December 2025 / January 2026

The GOOD NEWS Newsletter

Emanuel

Lutheran Church

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Church Staff:

Find us on Facebook!

Pastor Michael L. Poole Jr. Associate Pastor Ian Boden **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 **Church Custodian: Tabby Keirns Door Attendants: Brian and Christy Penrod** Pat Thomas, Rob Valentine **Organist: Paul Burnside Assistant Organist:**

Assistant Organist:
Sandra Becker
Praise Team Director &
Multimedia Technician:
Teri Turner
Emanuel Choir Director:
Steve deWeber
Emanuel Bell Choir Director:
Carolyn Fox

Making All Things New

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also, he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:1-5

As we enter the Season of Advent, we always begin the liturgical year story by hearing the ending first. God is going to make all things new. That is the promise under which we live. And God promises to always make things new; God promises to continually make things new; God promises to make things new even when we want to keep things the same; God promises to make thing new.

It is a very exciting time here at Emanuel! We are looking at starting a new year of ministry! We have called Brother Ian to be our Associate Pastor! We are looking at developing relationships beyond our walls with other congregations to further the work of God here in Marion County! We are standing on verge of God making things new for the Kingdom here at Emanuel!

New things always takes time to get used to. Change is hard. But we live under this promise that God knows what is best for us; God knows what needs to happen; God knows!

And God promises to always be with us. That is what we have to offer to the world – God is with us – Emanuel! Our very being, the work we do, everything that happens through us is a testament of God's promises to the world.

Peace,

Pastor Mike

Update from the Special Meeting!

At the special congregational meeting on Sunday, November 16th our congregation unanimously voted to call Brother Ian Boden as our Associate Pastor. Ian will begin working in the office on December 1st. His Ordination will take place at his home church, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, in St. Clair, Michigan on Saturday, January 10th at 3:00p.m. and he will have an Installation service at Emanuel on Wednesday, January 14th at 7:00p.m. We welcome Brother Ian to Emanuel!



Brother Ian Boden, OLF

lan is a recent graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University (2025) and holds a BA in Religion from Capital University (2019). He is originally from Columbus, Michigan with family in Ontario, Canada. He is a life professed sibling in the Order of Lutheran Franciscans, an ELCA recognized religious order that is inspired by Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi as they follow Christ's call to rebuild the Church. When lan is not doing churchy things, he can be found reading a book with his cat, camping, and playing board games with friends.

A Note from Brother Ian

New Beginnings and Advent

Greetings!

Advent marks the beginning of a new church year as we prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, more commonly called Christmas. Advent has a special place for me as it goes against the societal pressure of jumping directly to Christmas, it forces us to say, "not yet." It makes us slow down and wait. This little 4-week season is a reminder for us to pause and reflect on what it means that Christ is born for us, and God meets us where we are, even in the manger of a stable.

This year's advent is extra special for me as it is not only my first advent here at Emanuel, but is the start of my time with you all as your Associate Pastor. As we begin this new church year together, it is my hope that we will get to know one another, we will pray for one another, and we will learn from one another as we together passionately share God's love with our community. A love that seeks us out, chases after us, and enters into our humanity.

In this season of advent let us, together, prepare for the birth of the Christ child.

Peace and all Good,

(Almost) Pastor Ian



PD Ann's Corner: Meet Me at the Well

Psalm 46:4-7 "there is a river whose stream makes glad the City of God, the wholly place where the Most High dwells. God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in an uproar, kingdoms fall, He lifts His voice ant the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

There seems to be a never-ending time when nations are in an uproar. Countries are always at war with each other, people are always leaving home to look for a safe place to live, work, and play. Societies are in conflict with each other. Today we are still refusing to accept people who do not look and act like we do. Nature is even in conflict with floods, fires, and drought. The Psalmist reminds us there is a place where water is in abundance and trees produce fruit, there is shelter for everyone and there is safety for everyone. The reason is the Lord Almighty is in the midst of this place.

Revelations 22:1-5 pictures a river flowing from the throne of God and Jesus. Everyone who believes is able to see his face and will have his name on their foreheads. There will be no more night because the Lord God is our light. Everyone will be well watered and there will be adequate fruit. We will spend forever worshipping God. As we end this year at the well, we have God's assurance of being washed clean and sharing in the kingdom of God. Thanks be to God for this promise. No matter our circumstance we can know God is our Metsuda (Me-tsu-DAH) fortress; God presence gives a place of safety and security. May you be aware of God's presence every time you drink a glass of water, take a bath, listen to water flowing down a stream or hear the ocean wave against the shore. Thanks be to God for the time we have had at the well.

When the new year begins, we will start a new series "Praying the Names of God. We will explore the richness of God's name that reveals the nature and character of God and Jesus.

A Message from Don Davis...

We are at that time as my term mas president of our congregation is coming to an end. My tenure includes a year as vice president and two years as president. The two years as president has been a tremendous honor and pleasure to say the least.

I have often thought as we see in the first verses of Hebrews 12, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus the author and perfector of faith." We all should run with endurance the race that is set before us as our Savior will always be with us, if we just let Him.

One of my favorites is Romans 12. Please read all of that chapter as you have time. Starting at verse 9, we read, "Let love be without hypocrisy, abhor what is evil, cleave to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."

We have endured a few bumps over the last couple years with some of those bumps seemingly more like a pretty good hill to climb, yet with many of you helping, we endured, we succeeded and hopefully made Emanuel a better place as we serve our Lord and Savior.

With the tasks before us over the last few years, the guidance some of you provided and maybe a little criticism, we have run the race, a step at a time with a steady pace. We will continue with the work of the church with good leadership from a refreshed Parish Planning Council in 2026.

The excitement of a new Associate Pastor will help fuel the excitement within the walls of Emanuel. We also must look outside the walls and see what opportunities are for us as servants of a living Savior.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your church. May God always have the Glory and all for the Kingdom.

Church Mouse

I was hanging out in the food place, and there was a lot of excitement and conversation about someone's brother! I wanted to take a moment to welcome Brother (soon to be Pastor) Ian. I can't wait to see what you get us into around here!

Book Worm

The liturgical story every year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. The texts for that day is always about the return of Christ. Even recently there has been cultural conversation about the rapture, end of the world, return of Jesus, etc. One of the better books on this topic, from a Lutheran perspective is: "The Rapture Exposed – The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation", by Rev. Dr. Barbara R. Rossing. Dr. Rossing is a New Testament professor at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. This book gives a history on the development of the "rapture theology", discusses the theology biblically, and gives a Lutheran perspective of this theology.

Looking Back with Alicia

I found recently a bulletin from The Northern District of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio, the Seventieth Annual Convention held right here at Emanuel.

The convention went from October 5th to October 11, 1921. Our guest pastors included Rev. R.A. Born from Napoleon, Rev. L.H. Pertner, Bellevue, Rev. W.F. Rose, Fremont, Rev. A.L. Burman, Toledo, Rev. S.W. Mautz, Cleveland and Rev. A.L. Heyde, Attica. The bulletin stated Thursday evening, October 6th there was a discussion about "What Special Avenues of Mission Work are Open to Our Women?" On Friday evening, October 7th a sacred Cantata "Ruth" was performed by Emanuel's Choir and following the service members of the Synod were entertained by Emanuel's Luther League.

I looked up the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and found that the name was adopted in 1850 thus the Seventieth Annual Convention. It was a German-language Lutheran denomination whose congregations were originally located primarily in the U.S. state of Ohio. Later it expanded to most parts of the U.S. It used Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio until 1930 when it merged with the Iowa Synod and the Buffalo Synod to form the first American Lutheran Church. In 1929, just before its merger into the ALC, the Ohio Joint Synod had 768 pastors, 876 congregations, and 166,521 members.

There are several bibles in the church office that I have taken a closer look and found that 3 of the bibles are in German. The first German Bible I found was written in 1855. It has Dr. Martin Luther in the front of the bible with his picture. I looked up the translation of the next 3 words and it says, "In German Interest". It has 2 metal clasps that are broken, I figure the clasps were to keep it closed.

The second German bible is dated 1866 and also has Dr. Martin Luther's name in the front cover. It says Die Bibel which in German means, "The Bible". On the back of the front cover was written with a pen in English, Walter Christian Miller, 381 Forest Lawn Blvd. Marion, Ohio. I figure it belonged to Mr. Miller.

The Third German Bible was written in 1871. It also has the name of Dr. Martin Luther in the front cover and it was printed by King and Baird in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The large English bible I found had the first few pages torn out so I couldn't find a date it was printed. The words, "In loving memory of Mabel Twigg presented by her Sunday School Class, This Bible and Lectern. At the top of the first book of the Bible were the words, "First Book of Moses Commonly Called Genesis. It says it's the American Standard Version. I am still searching for information as to what years Mabel was at Emanuel and something about her family.

I will have these Bibles displayed in the Archive Cabinet for you all to see. They don't look too bad for as old as they are. I looked up the American Standard Version of the Bible and found that it was published on January 1, 1901. It was created by the American Committee of Revision as a minor update to the English Revised Version of 1881. It became a popular version for American readers due to its literal translation style and accuracy.

I also found a book entitled, "That Unknown Country" or "What Living Men Believe Concerning Punishment after Death". The copyright was dated 1888, authored by Lyman Abbott and published by C.A. Nichols. It is a book that delves into the historical beliefs of the afterlife. It has 52 chapters written by mostly Christian pastors from all over the United States and one was from Wales. The country of Wales was founded in 1052.

There is a note in the front of the book saying that the book belonged to William Ackerman, Jr. Many of you will remember Bill Ackerman.

I want to end this year of Newsletter Pieces with pictures of Christmas in the sanctuary of Emanuel. The first picture I have included is of a live nativity in front between the church and the house. I don't remember this but the picture is dated 1955 on the back. You have to look closely because it isn't a very clear picture. Today we have a nativity but we don't use live people.

There is a picture from our present sanctuary in the 1950"s. You can see on the right side there is a part of a cut tree in the chancel. Some of you might remember, there were always 6 cut trees decorated in the chancel, 3 on each side. Also, there were live candles in stands on the choir railings.

The third picture is from our sanctuary like it is decorated today. As you can see we have had poinsettias on and around the altar for many years. I thought it would be interesting for you to see how the decorations have changed over the years.

Altar Guild and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessing in the New Year.

More history in the coming year. Alicia







Updates from The Board of Social Ministries

No Room in the Inn: As part of Aspire Ministries' All is Bright Christmas tour on Dec.13 Emanuel will again present our homeless awareness project called "No Room in the Inn". The display of nativity scenes will be featured in the Gathering Space during the tour. We will be asking Emanuel and the community to share their Nativity Scenes in our display. There will be a "People's Choice" award determined by monetary donations to the Heart of Ohio Homeless Shelter and Turning Point. Both agencies will be present to explain their services. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space to loan your Nativity Scene to the project.

Save the date! Our next Laundry Day will be January 10th! Be on the lookout for more information in the weekly bulletins and sign-up sheets coming soon.

Marion Adolescent Pregnancy Program (MAPP) Focuses on Supporting Families Early

A recent article in the Marion Star highlighted the important work of MAPP, the non-profit that recently moved their offices into Emanuel Lutheran. Long-time Emanuel member Jennifer Valentine is the current executive director. Here's an excerpt:

"The MAPP educators offer different strategies for parents to work with their children through an evidence-based program. The strategies use everyday items in a home or educational aids MAPP provides. With regular developmental screenings, MAPP helps identify delays and offer a parent strategies to help their child hit milestones.



