# Garden of Readin'



#### **Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter**

December 2021

### Happenings!

Saturday, December 4—Craft Inn

Sunday, December 12—Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Wednesday, December 15—Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 19—Christmas Program & Confirmation

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 25—Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 31—Family Fun Night

Saturday, January 1—Happy New Year!

Mission
Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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

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



#### In This Issue... A Post from the Pastor .....2 Online Giving.....2 Inclimate Weather Policy......2 Christmas Program .....2 Bethany Update ......3 Treat the Troops......3 Worship Assistants.....4 Ways to Serve.....4 Church Directory ......4 ELC Event Calendar.....5 Birthdays & Anniversaries ...... 6 Council Notes.....7 Hanging of the Greens ......8-9 Lutheran Services in Iowa ...... 10 Warmth Tree ...... 10 Blue Christmas.....11 Cookies & Cocoa with Santa...... 11 Offering & Attendance ......11 Finance Team Update.....11



### A Post from the Pastor

By Pastor Cara Knutson

Good morning church!



This December 1 marks my second anniversary with Emanuel Lutheran. As I look forward to this date I first want to say I am filled with gratitude! The opportunity to serve God's people as the pastor of a congregation is literally a dream come true. And what a way to begin a new ministry with a new community! Three months in with my feet barely

wet we had to suspend in person worship due to COVID. I quickly had to learn to navigate online meetings and gatherings and worship. It also became so much more difficult to continue to get to know all of you. Like many of you, for me it was a lonely and isolating time. But soon we were able to meet outdoors, and I confirmed my first class of confirmands, we moved back indoors and cautiously began to come back together as a community.

I'm still very much learning how to be your pastor and you all have been very patient teachers. I continue to value your feedback. For Maja, Derek, and I you have also become our people. For so long we were without a regular church home and were very hungry for the welcome and belonging we've found here at Emanuel. You continue to support and love us which is a gift of immeasurable worth. We've already faced challenges together in this short span of two years which makes me confident we have what it takes to face the challenges of the future. I have learned so much from all of you: to be able to place my own ideas and opinions to the side to truly listen and learn from someone else's perspective and viewpoint—I may not come away agreeing but I can see the value of another's ideas. I've learned of the many and varied gifts contained within our people that are all vital and necessary for the health and well-being of our church.

It's Monday after our second round table discussion on stewardship. I want to commend our stewardship committee for thinking outside the box and trying something new. I want to commend all of you for your contributions to our discussion as a church how we can best move forward into 2023 and how we can make it easier for those who have not yet returned to in person worship to join us. I'd like to issue a challenge to each of you. When you come to church on Sunday, take a look around. What friendly faces do you see missing? Then give them a call and let them know you missed them and invite them to come back to worship.

This simple practice will also help us live fuller into our identity as a friendly, caring, loving and supportive church. We need to share with each other regularly that we value and need each other. Let's practice a little Christ love on each other.

### In Christ's Love, Pastor Cara



We know many of you will be joining us from home this Christmas. Emanuel extends a warm welcome to you and your family and friends as we enter this joyous season.

We wanted to remind you that we do offer electronic giving through our free mobile app. These eGiving tools are a fast and secure way to support us from the pew or in your living room.

To learn more, visit www.emanuelcb.org.

Inclement
Weather
Policy
If the poster

Just a reminder that if Council Bluffs Public Schools cancels activities due to weather, the office will close and activities and meetings scheduled for that day will also be cancelled or rescheduled.

If there is a cancellation of services, this will be posted on our Facebook page as well as be relayed to the local news stations.





Esther Bender Robert Hesseltine Tommy Schlott Deloris Christensen Sawyer Lorenz Bob Vergamini Owen Hansen Norma Mass Larry Hansen David Perault

## Bethany Updates



**Christmas Hat and Mitten Drive.** Help us give to the children of Council Bluffs! Bethany Heights is collecting **new** hats and mittens of all sizes to donate to the Phoenix House, Micha House, and Children's Square. Drop off at the Heights, 11 Elliott Street, before December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Amanda Richardson, Activates Director at the Home, tells about the activities there: a Veteran's Day Party, an Ice-Cream Social, a Turkey Bingo, a Tailgate Party, and a Book Club with Cece. In December the residents will be making Christmas snow globes. Michael Thomas, Activities Director at the Heights, shares their activity schedule: on the 6<sup>th</sup> a music performance with Denell Danner, a thanksgiving religious service with Pastor Scott from Underwood Lutheran Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> followed by a dinein Pizza King dinner, a huge Thanksgiving day party (fry a turkey, bake a turkey, ham with side dishes provided by the staff) on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a Monkey bread social in the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by a trip out in the countryside, and a do-it-yourself charcuterie (cooking involving prepared meats, such as ham, sausage, bacon, confit, or other pork products) board and a lowa @ Nebraska viewing party. The big news at the Heights is that they have resumed their shopping bus which they haven't done since March 2020!



Dear Emanuel members and friends,

On behalf of the Treat the Troops Project and Iowa Cookie Crumbs, I want to thank Emanuel for allowing us to use the church to pack cookies to deployed troops since 2007. In addition, the support from Emanuel's members has been phenomenal!

With our Operation Holiday Cheer November 16th packing, pictured, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have now sent over 1,496,000 cookies to our deployed military personnel.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs was formed by Abbie Crawford and is part of a network of volunteers with the national Treat the Troops organization (<a href="https://www.treatthetroops.org">www.treatthetroops.org</a>) begun in the 1990's by

Jeanette Cram. Our first shipment of 80 dozen cookies and letters of support and thanks were packed in Abbie's kitchen in January 2007. However, as more and more people heard about the project and wanted to help, it was apparent we could not continue packing in a home.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs, the only Treat the Troops group in Iowa and Nebraska, has three teams with approximately 180 dedicated bakers. At one time there were over 34 crumb groups across the United States – now there are only three active groups. While we do not know the reason(s) other groups dissolved, we do know ours has succeeded due to the outstanding support of the metro and surrounding communities and having Emanuel as a place to pack the cookies.

With the withdrawal of troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, the number of names we receive of the deployed has decreased so we now pack every other month. However, our military is still deployed across the globe and we will continue to send a "little bit of home" to them.



Again, a huge thank you to members of Emanuel for your support and for allowing the Iowa Cookie Crumbs to use the church facilities!

Sincerely,

Deann Over and the Iowa Cookie Crumbs

### Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, December 5	9:30 a.m. Service		
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde		
Acolyte	Alex & Gabe VanSickle		
Lector	Mike Winter		
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen		
Coffee Hour			
Sunday, December 12	9:30 a.m. Service		
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde		
Acolyte	Kade Holcombe		
Lector	Alan Ellis		
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell		
Coffee Hour			
Wednesday, December 15			
Ushers			
Lector			
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell		
Sunday, December 19	9:30 a.m. Service		
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde		
Acolyte	Mason Lewis		
Lector			
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell		
Coffee Hour			
Friday, December 24	4:30 p.m. Service		
Ushers			
Acolyte			
Lector			
Visual Tech			
Friday, December 24	7:00 p.m. Service		
Ushers			
Acolyte	Grace Nixt		
Lector			
Visual Tech			
Sunday, December 26	9:30 a.m. Service		
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde		
Acolyte			
Lector			
Visual Tech			
Coffee Hour			



FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church*Directory and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.







#### We need YOUR help!

We would love to heave 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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Hanging of the Greens & lunch	29 10 am Tai Chi	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	5:30 pm Dinner followed by Wednesda y Night Recharge 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	3	4 10 am Craft Inn
9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour	6 10 am Tai Chi	7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	5:30 pm Dinner followed by Wednesda y Night Recharge 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	10	11
9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 1 pm Cookie & Cocoa with Santa	13 10 am Tai Chi	14 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	7 pm Blue Christmas Service Newsletter Articles Due	16 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	17	18
9:30 am Service & Christmas Program in Worship Center 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Confirmation 2 pm Piano Recital  Children's Christmas Program	20 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	5:30 pm Dinner followed by Wednesda y Night Recharge 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	23	4:30 pm Family Style Worship  Family Christmas Eve Service 7 pm Worship with Festival Candles Candlelight Service	25  Words  CHRISIMAS
26 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 10:30 am Coffee Hour	<b>27</b> 10 am Tai Chi	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	29 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	31 6 pm Family Fun Night	10 am Craft Inn



Dec. 01

Mason Garreans Sarge Schuchard

Dec. 04

Connie Eyberg Zach Winter

Dec. 05

Judy Dillon Shirley Schuchard

Dec. 06

Wesley Bradshaw Shelby Rickard Mike Winter

Dec. 08

Andrew Borwick Jamie Hansen Dec. 09

**Bob Juhl** 

Dec. 10

**Tina Larson** 

Dec. 12

Richard Borwick Cael Hansen

Dec. 13

Karen McPartland

Dec. 16

**Susan Wilson** 

Dec. 17

**Carrie Hansen** 

Dec. 18

**Emily True** 

Dec. 19

**Allen Martens** 

Dec. 20

Kobie Ferguson Taryn McSorley Jade Wohlers

Dec. 21

Kaitlyn Egner

Dec. 22

Sam Heithoff Jan Husmann

Dec. 23

Clarissa Haats

Dec. 25

**Elaine Sasso** 

Dec. 26

**Emily Longnecker** 

Dec. 27

Sid Dillon Tristan Steensland

Dec. 28

Brett Egner Luke Hansen Jon McGreevy

Dec. 29

**Judy Wilson** 

Dec. 30

**Shae Nickels** 

Dec. 31

**Danny Britson** 



December 02

Larry & Sharon Hansen

December 15

Cara & Maja Knutson

December 17

Ron & Elaine Sasso

December 31

**Dan & Judy Heithoff** 

### Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

### Council Minutes for November 15, 2021

RECORDED BY CHRIS REED



Members present: Mike Winter, Char Les Kemmish, Mike Hipnar, Matt Solon, Al Martens, Nick Rickard, Shelby Rickard, Alan Ellis, Chris Reed, Pastor Cara Knutson, Greg Steensland

Member absent: Connie Edson, Mike Loos

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Mike Winter. Al Martens gave devotion.

Secretary's minutes from the October meeting:
Motion to approve by Nick Rickard,
seconded by Shelby Rickard. Motion carried.
Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by
Alan Ellis, seconded by Mike Hipnar. Motion
carried

- Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Shelby Rickard. Motion carried.
- Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Al Martens. Motion carried.
- Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Al Martens. Motion carried. Greg reported Mildred Rogers Memorial Fund is open to use for sound system, per her son.

Pastor Cara submitted her report. She reported the monthly Craft Inn is a hit and will continue. She requested vacation December 25-29. Motion to approve vacation and songfest on December 26 and seconded. Motion carried. Pastor Cara will find volunteers for the service.

#### Committee Reports:

- Property Alan Ellis reported the Asphalt was moved to Spring 2022. Roof has some issues, Alan will get someone to look at. Bathroom construction, Alan called two companies for bids, but no response. Mike Hipnar said electrician is ready for installation of electronic equipment, Alan will follow up.
- Worship and Music Mike Hipnar reported that Cindy Richards would like to hire for two positions (Handbell Choir Director and Chancel Choir Director), job descriptions were provided for both. Greg Steensland made a mo-

tion to approve these two positions, not to exceed 4 hours a week/each and not to exceed \$20/hour, hopefully same person, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

- President Mike Winter provided the current 2019 Family Leave Policy. Pastor Cara presented the Synod's compensation guidelines. Council members discussed to leave Family Leave Policy as is for now and will address each situation as they occur.
- Quilting classes at Emanuel Darlene
  Jeppesen asked if a non-member can rent
  out space for quilting classes. Chris Reed will
  ask more questions for Darlene to ask than a
  decision will be made.
- President Mike Winter would like to remind those council members who's term expires in January 2022 to think about renewing their term. A complete list was provided.
- Chris Reed received a request from Darlene Jeppesen to bring in Table Grace music and food for an event in the future at Emanuel. She would like to use Jim and/or Gene Jeppesen Memorial Fund for this event. Motion to approve this request by Chris Reed, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried. Council recommends she work with Cindy Richards for a date.
- Church Mask Policy Char Les Kemmish made a motion for non-vaccinated members/ guests are required to wear masks and vaccinated members/guests are strongly encouraged to wear masks, seconded by Mike Hipnar. Motion carried.

Next meeting is December 20 with Char Les Kemmish doing devotions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:20pm by Matt Solon, seconded by Al Martens. Motion carried.





















## Save the Date!

We will be removing the Christmas decorations after worship on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

The more help we have, the quicker it will go!

# Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5



As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support lowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or <a href="Deborah.Whitford@LSlowa.org">Deborah.Whitford@LSlowa.org</a>. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSlowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove 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 <a href="https://www.LSlowa.org">www.LSlowa.org</a> and <a href="https://www.tslowa.org">www.tslowa.org</a> and <a href="https://www.tslowa.org">

#### Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important

developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

"I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself," she says. "There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help."

### Christmas "Warmth Tree"

#### By Wider Ministries Committee



It is time to think of the homeless and those in need of warmth-both in feelings and for their bodies.

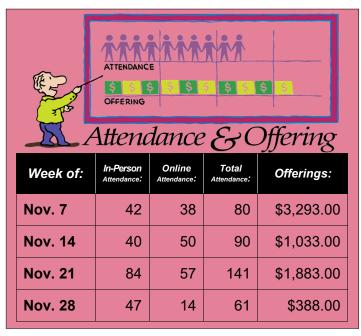
We will be collecting socks, gloves, mittens, and hats for all ages. New or gently used items are welcome. They can be put on the tree when the church is decorated in December.

These are delivered to homeless shelters, schools, etc. Thank you!









### Finance Team Update

### Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

October Income:	\$12,018.86
October Expense:	\$13,799.26
October Balance	-\$1,780.40

YID Income:	\$132,057.85
YTD Expense:	\$131,126.69
YTD Balance	\$931.16
Plus Carryover	\$20,408.34
General Budget Fund	\$21.339.50



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
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499
(712) 323-9665 Emergencies: (712) 314-0085
office@emanuelcb.org
Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

### Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the worship center followed by coffee hour. Facemasks are required for those who have not been vaccinated and strongly encouraged for thouse who have. Services are streamed live on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter

### Children's Ministry:

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. in the classrooms.

### Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson (pastor@emanuelcb.org)
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards (music@emanuelcb.org)
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis (office@emanuelcb.org)
Kidz Kamp/Activities, Stephen Lewis (youth@emanuelcb.org)