

October/November 2021

The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook!

Church Staff:

Pastor Mark Schuring

Deacon Kevin Kehn

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:

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

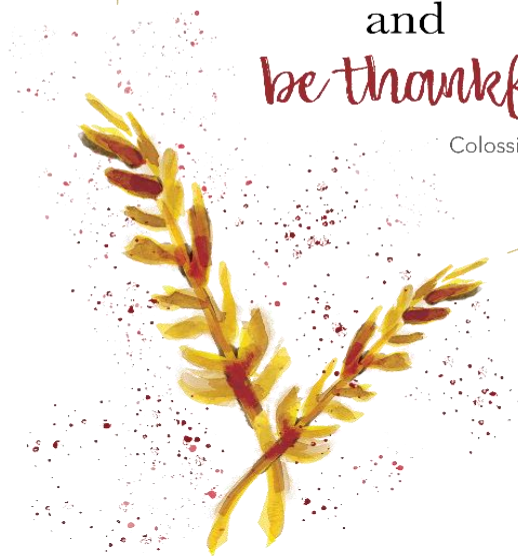
Adult & Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Sound Technician: Doug Ross

And let the
peace of Christ
rule in your hearts...
and
be thankful

Colossians 3:15



While we are excited to be resuming many fun and faith filled activities at Emanuel, we remain ever cautious and aware of the Covid19 pandemic. Please know the safety of our congregation and community is always at the top of our priority list. At the August Parish Planning Council meeting it was decided to resume a mask mandate at Emanuel, as long as Marion County is rated as high transmission of Covid. Any changes in our transmission level or this policy will be shared on our website, social media, and of course on Sunday mornings. As you will see in this edition of the Good News Newsletter, we are happy to be resuming many bible studies, our Sunday School program, and home visitations. Thank you for everyone's patience and input as we continue moving forward.

...he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you." John 20: 20,21a

In John's gospel we read that Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of that first Easter Day. In doing so, he revealed to them his resurrected body, which included scars. This is where I pick up sharing the words of JR Briggs from his book, A Time to Heal, Offering Hope to a Wounded World in the Name of Jesus.

Briggs points out that Jesus' resurrected body still bore visible, physical scars. So Briggs then continues by writing that as we seek to follow the resurrected, scar-bearing Christ we must face several realities;

1. We must healthily embrace our own failures as failures teach us things success cannot. So we then need to ask ourselves, *How will I respond when I fail?*
2. We must reveal our wounds to others, being a model for others as we share our courage, authenticity, humble weakness, and as we build connection, trust, and empathy.
3. We must grieve the loss of the certainty we once knew.
4. We must acknowledge and repent of our idols and he notes that many idols are rooted in Christendom.

We want always to remember that the way Jesus identified himself, the way he offered evidence he was the Messiah, was through his healing.

Healing involves more than thoughts and prayers. Actionless prayer can often create more pain. The church is called to be spiritual and emotional first responders. God works through us by the work of the Holy Spirit revealing the active presence of God's comfort and healing in the world by;

- empowering us--giving life, people serving
- purifying us--offering blessings in this world
- revealing to us--giving evidence of God
- unifying us--mending and reconciling

Briggs continues then stating that if the world is ever going to consider looking in the direction of the church for its healing, we must first look into ten specific areas;

1. We need to see the Bible as a book written to traumatized people, written to discouraged, displaced, distressed and oppressed people who were marked by trauma. We need to read scripture through the lens of trauma and trauma is everywhere there are wounds and brokenness. So we ask

ourselves, *Where do we long to experience healing and where can we join God in the work of healing?*

2. We need to listen to and tell stories. Stories have healing power because stories connect us. Trauma and woundedness disconnect us while healing connects us. When people are heard the healing may begin--artist, musicians, and poets do this. We need to also tell stories of healers.

3. Look for trauma. Be aware. Suffering people need empathy and acceptance.

4. Explore your own wounds and trauma. If we are to be healers, we need to address our own trauma and woundedness. Richard Rohr wrote, *if we do not transform pain, we will most assuredly transmit it*--usually to those closest to us.

5. Look for tears--in others and in yourself. Tears are a gracious gift from God--tears are a release when we are overwhelmed, scared, scarred or saddened. Tears are sacred moments, theology is built into our biology. Tears are liquid prayers.

6. Look for everyday practices and elements where healing can occur. Healing happens when people strongly sense that they are in a safe place to tell their story and to hear others tell their stories.