"If we can meet their needs now, they may not need other services later — things like individual education plans or therapy. If we can get there early and make those differences, hopefully they will be better off down the road," Valentine said.

If a delay needs more in-depth intervention, the family is referred to the Marion County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"I love going on home visits and working with these families and these kids and watching them flourish. I never want to see anybody struggling, but when I see the lightbulb go off and all of a sudden, they're a whole different family – it's very rewarding," Valentine said. "Those are the best days."

MAPP has fit right in at Emanuel and we are happy to support this program! To read the article in its entirety visit: https://www.marionmade.org/2025/11/mapp/

Bridges Approach

When we look at what social emphasis each of the different socio-economic class has, we find that those who live in poverty, focus on the social inclusion of people they like. For the middle class, the emphasis is on self-governance and self-sufficiency. And for those who have wealth, the emphasis is on social exclusion.

Children's Choir Mini Session!

Join us to sing in December. A group of youth misses the children's choir and is planning to prepare a song to sing together! They would like any kids/teens who would like to sing with them to join them for practices and the anthem!

Monday, December 8 - 6:00pm practice

Monday, December 15 - 6:00pm practice and party

Sunday, December 21 - 10:45am warm up

Sunday, December 21 - sing during the 11:00am worship service. Please let Phoebe Smith know if you are interested

or have any questions: dandiesgirl@gmail.com

Thursday Book Study

The Thursday Book Study will resume on January 8th at 11:30a.m. The Book for January will be Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them by Liz Curtis Higgs. Participants need to purchase a copy. Everyone is welcome!

Creation Care

The holiday season is upon us! It is a time for thanksgiving, spreading holiday cheer, and unfortunately, creating literal *tons* of waste. In the United States, waste is 25% higher from Thanksgiving until New Year's than any other time of the year. Between our family meals and gift giving, we're tossing food scraps, wrapping paper, gift bags, packaging, single-use decorations, dishes and cutlery - accounting for an extra twenty-five million tons of waste in our landfills.

But there are steps we can take today to reduce this waste and still enjoy our holidays. Use real dishes and real silverware during the holidays. Have a plan for leftovers and compost scraps. Use recyclable wrapping paper. Make holiday decorations from natural materials – pinecones or dehydrated oranges and cinnamon sticks. Handmake gifts or buy second hand. Gift experiences rather than things – a trip to a museum, the zoo, or a movie theater. Ask someone what they really want or *need* instead of mindlessly overbuying things that will end up in the landfill.

So, when you're thinking about the holidays this year, also think about how you can work a little creation care into your celebrations. For even more ideas visit: https://simplifytheholidays.org/

Merry Christmas!











Faith Journeys

We are working with the HERE WE STAND curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. As in previous years, we are encouraging parents and family, congregational leaders as well as all members to join us on this year's journey. We will spend time looking at the Bible with the Here We Stand workbook and the Crossways Bible overview book. There will be a light lunch served. If you are interested in an overview of the Bible, please come. You are more than welcome to purchase the Student Book from Augsburg to join us, or just come and join the conversation.

Here We Stand

Upcoming Events

Sunday April 26, 2026

Sunday December 14, 2025 12noon-2p Here We Stand / Discussion about Christmas Sunday January 18, 2026 12noon-2p Worship

Saturday February 7, 2026 9am-12noon Visioning

Confirmation Retreat March 20-12, 2026 (at HopeWood Pines)

12noon-2p

Sunday May ?? Confirmation of 2nd Year Confirmands

Confirmation Camp June 2026 (at HopeWood Pines)

Epiphany Worship

We will be hosting a collaborative Epiphany gathering on Sunday, January 4th with a meal at 4:30p.m. and worship at 6:00p.m.

