

September 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

Updates from the Special Congregational Meeting August 24, 2025

Following worship, the congregation held a special meeting to discuss a heating/AC project, as well as to establish a call committee for the purpose of calling an associate pastor.

The total estimate for the heating and cooling project was presented at \$210,595 and was approved by the congregation. This will include re-piping the boiler system, adding clean out valves on each floor, insulating pipes, and placing AC handlers in each dormer on the fourth floor. Questions on this project should be directed to Jim Anderson.

Pastor Mike then presented an opportunity for Emanuel to hire an associate pastor. This person would work under Pastor Mike for three years and then could potentially be called as a permanent senior pastor.

In order to begin the interview process, we voted to install the current Transition Team as the new Call Committee. The congregation approved and our Call Committee was installed that morning - Steve Andrews, Glen Campbell, Michelle Rankin, Amy Vanderhoff, Zach Varga, and Deb Yager.

The Call Committee will now begin the work of putting out our call for an associate pastor and interviewing the candidate. If we decide to call the candidate, another congregational meeting will be held.

Cottage Meetings – As the Call Committee prepares to interview for an Associate Pastor, they will be hosting Cottage Meetings to hear what members of the congregation would like to share about Emanuel with the candidate. Meetings will be Sunday, September 21st between worship services in the sanctuary and Wednesday, October 1st at 6:00p.m. in the Gathering Space.

Stewardship

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing^[a] in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

I was recently at a meeting with the Synod's web designer trying to put together a page for a new ministry. He wanted to put the draft page up so we could work on, but didn't want it "live" for everyone. I told him to label it "STEWARDSHIP" and no one would click on it! We in the church don't talk about stewardship. But September is Stewardship month here at Emanuel and we are going to talk about it!

The myth of stewardship is that 20% contribute 80%. When we talk about stewardship, it's not just money, but it is also time, talents, energy, creativity, and participation. Studies show that 30-40% of a community don't participate at all. About 5% of the community contribute about 5% of their time and resources. Approximately 40% contribute in the 5-10% area. But it also shows that about 5% give 25-30% of their available stuff. And about 10% of the community give 45-60% of what they have.

And it is not all about money. There are 168 hours in a week. What percentage of your time do we give to the work of the Kingdom? How much of our God-given talents do we use for ourselves and how much do we offer back to God? How much of our creativity and energy do we really give to God first?

When scripture talks about stewardship, God asks us how we got it, what we are doing with it, and what is it doing to us? Our stewardship reveals what our idols truly are and also where we actually put our trust. We have also come to realize that for every person a community loses, either through death, or leaving the community, or even just choosing not to participate anymore; it takes about a person and half to replace their participation.

During this month, take a look at your stewardship of time, talents, energy, participation, creativity, contribution, and yes treasures. Re-align your stewardship with where you would like your relationship with the Triune God, and Kingdom that you want, and then move in that direction.

Peace,
Pastor Mike



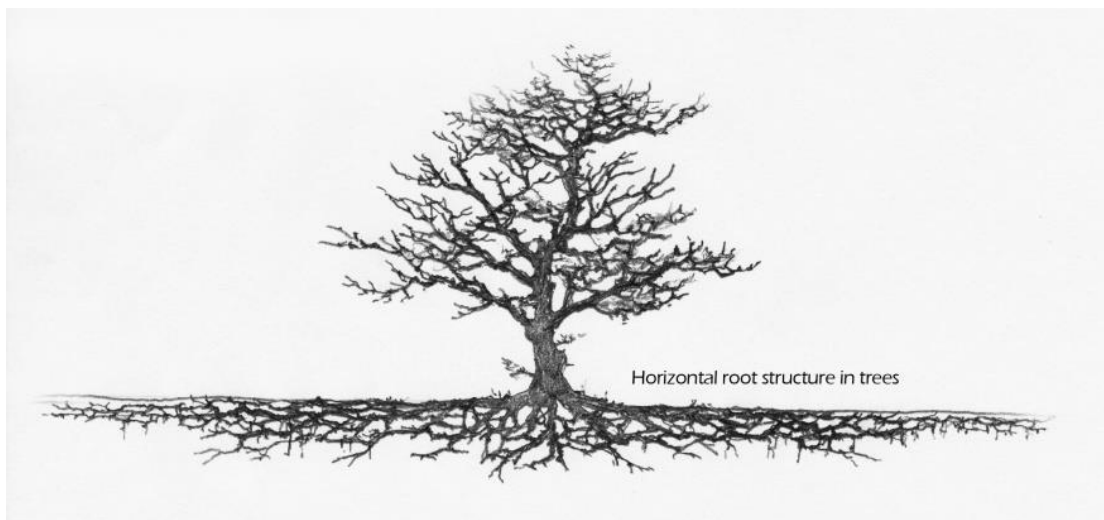
Time - Talent - Treasure

PD Ann's Corner: Meet Me at The Well

Jeremiah 17:7-8 "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its root by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

