



Garden of Reading

Emanuel Newsletter

Happenings at Emanuel!

- Sunday, May 4**—Honoring our graduating seniors
- Sunday, May 11**—Mother's Day, Joyful Noise Offering for LSI
- Monday, May 12**—Ale & the Almighty
- Tuesday, May 13**—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet
- Saturday, May 17**—Dinner Church
- Sunday, May 18**—Youth Led Worship
- Monday, May 19**—Newsletter Articles Due
- Monday, May 26**—Memorial Day, Office Closed
- Tuesday, May 27**—Book Club Meets

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*



We had about 40 children and 40 adults come for our craft day and Easter Egg hunt the Saturday before Easter. We decorated cups and made wind chimes. Thank you to everyone who donated items for funds to help fill 1,600 eggs for the hunt!

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The Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia

This Holy Week, in addition to our usual services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, our confirmands, Jamie Ricks-Ashley, Maja Knutson, Pr. Stephany Sanborn, and myself joined with St. Paul's Episcopal in Council Bluffs for a joint Easter Vigil service on Sat. Apr. 26. Tayah Nixt was our crucifer—she led the procession into and out of the service carrying the cross, while Grant and Garrett Ashcraft were two of our readers.

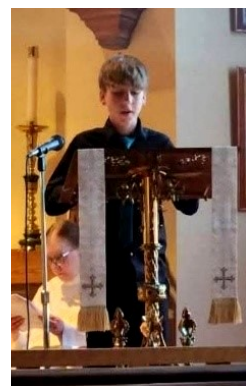


I wandered into an Episcopal church one Easter Vigil and saw a woman deacon chanting the Exsultet and assisting behind the altar and I got so excited and said to myself, I want to do that. So, this year I got to. It was very exciting to come full circle.

What's the Exsultet you may ask? It's a lengthy sung proclamation delivered before the paschal candle, ideally by a deacon during the Easter Vigil. It may be sung by a priest or a cantor. It is sung after a procession with the paschal candle before the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word. It is also used in Anglican and various Lutheran churches, as well as other Western Christian denominations. Historians think the Exsultet goes all the way back to as early as the fifth century.

The preface makes a parallel between the Passover with the candle corresponding to the pillar of fire that led the children of Israel while wandering in the wilderness for forty years.

I came across this quote while preparing this article, "here the language of liturgy rises to heights which are hard hard to find a parallel in Christian literature...we are drawn into the warmth of the deepest mysticism, to the region where, in the light of paradise, even the sin of Adam may be regarded as truly necessary and a happy fault. Secondly, the candle itself is offered as a burnt sacrifice, a type of Christ, marked by grains of incense as with the five wounds of his passion".



See you in church!

Pastor Cara



Dinner + Church

You are invited to join us for a casual service during dinner in the community room

Saturday, May 17
6 p.m.
Community Room
Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N Broadway
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503



Easter Flowers

Thank you so much for helping brighten up the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

Judy Heithoff

In memory of Jim & Gene
Darlene Jeppesen

In memory of Harvey Christensen,
Ray Kanger & David Perault
Sandy Kanger

Allen & Linda Martens

In memory of David Larson
Angel McGee

Darlene & Richard Reed

In honor of my parents,
Roger & Betty Adkins
Cheryl Rowe

In memory of Michael Stone
Jan & Rick Stone

Spring Projects



Do you have left over building materials from your past few projects? Do you have excess furniture that just doesn't match your décor anymore? Give the Habitat for Humanity of Council Bluffs ReStore a call schedule a FREE pick up. Take a look at what they can accept as a donation at <https://habitatcb.org/habitat-restore/>

**Foster a rescue,
change a life . . . yours!**



S.O.L.A.S. volunteers find such joy and purpose in guiding rescued cats & kittens back to health, happiness, and onto their forever homes!

Fostering is life changing.

START YOUR
FOSTER JOURNEY
info@solaspetaadoption.org




FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

You Can Make a Difference!

- Council Bluffs
- Davenport
- Des Moines
- Sioux City
- Spencer
- Storm Lake
- Waterloo
- And More!


More info at LSIowa.org/foster



Centris
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION PRESENTS

CB ERAS

May 5-11, 2025



MONDAY
Mayor Proclamation
3:45PM at City Hall

TUESDAY
Clean Sweep
4:00-6:00PM

WEDNESDAY
Check out the Weeklong
Celebrate CB Scavenger Hunt

THURSDAY
Farmers Market Council Bluffs
4:30-7:30PM at Bayliss Park

FRIDAY
Ag Committee Spring Cookout
11:30AM-1:00PM at Bayliss Park

SATURDAY

Pancake Man
8:00-10:30AM at Bayliss Park


Parade 10:30AM

Free Activities in the Park
11:30AM-2:00PM at Bayliss Park






IOWA WEST FOUNDATION *belonging*






Bracelet Making Pop-Up

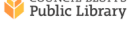






PACE Community Art Project
Council Bluffs Public Library Activities
Council Bluffs Symphony Orchestra
Recreation On-The-Move | Sidewalk Chalk
Food Trucks | SkateFest
Magician - Joe Cole

MORE INFO HERE 

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS!

WESTERN IOWA SYNOD

PIG
PROJECT



GOD'S LOVE
MADE REAL

2025 WESTERN IOWA
SYNOD ASSEMBLY
JUNE 13-14TH
NATIVITY PARISH CENTER
4242 NATALIA WAY SIOUX CITY, IA

2025 SYNOD

ASSEMBLY OFFERING

Across Western Iowa, community meals and food pantries provide essential support to families in need. This year, we invite every congregation to join The Pig Project—our Synod Assembly Offering—to help put high-quality protein on the tables of those who need it most.

How It Works:

- 🍷 Each congregation is asked to bring a \$400 offering to Synod Assembly worship.
- 👤 This money will be used to process and deliver pork to food ministries across Western Iowa.
- 🐷 **Hog producers:** Funds may also be used to purchase hogs that do not meet market standards, ensuring no resources go to waste.

How You Can Help:

- 💰 **Give** – Collect an offering in your congregation and bring it to Synod Assembly.
- 🗣️ **Spread the Word** – Encourage participation and share how this project makes a difference.
- 🙏 **Pray** – For those experiencing food insecurity and for all who work to feed our neighbors.

Together, we can make a difference—one pig at a time! 🐷

For more information, contact the synod office!

Worship Assistant Schedule

(If unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange a substitute and notify the church office.)

Sunday, May 04	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Jan Husmann
Acolyte	
Lector	Al Martens
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Cheryl Eneboe
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Sunday, May 11	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Jan Husmann
Acolyte	
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Sunday, May 18	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Jan Husmann
Acolyte	
Lector	Joann Blum
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Sunday, May 25	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Jan Husmann
Acolyte	
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	Lori Lynn Ahrends



We are in need of volunteers for worship assistants (lectors, altar guild, communion assistants, visual tech, livestreaming tech) as well as coffee hour hosts. You can sign-up at emanuelc.org under "ministries", or visit tinyurl.com/ELCast. You can also volunteer by contacting Michaela at (712) 323-9665 or office@emanuelcb.org.



May 4	Chris Sorensen
May 11	Alan Ellis
May 18	Sid Dillon
May 25	Ken Kemmish

June 1	Al Marten
June 8	Mike Winter
June 15	Chris Sorensen
June 22	Alan Ellis
June 29	Sid Dillon

Thanks to our volunteers who take care of the church lawn! It takes a good amount of time and we are extremely grateful to those who take on this role.

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 which is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., M-F. Any questions, problems, or suggestions, please call Mark Ellis at 402-699-1472.**



May 01

Carly Sorensen

May 02

Abaigeal Plummer

May 06

Anna Luther

May 09

Kyle Nordstrom
Matt Solon

May 10

Alexander Bradshaw
Riley Maxwell
Chris Nixt

May 12

Chris Sorensen

May 13

Natalie Boose
Richard Reed

May 14

Christi Hauschild

May 19

Cheryl Eneboe
Mike Loos

May 20

Kenna Hite

May 22

Garrett Smith

May 23

Desirée Snell

May 25

Jennifer Clark
Tiffany Pace

May 26

Ryan Wilson

May 27

Jennifer Plummer
Rick Stone

May 30

Brad Dahlke
Debbie Ferguson



June 03

Jeselyn Maxwell

June 04

Danette Hein-Snider
Bette Juhl
Katrina Nixt

June 07

Connie Solon

June 10

Heather Linsenmeyer
Nolan Winter

June 16

Judy Heithoff
Kennedy Rickard

June 17

Ben Heithoff

June 18

Ken Kemmish
Ryan Nordstrom

June 21

Kade Holcombe
Porter McSorley

June 29

Jeff Wilson

June 30

Connie Edson
Mason Lewis

Plant Exchange

May 18!

**Please join the Wider Ministries with a plant exchange and be kind to the earth tips.
Please bring any plants to share to the community room during coffee hour.**



Bob Bender
Norma Mass
Melody Schott

Danny Britton
Jane Meyer
Paul Schott

Deloris Christensen
Patty Maxwell
Tommy Schott

Owen Hansen
Julie Powell
Ruth Sullivan

Anniversaries, Prayer List, Foster Care

Sharon Hansen
Margie Powell
Stephany Sanborn

Norma Heath
Ron Reiff Jr.



May 03
Gary & Judy Pleas

May 07
Chris & Crystal Nixt

May 08
Cheryl & Gary Rowe

May 11
John & Glenda Smith II

May 19
Richard & Darlene Reed

May 20
Jeremy & Tonia Thielen

May 22
Stephen & Michaela Lewis

May 28
Clarissa & Edward Haats

May 29
David & Linda Fietz
Edward & Nina Reedy

May 30
Ron & Norma Stairs



June 01
Michael & Carla Hipnar
Kenneth & Char Les Kemmish

June 04
Laura & Clayton Kai
Stephen & Jennifer Plummer

June 11
Ryan & Tara McSorley

June 19
Michael & Carolyn Andersen

June 22
Jason & Deborah Siebels

June 25
Jennifer & Brandon Clark

June 28
Dennis & Jane Eitmann
Jesse & Jolene Hansen
Michael & Suzanne Winter

June 29
Christopher & Megan Sorensen

Youth-Led
May 18!
Worship

Join us as our worship service is led by our confirmation students (Tayah, Garrett & Grant) and assisted by some of our younger students.



MAY

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Confirmation at Parsonage 2 pm SCA meet upstairs 	5 10 am Tai Chi	6 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	7 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	8 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	12 10 am Tai Chi 11 am–4:30 pm Bridge Group in Community Room 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	13 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	14 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	15 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	16	17 6 pm Dinner Church in Community Room
18 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks w/ Crystal & Plant Exchange 11 am Church Council Meeting 2 pm SCA meet 	19 Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Tai Chi 	20 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	21 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	22 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	23	24 1 pm Community Room In-Use
25 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	26 Office Closed 10 am Tai Chi 11 am–4:30 pm Bridge Group in Community Room 	27 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club in Conference Room	28 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	29 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Bell Practice	30	31



JUNE

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	2 10 am Tai Chi	3 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	4 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	5 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Bell Practice	6	7 10 am Craft Inn
8 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	9 10 am Tai Chi 11 am–4:30 pm Bridge Group in Community Room 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	10 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	11 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	12 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Bell Practice	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	16 10 am Tai Chi	17 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club in Conference Room	18 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	19 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	23 Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Tai Chi 11 am–4:30 pm Bridge Group in Community Room 	24 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	25 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	26 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	30 10 am Tai Chi					

Empowering Independence

Submitted by Deb Whitford



Spring has finally arrived, bringing longer days, blooming flowers, and a refreshing sense of renewal. As we shake off the last chills of winter, it's the perfect time to embrace fresh opportunities, new beginnings, and the warmth of the season.

As we move through the first quarter of the year, we're excited to share another inspiring story of hope and healing. These monthly stories showcase the resilience and strength of those we serve and demonstrate the real impact of your generosity.

Your support is making a difference in our community—thank you for being part of this journey with us! Please read on to see how your contributions are positively impacting lives.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or reach out to Deborah Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

We are so grateful for your partnership in sharing our mission!

A Story of Resilience: Aime's Journey from Refugee to Entrepreneur

In 2010, Aime fled the war in Congo, seeking safety for herself and her future. She first found refuge in Tanzania before making her way to the United States, later that year settling in South Dakota. There, she worked with Palance Autism, dedicating herself to helping others. During this time, Aime met her husband, and together they built a family, eventually welcoming five children.

In 2012, Aime and her family moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where she began working with TPI, a wind energy company. For ten years, she juggled the demands of her job while raising her children. However, when TPI closed in 2022, Aime saw the chance to create a new path – one that would allow her to spend more time with her family and pursue a career more aligned with her values.

Determined, Aime enrolled in Lutheran Services in Iowa's childcare program in October 2022. With



their support, she launched her own day-care business in 2023. Today, Aime cares for six children in her daycare, providing a safe and nurturing space for them to grow while also staying closely connected to her own family.

Aime's story is one of resilience, growth, and the courage to start over. From fleeing her home to building a business in a new country, she has transformed her challenges into opportunities for herself, her family and her community.

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.



Did you know that we have the option of online giving? You can download the Vanco Faith app on your mobile device through the Apple Store or Google Play, or you visit our website at emanuelcb.org/ There are customizable giving options, including giving to different funds with one donation and you also have the option of setting up recurring payments. You are also able to view your electronic giving history through the app.



Mary anointed Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. Then she dried his feet with her hair.

In the Gospel story in the last Sunday in Lent, we hear about Jesus visiting with his dear friends, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This happened just after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. And Mary was anointing Jesus' feet with pure nard, this incredibly costly, precious substance. And then she dried his feet with her hair. Nard is a very powerful, pungent substance, and the Gospel says the room was filled with the fragrance.

Now I did a little research on nard, and some people would describe the smell as being pungent or earthy, or musty, or musky or like feet. So it was an interesting choice that people had in those days. And they did two things with nard. One, they would use nard to anoint the bodies of the dead in order to offset the stench of death, which Jesus had only encountered with his friend Lazarus a few days before. And it was also used for kings as a sign of royalty because of the luxury of this whole thing.

Well, Jesus was himself, like us, like the first Adam, an earth creature — pungent and full of life, dense in this sense. And this earth creature was obedient to death, reversing the work of the first Adam, who disobeyed and brought sin into the world. And we've suffered the consequences. The chief consequence is death, separation from God.

And now Jesus, the new Adam, the new earth creature, he's anointed, he says to Mary, for his burial and so that he will be using this incredibly pungent substance, while at the same time being very clear that he is, in fact, part of this incarnation, this earth creature. But instead of it being oil put on him to remove the stench of death, it became the anointing of a royal king. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the usual cycle of life and death has been disrupted forever. Jesus' death and resurrection promises new life and brings us new life.

Happy Easter, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Attendance



OFFERINGS



Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
April 06	85	23	108	N/A
April 13	92	93	185	N/A
April 20	112	60	172	N/A
April 27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

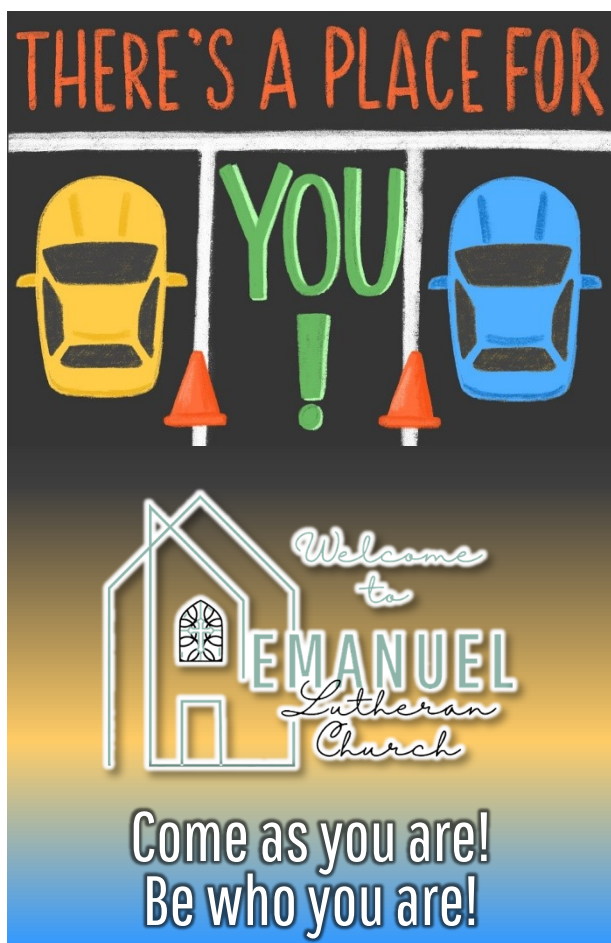
February Income: \$7,494.00
 February Expense: **(-\$15,501.68)**
 February Balance **(-\$8,007.68)**

YTD Income: \$29,968.00
 YTD Expense: **(-\$34,030.95)**
 YTD Balance **(-\$4,062.95)**
 Plus Carryover **\$9.12**
 General Budget Fund **(-\$4,053.83)**



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
Like us on facebook: [facebook.com/emanuellutherancba](https://www.facebook.com/emanuellutherancba)
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org
Follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/Lutheranla>

Office Hours: Monday 9 a.m.—1 p.m.,
Tuesday –Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

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)
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards (music@emanuelcb.org)
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis (office@emanuelcb.org)
Children & Youth Programming, Stephen Lewis (youth@emanuelcb.org)
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed
Treasurer, Connie Solon (finance@emanuelcb.org)