This will be a gathering of the Lutheran Congregations in the area as well as the Episcopal Church in the area. We will also open the meal up to the community as well. We are exploring ways for the other congregations to join with us in preparing the meal and the possibility of a joint choir anthem. A variety of pastors will be participating in worship.

We are using this as the kick-off to starting something new for the Kingdom in the Marion area! Please plan to join us!

Steeple Sightings



It's coming! It's coming! And as my Grandma Belfry used to say, "So is Christmas". That's exactly what I mean. The Thanks and Giving feast is over and the many preparations for it were wonderful. Those were the BEST crumbs y'all left for us. Still, I know they didn't just appear out of thin air because I am in the thin air and they weren't here. Our special member this month was very instrumental to its success: Scott Inskeep.

Scott was born in Kenton, Ohio and raised in Belle Center, attending Benjamin Logan High School where his extracurricular interests included football (2 years) and acting (4 years). After graduation he attended the University of Toledo, looking forward to a major in pharmacology and best of all, finding Jesus! After spending time in Florida he returned to Ohio and attended the nursing school at Lima Technology College, now known as Rhodes State. He later worked in Tucson, Arizona and now is into his 31st year, the last 5 of which have been in surgical nursing (2 years) and 3 years as an RN in the Oncology Center at OhioHealth's Marion General Hospital.

In 2007 he met Steve and were married 8 years later. Together they enjoy travelling the world and are eagerly looking forward to their upcoming trip to many sites in Europe, including Croatia, Montenegro, Rome, Italy, and Greece. However, his favorite place is London, England. At home they have 4 rescued dogs.

In his youth he travelled around the country singing at various conventions then opening a catering business with baking as his specialty. At the parties he served not only good food, but singing and lots of fun.

Originally a Baptist, he became a Pentecostal until meeting Steve and became a Lutheran. Now here at Emanuel he has served on the boards of Spiritual Life and Social Ministry, and with Steve runs the sound and video consoles along with ushering duties. Of course, his attention has recently been concentrated on the Thanks and Giving program. Did I mention his cooking classes? De-e-lish!

Scott appreciates Emanuel for its acceptance and activities; and hopes for continued growth through more families and younger people. He considers this church to be a healthy congregation that really loves God!

We all are grateful for your service to God and here at Emanuel.

Blessings to all and to all a good night

P.S. Keep the goodies coming, since it will soon be winter, please.

Scholarship Opportunities

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. The Rita Herbst Scholarship Fund is now available and it is open to any Emanuel member furthering their education in any field or at any educational institution. Applications may be picked up at the church office. The application and other support information are due no later than Monday March 2, 2026 to the chairperson, Rae Andrews at 379 Brightwood Dr., Marion, OH 43302. Rae Andrews, 740-387-5432.

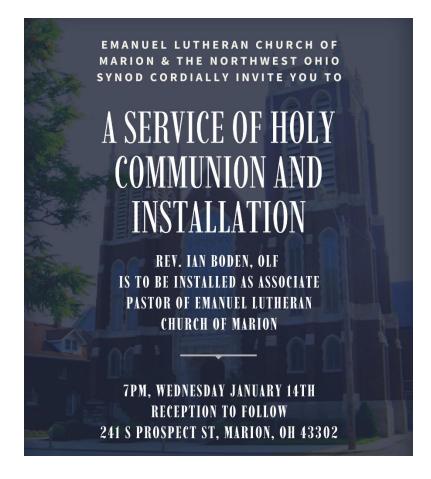


December & January Birthdays

- Robert Brown celebrates his 93rd birthday on December 7th
- Mary Hoover celebrates her 93rd birthday on December 15th
- James Creager celebrates his 93rd birthday on January 7th
- Thirza Shaw celebrates her 96th birthday on January 9th
- Donna Lambert celebrates her 90th birthday on January 13th
- Jerry Emery celebrates his 90th birthday on January 16th



Let's remember everyone with our cards and prayers! Call the church office for addresses.

