

August 2025

The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Find us on Facebook!

Church Staff:

Pastor Michael L. Poole Jr.

Parish Deacon Ann Thomas

Administrative Assistant:

Ashley Koehler

Children's Ministry

Coordinator: Cindy Rinker

Financial Secretary:

Stacy Hoch

Child Care Director:

Abby Chase

Maintenance & Contract

Administrator: Jim Anderson

Door Attendants:

Brian and Christy Penrod

Pat Thomas, Rob Valentine

Organist:

Paul Burnside

Assistant Organist:

Sandra Becker

Praise Team Director &

Multimedia Technician:

Teri Turner

Emanuel Choir Director:

Steve deWeber

Emanuel Bell Choir Director:

Carolyn Fox

Held All Things in Common

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts of the Apostles 2:41-47

This passage is the end of the Pentecost story in Acts. We see that the believers came together for worship, instruction, fellowship, and service to all. This is the ancient church. They gave up everything and became one community for the sake of the Kingdom. They sold their possessions and held all things in common. Belonging to the Kingdom of God meant giving up their individual life and desires, to have a life and desires that were held in common with all who believed.

Why do we think that we have individual possession of anything in the church? We use the "my" language quite a bit. We desire to exert our own control over what is not ours to control. What the ancient church teaches us is that living in Christian community means we need to learn to share, and work together, realizing everything belongs to the Kingdom. Everything belongs to God.

Take some time to reflect on how we are trying to hold onto things for ourselves. Then work toward releasing what isn't truly ours. We should be working together for the Kingdom, not trying to divide ourselves over our own feelings.

We do this because God has commanded us to make sure that all that is God's is shared with all people. Our work in the Kingdom is to distribute God's work to all, whenever they have need.

Peace

Pastor Mike

Scripture Reading: John 5:1-9

Jesus went to the pool of Bethesda where there were crowds of sick people. The blind, lame and paralyzed people lay on one of the 5 porches. There was one man who had been sick for 38 years. Jesus asked him "Would you like to get well?" The man told Jesus that he had no one to help him get into the pool when the water was stirred up. Jesus told him to "stand up, pick up your sleeping mat and walk." The man was instantly healed.

Throughout history there have been pools, springs and rivers where people have gone to take advantage of the healing properties of water. There have been stories of people who have experienced the miracle of healing in those places. All of us have experienced times when we have been ill. For some of us it has only lasted a few days and for others it may be years that you are dealing with ill health. You have to admit that there are times you wish Jesus would lay his hands on you, say "get well, pick up yourself and walk. Then you would be able to be instantly healed.

Romans 5 says "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us. They help us to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us and character strengthens our faith. And this expectancy will not disappoint us. For we know how clearly God loves us because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with love." We are to rejoice in our experience no matter how long the illness may last. It helps us develop patience and compassion. We have to stop our activities and seek to commune with our creator. We have to learn to depend on God. We have to learn to allow others to use their talents to help us. We have to give others an opportunity to care for us.

We need to thank Jesus when healing happens. Then we need to find a way to help others. There will come a time, "He will remove all of their sorrows and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever." (Rev 21:4) When illness lingers, we continue to develop patience and worship God moment by moment. We continue to rejoice in our baptism with water and the Holy Spirit. We continue to discover His presence in our lives. We continue to have hope.

A Note from Don Davis

You have seen the notice in the bulletin and newsletter to excuse the dust in the kitchen and sound system upgrades.

For a week, we had more dust than anticipated, as the underground sewer repair took on the loud noise of a jack hammer and concrete saw. You can see by the looks of the kitchen and hall as to the extent of all that commotion. How long we have had a broken sewer is unknown, yet all is in working order now.

I cannot tell you how blessed the kitchen work has been with the dedication Emanuel has with the group of men who have spent several Saturdays repairing the floor, installing new ceiling tile, and hanging new wall covering materials.

These volunteers and all the other helpers have shown the bonding, friendship, and dedication to the life and future of our church. Each person bringing their own level of expertise, talent, and joy as the kitchen project has progressed. Each Saturday, the 'work crew' came into the kitchen with a smile and left with a smile with the thought of being there for the Kingdom and not to mention the money saved with the volunteer help.

