

May 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

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

## Transition Team

We have appointed a Transition Team to lead us through the beginning process that helps us prepare for moving into the call process to attempt to call the next pastor here at Emanuel. The Transition Team is: Michele Rankin, Glen Campbell, Deb Yeager, Steve Andrews, Amy Vanderhoff, and Zachary Varga. You will start to hear from them as they begin the task of gathering information. Please take a moment to pray for this team, their work, and for Emanuel as we continue this process of transition.

**BE** joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12:12, NIV



## We Are Easter People

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore, God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. -Philippians 2:1-3

We have celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ! We once again proclaim the announcement of Christ's victory. And this is a forever victory. Ever since that first Easter morning, we have been Easter people. There is nothing that can take away Christ's victory. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Easter story. This is why Sundays in Lent do not count towards the 40 days. Because we are Easter People. Even as we came together on Good Friday evening, we knew we would hear the story of Christ's victory on Sunday, because we are Easter People.

Being Easter People means we are called to have the same mind as Christ. We are called to put down our own desires, our own ambitions, our own wants. We are to focus on the work of the Kingdom first, only and always. We are called to place the needs of the Kingdom before our own needs. We are to follow Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the Easter message to the world. We do this because we are Easter People.

Celebrate that we are part of Christ's victory, we are part of the Kingdom, we are part of God's plan. Because we are always and forever Easter People.

Peace,



Pastor Mike

### Do You Believe This?

This year, 2025 is the 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicea, from which we received the Nicene Creed. The Lutheran congregations in the area will be gathering on a monthly basis to have discussions around the Nicene Creed and what we believe to be true. Emanuel hosted the first session. We had a good turnout and a fantastic conversation. For our next session, we will gather on **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 3p-5p at First Lutheran in Upper Sandusky** (601 N Sandusky Ave. Upper Sandusky OH 43351). Come join others to continue this wonderful discussion. Bishop Daniel has made this year the Year of Listening. We are hoping these sessions allow us to listen to what we as Christians of the Lutheran tradition believe and what others might believe as well.

## PD Ann's Corner - Meet Me at the Well

"Uzziah, King of Judah, built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate and at the angle of the wall and he fortified them. He also built towers in the wilderness and dug many cisterns because he had much livestock in the foothills and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil." II Chronicles 26:6-10.

Uzziah was interested in digging cisterns to provide water to the people, livestock and gardens. I looked up how much water is needed daily to maintain life: sheep need 1-2 gallons, goats need 1-3 gallons, horses need 5-10 gallons, cows 30-50 gallons, one grape vine needs 1.3-4 gallons, a man needs 15.5 cups, a woman needs 11.5 cups and a child needs 4-8 cups.

The average rainfall in areas around Jerusalem and the Judean Desert is about 23.2 inches per year which fills five aquifers. Cisterns were built to draw the water for public use. In Ohio we rely on 30-40 inches of rain each year to fill a variety of aquifers in the southwest, south central and east central parts of the state. We have been experiencing stalled fronts that have given us a lot of rain in the last week. As a result, the months of dreary brown earth has started to turn green. The bright yellow of daffodils and forsythia are evident. The green leaves of tulips and the purple of hyacinths are beginning to peer out of the soil. As water feeds the plants we will see other flowers, bushes, and trees bust into color to brighten our days.

Rainbows may be seen as storms pass our area. Sunshine brightens our days as the weather warms our world and us. Some mornings take our breath away as God reminds us that he will always provide growth in our lives. There are times when our problems seem overwhelming. It seems like God has left you alone. Life looks gray and brown and dry. Nothing seems to be happening. All of a sudden there is a small spot of color that starts in the corner of your life. It begins to seep up out of your life and draw and change your outlook. You get a fresh view, a new perspective. Like the cistern that fills with water, you begin to feel life being renewed.

God made the world around you for your pleasure. As the days change take advantage of going out and watching the changes that he is making in the world around you. II Corinthians 5:17 says: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone and the new has come!" God has provided water to refresh the earth. Trust in Jesus to revive you as living, water pours out of him into your life. Rejoice! Sing a song of praise for what he is doing in your life!