7. Look for healers who are already in your midst. Use the gifts of members of your congregation.

8. Look for the passions in your congregation.

9. Look for the healers within your broader community. Where is great pain, tragedy or need in the community, where do people immediately think to turn to for help?

10. Look for future healers in the younger generation.

Briggs concludes this section then by referring us to Dr. Phil Monroe, director of the American Bible Society's Trauma Healing Institute who offers three questions people can ask others who have experienced trauma: *What happened? How did that make you feel? What was the hardest part?* And a fourth...I'm curious: *What helped you survive today?* We just need to listen; we do not have to offer advice. As we listen, we will find that people will begin to open up and connect and experience healing.

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

Deacon Kevin



Looking back with Alicia Mayes

Looking back through the old bulletins I have found the background of what had to happen in order to start building the educational building 1950-1951.

The first I found mention of wanting to build the educational building was in March of 1949. The finance committee had a plan to look into starting a drive to collect money toward the building. It was mentioned again in October of 1949.

There had been a lot of redecorating and repairs that went on in 1949 on the existing church building. A lot of money had been spent on those projects but church leaders knew eventually their plan of erecting an educational building would come to light.

In January of 1950 the building and finance committees met with architect, Charles Oborn. He was a member of Emanuel. He had drawn up sketches of what the educational building might look like. The sketches went before the finance committee and building committee and then eventually the congregation.

These committees met with the firm Marts and Lundy of New York and Canton. They specialized in assisting churches in fund raising campaigns. The church leaders knew that they couldn't build without the congregations' support.

On Wednesday, November 8, 1950 there was a potluck held at 6:30 p.m. in the parlors with a

congregational meeting held in the sanctuary at 8:00 p.m. The vote at this meeting was to decide if Emanuel should use Marts and Lundy to assist the church with the fundraising campaign for the educational building and to vote on the dream of a new building with a wing off the sanctuary to seat 250, individual classrooms for all of Sunday school, and ample social rooms for meetings of all organizations of the church. The figure at that time was \$150,000.00 to go toward the building. The vote was unanimous to go ahead with the plan.

The campaign for the fundraising started on November 3rd. There was a canvas of every member of Emanuel. By December 15th the total of the money raised was \$190,151.00.

In the bulletin on Sunday, February 11, 1951 the congregation was informed that there was concern that the government may not allow building material to be used for churches. When WWII ended and the country turned its thoughts to peacetime building, traditional materials were in short supply and what supplies existed were still under strict government control.

In February of 1951 in order to move forward with erecting the educational building the building committee with the architect, Charles Oborn had to make formal application to the U.S. government, National Production Authority, for a permit to proceed.

In the May 20, 1951 bulletin the congregation was informed that the educational building would require 25 tons of steel in its construction. That is why the special government permit must be approved before building plans could proceed.

In June of 1951 architect, Charles Oborn and Rev. Martin Hollensen went to Columbus and presented the request for permission to erect the educational building to the officials of the National Production Authority. They were told to start getting bids but would still have to wait for permission to proceed.

On Friday, June 15, 1951 Emanuel heard from the National Production Authority in Washington D.C. granting permission to proceed with the building of

the new structure. The stipulation on the building project was that the construction had to begin by August 14th. Three contractors were preparing bids to submit. One would have to be chosen and work had to begin. June 30th was the deadline for bids for the project.

Mr. Fred Baldauf was the only bid returned for construction. He was a member of Emanuel. The other bids were from electrical and heating companies.

Mr. Oborn and Mr. Baldauf were asked to spend the next 3 weeks looking over the plans in order to keep cost within reasonable bounds set by the congregation.

Ground breaking should happen by August 12th. The 2 lowest bids for electrical and heating were approved by the architect and contractor. When the plans were finished for the project, the final cost would be \$250,000.00. All had been approved by the congregation to proceed.

The National Production Authority permit to purchase the steel for construction demanded (exact wording) that ground be broken by August 14th. If it is not started by the 14th, the church must reapply for the permit.

The ground breaking ceremony was Sunday, August 12, 1951.

I will see what I can find for the next time,
Alicia

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team needs your input. Thank you to everyone who has completed surveys and returned them to the boxes in the Gathering Space and Narthex. If you do not have a survey, you can get one from the church office or complete it online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5NCYFGX> We are grateful to those members who stayed after worship on one of the last two Sundays in September to discuss our vision for the future of Emanuel Lutheran Church. Next the Transition Team will compile your opinions for the Call Committee to use as it searches for our new pastor. If you have any questions concerning the Transition Team, please contact one of the members of this team -- Betty Anderson, Dan Bradshaw, Randy Gilbert, Donna Thomas, and Jean Yake.