Another Saturday or two will finish the work and the rest will need to be contractors providing the flooring and countertop finishes.

Once the kitchen is finished, please stop by and see it shine!

Photos from the July 13th Ice Cream Social!

Thank you to the board of fellowship for hosting this fun event!



Youth Sunday School News

We will be back in the classrooms on September 7!

Ages 4 through 5th grade will meet in the Sunday School classroom on the 3rd floor. Grades 6 and up will meet in the 1st floor lounge. Those students in the 5th grade may choose which class they attend.

We have openings for Sunday School leaders and helpers in both classes. Would you be willing to lead or assist a class 1-2 times per month? The curriculum is provided for you. Please call Cindy Rinker at 740 225 8068 if you might be interested or have any questions.

There will be an organization and support meeting for teachers and helpers on August 27 at 7:00 P.M. in the 1st floor lounge.

Sunday Book Study

The adult book study group will meet on Sunday, August 10th at 10:00a.m. and then resume weekly meetings in September. The book they will be discussing is *The Listening Life : Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction* by Adam S. McHugh.

Thursday Book Study

The Thursday book discussion group completed their study of the book "The Exvangelicals" on Thursday July 24th. We will not be meeting in August but will resume our weekly discussions on Thursday, September 4th in the Martin Luther room from 11:30-12:30PM. We will be discussing the book "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver. Please purchase a copy and join us for some interesting discussions on how missionary work sometimes fails do to lack of understanding cultures and social, political and geographical climates of those we are trying to reach.

Guests in Worship

On Sunday August 24th, the Rev. Mary Ann Siefke, the Director of Congregational Engagement and Advancement for Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, will be with us to Preach at both services. Rev. Siefke will be available during the education time for conversations.

On Sunday August 31st, we will have a representative of Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative (www.hlcsc.org). They will give us a mission moment and will be available during the education time for conversation.

Back to School Blessings – Saturday, August 2nd from 12pm-2pm

This event will be here before we know it and we need your help to make it a success. A sign-up sheet will be in the gathering space listing different ways that you can help. There are set up and tear down teams, manning stations and handing out items teams, prayer teams and food teams. You can stay for part of the event or the entire event. The more the merrier. If you can't physically show up and help, we need your prayers for a successful day. Let's cheerfully support our community with prayers for a successful 2025-2026 school year and needed resources.

Transition Team Update:

The transition team is continuing to meet. We are making progress discussing options for the future of ministry at Emanuel and are excited about what's coming.

A lot is going on at Emanuel these days! Renovation projects, ministry opportunities, worship, and more...If you have questions about anything going on, please reach out directly to one of our board of directors. They are here to help keep everyone on the same page and make sure we're sharing accurate information. Here is a list and contact information for our current Parish Planning members:

Don Davis, President – don.davis.186@gmail.com
Glen Campbell, VP – glencampbell1220@gmail.com
Betty Anderson, Secretary – andrsnjb@gmail.com
Terry Rakow, Treasurer – tlrakow@hotmail.com
Donna Thomas, Social Ministries – dmthomas047@gmail.com

Jennifer Valentine, Fellowship – jennylaird1971@yahoo.com
Steve Laird, Education – slaird11@twc.com
Sue Rakow, Learning Center – serakow@hotmail.com
Kathy Sherman, Finance – ladykilowatt@yahoo.com
Brian Barger, Communications – brianb14@yahoo.com
Judy Lehner, Spiritual Life - judylehner@gmail.com

Church Mouse

I've started seein' these stickers popping up around my hiding places. They say, "Property of GOD!" I heard a conversation in the snack room one time.... A person said, "Who put that stupid sticker on my thing??" The other person said, "I don't think it is stupid. I think it was put on so that we remember that everything belongs to GOD. Especially in the church. It's bought with church money for church use, how can you say its, yours..... It's the Property of GOD!"



**Property of:
GOD**

Faith Journeys

We will have a gathering to start this year's Faith Journey Confirmation on Sunday August 17th, between the two worship services. If you have a youth that you would like to begin the Faith Journey process of Confirmation, please join us on 8/17.

