

Good News

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**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Emanuel's mission is to witness
to the good news of salvation through Christ to individuals, the community
and the world through discipleship and service.**

My Walk in Faith...

My walk in faith began as many do – at childhood. In my family, church wasn't optional. Each and every Sunday we were in church, and we were ALWAYS in the front row. This was my parents' way of getting my brothers and me to pay attention, and it almost always worked!

Throughout Sunday School and Catechism I had several amazing teachers that truly lived their faith, and still do. I am thankful for all of the Bible stories I read, and all of the verses I memorized; even though I was occasionally less than thrilled to go through them at the time. My parents were also great influences in my walk in faith. They taught me that faith isn't something that always comes naturally. Sometimes you have to work at it. I had to experience this on my own to truly understand it.

In our house, it was a rule that, once we finished Catechism, it was up to us if we wanted to go to church. For me, I couldn't imagine what my life would be like without church, so it was a no-brainer. I did, however, rebel and sit in the balcony for a while! (As you may have noticed, this didn't last, and I'm back in the front row.)

During high school I was blessed to have some incredible leaders both in Sunday School and Youth Group. No matter how many (or how few) people showed up, they were there and they gave it their all. It was during this time that my faith truly began to grow, although it was tested several times.

During my time at Napoleon High School, the student body suffered several losses; five young women in four years to be exact. One of these ladies was a close friend of my family, which made the loss that much harder. It was then that I really learned that God works in mysterious ways. A few months after this tragic experience, the High School Youth Group attended a festival in Marion, Ohio. We had attended this festival before, and always had a great time, but this year was different. The musical guest of the weekend was Peder Eide, a person I had never heard of before. It didn't take long for me to realize that this man would inevitably change my life. During one of his sets, Peder Eide played his version of "It Is Well with My Soul." Much to my surprise, that song hit a nerve, and I was brought to tears. Not the cute, tear-running-down-the-cheek type of tears, but somewhat embarrassing, uncontrollable tears. The words of the song, mixed with his

soothing voice, brought up a variety of emotions within me. It was then that I knew God was with me through everything, and it truly was well with my soul. Peder Eide followed that song with another emotional tune entitled “Abba, Father.” The chorus of this song repeats “Abba, I belong to you. I belong to you. Abba, Father, God.” The verses explain that even when I’m broken down and weary, He will still be there. These are sentiments that I had heard before, but the combination of location, musician, and life experiences caused it to really sink in and become truth to me.

Music has always been a huge part of my life. Each member of my family is unique, but a love of music is something that we all share. My dad is the person that taught me to love music of all types. (However, I can honestly say that my obsession with Amy Grant came from my mom.) He had the largest collection of records that I’ve ever seen. Everything from country to rock to crazy comedy that I didn’t always understand. My dad had it all. Since the day my dad passed away in 2007, I have found it nearly impossible to mask my emotions when listening to music. When a song strikes a nerve, the tears start to roll. I’ve come to realize that this emotion is my dad coming out to enjoy the music with me. He can’t be here physically, but he’ll always be where the

music is playing. People always say that time makes loss easier. This could not be more wrong. I will always miss my dad, and I will always feel a void that can never be filled by another living person. However, my faith tells me that my dad is always with me, watching over my family, and experiencing life alongside us. My father is with the Heavenly Father, and knowing this makes me smile. For this reason, music will never stop being a driving force in my life.

At age 26, I’m no expert on faith. I constantly struggle with putting my life in God’s hands, and going where He leads me. My mom has taught me through many stories and experiences that God will lead me in the right direction, if I have enough faith to let Him. In fact, when I went to North Carolina to visit my mom a few weeks ago, I was introduced to an incredible song that has been my anthem since I got back to Napoleon. The song is by Hillsong United and is called “Came to My Rescue.” The chorus states, “I called. You answered, and you came to my rescue and I want to be where you are.” At this point in my life, my walk in faith seems like a winding road, but if I let Him lead me to where He is, I know that this will be an amazing journey.

Angela Josebee

Ash Wednesday service
Wednesday, February 22, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Holy Communion and the
Imposition of Ashes

Statistics

Sunday, December 18 (one service)

attendance 316

Offerings \$6081

\$ 2,745 Building Fund
30 World Hunger
10 Good Samaritan Fund

Saturday, December 24

7 p.m. attendance 246

11 p.m. attendance 196 communed 172

Sunday, December 25 (one service)

attendance 90 communed 83

Total Christmas Offerings \$15,753

2,850 Building Fund
9 World Hunger
200 Bell Choir
400 Memorials to Bldg Fd: Paul Bressler

Saturday, December 31

attendance 60

Offerings \$2004.15

1,020 Building Fund
50 World Hunger

Sunday, January 1 (one service)

attendance 118 communed 106

Offerings \$4,469.10

925 Building Fund
10 World Hunger
10 Mem to Bldg Fd-Julia Arps

Sunday, January 8

attendance 88 + 137 (225) communed 116

Offerings \$4,598.73

1,220 Building Fund
15 World Hunger
440 mem to Bldg Fd - Julia Arps
10 mem to Endow Fd - Julia Arps
50 mem to Rnbw Rngrs - Karen Ellis

Sunday, January 15

attendance 127 + 114 (241)

Offerings \$6,839.51

765 Building Fund
5 World Hunger
20 Good Samaritan Fund
25 Rainbow Ringers-honor of
Morgan's birthday
396 Youth Convention

Please take note:

- ✓ There will be a **Bake Sale** on Sunday, February 19 to raise funds for the Catechism Retreat. Thank you for your support!
- ✓ Students who are in 5th grade on up (and their parents) who are interested in **early communion** are encouraged to talk to pastor as soon as possible.
- ✓ Willing volunteers are needed to **visit shut-ins** or others who would appreciate a visit. Please talk to Pastor Castello if you are interested.
- ✓ Volunteers are needed for **readers and sound board operators** for this year! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or talk to Terry Hershberger or Jack Robbins.

THANK YOU!

- The family of Julia Meyer-Arps want to thank Pastor Castello for all his visits and prayers to Julia during her hospital stays and while she was in the nursing home. Thanks to Angela for providing the music for the funeral and to the ladies who prepared and served the food after the funeral. And thanks to the people of the congregation who visited, sent cards and for the support that you gave her over the last few years.
-Lavern & Mary Meyer & family and Hugh & Dawn Pullen
- On behalf of Together We Can Make a Difference Initiatives, thank you for your monetary donation...Your contribution will assist our organization to provide personal care and toiletry items which will make a direct impact in bettering someone's life...Our mission is to empower those in need through collaboration with for-profit, nonprofit, faith-based and governmental agencies, subsequently providing basic needs and resources. Through collaboration and advocacy, we will strengthen our community by strengthening its members...Thank you so very much for all your support in so many different ways. We are blessed to be surrounded by so many great and giving people.
-Kelli, Terri, Carol and Jerri
- Thank you to Pastor Castello for Greydon's baptism and to Angela Sosebee for singing. Thanks also to Susan Kruse and Nikki Schink for helping my grandma during the service on January 8th.
-Joe & Amanda Dilbone
- On behalf of Together We Can Make a Difference Initiatives thank you very much for all you do. From the coupons, to the Caring Corner donations, to the plastic bags, to the special offerings, to the monetary donations, to the gift cards. We average helping a family every 8 minutes we are open. You are making a very positive direct impact on people's lives that you don't even realize. The thank you's and the hugs are just amazing and it's because of what you are donating to us that allows that to happen. Thank you so very much.
-Kelli Burkhardt

Women of the Church...

Plan to attend the General Meeting of the Women of the Church
on Thursday, February 2 at 7 p.m.

"...you shall love your neighbor as yourself..."

This year's speakers will feature some of our neighboring congregations!

Speaker: Mary Joseph
the Salvation Army and St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Dear Emanuel Family,

You all have always been so very supportive of everything I have done in life, and so here I am to inform you yet again of my most recent adventure.

On Sunday, January 1, I will be flying out to Minneapolis, Minnesota. I am joining a Youth Encounter team of 5 strangers that will be touring from Minnesota to Montana for the next 7 months. Youth Encounter is a non-profit organization that sends praise team bands around different areas of the United States and some other countries to work with youth groups, churches, church camps, etc., spreading the Gospel to everyone we meet. I am on the Central Plains team which will cover Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.

This is going to be a great opportunity for me in both my faith journey and my future career as a music therapist. I will be taking a leave of absence from school for a semester, but will be returning to Capital in the fall. I am sacrificing a lot for this, but I feel like it's exactly what God wants me to do; and when God calls you to do something, you listen.

So, I am telling you all this because I want you all to be aware of the things taking place in my life. If you want to offer support, I would greatly appreciate it. There are three different ways that you can do this:

1. Prayers! I will definitely need lots of prayer from everyone in order to get through these next 7 months with ease and effectiveness.
2. There is a sponsorship piece that goes along with this program. By the end of my time on team, I have a goal of \$6,000 to raise. If you would like to make a donation toward reaching this goal you can go to my page on the Youth Encounter website, www.youthencounter.org/MarcusMtCastle, and click on the "Donate Now" button. You can also mail checks to Youth Encounter at 3490 Lexington Ave N. Suite 300, St. Paul, MN 55126. If you write a check, put my name in the memo line of your check.
3. Write me letters! I would greatly appreciate to hear from you about things happening in Napoleon or if you're interested in hearing from me what I'm doing on tour. I also love getting mail A LOT. If you would like to do that, you can send mail to the address above and they will forward the mail to wherever I am from there.

Again, thank you all so much for supporting me thus far, and I can't wait to begin the next chapter of my life! I will be writing a blog while I'm on this team. If you would like to be notified by email when I write a new blog entry send me an email at mmtcastle@capital.edu and I will add you to the emailing list. Thank you, and God's blessings to you!

-Marcus Mt.Castle

Update on December Bulletin Board

The December bulletin board posed these questions for the congregation:

What is your favorite song or psalm?

Here are some responses:

- Angels We Have Heard on High
- Bell Choir – Adeste Fideles with the organ
Choir - Breath of Heaven
All time - Away in the Manger – from Karri
- Mary, Did You Know? and Joy to the World – from Betty
- Angels We Have Heard on High – from Morgan Ashbaugh

What is your favorite Christmas memory?

- Packing 10 kids into the Wagoneer on Christmas Eve for church and getting stopped for speeding on the way. The policeman just looked in the car and let us go!
- Going to church on Christmas Eve and then home and having Ginger Bread with whipped cream (from Betty)
- Spending Christmas Eve with my grandparents in Holgate. We would listen to the scanner for Santa sightings) from Karri
- I remember the year that my 5 year old brother decided to cut his bangs just before church on Christmas Eve. My mom basically had to buzz his hair for it to look right. Made for interesting pictures (from Angela Tonjes)

-Phyl Kloos

Simply Giving

If anyone is interested in making their offerings to Emanuel using automatic withdrawal from their bank account, they can pick up a form from Julie Kohout or the church office. Automatic giving can be set up for weekly, semi-monthly or monthly withdrawal and can be designated to the General and/or Building Funds.

Anyone already using this service who would like to make changes can also do so with this form. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Kohout.

from the Congregational Life Board

“SOUPer Bowl of Caring” — Sunday, February 5

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Last year, 260,000 youth collected \$9.5 million for hunger-relief. This year, the need is even greater. The U.S. Census Bureau reports the number of Americans living in poverty is the highest it has been in 52 years. One in seven households in our nation is food insecure, affecting more than 16 million children. Studies show that hungry children do poorly in school and have lower academic achievement because they cannot concentrate.

On Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 5, 2012, our sixth-grade confirmation drama youth will hold soup pots at church doors and join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. *None* of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced.

We are also asking that you bring a special donation of canned food items that day. Our monetary contributions will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and our canned food donations will be given to the food pantry at St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your dollar in the soup pot on February 5.

Caring/Donation Corner for February

For the month of February we will be collecting items for the food pantry at St. John’s Episcopal Church, beginning with a “blitz” (we hope!) on “SOUPer Bowl Sunday”. According to the coordinator of this food pantry, the five items that are most quickly depleted (and therefore in greatest need) are:

- CANNED FRUIT
- CEREAL
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- BOXED MACARONI AND CHEESE
- CANNED PASTA, SUCH AS SPAGHETTIO’S, RAVIOLI, ETC.

Canned meats and meals such as beef stew are also welcomed. When you hit the grocery stores for those “buy-one-get-one-free” sales and those “10-for-10” specials think stretching your food dollars and your giving even further!

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Once again, we will have a Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage supper on Tuesday, February 21, serving from 5 to 6:30 p.m. A free-will donation will be take that evening for the Good Samaritan Fund. Please join us for this time to gather for food and fellowship.

Anyone willing to mix, flip, serve, and/or help with clean-up, please contact Carol Castello or Terri Sedam. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Soul Food “Stirrings”

We have “expanded” our hours to accommodate our growing numbers, serving now from **5 to 6:30 p.m.!** Please bear with us as we “juggle” our cooking times to be sure we have plenty for the “latecomers” as well as the “early birds”. You may notice unfamiliar faces at Soul Food as we reach out more as a community meal. Please welcome any visitors; introduce yourself and help them through the line; sit with them and talk with them. “As we have done it to the least of these, we do it also to Him!”

*Don’t just give up – give **More** for Lent*

Lent, the 40 days of self-examination and repentance before Easter, is a time for us to renew our relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to recognize God’s abundance expressed in the sacrificial death of Jesus. As a common Lenten discipline, many Christians give up something during Lent. This giving up or fasting usually lasts for the six weeks until Easter.

This Lent, don’t just give up something, but give more and share gifts of gratitude that express in a tangible way what God has done for you. If nothing else, give more time to sharing God’s love – send cards to people on the prayer list; invite a friend to our worship services on Sunday and/or Lenten Wednesday; introduce yourself to someone you don’t know by name even here in our Emanuel “family”; help with “Soul Food; volunteer at a non-profit organization whose work you support; etc.

Your simple Lenten “discipline” could culminate in an Easter gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Emanuel’s Good Samaritan Fund, or some other ministry or “cause” that is dear to your heart.

Free Basic Tax Filing in Henry County

If your household income is \$60,000 or less, you could qualify for free tax filing. One of the Benefit Bank Counselors can assist you with filing your 2011 Federal State and School District taxes.

No fees or charges – e-filing available!

Henry County Emergency Management Agency
1845 Oakwood Avenue in Napoleon
Fridays, beginning January 27 through March 16
Call 1-800-686-2964 to schedule an appointment

Membership News

Births

Congratulations to:

Joe & Amanda Dilbone on the birth of a son, **Greydon Landry**, on September 24. He was baptized on January 8.

Ryan & Andrea Hoffman on the birth of a son, **William Henry**, born December 12. He will be baptized on January 29.

Baptism

December 18, 2011 - **Caraline Elizabeth Fickert**; born 8/14/11 Parents Ryan Lee Fickert & Erin Marie Walker; sponsors Sean & Lisa Walker

January 1, 2012 - **Lucas James Aelker**; born 10/15/11 Parents Andy & Becky (Castello) Aelker; sponsors Holly Mohring & Amanda Aelker

January 8, 2012 - **Greydon Landry Dilbone**; born 9/24/11 Parents Joe & Amanda Dilbone; sponsors Neal & Andrea Dilbone, Antoine & Rachel Childers, Natalie Hoover

January 22, 2012 - **Harper Klaire Spieth**; born 11/29/11 Parents Kyle & Erin Spieth; sponsors Jenna Burk and Kirk Spieth

January 29, 2012 - **William Henry Hoffman**; born 12/12/11 Parents Ryan & Andrea Hoffman; sponsors Tracy Weber & Scott Speiser

Funeral

Please remember in your prayers the families of:

Linda Debolt, friend of Lenny & Lana Sonnenberg; died December 15, 2011 Funeral at Rodenbergers on December 18

Julia Meyer Arps who died on Christmas Day. Her funeral was on the 29th.

Transfer out

Sunny (Cooper) Lange to Sylvania First United Methodist, Sylvania, Ohio

Ryan Aschemeier to Trinity Lutheran Church, Findlay, Ohio

New member

Welcome to **Bob Ivancso** who comes from St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Sylvania.

WE APPRECIATE HEARING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY NEWS (BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, ETC.).

We would like to include your family's birthdays in our birthday prayers on Sundays, in which case we would need those names and dates. We would also like to know the names of all those family members serving in the military.



Worship participants in February

Acolytes

8:00 Alie Hernandez & Kenli Dachenhaus
10:30 Charlee Glick & Grace Rowland

Lay Assistant

8:00 - Barb Hoffman
10:30 -

Altar Guild

Laura Ellis-Kruse & Julie Callaway

Ushers

8:00 Jeff & Lori Sharpe,
Susan Landversicht, Ed Peper
10:30 - Larry Ashbaugh, Karl Yunker
Matt Mt.Castle, Gary Bostelman



February 5 - In honor of Blake Biederstedt's 17th birthday by his family
- Karl & Oneta Wiechers in honor of their 62nd wedding anniversary
February 12 - Virginia Dillon
February 19 - Betsy Mix in loving memory of her parents
February 26 - OPEN

Open dates:

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| March 11 | July 1 - 29 | October 14 |
| April 1 - 8 | August 5 - 12 - 19 | November 4 - 11 |
| | September 2 - 9 | December 2 |

To reserve altar flowers...

Simply sign up on the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office. Our flowers are done by Ivy League Floral & Design Studio on West Washington Street. The cost is \$20. If you have *special* orders for your flowers (certain colors, a larger arrangement, etc.), they will be happy to serve you. Please contact Cori Ratliff at Ivy League for these special orders. If your order is beyond the \$20, please pay the shop directly.

***** We are recycling the used plastic containers that the altar flowers come in. They can be put in Angela's office. *****