The following is a synopsis of the presentation made at the Congregational Meeting regarding the Church's current finances. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Rex Parrott at 740-360-3632.

We created an Emergency Fund in May 2017 in response to the need identified by the Board of Properties for repair of the roof. At one time the estimate was \$500,000 or more for repair and/or replacement.

Where did the funds come from?

- As we had money at the end of each year which was in excess of expenses, that excess was moved into the Emergency Fund.
- We had donations to this fund directly.
- As undesignated gifts to the church came in, those dollars were moved into the fund.
- We had several bequests to the church that were undesignated that we placed into this fund.
- Since the Payroll Protection Loan was forgiven, Emanuel was able to move about \$90,000 of regular giving contributions into the Emergency Fund.

The initial repairs to the church roof were \$102,423, and we still owe \$25,100 on this project when it is finally completed.

The quote to repair the Bell Tower is \$183,160. A deposit has been made and we still owe \$122,400. Work has yet to begin on this project.

After all the bills are finally paid, we will have about \$38,000 in the Emergency Fund, but we know we still have more expenses coming.

- We know we will have to make repairs to the interior of the church, the temporary painting job was just to look presentable for the Rave memorial service.
- We also know we have repairs to the Boiler system that extends to the lounge and library.

Since these two projects alone will likely deplete this fund, the Board of Finance and the PPC are both recommending a change to the Hollensen/Dennis Fund and this change was approved at the Congregational Meeting.

Currently this fund was to be used for: Missions, Visitation Pastor's salary, ELCA College scholarships, and Local Benevolence. It began with a principal balance of \$77,480 and was not a fund designated by the donor. The uses were established by the congregation and can be changed by the congregation. The approved recommendation was that the use of the interest only (the principle will remain untouched) would be for any uses as approved by the PPC. This would free up about \$115,000 for unknown emergencies.

The Church is doing well this year financially, but a concern is that Regular Expense giving is down about 8% YTD from last year. This will be monitored closely.

Thanks, Rex Parrott --- Treasurer

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" -Matthew 19:14



Preschool at Emanuel Lutheran is off to a great start! The 2021 school year began in September and students are busy learning everything from their ABCs to months of year!

Additionally, this fall our Family Ministry Coordinator, Mrs. Rinker, started a story time program with both the Emanuel Preschool and Child Care classes. She is sharing stories and materials from Sunday School lessons.

Speaking of Sunday School...We were beyond thrilled to invite children back to in-person Sunday School this year during the 9:15 hour! Service projects are underway, Blessing Bags are being put together for Students Experiencing Homelessness, and plans are in the works for a Christmas Program! The Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th at the 9:15 service. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or the Christmas Program, please reach out to Mrs. Rinker.



Church Directory Update – ADDITIONAL PHOTO DAY!

What a wonderful turnout we had for our directory pictures in August. 114 families took advantage of the late summer date. Now, for those of you who couldn't work those dates in your schedule we will be taking pictures again on Tuesday, November 16 from 2pm to 8:30 pm. You may schedule on the studio website at Church code: 0823, Password: photos, or call the church office.

If you wish to submit your own picture, please get it to the church office by November 16. If it is a professional photo and the studio is still in business you will need to sign a release form.

From the Social Ministry Board.....an update on the Laundry Initiative.

Did you know it currently costs roughly \$4.00 to wash a load of laundry at the laundromat? Then of course there is the drying of that same load. It can get expensive fast. To help address the need in the Marion community we would like specific help from the congregation over the course of the next 3 months. Participate in as many of the activities as you like or are able; there is something for everyone to do.



In September we met our goal for collecting detergent and fabric softener! Thank you to everyone who dropped off supplies. **In November please collect your quarters or dollars that will be used to purchase cards that feed the washing machines.** Deposit your collected monies by the end of November in the box found in the Gathering Space. Third, in the month of December consider volunteering four hours of your time to help the Social Ministry Board provide free washers and dryers to those doing their laundry at one of Marion's laundromats. Questions can be directed to any member of the board; Carolyn Bailey, Cindy Schifer and Barb Russo, director. Thank you so much for your generosity and for sharing with those less fortunate in our community.



2021 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.

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

We will contact our church shut-ins to make sure that they have plans for Thanksgiving and 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.

In 2020 we had less than 10 people who needed a meal. Most of Emanuel's shut-ins were blessed to have family or friends who made sure they either had someplace to go or made sure they got a meal delivered to them.

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, so we will not need food or supplies donated, however, monetary donations to the Thanks & Giving fund are always appreciated.

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.



THANK YOU to everyone that was able to attend Emanuel's Ice Cream Fellowship on Sunday, August 15th. We believe that a very fun and safe time was had by all. Special thanks to Bruce Showalter for the very delicious homemade ice cream. Thank you to the Board of Fellowship (Rosalyne Rush, Vonda Riddle, Debbie Phillips, Daryl Kraner and Matt Primmer) for hosting the event and for the homemade treats. Also, thanks to Ed Stofcheck for the cookies and popcorn. Kudos to Daryl for the games both outside and inside (especially the Bible Bingo and all of the fun and useful prizes – also thanks to Kathy Sherman for displaying and delivering the prizes!)



Emanuel LGBT Fellowship Group

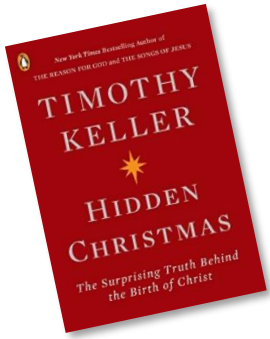
2021 - Tentative Schedule
Second Sunday Each Month at 6:00 p.m.



October 10th
November 14th
December 12th



We will be evaluating the Covid-19 situation each month to see if we need to cancel any meeting. If we are able to meet, these meetings 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, and you have been fully vaccinated, you are welcome to attend. Questions: email at LGBT.Emanuel@gmail.com, calling or texting 740-262-2655 or calling the church office at 740-383-2184.



Hidden Christmas, by Timothy Keller, will be the subject of a book study to be held on Mondays at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm on November 1, 8, and 15. We will meet in the Gathering Space. The book (which is a small book and only 141 pages in length) will be made available to you free of charge through the generosity of a Thrivent Grant. You can sign-up for the study and pick up your book beginning Sunday, October 3.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast continues on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We meet at the Marion Diner at 7:15 and study the week's gospel lesson. All are welcome.

A Midweek Devotion is posted on our Facebook page every Wednesday morning. The Morning Prayer from the ELW is used and a short lesson regarding the upcoming gospel lesson is presented. These devotions, along with our Sunday worship services that are streamed, remain on our Facebook page and can be watched at your convenience.

First Communion instruction will resume with one session on Sunday, October 10, from 1:00 to 2:30. This class is intended for any child pre-kindergarten through sixth grade who has not received instruction about Holy Communion. One adult needs to accompany each student also. See Pastor Mark or Deacon Kevin if you have questions.



Confirmation Class has begun meeting during the Sunday School hour. The class will be meeting with Deacon Kevin on October 10, November 7, 14 & 21. This class is for seventh and eighth graders. This year we will be studying The Small Catechism. Dates for 2022 will be announced in December.

Confirmation for Madison Hill, Riley Jolliff, Kylie Mitchell and Mackenzie Pryor will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 31 during the 10:30 worship service. Please keep these young ladies in your prayers as they affirm their baptisms.

Shut-in visits have resumed. Please call us if you would like a visit.



Worship Announcements

- Consecration Sunday is October 10.
- Reformation Sunday is October 31. Confirmation at the 10:30 worship. Holy Communion will be celebrated at all services.
- All Saints Day is November 7--Daylight Savings Time also ends.
- We have Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 on November 24. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
- Sunday School Christmas Program is during the 9:15 service on December 5.
- December 19 is the farewell service for Pastor Mark. One service at 10:30.
- Christmas Eve services are December 24 at 8:15 and 10:45.
- On December 26 we will celebrate with Lessons and Carols, one service at 10:30. No Communion.



October & November Birthdays

Frank Fanello will celebrate his 94th birthday October 24th

Donna Longberry will celebrate her 91st birthday October 29th

Bob Ferguson will celebrate his 99th birthday October 30th

Don Hall will celebrate his 93rd birthday November 3rd



**Don't forget to set your clocks
back on November 7th!**

Contact the church office if you would like addresses to send birthday cards.
They are also printed in the weekly bulletins.

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

***Return Service Requested.**

Prepared Especially For:



Love

the Lord your God
with all your HEART
and with all your SOUL
and with all your MIND
and with all your STRENGTH.

Mark 12:30, ESV

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