money to pay for these properties. May 20, 1962 a special Vestry Meeting was called to discuss the purchase of a 4<sup>th</sup> property adjacent to the other 3 properties. This 4<sup>th</sup> property would add 10 more parking spaces for a total of 70 spaces. The minutes of 9/12/1962 states that it was decided that the amount for the Capital Fund Drive for the parking lot would be \$100,000.00. That would pay for the 4 properties, tearing down of the houses, and the cost of making the properties a parking lot. Minutes from the 11/14/62 states that 40% of the Capital Fund Drive had been reached for the parking lot. Wyandot Blacktop was hired to put in the parking lot but the blacktopping was postponed until later. Minutes from the 12/12/62 vestry meeting state

that Triple Service was hired to do the lighting for the parking lot. At that meeting it was also discussed to install parking meters for the lot. It would cost 5 cents for 2 hrs., 10 cents for 4 hrs., and 25 cents for 10 hrs. Hours for the meters would be 8A to 6P. Some of you may remember that there was a Kroger in the now Napa building, so after 6P shoppers could park in our lot and employees there also. It was decided then to install the meters. Our members would have covers to use for the meters when they were at the church between the meter hours. There is more to this story that I will be writing next time and if anyone knows any further details, please let me know.

Alicia Mayes

YOU CAN HELP



**Waldo Fresh Food Distribution** is continuing on Friday, November 6 and Friday, December 4 at All Occasions.

It is drive-thru from 11:00 until 2:00.

**Volunteers are needed.** If you have any questions please contact Jackie Price at 740-361-5373 or email her at [jsprice2@frontier.com](mailto:jsprice2@frontier.com) or Chris Seiter, church secretary, who is in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 740-726-2770. The church is collecting bottled water and toilet paper for November.

Items can be brought anytime to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waldo and placed between the two back doors. In October 213 clients with 51 new families were served by 23 volunteers.



**Confirmation Class** was of course put on hold back in March when the pandemic began. The plan right now is to evaluate how things are going in December and possibly resume classes in the new year. If we are able to do this, we will have confirmation of our four second-year students on May 23, 2021, which is the Day of Pentecost. Assuming that we are able to resume instruction safely we will be making a change to our confirmation ministry in the fall of 2021. Since we are basically a year behind due to being shut down, we will take this opportunity to offer confirmation for those in grades 7&8 rather than grades 6&7. This will be a more normal grouping since students in grades 7&8 are grouped academically and it also will not leave us with a gap where our eighth graders have fallen after they are confirmed but not in high school yet. More information will be provided as it becomes necessary and if you have any questions please contact Deacon Kevin.



**Thank you, Emanuel Family** for all the beautiful flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and party on my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It truly was a great day. God Bless all of you. Love you so much. Jeanette Mawer.



### *Communion to Return to In-Person Worship*

The Board of Spiritual Life met regarding resuming communion at Emanuel at the in-person worship services. We have arrived at a safe way for this to happen; we will offer individual cups of grape juice and individual wafers. As soon as the product arrives, we will resume communion. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to find safe ways to return to some of our normal practices.



**Frank Fanello** will celebrate his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday October 24<sup>th</sup> (4747 Baer Rd.)

**Donna Longberry** will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday October 29<sup>th</sup> (375 Park Blvd.)

**Bob Ferguson** will celebrate his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday October 30<sup>th</sup> (DeWolfe Place, 1140 Wilson Ave.)

**Don Hall** will celebrate his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday November 3<sup>rd</sup> (511 Vernon Hts. Blvd.)

**Mary Click** will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday November 14<sup>th</sup> (1555 Richland Rd.)

**Oscar Hartman** will celebrate his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday November 21<sup>st</sup> (Primrose #104, 1550 Wellness Drive)

**Don't forget to Fall Back  
November 1!**



**Emanuel Lutheran Church  
241 South Prospect Street  
Marion, Ohio 43302-3921**

\*Return Service Requested.

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Prepared Especially For:



# Fall Gatherings

All are welcome to join  
NWOS Staff and Bishop Daniel  
for virtual fellowship and conversation about  
what it means to be On the Way together!

**Oct 15 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Oct 29 @ 7:30 a.m.**

**Nov 5 @ 9:00 p.m.**

More info: [nwos-elca.org](http://nwos-elca.org)

## worship WITH US

November 1 (All Saints) @ 8:00 a.m.

November 8 @ 9:15 a.m.

November 15 @ 10:30 a.m.

November 22 (Christ the King) @ 8:00 a.m.

November 29 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent) @ 9:15 a.m.

December 6 @ 10:30 a.m.

December 13 @ 8:00 a.m.

December 20 @ 9:15 a.m.

December 27 @ 10:30 a.m.

You can also join us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on  
WMRN Radio and through livestreaming services on  
our website and Facebook pages.

Check out our website for more information on  
worship opportunities at Emanuel.

[www.emanuellutheran.net](http://www.emanuellutheran.net)