Upcoming Events

Informational Gathering	August 17, 2025 between worship services
Confirmation Retreat	September 26-27 (at HopeWood Pines)
Confirmation Retreat	TBA (March 2026 at HopeWood Pines)
Confirmation Camp	TBA (June 2026 at HopeWood Pines)

Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

In looking through old binders of board minutes, I ran across the Board of Social Ministries' minutes from November 5th, 1997. In those minutes, board member, Mary Click, reported that the Soup Suppers at the Episcopal Church were going smoothly. The pastor of the Episcopal Church was having a meeting with the volunteers, of which Emanuel was a part. He stated to the volunteers that the soup suppers had been in existence since 1984. Those meals were served on the second Tuesday of each month. As you all know, the Episcopal Church is no longer in the building on E. Center Street. When Covid hit in 2020 everything shut down and the meals stopped. In fact, everything came to a stand-still. Last year, the meals started again, which we now call the Community Meal at Emanuel on the second Thursday of each month headed by Janet Musser.

In that same binder of minutes there was a Job Description that had been written for the Parish Nurse position. As I wrote in the July Newsletter, Carol Cumber was hired on a part time basis to fill the job as Parish Nurse of Emanuel.

Carol's duties were as follows: The Parish Nurse is expected to participate in the life and activities of the congregation as a member of the church ministry team. Her duties included health education, personal health counseling, integration of faith and health, volunteer coordination, participate in Parish Nurse support group and education programs, all records to be kept confidential and maintained in secure files, and act as a clinical resource for church volunteers who want to help with Christian caregiving within the church community as well as the surrounding community. Carol visited our members in the hospital and followed up with each person when they were released from the hospital. She was a great asset to Emanuel's ministry. Many of you had your blood pressure taken by Carol on Sunday mornings when she was our Parish Nurse.



Perry Brammer,
Building Superintendent



Abby Chase,
Learning Center Director

I read in the January 7, 2003 minutes of the Board of Properties that Perry Brammer was hired as the new Building Superintendent. His duties would start January 13, 2003. Many of you may remember Perry.

As I was looking through the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held Sunday, May 4, 2003 I noticed that the Child Care of Emanuel had only a committee that met and gave committee reports. At that meeting it was voted to add Child Care to our Constitution and established a Child Care Board with a Board Director and members of the board. The Childcare Board Director, now the Learning Center Director, still reports to Parish Planning Council. While reading through minutes, I remembered that Abby Chase became the Director of our Childcare in 2000. This year is Abby's 25th year as the Director of our now Early Learning Center and Preschool. Emanuel is so blessed to have such continuity for the children and their families.

In the Board of Properties Minutes from July of 1998 the board was discussing whether to buy the United Brethren Church to the north between Emanuel and the Prospect United Methodist Church that was for sale. In November of 1999 Emanuel had bought the church and then the discussion was to keep the church and expand over to Emanuel or to tear the church down. There were many pros and cons listed in the December minutes of the Board of Properties. Many things to be repaired or replaced to use the building. It was decided that the cost to purchase the church and do all the repairs would be around \$600,000.00. In everything I have read about the United Brethren Church it was referred to as the old stone church.

Also, at 1998 the Board of Properties meeting they discussed the many projects that were currently in progress at Emanuel and some that still needed addressed. The total for the repairs that Emanuel needed was approximately \$344,000.00. After all the discussion and research through the Board of Properties at the same Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, May 4, 2003 it was brought before the Emanuel Congregation as to what the congregation felt about expanding our present church to include the church next door or tear it down. The subject had already been presented to Parish Planning Council that if we chose to update that building, close the alley on the north side of the church, and connect the buildings it would cost a lot of money (as I stated above). Those of you that were at that meeting will remember that considering the pros and cons of renovating the other church or tearing it down. It was the consensus of the congregation to return

the project back to the Building Committee for further study based on questions and recommendations received at that meeting.

As we know today, the decision was made to tear the church down and it is a green space where we have a playground for the children of our Early Learning Center and Preschool and we also use it for outside functions at Emanuel. You can see that it took a few years to get all the information together to make an informed decision.



I talked with Allan Geyer recently because he had been on the Board of Properties at the time when a lot of the discussion was going on about buying the church. He told me that when the decision was made to buy the church some of the items in that church that were kept were the organ, pews, and the church bell, to name a few. A lot of the items from the church were sold and our congregation had a chance to look through the items that could be bought.

Allan also told me that I should talk with George Click because if he remembered correctly George has the church bell from the old stone church. Many of you remember George Click, he was a member of Emanuel for many years. I called George and, sure enough, it is the bell that is in his front yard. I'm sure many of you have seen the bell and not known where it came from. I didn't know and have been to his house many times. George told me that there is a plaque in memory of his grandfather which reads: In memory of Albert U. Click 1879-1950. When I was talking with George, I figured there had to be a connection between the United Brethren Church and his grandfather. He told me that his grandfather was a member of that church and was on the building committee when the United Brethren Church was built. After talking with George, I read further through the minutes of the Board of Properties at Emanuel and read in the minutes of December 6, 2005 that also states that George's grandfather was on the building committee of the United Brethren Church. The bell reads: Cast by G.W. Coffin and Co., Buckeye Bell Foundry, Cincinnati and dated 1853. George told me that he knew the bell had been sold 3 times by the time the Church of the Brethren used it.



Old Stone Church Bell

I also was reading through the 125 Year History of Emanuel booklet written in 1999 and it was stated that when Emanuel was started in 1874 services were held in many churches in Marion since we didn't have a dedicated church at that time. In the booklet it states that for a number of years our congregation worshiped in the United Brethren Church on South Prospect Street just north of our present building. That is another connection we have to that church that Emanuel bought.

If any of you have stories to tell about memories or items that you have from the old stone church, please let me know.

More history to come, Alicia

Listen online and on the Radio!

Don't forget, our traditional worship service is broadcast live on WMRN at 9am every Sunday. We also replay the service at 7pm each Sunday. Both services can be watched online through our website or Facebook page.

Steeple Sightings

This month we get to meet...Jen Valentine! Born in Marion and raised in the River Valley school district she played flute in the marching band and worked in the Sutton and Lightner department store before attending Marion Tech and OSU. She now uses her bachelor's degree in the field of social work as an LSW and director of MAPP which has recently moved to Emanuel. (Welcome, MAPP!)



The daughter of Steve and Carol Laird, she was baptized by Rev. Hollensen, has been a life-long member and has served in many areas including the Thanks and Giving dinners, the Board of Education, Fellowship Board director, and fills in as needed for the Sunday School. She has been instrumental in my favorite activities, all of which include FOOD!!! We have benefitted from her work with the ice cream socials, Thanksgiving Eve (aka Pie Church), football kickoffs, food in the Gathering Space, and Mardi Gras gatherings with her specialty being crockpot meals. Occasionally Jen gets a break to pursue her scrapbooking hobby and world travelling. Or at least until the OSU football team takes the field, watching either on television or actually live at the 'Shoe. She even makes time for chauffeuring her daughter to activities and work in a few games of pickleball.

Fortunately, she doesn't have to do it alone---she married Rob in 2009 and they have 2 children, Katy and Austin, who help with the 2 dogs and 5 cats.

To Jen, Emanuel just feels like family and appreciates its inclusive atmosphere. Thank you, Jen, for all your yummy (oops, I mean, GREAT) works.

Blessings to all of you below this steeple. Batina Belfry

Updates from the Special Congregational Meeting

The kitchen project is nearing completion and is well under budget. The main areas remaining to be addressed are the flooring and countertops. Our AV system upgrade is complete and there is a sign-up sheet on the sound board table for those interested in being trained to use the updated system. Any questions, please reach out to Teri Turner.

We approved the synod's updates to our revised constitution and funding for repairs to the parking lot and restoration work around the church building. A quote was not yet available for the heating/AC project, so we did not vote on that.

There was a motion to table the discussion on worship times until the annual meeting in January. This will allow more time to see how the current schedule is working. Additionally, it was shared that the synod recently presented an opportunity to the Transition Team that needs to be considered. The Transition Team planned to meet with PPC to discuss this opportunity directly following the special meeting.

Next Congregational Meeting – Sunday, August 24th

We are holding an additional Special Congregational Meeting to discuss the information from the synod that was presented by the Transition Team to PPC following the previous meeting.

Additionally, we hope to have quotes for the heating/AC project, so that can be revisited.

There will be one service at 9am immediately followed by the Special Congregational Meeting.

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."
– Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)



Each time I read this verse, my heart is drawn to the blessings I've received through our food ministry. It is a true privilege to serve—not just to provide a meal, but to connect with those who come through our doors on Thursday nights. Listening to their stories, many of which are marked by deep challenges and resilience, has opened my eyes and humbled my heart. Every time I leave the church those Thursday evenings, I carry with me a renewed sense of gratitude for how God has blessed me personally through this ministry.

But this work is not done alone. It takes a village, and our village is beautiful. I continue to be deeply moved by the volunteers from our congregation who consistently show up to cook, serve, clean, and care. Their selfless giving of time and talent is the reason this ministry continues to meet such a vital need in our community.

In June, Barb Bosh prepared a meal of beef and noodles, coleslaw, and brownies with ice cream. In July, Tom and Connie Pannett generously provided the entire meal, pulled pork sandwiches, macaroni salad, baked beans, and dessert. Their generosity didn't just feed stomachs, it lifted spirits.

Thanks to these efforts, and the many others who quietly and faithfully serve, we've been able to provide 265 meals in the first six months of 2025.

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome back the Marion City Police Department in August for a community cookout, and Sue Sours and her team will be preparing the meal in September.

To everyone who has served, donated, prayed, or simply shown up, thank you. You are making a difference.

And to those who haven't yet participated, I encourage you to join us. Not only to serve but to sit, eat, and share life with those around the table. All are welcome at our table!

Janet Musser
Community Meal Coordinator

Bridges Approach

When we look at what each of the different socio-economic classes desires to have, we find that those who live in poverty want to have relationships with people. It is connections and relationships that is most important. For the middle class, possessing things is what is desired. And for those who have wealth, their desire is to possess one-of-a-kind objects, legacies, and increasing their own pedigrees.



Ed Baldauf celebrates his 92nd birthday on August 2nd
Peggy Hall celebrates her 93rd birthday on August 6th
Norma Fanello celebrates her 97th birthday on August 9th
Rozella Wilkes celebrates her 91st birthday on August 14th
Bill Lambert celebrates his 90th birthday on August 15th

(Contact the church office for addresses)

Stretch & Pray: September 12-14th at Camp Luther - Come experience a weekend of relaxation and recreation co-hosted by Earth and Cup and HopeWood Outdoors. We will have a special guest to lead you in times of yoga and Tai Chi. Stretch your body and spirit in a relaxing setting of beautiful nature. You will stay in cabins which have a double bed (most have additional bunk beds), toilet, and sink. Visit programs at www.hopewoodoutdoors.org for more info.

>>> August 2025

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1 Waldo Food Distribution 6pm Properties	2 12pm Back to School Blessings
3 9 - EWL Service 11 - Praise Worship	4 10am Bd. of Fellowship 5pm Communication	5 8:30 - Quilters 6pm Praise Team	6 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need	7	8	9
10 9 - EWL Service 10 - Book Study 11 - Praise Worship	11	12 8:30 - Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	13 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need	14 10am Staff Mtg. 4:30 Community Meal	15	16
17 9 - EWL Service 10 - Confirmation Mtg. 11 - Praise Worship	18	19 8:30 - Quilters 1:30 Finance 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires	20 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 9:30 Bible Study 11am Feed the Need 6pm Bd. Education 7pm Sunday School Meeting & Bells	28	29 Learning Center Closed	30
31 9 - EWL Service 11 - Praise Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6



9 REASONS TO REFUSE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC



1 Made from fossil fuels



2 Huge carbon footprint



3 Will still be here in hundreds of years



4 Only a tiny percentage is recycled



5 Leaches toxins into food & drink



6 Causes hormone disruption & cancers



7 Pollutes our oceans



8 Kills marine animals and birds



9 Enters our food chain



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