Comfort Quilters need flat sheets. They will not use fitted sheets and pillow cases in the future. The reason is it is time consuming to prepare and they do not have the staff to take on the extra work. Ann

## Communion Assistant Gathering

We will have a gathering for all who currently serve as communion assistants, as well as anyone who might be interested in serving as a communion assistant. We will be gathering between services on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Sanctuary. We will briefly discuss the duties of a Communion Assistant. We will talk through what functions communion assistants accomplish during worship. Being a communion assistant is open to people of all ages who are eligible for participation in Holy Communion. The more communion assistants we have, the smaller the commitment is. Prayerfully consider serving.





## Sunday School News

# THANK YOU



Thank you. Thank you. Thank you

Our volunteers made our Good Friday Day Camp a huge success! Pastor Mike and Deacon Ann told us all about The Last Supper and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. We had so much fun singing with Steve DeWeber and he taught us a song he wrote!! We crafted with Sue Sours and Dee Rinehart, and Steve Laird, Jean Smith and Katie Valentine fed us lunch. The Grandmas.....Andrea Ciola and Betty Anderson stuck with us all day along with Sandy Becker. Heather Smith and her helpers gave us quite an Easter egg hunt to finish our day.

I'm so grateful for the help on Good Friday, for the enthusiasm of our kids, the support of our members and for the great weather we had. Eighteen children came to hear about Jesus in those last days and learn what faith, love, and hope mean.

Blessings,  
Cindy Rinker



There will be no Sunday School on May 25. Please join us in June and July for Summer Sunday School. We're going to have some fun lessons, a service project and a couple of picnic breakfasts on the playground. Bring your friends! We will take a break in August ( no Sunday School ) and return to class on September 7th.

## Meet our Confirmands!

**Genevieve Kollas** attends school in Delaware. She plays the flute and is in the jazz band at school. Genevieve also enjoys swimming.

**Phoebe Smith** is home schooled. We know how much she loves all animals, especially her goats and their babies. This past year she participated in the Lion King production at the Palace. Phoebe is a cellist and is also on the YMCA swim team.

**Katie Valentine** is a student at River Valley and is on the soccer team. A lover of horses, she puts in time at the stable. Katie loves to travel and is heading to DC soon with her class. This girl loves warm weather and beaches.

Confirmation will be Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the 9am service.

## Musings from the Church Mouse...

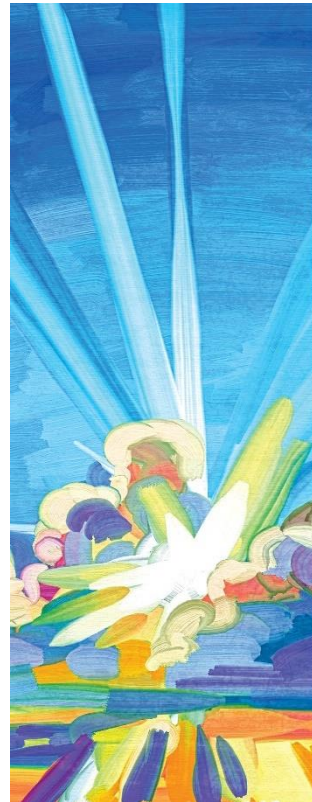
Have you seen that big candle in the sanctuary? What is that thing all about? I started askin' around and found out it is called the Pascal Candle!

Fire has long been a sign of God's presence with God's people. The Old Testament is filled with examples: burning bush, pillar of fire, lamps, sacrificial fires. Early Christians viewed fire as the presence of the resurrected Christ. The Pascal Candle is a symbol of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death. It represents the Risen Christ, the Light of the World. It reminds us that the Risen Christ is present with the people in the here and now, just as Christ promised to be.

Traditionally, the Pascal Candle stays lit continuously through the 50 days of Easter. It is lit on Easter morning (or at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday) and remains lit through Pentecost (the 50<sup>th</sup> Day). In places where this is not practical, it should be lit prior to the peoples' arrival and extinguished after the people have left. After Pentecost it is lit at various times. The Pascal candle is a symbol of our baptism with the crucified and risen Christ. So, the Pascal Candle is lit for all baptisms. It is from the Pascal Candle that the baptismal candle is lit. It is lit when the color of the day is white, signifying a festival of Christ. It is lit during all funerals, as a funeral is a celebration of one's baptismal life. The Pascal Candle may also be lit when the color of the day is red. The liturgical color red signified the shedding of blood for the Kingdom in martyrdom. The Pascal Candle may also be lit at other times at the discretion of the Pastor. The Pascal Candle is different and separate from the Christ Candle at the center of an Advent wreath.

So now you know a little more about the Pascal Candle. I'm just glad it gives me some light to scurry around, picking up all the fruity snacks you all have been leavin'.

See ya' in Church,  
*Church Mouse*



*As long  
as I am  
in the  
WORLD,  
I am the  
LIGHT  
of the  
WORLD.*

*John 9:5*

## Cardinal Chorale

Once again Emanuel is joining with Prospect Street UMC and First Presbyterian Church to host THE CARDINAL CHORALE! This year's concert will be held at Prospect Street UMC on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The Chorale is made up of about 40 talented high school and college age singers, and they always put on a beautiful concert, consisting of a fine variety of sacred and secular choral works.

We are in dire need of host families to house 2 or more kids or adults. They are willing to sleep on beds or couches! You would need to provide bedding, a shower, and a light breakfast in the morning. You would also need to pick them up after the concert and bring them back in the morning.

Monetary donations to help pay for their traveling tour expenses are always appreciated. Checks should be made out to Prospect Street UMC, with "Cardinal Chorale" in the subject line. These may be dropped off at the church office or given to Paul Burnside

Emanuel always turns out to support this wonderful event, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special concert. As always, it is free admission with just a free will offering. Any questions, please contact Paul Burnside.

## Social Ministry Updates



**Bridges Out of Poverty** On Thursday, April 24th, ten members of Emanuel attended the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop. It was a wonderful experience. We have others in the congregation who have been through this program previously. We will begin to implement some of the philosophy and approaches of Bridges into our ministry. Stay tuned for more... "No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship." – Dr. James Comer

The Board of Social Ministry delivered 7 LARGE bags of coats to Leapin' Ministries from our Palm Sunday collection. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

*"Dear Members of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Leapin' Outreach so appreciates your very generous donation of the many winter coats! Many Marion area clients will benefit from your donations. Thank you and God Bless. Nolan Hensel, Director and Marilyn Hottinger, Assistant Director."*



## Communications & Evangelism Updates

**Back to School Blessings** We are again preparing for our Back to School Blessings bookbag event and we need your help. The event will take place on Saturday, August 2. You can help in many ways: 1) Pray for the success of this event. 2) Join the planning committee (see bulletin for planning dates). 3) Bring children's sized socks to church and place them in the container by the elevator. 4) Closer to the event date, bring fresh fruit for the free lunch on the day of the event. 5) Volunteer on the day of the event. Opportunities will be advertised in the bulletin and in future newsletters. Let's make this an event that serves God's people in our community.

## Board of Properties Updates

Items Completed since February 1, 2025

1. Bill Getty installed new sink and vanity in lounge and researched hot water issues In church. Now there is hot water in the whole church.
2. Repairs were made to the fire alarm following an inspection by Koorsan.
3. The large lights behind the altar have been replaced with LED. All ballasts were good.
4. All mercury lights on the exterior of the building were either fixed or replaced with LED's
5. Owen's put in cable to move the large monitor in custodian's office to Abby's office and installed the new call box. Owens' installed the new key pad
6. Durable Slate was in and flew drones over the slate roof and found 30 additional slate that are bad. This is not under warranty because of their age and fragility
7. Approval was given for the purchase of 30 new chairs for the choir room. 7 are paid already by private donation.
8. Hastings Insurance is getting out of insuring churches so they are cancelling our insurance. We are in the process of securing a company.
9. Durable slate is working on a proposal for refurbishing areas in the sanctuary that need fixed as well as the towers.
10. Ford's concrete Restoration and Ohio Valley Restoration are submitting bids for sidewalk repairs, parking lot aprons, stone work on the south glass doors and the east door by the chapel,
11. We had a training session on our thermostats with Gary Wenig. He set them with proper settings
12. Abby asked to do the hall floor on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor like the room flooring at no cost to the church and approval was given.

\*\*\* Anyone interested in donating money toward the building and/or parking lot restoration, is encouraged to donate through the church office.

## Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

I was reminded when reading the February, 1997 Church Council minutes that back then First Communion for children was on Maunday Thursday. I had my First Communion on that day and confirmed on Palm Sunday. I bet a lot of you remember that and maybe had your First Communion and Confirmation on those days.

In the Church Council minutes dated April 8, 1997 it was reported that Donna McElhose had been accepted as the new Director of the Child Care. In the same minutes Pastor Dawn Spalding announced her engagement and upcoming marriage, June 8, 1997. Pastor Dawn and Frank Donato were married during the 10:30 worship service.

Pastor Jones announced that Pastor Wulff and his wife, Ruth, would be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Pastor and Ruth were married at St. James Lutheran Church in Holland, Indiana on June 14, 1947. The congregation celebrated the couple with an Open House Buffet on Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> for their family and the congregation.

On May 4, 1997 there was a congregational meeting held to vote for the new board members for the next year. The new members of the boards would take office the second Tuesday in June. The new constitution and bylaws had been voted on at the Congregational Meeting held January 26, 1997. There were Leadership Seminars so the leaders, board directors and board members that were taking these new rolls would understand what was expected. The training was from Don Abdon, Training and Equipping the Saints. He is the one that came to Emanuel to tell of this new concept for Parish Planning Council and boards. We had a transition team that trained the new leaders in setting goals, writing job description, planning and organizing.

If you remember that is when we changed terminology and added boards. We went from Church Council to Parish Planning Council. The Executive Board in 1997 was follows: President - Ken Stiverson, Vice President - Craig Ciola, Treasurer - Steve Laird, Recording Secretary – Gail Helwig.

Board of Spiritual Life – Director - Bill Barnhart  
Board of Communications – Director – Troy Evans  
Board of Stewardship – Director – Jill Rinker  
Board of Fellowship – Director – Carolyn Parrott  
Board of Evangelism – Director – Jack Bull  
Board of Education – Director – Cindy Rinker  
Board of Properties – Director – Bob Columber  
Board of Social Ministries – Director – Mary Ann Roland

I read in the May 1997 Newsletter that 20 Luther Leaguers and chaperons from Emanuel would be going to Washington, D.C. to attend an evangelism training event held by Youth for Christ being held July 15-20, 1997. Maybe some of you remember that event.

In the June 1997 Newsletter Pastor J. Weston Jones, our Senior Pastor at that time, told about Emanuel's, "Off Site" worship for the summer. We continued with our regular Sunday worship services, but also were given the option of taking a "bit of an outing" to have church. The first was July 13 at Sandusky, Ohio. Anyone wanting to take this option would meet in Sandusky at 7:30 am and get on the Emerald Express, a large Lake Erie cruise ship for a one-hour trip on the lake and an ecumenical worship service. The trip was free because the owners of the cruise ship were members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Sandusky. If you preferred a later service there would be another service that day at 9:30 am in Shoreline Park downtown Sandusky by the water. Pastor Jones was the pastor that would conduct the 9:30 am service. After that service there was a picnic in that park for the people that attended either of those services. The next "Off Site" service was August 10<sup>th</sup> at Mansfield Park and then you could go to the Living Bible Museum. To round out the summer, August 24<sup>th</sup>, the worship service was at O'Shaughnessy Park in Columbus and then went to the Columbus Zoo.

It was announced in the July 1997 Newsletter that after 14 years of directing the Hand Bell Choirs, Marj Hite would be stepping down. They were looking for a new Hand Bell Choir director. Kathy Stroupe stepped in as the director of the Hand Bell Choir. I'm sure many of you remember Marj and you will see Kathy attending the 9A service on Sunday mornings today.



I spoke with Bethany Rice recently. She brought in a box that was given to her with papers titled Little Missionary from 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911 published monthly under the auspices of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and other states. There are stories, for example, Pupils at the Nayudupeta Seminary that was a Lutheran Missionary school in India in 1907. Another story was, "The Miracle of Modern Missions." That was about missions in Korea in 1909. There was also, "Lutheran Child's Paper." It was an illustrated monthly paper for the youth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church by the Lutheran Book Concern in Columbus, Ohio. These papers are from 1907 through 1911. One of the stories in a paper from 1908 was titled, "Little Sermons for Little and Large People." A story dated February of 1909 was titled, "Abraham Lincoln". It tells of Lincoln's faith in God.

There is a paper titled, "Young Folks," dated 1910 and 1911. This is also a monthly paper. It says on the front page, The Lutheran Sunday School Series under the direction of the Sunday-school Committee of the General Council. This was out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There was an ad in the February 1911 edition that shows the Lutheran Coat of Arms that is a badge you could buy as a clasp pin, stick pin or button. Solid gold was \$1.00, plated was 50 cents, and gilt (it is a thin coating of gold that was put over bronze or silver) was 25 cents. The ad stated that this was the official badge adopted by the Luther League of America and was designed from Luther's Coat of Arms.

There are very small one page on front and back pamphlets called "Sunrays" dated 1906-1911 that tell a bible story. It has a scripture verse and then on the back tells the story and the Bible History verses are at the bottom.

There is a bulletin from Emanuel dated May 7, 1911. Rev. Schillinger was our pastor at that time. He tells in the announcements that confirmation was to be held on Pentecost and it was 4 weeks away. It also said that the morning service would be in German and English. That was when Emanuel was at the corner of S. State St. and Columbia.

There were 3 Christmas service books for Sunday school. Two of those Christmas service books (they look like bulletins) had ads for Christmas Post Cards you could buy for 17 cents per dozen. These were from the Lutheran Book Concern in Columbus.

Bethany and I talked about what good condition all these papers are in. I would say there are at least 100 pieces of what she gave me. I will put a sample of each paper in the cabinet for you to see.

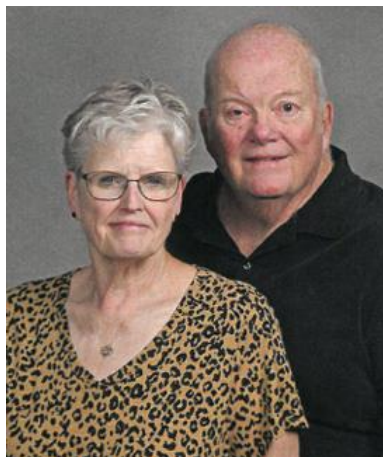
In the April Newsletter I told about Pastor Gordon leaving on a Sabbatical in June of 1997. In the August 1997 Newsletter we learned that Vicar Bill Maki, an intern then from Trinity Lutheran Seminary would be with us for the year that Pastor Gordon would be gone. There was a reception in the church parlors to welcome Vicar Bill, his wife, Carolyn, and their two children, Eric and Heather.

On September 2, 1997 Jessica Clarke became our new Child Care Director. She was installed at the 8 am service on Sunday, October 12. There was a reception between services on that Sunday so everyone could meet her.

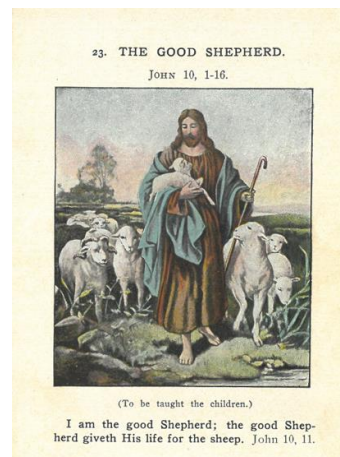
More history to come, Alicia



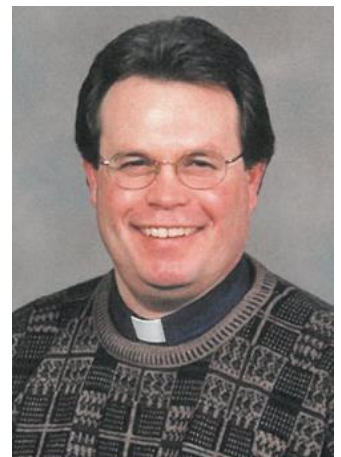
Marjorie Hite



Kathy & Jim Stroupe



Historical pamphlet



Pastor Bill Maki



## Steeple Sightings



EEE-EEE! That's bat-speak for "Woo-Hoo!" So much has gone on this month, my little bat-brain is almost overloaded. There's the new media system, the kitchen renovation, opening up of spaces on the top floors, and more! Now that top floor activity involves my space, but since I don't need a lot of it, I certainly can share, especially for the children. Yep. Gotta take care of the young'uns, and we've got just the right person to do it --- Cindy Rinker.

A Marionite from birth and a Harding graduate, she started her adult life working at Murphy's, took some time off to explore the world,(aka Birmingham, Ala), then returned to work at Peerless Cleaners which changed her life---She met MIKE and married in 1982. She retired after 30 years, having worked in alterations and at River's Edge filling their embroidery orders. They have a son, Brett, and 2 grandchildren.

Although she was raised in the Trinity Baptist family, she joined Emanuel in 1986 and began teaching 4th grade Sunday School. Cindy has always been a leader for our children, whether as Director of the Board of Education, Sunday School supervisor and teacher, youth leader, or Children's Church (ages 3 - 3rd grade for 12 years). She has also provided an aquarium for the Sunday School room. Aside from church activities, our Cindy dabbles in gardening, golf, quilting, birding, and cooking.

As for travelling, Cindy has visited London and various states. She also spends many days as a caregiver for her brother.

One of the best lessons she has learned since her transfer to Emanuel is that God is a loving God, not one to be afraid of.

Yes. Mrs. Rinker, He is and we are blessed to have you passing this knowledge of His love to our next generation. Thanks be to Him!

And Blessings to all of you!  
Batina Belfry

Happy Birthday to you!



5/3 – JoAnn Blank celebrates her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday  
5/16 – Shirley Jerew celebrates her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday  
5/19 – William Van Riper celebrates his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday  
5/23 – Dick Bryson celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
5/30 – Donna Key celebrates her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday

Let's remember JoAnn, Shirley, William, Dick and Donna with our cards and prayers!

## Faith Journeys

Sunday June 1 at 9am worship – confirmation of three of our confirmands – Phoebe Smith, Genevieve Kollas, and Katie Valentine.

June 22-27 – Confirmation Camp at HopeWood Pines at LMC

## New Book Study Beginning this month!

Thursday Book Discussions will begin again on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:30 PM. This sessions book will be *The Exvangelicals: Loving, Living and Leaving the White Evangelical Church* by Sarah McCammon. We will be exploring the growing social movement of people leaving the church and gain insight into why they leave and how to go about bringing them back. Everyone is welcome, so purchase a copy and join us for some great discussions!

Laurie Wise

About the book: Part memoir, part investigative journalism, this is the first definitive book that names and describes the post-evangelical movement--identifying its origins, telling the stories of its members, and examining its vast cultural, social, and political impact.



The Emanuel Early Learning Center Parking Lot Sale is coming! The Learning Center is planning to host their Community Parking Lot Sale on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9a.m. – 2 p.m. Space is available to rent for \$20/table. You set up items of your own to sell and keep the profits from your table. Refreshments will be available the day of for purchase as well. Please plan to stop out and support our Learning Center by shopping, eating, or selling!

## PARKING LOT



To benefit Emanuel Early Learning Center

**Saturday, May 10, 2025**

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Creation Care

April showers bring May flowers! As we near Ohio's last frost date, many people are starting to plan their summer gardens! This is a perfect opportunity to look for ways to care for God's creation.

One easy way is to consider Native plants for your flower bed. Native plants play a crucial role in our local ecosystems by providing necessary food and shelter for birds, native bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. Many native species have coevolved to depend on specific native plants for survival. For example, without milkweed you would not have monarch butterflies. Also, once established, native plants require less water and fertilizer than non-native plants.



The best part? Many beautiful, native Ohio flowers are perennial! What are perennial flowers? Flowers that you plant once and they come back year after year! Below are a few perennials that add beauty to any flowerbed.



*Purple Coneflower*



*Blazing Star*



*Butterfly Weed (a type of Milkweed)*



*Bee Balm*

## *A Message from the Director at HopeWood Ministries:*

On April 15, 2025, the Trump administration's DOGE ceased operations for the AmeriCorps NCCC program, demobilizing more than 700 young adults currently serving across the United States of America. You might know that NCCC volunteers were incredibly helpful in 2024 clearing and extending the trails at HopeWood Pines, as well as connecting these trails to multiple community access points. AmeriCorps had contracted with us to send a new team of 11 volunteers to spend most of May and June with us as well. The elimination of this program means we will not benefit from this work. This sudden action by DOGE will have a direct and negative impact on our preparedness for summer programs in 2025, as well as our capacity for growth.

Though this certainly hurts the programs and people of HopeWood Outdoors, our main concern right now is with those hundreds of young adults whose future was just disrupted. Rather than spending months serving our country, they've been sent home with little more than a 24-hour warning. Our mission at HopeWood Outdoors is to faithfully inspire people to embrace their callings in creation and community. Rather than focus on our loss, we are called at times like this to live into our mission in ways that meet urgent needs, like those of the affected AmeriCorps NCCC members.

In that light, we are offering seasonal positions to any NCCC volunteer whose service was halted by DOGE. This includes possibilities for camp counselors, as well as support staffing positions like cooks, maintenance, and lawn care. Seasonal work at HopeWood Outdoors includes lodging, food, and a \$400 a week stipend while serving at one of our sites in Ohio, HopeWood Pines (north of Columbus) and HopeWood Shores (east of Cleveland), as well as through day camps deployed across the state through HopeWood Connect. Since active NCCC members were already rigorously vetted and background checked for work with the public, including children, we are confident that this offer is in the best interests of HopeWood campers as well. Through this opportunity, people can continue to embrace their callings despite such a major life disruption. It is one way that we at HopeWood can live out our mission and meet a critical need for young people who planned to live this year in creation and community.

If you know someone who was directly impacted, please send them this message and invite them to reach out directly to Taylor Mason, Program Director at HopeWood Pines: [taylor@hopewoodoutdoors.org](mailto:taylor@hopewoodoutdoors.org).

If HopeWood Outdoors isn't the right fit or Ohio is too far away, we also coordinating with other camps from coast to coast who share this commitment to young adults and are choosing to make similar work offers. You can DM our social media accounts or email Taylor for the most up-to-date information regarding other opportunities for recently demobilized NCCC team members.

For HopeWood community members who want to help in this trying time, consider the following:

- Contact your elected officials and let them know how this decision is negatively impacting you along with people and places that you love.
- Pray for the AmeriCorps NCCC program and the people affected by this decision, as well as the programs and staff of HopeWood Pines, HopeWood Shores, and HopeWood Connect.
- Register for the HopeWood Pines work weekend on April 25-27 to help prepare for summer.
- Volunteer at other times at HopeWood Pines and HopeWood Shores.
- Donate to the Melissa Hurl Counselorship Fund to help cover costs for any AmeriCorps NCCC team members who join our staff.

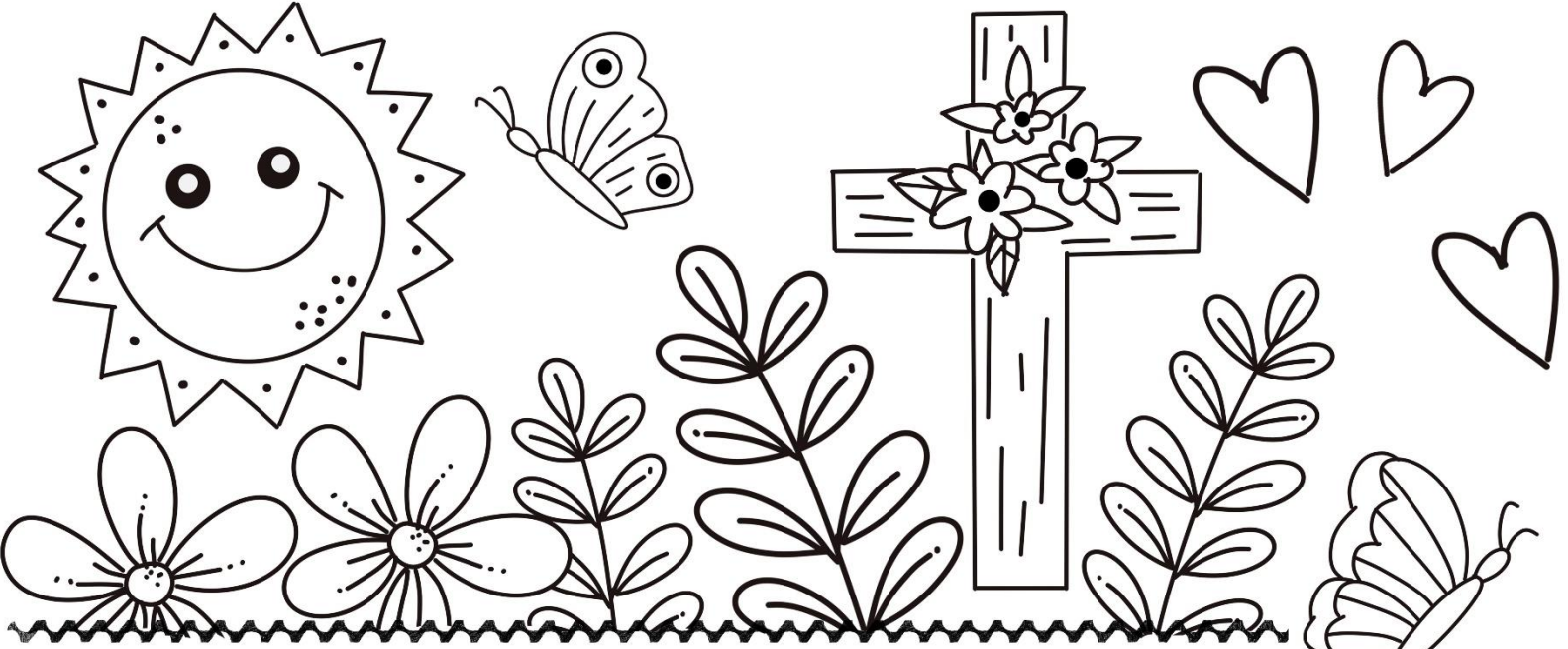
As we have done for more than 80 years, HopeWood Outdoors will persevere in the face of this change. God has called us for such a time as this, and we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Together, we will evolve to meet the needs of our changing world.

In gratitude for you,  
Drew Tucker, Executive Director

# >>> May 2025

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                        | SATURDAY                  |
|--|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 27   | 28   | 29   | 30  | 1  | 2                             | 3                         |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7   | 8  | 9                             | 10                        |
| 9 - EWL Service<br>10 - Education<br>11 - Praise Worship<br>12- Mutual Ministry<br>1 - Joyce Memorial<br>6pm Luther League | 5pm Bd. Comm. Mtg.<br>6pm Luther League                  | 8:30 - Quilters<br>5pm Preschool Self Defense Class<br>6pm Praise Team<br>7pm Marionnaires | 9:30 Bible Study<br>11am Feed the Need<br>6pm Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm Bell Rehearsal | 10am Staff Meeting<br>11:30 Book Study<br>11:30 Spiritual Life Meeting | Waldo Fresh Food Distribution | Parking Lot Sale<br>9-2pm |
| 11   | 12   | 13   | 14  | 15   | 16                            | 17                        |
| 9 - EWL Service<br>10 - Education<br>Confirmation Practice<br>11 - Praise Worship<br>6pm Luther League                     |  | 8:30 - Quilters<br>6pm Praise Team<br>7pm Marionnaires                                     | 9:30 Bible Study<br>11am Feed the Need<br>6pm Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm Bell Rehearsal | 11:30 Book Study<br>12pm Learning<br>Center Graduation                 |                               |                           |
| 18   | 19   | 20   | 21  | 22   | 23                            | 24                        |
| 9 & 11 Worship<br>10 - Education & Comm. Assistant Mtg<br>12 Transition Team<br>3 - Nicene Gathering<br>6pm Luther League  | 5pm Hour of Prayer                                       | 8:30 - Quilters<br>1pm Finance Bd. Mtg<br>6pm Praise Team<br>7pm Marionnaires              | 9:30 Bible Study<br>11am Feed the Need<br>6pm Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm Bell Rehearsal | 11:30 Book Study   |                               |                           |
| 25   | 26   | 27   | 28  | 29   | 30                            | 31                        |
| 9 - EWL Service<br>10 - Education<br>11 - Praise Worship<br>6pm Luther League  | <b>Memorial Day</b><br>Learning Center and Office Closed | 6pm Praise Team<br>7pm Marionnaires  | 9:30 Bible Study<br>11am Feed the Need  | 11:30 Book Study   |                               |                           |





He is not here; he has



Luke 24:6, NIV



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

\*Return Service Requested.

Prepared Especially For:



**2025 BOOMER & SENIOR EXPO**  
Friday, May 23rd | 11am-2pm

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**  
Food Truck offering free lunch menu  
Ice Cream social  
Door Prizes

50+ vendors  
Lots of give-a-ways  
Noon Ceremony honoring our Hometown Heroes

LOCATED AT: KINGSTON RESIDENCE OF MARION  
464 JAMES WAY, MARION, OH 43302

**KINGSTON RESIDENCE of MARION**

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**MARION HOMETOWN HERO**