The roots of a tree provide structural support for the tree, holding the branches and leaves upright to reach the sunlight. The roots act as a pathway for water and nutrients to travel to the leaves. Roots help sugars produced during photosynthesis be distributed throughout the tree. The process of photosynthesis helps organisms convert light energy into chemical energy, which releases oxygen to help people, plants and animals live. The stems in a tree can store water and food reserves which are essential during periods of drought and dormancy. In large trees, a root system can grow as wide as 30 feet. As a tree faces harsh elements, it helps to have roots that anchor the tree.

Go outside and look at a tree in your yard. You cannot see most of the roots, but they are there. Remember that when you are grounded in God's word, develop a relationship with Jesus and are watered by the Holy Spirit you are able to stand any storms that enter your life. Your resilience in time of challenges comes from a strong faith in what God can do in your life. You can trust Him to prevent you from falling. When you are rooted in God you have a life of purpose. You can be productive and provide support for others. God can use you to pour out his blessings in others. The seeds you produce can be used to bring other people into the kingdom of God. The shade from you can help others rest and look to God for help. David wrote in Psalm 92:12-18a "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree; they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord; they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green' proclaiming the Lord is upright." As you look at your tree, rejoice that the Lord is able to use you to flourish in this time and this place.



Bridges Approach

When we look at how each of the different socio-economic classes value time, we find that for those who live in poverty, the present is the most important. Their decisions are made for the moment based on their feelings of survival. For the middle class, the future is the most important. Their decisions are made against the future ramifications. And for those who have wealth, traditions and history are most important. Their decisions are made on the basis of tradition, legacy, and decorum.

Sunday School News

Children's Sunday School begins on **September 7th at 10:00 A.M.**

All youth and parents will meet in the 3rd floor classroom for an Open House. We will meet our new teachers, choose our service project and plan some special events.

After our meet and greet, grades 6 and up will be shown their classroom (first floor lounge) and brainstorm to come up with a name for their new class. Teachers for this class are Dee Rinehart, Ashley Varga and substitute Heather Smith.



Creative Expression and Movement Program

We have 2 new groups beginning this fall, Beginner Crochet/Knitting and Chair Yoga!

Crochet/Knitting* - *Thursdays, September 18- October 23 from 6:00-7:30pm in the Lounge.*

Join us for a 6-week beginner-friendly "Knitting & Crochet Discovery Series"! Over the first 3 weeks, you'll learn the basics of crochet, followed by 3 weeks of knitting fundamentals. With hands-on guidance from fiber artist Candice DeWitt of Stitch & Skein, you'll master introductory stitches while creating your own handmade dishcloth. **Supplies needed:** Size 8/5mm knitting needles, size H/5mm crochet hook, two balls of #4 weight cotton yarn in your color choice (a light color recommended, as black/dark yarns can be hard to see when learning), a set of removeable stitch markers, and optional scissors/clippers. Yarns to potentially look for:

- I Love This Cotton (available at Hobby Lobby)
- Sugar 'n Cream (usually available at Meijer, Walmart, etc)
- 24/7 Cotton from Lion Brand (Michael's)

Whether you're brand new or want to refresh your skills, this series is the perfect way to discover (or rediscover) the joy of yarn crafts!

Chair Yoga* – *Fridays, October 3-31st (not meeting on the 24th) at 11:00am in the Parlors*

These are classes for anyone wanting to feel more comfortable in their body. Perfect for seniors of any age and no yoga experience necessary. If you feel stiff, have difficulty getting up and down from the floor or being on your knees, then these classes are for you.

If you have a yoga mat, please bring it with you, we will have some mats available. Mats will be used for chair stability and optional relaxation poses. Freewill donations will be accepted.

Sign-up sheets for both of these programs are available in the Gathering Space

Adult Book Study

Sunday Mornings at 10:00a.m. in the Library

The Adult Book Study, led by Jean Smith, will begin meeting again on September 7th during the education hour on Sunday mornings. The book they will be discussing is *The Listening Life : Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction* by Adam S. McHugh. Books are provided. Please feel free to stop in, all are welcome!

*September 28th is Consecration Sunday
and the Stewardship Committee needs your help!*

Did you know that when you complete a pledge card, you are assisting us with the budget for the upcoming year? We understand that circumstances change and you may not be able to fulfill your pledge, but it does give us an estimate for calculations to establish a budget.

This year, pledge cards will be available in the gathering space and in the Narthex for a few weeks leading up to September 28th. Please prayerfully fill them out and bring them back on Consecration Sunday to be collected during worship. As always, we appreciate your participation in this process!

The Stewardship Board

A Note from Don Davis

In Philippians 1:3 we see, "I thank God for all my remembrance of you."

I do thank God daily in remembrance. In my years of work, I have always felt privileged to be able to go to work. Yes, there were days that were a challenge, yet I always enjoy a good day of work. Over the years, my resume has grown with the work ethic and experiences that have been provided.

I must say though, over the last few years, I tend to tear up much easier than in years before. When Lannette had her surgery recently and in pain, I cried for her. Tears of love for her. Tears often come when I pray for Lannette, our children, the Church, giving thanks for the positive blessings and for other thoughts or needs.

When I am in Church, maybe a song, a bible verse, or a sermon can make me tear up a little. Those are tears of Joy. What a privilege we can have for God to love us and provide us with eternal life.

I realize we all may react differently as we experience the love that can come only from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We all experience that love as we work together for each other, ourselves, our church, and the Kingdom. Together our seemingly small steps will get us there. We have accomplished a lot this year and more decisions will need to be considered. Let us continue to work together in harmony.

A step at a time may seem slow, yet working together with love, kindness, and strength will create a leap of faith that gets whatever the job is done. I do thank God for all the remembrances and blessing to each and everyone of you at Emanuel and as always, for the Kingdom.



Welcome New Members!

Sunday, August 17th we welcomed Shawn Hastings, and the Young family as new members of Emanuel. We also celebrated the baptisms of Veronica and Payton Young. Join us in welcoming Shawn and Kathy, Whitney, Veronica and Payton Young and pray for God's continued blessings on our new members!



Faith Journeys

We have seven confirmands in our Faith Journeys experience this year (3 second year and 4 first year). We are beginning with the Confirmation Retreat at HopeWood Pines at LMC in September. 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 begin the Here We Stand on Sunday October 19, 2025 from 12noon – 2pm. There will be a light lunch served. You are more than welcome to purchase the Student Book from Augsburg to join us, or just come and join the conversation.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Confirmation Retreat | September 26-27 (at HopeWood Pines) |
| Here We Stand | Sunday October 19, 2025 12noon-2p |
| Confirmation Retreat | TBA (March 2026 at HopeWood Pines) |
| Confirmation Camp | TBA (June 2026 at HopeWood Pines) |

Social Ministry Updates

Good News, the ELCA has awarded Emanuel one of 100 " Feast of Abundance " grants. This grant must be used by December. It must be a new project that affects our area of ministry. The Board of Social Ministry is working on details for a project that will be announced as soon as the details are available.

The ELCA's GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS project will kick off in the Gathering Space on September 7th. Watch for bulletin announcements.

Planning for our 25th THANKS AND GIVING event will commence soon. Watch for bulletin announcements.

Join our Quilting Team!

The Quilters are recruiting more people to help! Currently they meet the first three Tuesdays of the month at 8:30 in the parlors. You don't have to sew to be able to join, they are many tasks for all skill levels!

The number of people who help is declining. Please consider joining us. Ann

Quilters: Taking picture Bill Lambert. Dee Rinehart, Cindy Bentley, Ann Thomas, Carla Compton, Carol Hoch **Absent:** Jan & George Click, Norma Ward, Linda Logsdon, Beth Mohor.



Looking Back with Alicia Mayes

As I read through the 100 Year Anniversary Booklet of Emanuel, I noticed that The Women's Appreciation Dinners that were held for several years hosted by the men of Emanuel started May 3, 2003. Each dinner had a theme such as Italian Night, Country Western Night and the Roaring 20's. The last dinner was held on May 4, 2013 which had a Hippies 60's theme. Each year the men cooked, entertained, and cleaned up after for the ladies. Everyone who wanted could dress for the theme. I know, many of you participated and enjoyed those dinners. I know I did. We appreciated the men's efforts and the ladies had a lot of fun.



In August of 2003 Ron Layne was hired as the doorman for Emanuel. He was so friendly and kind to everyone that came through the door. Ron developed cancer and died January 13, 2005. Ron was Abby Chase, our Early Learning Center Director's, great uncle. Maybe some of you remember Ron.

As I was looking through a box of old bulletins recently, I found a headline that read: ATTENTION – Women Bowlers!!! Do any of you remember that? Maybe you know someone that bowled on the league. It was a bulletin from August of 1962. It stated that they would like to see all of the woman that bowled last year and any others interested be at a meeting to get ready for another year. The president of the league at that time was Janet Stull and the secretary was Cris Willey. Janet was a good friend of mine when I got older. Janet died in 2010 at the age of 89. I don't remember Cris Willey but maybe some of you remember her. It's hard to believe that was 63 years ago.

We can't leave out the men, there was also a men's bowling league in the 1960's. Paul Weigler was the president of that league in 1962. Paul died in 2011 at the age of 87. I remember Paul and I'm sure, some of you remember Paul and his wife, Irene.



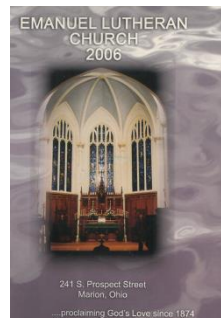
In the minutes of Parish Planning dated Tuesday, January 13, 2004 Jean Smith from the Board of Spiritual Life presented a request for an All-County Lutheran Worship Service and Pot Luck at the Marion Coliseum on Sunday, June 13th. A pastor from the Synod would give the sermon. As of that Parish Planning Council meeting 5 local Lutheran parishes had agreed to participate. Each parish would provide two members to serve on the Pot Luck Committee. The offerings collected at that service that was over and above the regular giving at each home church, would go to the Northwest Ohio Synod Scholarship Mission. There was a motion and second for Emanuel to participate in that service and there would be a remote WMRN radio broadcast. I wonder if any of you remember that service and maybe was at the Coliseum to take part that Sunday.



Pastor Mark Schuring

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005 there was a special meeting of the Parish Planning Council to discuss hiring Pastor Mark as our new Associate Pastor. Parish Planning Council voted unanimously to take their recommendation to the congregation at a Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 20, 2005. As we all know the congregation approved the hiring of Pastor Mark and he started this new position April 25, 2005.

At the Tuesday, September 13, 2005 Parish Planning Council meeting it was decided to proceed with a new pictorial directory. Pictures would be taken starting October 31 through November 5th. The directory was finished in 2006. Some of you will remember that the 2006 directory was in a white binder.



I read in the 100th 1918-2018 Anniversary Booklet - On October 11, 2005 Pastor Schuring went before Parish Planning Council and asked that Emanuel charter the Pleasant Cub Scouts Pack 26. Emanuel would provide a place once a month for the scout meetings. The motion was approved and as of 2018 they were still meeting at Emanuel.

In 2006 the green hymnal, Lutheran Book of Worship (1978), was replaced by the cranberry, Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal, we use today.

As I was looking through some old boxes I ran across a booklet that is dated 1912. It is titled, "Interesting Information about the Lutheran Church", written by Rev. J.R.E. Hunt. He is also the author of the Lutheran Sunday School Hand Book, Lutheran Home Missions at that time. One of the questions in the book is, Should one go to the Lord's Supper if he unites with the church? The answer given: Partaking of the Lord's Supper is the highest privilege the Christian has. We might say, "If one is hungry, must he eat?" The hungry man not only eats, but he finds the highest pleasure in satisfying his hunger. So the Christian not only should go to the Lord's Supper, but he should find the highest delight in going to the Lord's Table, where he receives the greatest spiritual blessings. On the back of this small booklet there are prices. Each book was 5 cents, 50 cents per dozen, 50 copies \$2.00 and 100 copies \$3.00. How prices have changed. In that same box I found a larger booklet dated 1917. It is, "The City of God" Cantata. It's not a Christmas Cantata it is for any Festival Occasion. It has Rev. J.W. Schillinger's signature on the front so I figure it was his copy. Rev. Schillinger signed his name mostly in pencil. I have seen his signature many times.

If you remember, Rev. Schillinger was Emanuel's pastor in 1918 when the congregation walked from the old church at the corner of S. State and Columbia Sts. to our present church building.

One of the hymns in this booklet is, "Be not dismayed, O Little Flock," and was written by Johann Michael Altenberg. He was a Lutheran pastor and wrote the piece in 1631. The second hymn was, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Work," written by Martin Luther in 1541 for the boys in the choir at Wittenberg. The third hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God," is the most characteristic hymn of Martin Luther and the Reformation. It goes on to say in the introduction that it was probably written in 1529. It states that this hymn has been called Luther's protest on behalf of the German people against the obstruction of the Gospel. Luther sang it at Coburg daily in 1530 during the Augsburg Diet. It has been translated into nearly every known language. The history about Luther rings true from our celebration of the 500th Year of the Reformation in 2017 that we celebrated at Emanuel.

H. Alexander Matthews was the music composer of this cantata. I looked the composer up and found that he was a British-American composer, organist, choirmaster, and arranger known for his sacred music, organ works, and pieces for piano and chorus. He was born in England but later became a naturalized American citizen. In America he lived in Pennsylvania. He was born in 1879 and died in 1973. On the front of the book is the price, 75 cents.

I will put each of these booklets in the Archive Cabinet for you to see the good shape they are in for their age.

More history to come, Alicia

Steeple Sightings



Summer is coming to a close, and that means schools begin! Are the teachers as excited as the pupils? Well, some are and some not so much. We have many educators as members here at Emanuel and this month we'll take a look at Steve Andrews.

Steve was born and raised right here in Marion County, learning in the Marion City School District. During his years at Marion Harding he was in the choir, a Harding Reporter for WMRN, and a member of the French Club. After high school graduation he attended OSU Marion and earned his degree in Elementary Education. He taught for 2 years in the Cardington schools before moving to the Marion system. He earned a degree from Ashland in Education Administration, thus allowing him to further his career as a principal in Marion then in Delaware. He retired in 2013.

He and Scott Inskeep were married 10 years ago and he has a daughter, Meredith and son-in-law Derek who live in Dublin with the grandpup.

Steve was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waldo before migrating north to Emanuel. Here he has been active with Thanks and Giving, the Spiritual Life Board, the Early Learning Center Board, church meals, ushering and joining the Audio-Visual team covering the 11:00 Praise service. Volunteering is a way of paying forward all his blessings from the Marion General Hospital Cancer Center, to rocking babies in Emanuel's infant room, to working on the many renovation projects around the building.

When the occasions arise, he and Scott like to travel, having spent time (and money?) in Europe and taking Mediterranean cruises. Next year they plan to visit places like Greece, Croatia, Montenegro, and Italy. Here in the USA, they have explored NYC and Washington, DC.

Does Steve get a chance to rest and relax at home? Sure, or at least as much as 4 dogs and yard work will permit. Emanuel has become a good home, providing meaningful worship experiences and friendships.

We are certainly blessed by your commitments to our church and Lord.
From the top of the church...Batina Belfry

>>> September 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 31 GWOH Sunday 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship | 1 Labor Day Office & Learning Center Closed | 2 8:30 - Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires | 3 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Rehearsal | 4 11:30 Book Study | 5 Waldo Food Distribution | 6 |
| 7 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship | 8 9:30 ELC Bd. Mtg. 11:30 Spiritual Life 5pm Comm. Bd. Mtg | 9 8:30 - Quilters 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires | 10 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need 12pm MAPP Mtg. 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Rehearsal | 11 10am Staff Mtg. 11:30 Book Study 4:30 Community Meal 5pm Joyce's Angels | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship 12 - Game Day Fellowship Lunch | 15 | 16 8:30 - Quilters 1:30 Bd. of Finance 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires | 17 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Rehearsal | 18 11:30 Book Study 6pm Crochet/Knit | 19 10am MAPP Playdate in Parlor | 20 |
| 21 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship | 22 2pm Home Communion Assistants Snack & Chat | 23 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires | 24 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Feed the Need 6pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bell Rehearsal | 25 11:30 Book Study 6pm Crochet/Knit | 26 Confirmation Retreat at LMC | 27 Confirmation Retreat at LMC |
| 28 Stewardship Sunday 9 - EWL Service 10 - Education 11 - Praise Worship | 29 | 30 6pm Praise Team 7pm Marionnaires | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |



FALL GAMEDAY KICKOFF PARTY

 Sunday, September 14th, 2025

 12:00 PM Gathering Space

Get ready for a day of fun, food, and football!

Join us for a festive fall celebration filled with:

 **Board Games** – fun for all ages

 **Prizes** – take home a little victory!

 **Football Games** – cheer on your favorite team

 **Lunch Provided** – enjoy a tasty gameday spread

Dress in your favorite team's colors and bring your game face!

Let's kick off the season together in style.



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

*Return Service Requested.

Prepared Especially For:



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