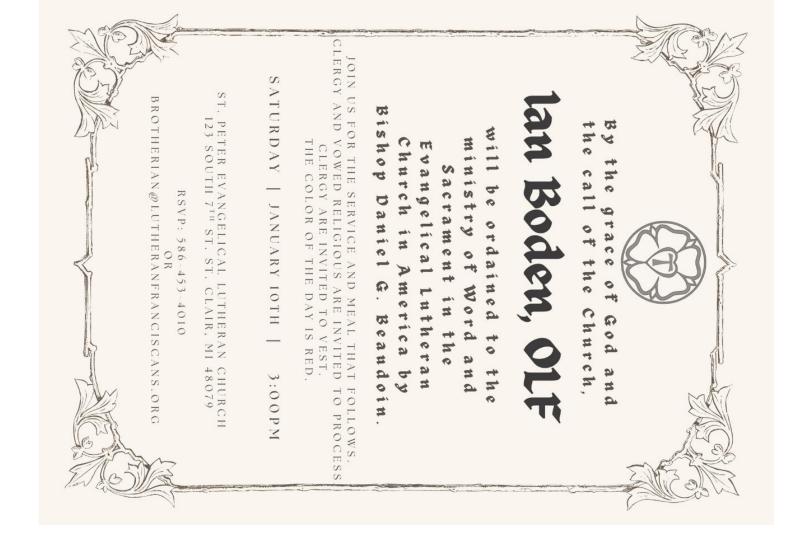


>>> December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	Н	2	3	4	5	9
	Welcome Brother	8:30 - Quilters	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need		Waldo Food Distribution	
	Ian Boden!	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	6pm Loop Troupe	11am Chair Yoga	
7	8	6	10	1	12	13
9 – EWL Service 10 – Education	10am Bd. of Fellowship	8:30 – Quilters	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need 4pm MAPP playdate	12pm Staff Christmas Lunch @ Coopers	11am Chair Yoga	Kris Davidson Memorial 10am
11 - Praise Worship	11:30 Spiritual Life 6pm Kids Choir	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	4:30 Community Meal	6pm Learning Center Christmas Program	Funeral 11am 6pm All is Bright
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 – EWL Service 10 – Education		8:30 - Quilters	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need			
11 – Praise Worship 12pm Faith Journeys	5pm Hour of Prayer 6pm Kids Choir	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells		11am Chair Yoga	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship	7pm PPC Meeting	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	3pm Family Worship 8pm Traditional Worship	Merry Christmas		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9 - EWL Service 11 - Praise Worship		6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires				

>>> January 2026 Goal of the month:

			Transferred	•		
			6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires		10 – Education 11 – Praise Worshin
		11:30 Book Study				9 – EWL Service
		11.30 Rook Shidy	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need	8:30 - Quilters		**Annual Meeting** (time TBD)
31	30	29	28	27	26	25
		ñ	6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires	5pm Hour of Prayer	11 – Praise Worship 12pm Faith Journeys
		11:30 Book Study	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need	8:30 - Quilters		9 – EWL Service 10 – Education
24	23	22	21	20	19	18
			6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires		11 – Praise Worship
		11:30 Book Study	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need	8:30 - Quilters		9 – EWL Service 10 – Education
17	16	15	14	13	12	11
3pm Br. Ian's Ordination (MI)		4:30 Comm. Meal 6pm Loop Troupe	6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires		4:30 Comm. Meal
10am Laundry Day		10am Staff Meeting 11:30 Book Study	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need	8:30 - Quilters		9 – EWL Service 10 – Education 11 – Praise Worship
10	9	8	7	6	5	4
	Distribution	Year!	6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bells	6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionaires		
	Waldo Food	Happy New	9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need	8:30 - Quilters		
3	2	1	31	30	29	28
SATURDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY
					ı	,



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

*Return Service Requested.

Prepared Especially For:

