

# Garden of Reading

Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

June 2023

## Happenings at Emanuel!

**Saturday, June 03**—Craft Inn

**Tuesday, June 13**—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet

**Sunday, June 18**—Father's Day

**Monday, June 19**—Church Council Meeting

**Sunday, June 25**—Blood Pressure Checks, Tie Dye for all ages

*Tai Chi each **Monday** and **Thursday** morning at 10 a.m. in the upstairs Youth Center*

*Bible Study each **Thursday** at 9:30 a.m. in the upstairs conference room*

Mission Statement:  
 Forgiven by Grace,  
 Serving by Faith

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



The beautiful weather provided a perfect day for the Sunday School class to go outside in God's creation the last day of Sunday School.

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# A Post from the Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



Silver and gold have I none,  
but such as I have I give thee,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, of Nazareth rise up and walk!  
They went walking and leaping and praising God,  
walking and leaping and praising God,  
In the name of Jesus Christ, of Nazareth rise up and walk!

As I write this I'm two days out from my surgery. I anticipate and look forward to all the activities I'll be able to return to once I've healed. I'll be able to dance, and to swim, and to ride a bike, and to walk without pain!

I also have been realizing how much living with physical pain has taught me about listening to my body and how much it's taught me about pain on the inside that we all carry with us as well.

Physical pain has taught me to always look for that sweet spot between motion and activity, but not to the point of injury. It's about balance and paying attention to what's going on.

Internally, we have so many painful things we don't like to think about so we shove them into a closet that come tumbling out when the door is opened. This time has helped me to learn to listen to the internal rhythms and to allow myself to reach out for the help and support I need.

In physical therapy I've learned to focus on each muscle—core, arms, hamstrings, calf, ankles, knees, hips, to slow down and move with deliberation and focus. My exercise, especially in the pool, becomes like a walking meditation. My breathing slows, and I relax. Every other worry and concern floats away and I walk out of the pool jelly legged and refreshed and able to move with greater ease.

I've learned to be more open to accepting help, accepting my limitations, and embracing the tools, like crutches or a cane, when they became needed to keep me safe and upright.

All of these lessons have become part of my healing, inside and out.

If there's one thing for certain, life is always flowing, and ever changing, like the lapping water in the pool. We can get so busy that we don't feel we have the time or energy or focus to attend to our inner hurts and pains. Yet Scripture tells us, do we not know that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit? We are of incredible and immense value and worth in the eyes of our Creator who made us. Shouldn't we also value ourselves? Valuing doesn't have to mean self-worship or self-absorption. It's a matter of caring for the gift God has given us.

Like my dad used to say, God don't make no junk.

I praise God for each of you and for the privilege to serve you as your pastor.

See you in church!

*Pastor Cara*

Our deepest condolences to Cindy Richards and her family. Her mother, Delores Fort passed last Sunday. Please keep Cindy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Tie Dye Ministry**  
**Sunday, June 25, During Coffee Hour**  
 Bring an item to tie dye (shirt, shorts, socks, etc.)  
 Cotton clothing works best for this project.  
 We will supply the dye, clothes pins and rubber bands.  
**ALL AGES WELCOME!**  
**FUN DOES NOT HAVE AN AGE LIMIT!**

*We all come into the world pure, much like a white shirt. Sometimes we get tied up and sin makes a stain on us. God takes our sin and makes us into a work of art.*



# GET READY FUR A GRRRREAT VBS!

At Pets Unleashed VBS, kids dig into Jesus' loving care through a relatable, pet-inspired adventure! This VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch. Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and multisensory Bible adventures are just a few of the activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and sturdy shoes.)

Friday, July 21    Saturday, July 22    Sunday, July 23

6 p.m.  
Dinner

9 a.m.  
VBS

9:30 a.m.  
Sunday  
Celebration

6:30 pm—8:30 pm  
VBS

Noon  
Family Cookout



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## LAWN-MOWING TEAM

<b>June 4</b>	Sid Dillon
<b>June 11</b>	Ken Kemmish
<b>June 18</b>	Al Marten
<b>June 25</b>	Mike Winter

Thanks for volunteering to mow the church lawn. With eight mowers, we have a nice rotation where we are not mowing all the time. We ask that you mow the lawn **sometime** 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. **If you use all the gas in the container, please fill up the container and turn the bill into the church. Keys for the mower and the garage are in the secretary's office. Any questions, problems, or suggestions, call Mark Ellis at 402-699-1472.**

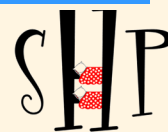
With trumpets...  
make a  
*joyful noise*  
before the **King**.

PSALM 98:6

The second Sunday of the month we have a "joyful noise" offering at the beginning of the service for local non-profits.

### June 11 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a local chapter of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. At SHP, we fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is where it is today because countless individuals asked the question, "What can I do?" The answer is that there are many ways to get involved! From volunteering your time and energy on a Build Day, to making a donation to a local chapter in need, to sponsoring a local build day; there are countless ways you can help us continue to ensure that "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!"



### July 9 - Bridges Out of Poverty

Bridges Out of Poverty is making a difference in Council Bluffs by bringing the community together to end poverty. Together, our goal is to help individuals and families realize their dreams and create a new story, and a compelling future. They offer workshops for individuals by introducing a new perspective, and they will learn that you have the power to influence your future and create positive change for yourself and your loved ones. They can break the poverty cycle once and for all!



# Happy Father's Day!

At LSI, we strive to empower and celebrate fathers and father figures in every stage of their life. This Father's Day, take some time to celebrate and show appreciation to all the male role models in your life.



Through our Early Childhood Services, we provide fathers with the education and resources they need to become the best parents and caregivers they can be. In our Clinical Services Department, we support fathers and father figures by providing individuals with mental health counseling and the tools they need to create bright futures for their families.

Many Iowa children entering foster care need a positive male role model in their lives. In our Foster Care and Adoption services, we support male individuals through the process of expanding their families, or becoming a new parent altogether.

We are able to provide these services to fathers of young children with the generous support from people like you! Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## Providing Support for First-Time Parents

Brandon and Nevaeh first heard about LSI's Early Childhood services at the hospital, following the birth of their first child. As many first-time parents, they were looking for support and guidance through this exciting time in their life.

"I'm really glad that we took the leap and chose to participate in LSI's Early Childhood program. This program has taken a lot of stress off of us by providing us with resources that walk us through the developmental process, and to know where our baby is at through each stage," said Brandon.

Brandon and Nevaeh work with Erica, an LSI Family

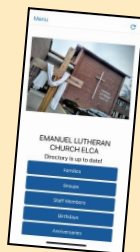
Support Worker in our Early Childhood department. "The home-visits with Erica have been extremely beneficial," expressed Brandon. "The resources and educational materials she provides us help us to understand the developmental milestones that we should be expecting at every stage of our child's life."

"Our baby is 10 months old now, and we are still learning a lot through LSI's Early Childhood program. Having support groups and people that you can reach out to with questions is essential," said Brandon. "To any first-time parents, I'd definitely recommend LSI's Early Childhood program."

## Church Directory Update

Did you know we have a directory that is accessible to members on their phones or other electronic devices?

Download "Instant Church Directory" through the App Store or Google Play and sign-in with your email address. If you are unable to sign-in, let Michaela know so she can check your email in our system.



You are able to update your address and photo and add birthday and/or anniversary dates in the directory at any time.

If you would like a printed copy of the directory, please contact the church office. There are updates almost weekly, so the online one will be the most accurate.

## Music with Lori Lynn!



The Council Bluffs Public Library will host Music with Lori Lynn on Monday, June 5 from 10:30 am—11 a.m. at Bayliss Park (100 Pearl St.).

They also have story time on Tuesday and Thursdays at Bayliss over the summer from 1-:30 am—11 a.m. and meeting room B at the library is a meal site for the free summer lunch program from 11 a.m.—11:30 a.m.





# CONGRATULATIONS



## Andrew Borwick

### Abraham Lincoln High School

Andrew graduated with his Diploma plus 1 recognition for taking and scoring well on the NRCC. His plans after high school are to work with his dad on the Handy Man business they have started and continue part time for now at Harbor Freight.

## Kylie Hansen

### Abraham Lincoln High School

Kylie has been involved in marching band, concert band, pep band, jazz band and played tennis throughout her high school career. She was also the section leader, for percussion, her senior year.

She will be attending Iowa Western Community College this fall for her general education classes and plans to transfer to a four year college after a year to play tennis and possibly pursue her interest in political science.



## Tyler Steensland

### Abraham Lincoln High School

Tyler in addition to his high school diploma, Tyler also graduated with his OSHA certification and honors in Tradeworks.

Tyler plans on going to Iowa Western this fall and continue his education in Zoology.



## Carly Sorensen

Associate of Applied Sciences in Early Childhood, IWCC

## Jessica Hipnar

Received her R.D.H. (Registered Dental Hygienist) through Dallas College

## Garrett Hatts

Graduated Welding Academy in Wyoming

# This Month's ACTIVITIES

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	<b>29</b> 10 am Tai Chi	<b>30</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	<b>31</b> 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	<b>1</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am Craft Inn 
<b>4</b> 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	<b>5</b> 10 am Tai Chi	<b>6</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	<b>7</b> 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	<b>8</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Joyful Noise</b> 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	<b>12</b> 10 am Tai Chi	<b>13</b> 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn <u>East</u> ) 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	<b>14</b> 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	<b>15</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Father's Day</b> 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	<b>19</b> 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting 	<b>20</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	<b>21</b> 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 	<b>22</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 11 am Tie Dyé Ministry  	<b>26</b> 10 am Tai Chi	<b>27</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	<b>28</b> 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	<b>29</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 10 am Craft Inn 

# Worship Assistant Schedule

*(if unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange a substitute and notify the church office of the change)*

<b>Sunday, June 04</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
<b>Acolyte</b>	Alex & Gabe VanSickle
<b>Lector</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Hiller
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Peggy Jarrell
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Mike Hipnar
<b>LiveStream Tech</b>	Michaela Lewis
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Angel McGee & John Spilde
<b>Sunday, June 11</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
<b>Acolyte</b>	Mason Lewis
<b>Lector</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Hiller
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Mason Lewis
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Darlene Jeppesen
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Mike Hipnar
<b>LiveStream Tech</b>	Michaela Lewis
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	
<b>Sunday, June 18</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
<b>Acolyte</b>	Alex & Gabe VanSickle
<b>Lector</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Mike Hipnar
<b>LiveStream Tech</b>	
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	
<b>Sunday, June 25</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
<b>Acolyte</b>	Grace & Tayah Nixt
<b>Lector</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Hiller
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Grace & Tayah Nixt
<b>Visual Tech</b>	
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Mike Hipnar
<b>LiveStream Tech</b>	Michaela Lewis
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	

## **SURPRISE DAD** ..... at work!

Dads work so hard to provide for their families' needs. Here's a fun way to show your appreciation to your dad this Father's Day.\*

### What you need:

- Paper and envelope (any color)
- Markers and crayons
- Stickers
- Pencil
- Stamp
- Your dad's work address

### What you do:

1. Decorate the paper with drawings, stickers, etc.
2. Write a message to your dad, letting him know how thankful you are for his love and hard work.
3. With an adult's help, write your dad's name and work address on the outside of the envelope and your return address in the top-left corner.
4. Place a stamp in the top-right corner and then mail your special gift.

### Other ideas:

- Pack a lunch to eat with dad at or near his workplace.
- Send your letter in a box and include some homemade cookies.
- Pack your dad a special lunch. Place self-stick notes with messages of appreciation on various food items.
- Write appreciation messages on self-stick notes and, with your mom's help, place them all over the inside of your dad's car.

.....

*\*All these ideas will work also for Mom on Mother's Day or her birthday.*

### ***We need YOUR help!***

***We would love to have you help with worship! Please contact the church office at (712) 323-9665, office@emanuelcb.org or sign-up on our website at: [www.emanuelcb.org](http://www.emanuelcb.org)***



**THIS MONTH'S**  
**birthdays**

June 03  
**Jeselyn Maxwell**

June 16  
**Judy Heithoff**  
**Kennedy Rickard**

June 24  
**Ian Spangenberg**

June 04  
**Danette Hein-Snider**  
**Bette Juhl**  
**Katrina Nixt**

June 17  
**Ben Heithoff**

June 28  
**Brad Holding**  
**Chris Wade**

June 07  
**Connie Solon**

June 18  
**Ken Kemmish**  
**Ryan Nordstrom**

June 29  
**Jeff Wilson**

June 10  
**Heather Linsenmeyer**  
**Nolan Winter**

June 21  
**Kade Holcombe**  
**Porter McSorley**

June 30  
**Connie Edson**  
**Mason Lewis**



**THIS MONTH'S**  
**anniversaries**

June 01  
**Michael & Carla Hipnar**  
**Kenneth & Char Les Kemmish**

June 17  
**James & Ruth Nelson**

June 28  
**Jesse & Jolene Hansen**  
**Michael & Suzanne Winter**

June 04  
**Laura & Clayton Kai**  
**Stephen & Jennifer Plummer**

June 19  
**Kevin & Rita Epperson**

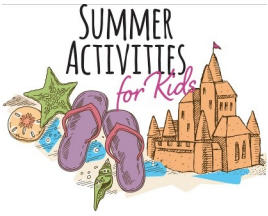
June 29  
**Christopher & Megan Sorensen**

June 11  
**Ryan & Tara McSorley**

June 25  
**Jennifer & Brandon Clark**

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)





Council Bluffs has several activities to keep kids occupied over the summer when not in school. On this page we have a few of the resources that the city and school system provide.

### Recreation On-The-Move

This is a free drop-in program with fun, pop-up recreational programming throughout the parks of Council Bluffs. The activities are designed for kids to attend with friends, parents, or caregivers and will feature a different theme with related games and activities.

Date	Time	Location	Activity
Friday, June 9	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Cochran Park	Pickleball, Soccer, Big Blue Blocks
Friday, June 23	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Vincent Bluff	Plant Giveaway, Big Blue Blocks
Friday, July 14	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Valley View Park	Yard Games, Big Blue Blocks
Friday, July 28	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Sunset Park	Big Blue Blocks

### Summerfest at River's Edge

June 2, 2023—6:00 to 9:30PM  
*River's Edge Park*  
 (4200 Avenue B, Council Bluffs, IA)



The third annual SummerFest at River's Edge is going to be bigger and better than ever! We are partnering with Council Bluffs Public Library, PACE, The 712 Initiative, The YMCA, and Fantasy Drone Shows to give you a lineup of summery fun you won't want to miss! New this year: Drone Show! At dark, Fantasy Drone Shows will light up the sky with 150 drones for a dazzling display, unlike anything you've seen before! Other Summerfest Activities:

- Live Music with The Matt Cox Band
- Food Trucks
- Photo Ops
- Community Mural
- Foam Party
- Inflatables
- Face Painting
- Balloon Animals
- Yoga Classes
- Giant Bubbles
- Disc Golf
- LaCrosse
- Pickleball
- Relay Races
- Characters
- Giveaways
- Arts and Crafts
- Yard Games
- Chalk Art
- Drone Show at Dark

Admission to SummerFest is free. Food trucks will be on-site, with concessions available for purchase. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for the drone show!

For more Information, contact: Ashley Kruse, (712) 318-9000  
[akruse@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:akruse@councilbluffs-ia.gov)

### Kids' Fishing Derby

June 3, 2023—10:00AM to 12:00PM  
*Arrowhead Park*  
 (29357 310th Street, Neola, Iowa)

Bring the entire family to Arrowhead Park for a morning of fishing fun in the sun on Saturday, June 3rd at 10:00 a.m. (Please note the time change from previous years). This event is held in conjunction with Iowa's free fishing weekend, which means a license is not required for Iowa residents. All other IDNR fishing regulations apply. Children must bring their own fishing pole and bait to join in the fishing derby fun. Some bait will be provided. Children must be under 16 years of age to participate. Every child entered in the derby will receive a snack and prizes are awarded in several categories. Pre-registration is not required for this event, although free-will donations will be gratefully accepted & used to fund additional free, low-cost public programming at your county parks. A \$3 per vehicle entry fee or Pottawattamie Conservation membership is required to participate.

For more Information, contact: Kylie Jacott (712) 828-2140 or  
[kylie.jacott@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:kylie.jacott@pottcounty-ia.gov)

### Fire Hydrant Parties

Old-fashioned summer fun! The Council Bluffs Fire Department hosts hydrant parties on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. throughout the summer at various locations.

Hydrant parties are made possible thanks to our partners. We'd like to give a special thanks to Council Bluffs Water Works for providing the water and thanks to Centris Federal Credit Union for providing frozen treats.

#### 2023 Hydrant Party Schedule:

- June 13: Robert's Park (1000 N 25th St)
- June 15: 21st Ave & S 9th St
- June 20: Baldwin Cir
- June 22: 40th St & Ave C
- June 27: Bel Air Dr & Renner Dr
- June 29: River's Edge Park

Questions: Council Bluffs Fire Department (712) 328-4646

# Council Minutes for May 15, 2023

RECORDED BY MICHAEL WINTER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Members Present: Pastor Cara Knutson, Greg Steensland, Mike Winter, Mike Hipnar, Connie Edson, Richard Reed and Matt Perrone, Char Les Kemmish, Mike Loos, Brittney Smith

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Greg Steensland

Devotions: Michael Winter

Council Agenda:

- Motion by Matt Perrone, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Approved.
- Motion by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Richard Reed to approve the Consolidated Fund report. Approved.
- Motion by Matt Perone, seconded by Mike Loos to approve the treasurer's report for March. Approved. However, a question was asked, but not answered concerning a charge of \$1,570.99 for maintenance.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Connie Edson to approve the April treasurer's report. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Matt Perone to approve the Capitol and Building Fund report. Approved.
- Richard Reed asked if the Stewardship Committee could move \$75,000 of the \$150,000 from the Noran Davis Estate to a certificate of deposit. Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Matt Perone to allow this transaction. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Char Les Kemmish to approve the Memorial Fund report. Approved.
- Pastor Cara has submitted a detailed report setting out her job description and goals along with a job description and goals for other employees including Cindy, Michaela and Steve Lewis.

- Discussion was held concerning Linda Martens breaking her arm while at work day at the church and President Steensland will notify our insurance company of the injury in the event that the Martens' insurance company makes a claim against the church.
- Pastor requested vacation days for May 30 and for June 26-29. Motion by Mike Winter, seconded by Mike Hipnar to grant the vacation days. Approved.
- Pastor presented her report to the council concerning Children's Ministry, summer activity planning, the 2 day event in Omaha regarding training forum for youth and children's ministry, confirmation, senior high school graduation recognition, gift cards to college students and the ECLA gathering in New Orleans on July 16-20.
- Brittney Smith agreed to check with other churches concerning their protection from liability for installing playground equipment on their property.
- Connie Edson is going to ask that a sign-up sheet be passed around for volunteers to bring food for the food ministry.
- Char Les Kemmish made a report from the Property Committee indicating that \$156 was spent for plants, trees and garden hoses and that she is seeking bids to repair a broken window. She also reported no progress on remodeling of restrooms. Matt Perrone reported that the sidewalk repair is waiting for a Monday-Tuesday when the contractor can complete the work and also reported that there is a water leak in the sanctuary and Matt agreed to check it out for its source.



- Mike Hipnar reported from the Worship and Music Committee that the garage sale will be a two day event on Friday and Saturday.
- Greg Steensland agreed to do devotions at the June council meeting.
- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Brittney Smith to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Approved.



Deloris Christensen   Rita Epperson   Owen Hansen   Larry Hansen   Sharon Hansen  
 Norma Heath   Robert Hesseltine   Sawyer Lorenz   Norma Mass   Jane Meyer  
 Julie Powell   Tommy Schott   Doug Shapland   Ruth Sullivan   Bob Vergamini



## Homestead Extension for Seniors and Veterans

Iowans who were 65 or older on January 1, 2023, will receive a homestead exemption for their principal residence starting with the bill due in September 2024.

### There is a July 1 deadline.

Those who qualify must submit an application to their city or county assessor before July 1, 2023. Iowans who turn 65 in future years will need to file the form before July 1 of the year following their 65th birthday. The application only needs to be submitted once unless the taxpayer moves to a new primary residence.

### How much will this lower property tax bills?

The new law provides a \$3,250 exemption for the most recent assessment done in 2023. It will then increase to \$6,500 for the 2024 assessment year. The amount of savings will vary across Iowa because consolidated property tax rates differ from community to community.

### What is a homestead exemption?

A recent ITR Foundation article by Sarah Curry explains that exemptions reduce property taxes (in most cases) by exempting a certain amount of a home's value from taxation. However, the downside to this relief program is that it is more taxpayer-active than other forms of tax relief because taxpayers must apply for their relief.

### Military Service Property Tax Exemption:

The military service property tax exemption will increase from \$1,852 to \$4,000, starting in FY 2025. This tax break is available to "an honorably separated, retired, furloughed to a reserve, placed on inactive status or discharged veteran."

Veterans who already receive the exemption do not need to re-apply, but new applicants must submit the application form by July 1.

Using the same statewide average tax rate, Robinson estimates that the annual benefit to veterans will increase from \$62 to \$135 per year.

### Accessing Forms:

You can find the applications on the Iowa Department of Revenue website at <https://tax.iowa.gov/> and searching "homestead."



## ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS



Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
May 07	56	38	94	\$3,523.00
May 14	62	32	94	N/A
May 21	54	41	95	N/A
May 28	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

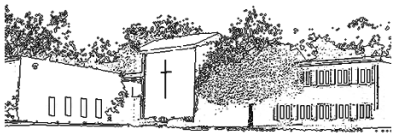
## Finance Team Update

### Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

April Income: ..... \$34,381.22  
 April Expense: ..... \$18,334.52  
 April Balance ..... \$16,046.70

YTD Income: ..... \$77,696.72  
 YTD Expense: ..... \$64,500.89  
 YTD Balance ..... \$13,195.83  
 Plus Carryover ..... \$3,245.82  
 General Budget Fund ..... \$16,441.65





**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

2444 North Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

IT WAS YOU WHO SET  
ALL THE BOUNDARIES OF  
THE EARTH; YOU MADE  
BOTH SUMMER AND WINTER.

PSALM 74: 17, NIV



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

Contact Us

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Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutheranbia  
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org  
Follow us on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/Lutheranla

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the worship center followed by coffee hour in the community room. Services are streamed live on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter

Children's Ministry:

Children will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Gospel reading during the Sunday worship service (*September—May*)

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))  
Children & Youth Programming, Stephen Lewis ([youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org))  
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed