

# Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2020

## Happenings!

Due to COVID 19 indoor services at Emanuel are cancelled until further notice. People may attend a service on Sundays at 9:30 am in the back parking lot. You may attend from your vehicle or bring a lawn chair and practice social distancing. Other than this, meetings and events will not take place at Emanuel until we are able to do so safely. Please connect with us virtually via Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube channel in the meantime.

**Sunday, August 2**—Worship in back parking lot

**Sunday, August 9**—Worship in back parking lot

**Sunday, August 16**—Worship in back parking lot

**Sunday, August 23**—Worship in back parking lot

**Sunday, August 30**—Worship in back parking lot

**Mission Statement:**  
Forgiven  
by Grace,  
Serving by  
Faith

**Vision Statement:**  
To Grow in  
Faith, Love,  
and Spirit



Practicing social distancing during one of the Sunday services in the back parking lot. You may attend from your car or bring a lawn chair.

### In This Issue...

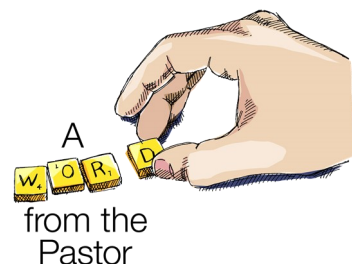
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# Ponderings From Your Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON

## **Romans 8:37-38**

*In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



Do you remember the old song from Sesame Street, “Oh who are the people in your neighborhood, in your neighborhood...they’re the people that you meet when you’re walking down the street, they’re the people that you meet each day”.

A newsletter from the synod office suggested that to open or not to open for worship is NOT the question. Instead the bishop invited congregations, pastors and councils to have conversations asking things like: Where is our mission leading us to right now? How do we serve our neighbors “knocking at our digital door”? What do the people around us need and how can we serve them? What is God calling us to for the sake of the world? What does it mean to be church today?

It’s like when the pandemic struck churches across the nation hit the pause button. We hunkered down to wait out the storm expecting to come out after a few weeks, then a few months, and now we have so many confusing messages swirling around us. Will we have a vaccine by the end of the year? Schools are preparing to open and what will that look like? How will those decisions impact those of schoolchildren’s parents? As a country, state, and community we continue to wrestle with important choices and decisions.

But what’s become abundantly clear to me as we continue to linger in this liminal time in between, is we continue on as church, we continue on as disciples of Christ, we continue on with God’s work using our hands for the sake of our neighbor. It’s time to hit the start button continuing on with the work given to us in this new way of being.

All around us people are coming up with creative solutions to new problems. Our neighbors who meet at our church for Tai Chi have moved out into the parking lot to have space to distance and be outdoors in the fresh air. Churches are meeting in parking lots, and parks, getting creative about communion and other practices of the church.

August 2 we will be baptizing Spencer James Lewis at our upper parking lot service and also resuming communion. Ushers will dispense the individually wrapped communion sets as members arrive in their cars. At the appropriate time we will partake in communion together. To allow communion for some, and not others is not in keeping with the practices of our denomination. I’d ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a communion minister to deliver communion to those who are aren’t able to attend services in person for any number of reasons. As the communion would already be blessed, those delivering the communion could offer it simply with the words, the body and blood of Christ given for you.

At the July council meeting the council voted to continue worshipping outside and will readdress the best place to worship at the August meeting. This newsletter also contains an article from the reopening team to help us prepare for transitioning to worshipping inside. We want to give everyone plenty of time to receive the information they need so when that first Sunday comes every member can worship assured that we are doing all we can to make the experience as safe as possible.

In this time of finding creative new ways to continue to worship God in as safe a way as possible we thank you for your continued financial support. Please continue to give as you are able knowing that especially during this time of uncertainty every gift is essential to continue the work and ministry of Emanuel Lutheran Church.

We are church together for the sake of the world.

# Safety Team statement on reopening:

Back in June a team was organized to help plan a safe reopening of Emanuel. This team includes members from Worship and Music and the Safety Team. Those members are as follows:

Kevin Epperson, Cindy Richards, Michael Garreans, Steve Lewis, Joel Hauschild, Chris Sorensen, Maja Knutson, Marge Powell-McIntosh, Mike Hipnar, Pr. Cara Knutson

Together we have researched and planned what we feel is a safe way of reopening Emanuel when the Council feels it is appropriate. I wanted to share a preview of how things will look as it will be different from the services we have come to love. Together we can do our part in helping curb this pandemic and find our way back to Sunday Services and Fellowship. Please feel free to reach out to Mike Garreans or myself with any questions or concerns. My email is [youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org) or Mike Garreans at [amgarreans@gmail.com](mailto:amgarreans@gmail.com)



1.Signs are posted at the entrance asking that anyone who is sick or showing symptoms of illness or have traveled in past 14 days please refrain from attendance and use the church services we post online.

2.Physical distancing is respected (six feet apart), and traffic flow inside the building is structured to facilitate this. Look for tape on the floor. We will also have ushers to assist you.

3.All doors inside the building are kept propped open, to minimize touching doors and handles.

4.We won't be using bulletins except for a few large print bulletins for those with low vision. Our services will be projected for us to follow along.

5.Anyone uncomfortable returning to church should feel free to stay home, assured that we understand. This is an individual choice, and we will respect it.

6.Communion: On August 2<sup>nd</sup> we will begin distributing communion using individually sealed wafer/wine combo servings.

7.We have suspended the meet-n-greet as well as the line after church. Ushers have returned to the tradition of dismissing pews in an orderly fashion. Pastor Cara and Cindy will stay near their areas and return to them after worship. Feel free to make an appointment to visit with Pastor Cara by phone, email, text, or Messenger.

8.Offering plates are no longer passed around. Members put their offerings in designated plates located by the two front exit doors as they leave the service.

9.Everyone should enter through the main doors of the church and will be escorted to a seat by an usher.

10. To facilitate proper distancing and for ease of cleaning and disinfecting we will be meeting in the fellowship hall. For the time being, we won't be singing or praying/speaking in unison, such as the Lord's Prayer, Creeds, Prayers of the People and etc.

11.Chairs are disinfected after each use.

12.Other activities are suspended for now. We will revisit this as the pandemic subsides.

13.Coffee and donuts are paused for now.

14.Bathrooms are available, but cannot be disinfected after every personal use. While they are regularly cleaned and sanitized, it is best to "save it until you get home."

15.We encourage everyone to take advantage of our online devotions and worship. We offer several online forums in which to build up our community throughout the week: Facebook, YouTube devotions and updates. This allows our public forums to serve as places of encouragement and positive outreach.

16. Masks will be required when inside the building. You are welcome to use your own and if not we will have them available.

17. Gathering in groups, whether in the building, right outside the doors or in the parking lot before or after service will also not be allowed.

\* This list is subject to change as we will continue to learn, review and adjust accordingly

Love, Peace and Happiness

Stephen Lewis

[youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org)



Paul Heath  
Bob Vergamini

Daralene Smith  
Deloris Christensen

Robert Hesseltine  
Phyllis Fowler

Esther Bender  
Jim Fowler

## **JULY** Birthdays

<b>July 01</b>	Irv Mass	<b>July 11</b>	Benjamin Hansen	<b>July 23</b>	Emily Edson Keven Ferguson Cheryl Rowe
<b>July 02</b>	Edward Haats	<b>July 12</b>	Tori Hansen		
<b>July 03</b>	Greg Steensland	<b>July 15</b>	Mary Lou Johnson	<b>July 25</b>	Jake Ferguson Andrew Hubbard Xander Richards Autumn Tanner
<b>July 04</b>	Jackie Ogg	<b>July 17</b>	John Burns		
<b>July 07</b>	Jeffrey Fischer Michele Loos	<b>July 18</b>	Garrett Ashcraft	<b>July 26</b>	Mary Clark
<b>July 09</b>	Marjorie Powell-McIntosh Connor Snyder	<b>July 19</b>	Oscar Over	<b>July 28</b>	Beth Lewis Darryl Petersen
<b>July 10</b>	Bruce Ellingsen	<b>July 21</b>	Matthew Maxwell		
		<b>July 22</b>	Grant Ashcraft	<b>July 29</b>	Kristy Naumann

## **AUGUST** Birthdays

<b>August 01</b>	William Schademmann	<b>August 13</b>	Dustin Loos	<b>August 22</b>	Jordan Hansen
<b>August 02</b>	Ryan McSorley	<b>August 15</b>	Kamryn Maxwell Jessica Winter	<b>August 23</b>	Mahala Jankowski
<b>August 03</b>	Debra Ebsen	<b>August 16</b>	Mike Garrett	<b>August 25</b>	Jeann Foster
<b>August 04</b>	Kimberly Egner Baylee Snyder	<b>August 17</b>	Katelyn Longnecker	<b>August 27</b>	Pamela Sherman Tyler Steensland
<b>August 07</b>	Andrea Britton	<b>August 18</b>	Ben Clark Samantha Showalter	<b>August 28</b>	Wendi Hancock Karen Smith
<b>August 08</b>	Peggy Jarrell	<b>August 19</b>	Makenzie Shetterly	<b>August 29</b>	Alaire Carrier
<b>August 09</b>	Alexis Gress	<b>August 20</b>	Ryan Loos	<b>August 30</b>	Mark Ellis
<b>August 10</b>	Larry Britton	<b>August 20</b>	Erin Miller		

***If we've missed a birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please let the church office know!  
Contact Michaela at (712) 323-9665 or [office@emanuelcb.org](mailto:office@emanuelcb.org)***



# Update regarding the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering (July 22, 2020)

After much prayer and consideration, the ELCA has decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

We give thanks for your prayers and patience as we have worked through the details with our partners in

Minneapolis and across the country. We hope that by postponing the Gathering for a year, individuals and congregations will feel more comfortable and prepared to attend the Gathering in 2022.



We will be updating our website and social media as more details become available. [www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19)

We look forward to seeing you and experiencing the boundlessness of God in Minneapolis in 2022!

## Anniversaries

**July 5** Terry & Connie Eyberg

**July 16** Ridgeway & Danette Hein-Snider

**July 10** Todd & Jeanine Schademann  
Karen & James Smith

**July 29** Brian & Renee Goss

## Anniversaries

**August 6** Rick & Jan Stone

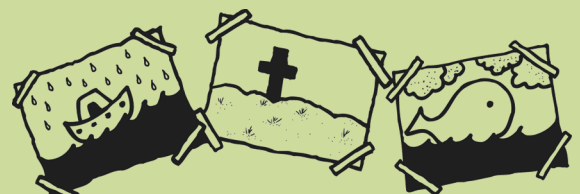
**August 12** Cynthia & John Borwick

**August 10** Barry & Rina Larson  
Danielle & Jesse Schaal

**August 15** John & Barb Burns

### MENTORS NEEDED

We would like to pair our confirmation students up with mentors. Conversations would be over the phone. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or have questions, please contact Pastor Cara at (712) 314-0085 or at [pastor@emanuelcb.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelcb.org) or Deann Over at (402) 215-5929 or at [2cbovers@gmail.com](mailto:2cbovers@gmail.com).



FAITH SPONSORS

# Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 20, 2020

RECORDED BY ROSIE SPANGENBERG, EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Members present: Pastor Cara Knutson, Mike Winter, Rosie Spangenberg, Stephen Lewis, Joel Hauschild, Nick Rickard, Char Les Kemmish, Mike Loos, John Spilde, Alan Ellis, Matt Solon

Member absent: Jane Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Mike Winter. Char Les Kemmish gave devotions.

Guests from the Safety Committee in attendance: Mike Garreans, Cindy Richards, Mike Hipnar, Kevin Epperson. The members referred to the "Return to Worship" plan the committee had developed. They recommended continuing with the current plan to keep the church closed and continue with online and outside worship. Mike Loos made a motion to follow this recommendation, Joel Hauschild seconded. After much discussion, the motion was approved. The church will remain closed with online and outside worship continuing. This plan will be reviewed at the August Council meeting.

Secretary's minutes from the June meeting: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Joel Hauschild. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by John Spilde. Motion carried. Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Joel Hauschild, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried. Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried. Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by John Spilde, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried.

A written report from the Property Committee was reviewed. Rosie Spangenberg reported from the Worship and Music Committee that the garage sale scheduled for August has been tentatively rescheduled for September. This will be reviewed and information will be shared with the congregation.

Pastor's report:

- Pastor Cara has supplied her sister and brother-in-law, who live in Hawaii, with materials to review in preparation for becoming members of Emanuel. Joel made a motion to accept Miranda and Paul Schwartz as remote members. Steve Lewis second-

ed. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- John Spilde continues to work with Pastor Cara on redeveloping the Prayer Chain. He encouraged Council members to ask if members are interested in being added to this when they make their Shepherding calls. He also asked that his contact information be listed in these minutes so members could contact him directly if interested:

- John Spilde
- [spildejs@cox.net](mailto:spildejs@cox.net)
- 402.813.2070

New Business:

- Council member Alex Skovgaard has moved to Colorado. President Mike Winter informed the Council that Greg Steensland has volunteered to fill this position until the Annual Meeting in January. John Spilde made a motion to approve Greg as a Council member for this time period. Alan Ellis seconded. Motion carried. President Winter will inform Greg and invite him to the August meeting.

- Char Les Kemmish and Jan Stone are now the Emanuel representatives with access to the Safety Deposit box. Char Les and Jan will work on compiling a list of items in the box.

- Pastor Cara has asked for a day of vacation on Sunday, July 26th. Pastor Stephany Sandborn will be the guest pastor. Joel Hauschild made a motion to approve, Nick Rickard seconded. Motion carried.

- John Spilde asked if the church copies of "Christ in Our Home" had been received. Matt Solon reported that the recent bill had been paid. Michaela will be asked to check on this.

- Alan Ellis brought up surveillance for the church and parsonage. He will research and report next month.

- Matt Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by President Mike Winter.

- Next meeting is August 17, devotions by Alan Ellis.



The garage sale will be held September 19<sup>th</sup> and it will be held outside. We are also going to try the no price, donation method as we feel pricing and staging everything, as we have done previously, will be too difficult since we'll have to haul everything outdoors this year. We are checking with the scouts for help. There will be more details about how drop offs & everything will work in the September newsletter.

# Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



Ok. This covid stuff is getting a little old! But I refuse to let it get the upper hand in my mind. Yes-it's making me a bit crabby. It has changed how we are living our lives. It's different, but not necessarily bad. It's all a matter of perspective. For this musician, it has been rough not to make music with others. But rough doesn't mean I'm giving up or giving in either. And it doesn't mean I must stop making music!

The deep breaths I take when I sing clear my head. They give me energy. They make me feel happier. And then there are all those benefits I can't feel. Like increased immunity factors, increased circulation, increased aerobic stamina and capacity. That's a lot of increases!



PSALM 146:2, NIV

The bible has over 400 references to singing and 50 direct commands to sing. Just because we are not singing together doesn't mean we should stop singing. Singing alone is freeing. There is no one to judge me. Only God is hearing me (I think) and since He gave me this voice, I praise Him with this voice!

And here's the new one!! It helps me sleep better. When I sing, it strengthens the throat and palate muscles, which in turn, decreases snoring and sleep apnea, therefore letting me sleep better. Wow!! You just have to love the singing! God gave us the song! We just have to sing it. How cool is that!!

Thanks for volunteering to mow the church lawn. We ask that you mow the lawn **some-time** during your scheduled week, preferably by Thursday. If you have a conflict, just trade dates with someone on the list. Mowing consists of the church lawn and the parsonage lawn.

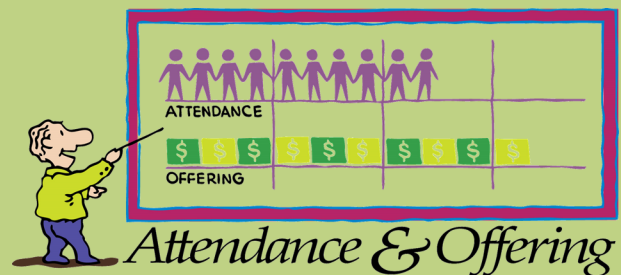


Aug	2	Chris Sorensen
Aug	9	Alan Ellis
Aug	16	Mark Ellis
Aug	23	Terry Eyberg
Aug	30	Ken Kemmish



**Sundays at 9:30 am**  
**BACK PARKING LOT**

As long as there are not storm warnings or lightening  
Pre-recorded services still posted online



Week of:	Attendance:	Offerings:
July 5	47	\$4,465.00
July 12	20	\$1,234.00
July 19	39	\$1,779.00
July 26	48	n/a

## Finance Team Update

### Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

June Income: .....\$9,762.00  
May Expense: .....\$10,839.90  
May Balance .....-\$1,077.90

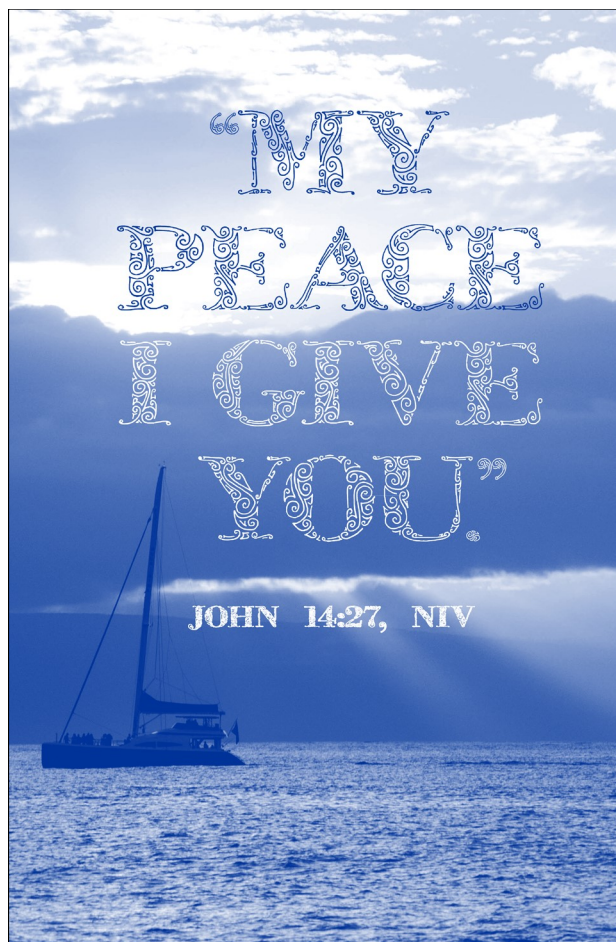
YTD Income: .....\$97,394.05  
YTD Expense: .....\$78,021.69  
YTD Balance .....\$19,372.36  
Plus Carryover.....\$16,983.29  
General Budget Fund .....\$36,355.65



## Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith  
Vision Statement: To Grow in Faith, Love, and Spirit

### Contact Us

Emanuel Lutheran Church  
2444 N. Broadway  
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Like us on facebook: [facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia](https://facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia)  
Visit us on the web at: [www.emanuelcb.org](http://www.emanuelcb.org)

### Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the back parking lot  
Virtual services posted each Sunday on YouTube and  
our Facebook page

### Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson ([pastor@emanuelcb.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelcb.org))  
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards ([music@emanuelcb.org](mailto:music@emanuelcb.org))  
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis ([office@emanuelcb.org](mailto:office@emanuelcb.org))  
Kidz Kamp/Activities, Stephen Lewis ([youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org))  
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed