



Garden of Reading!

Happenings at Emanuel!

Saturday, February 03—Craft Inn

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

Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday

Monday, February 19—Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, February 18—Mardi Gras Coffee Hour with Potluck, Blood Pressure Checks & Confirmation

Tuesday, February 20—Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 21—Mid-Week Lenten Dinner & Worship Begin

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*



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A Post from the Pastor



Continuing on our theme of trying out new things I wanted to share a couple of resources I've discovered lately. If you're an NPR fan you may have heard of Gregory Warner. I liked to listen to his Rough Translations podcast. Recently he moved over to Substack and mentioned a podcast called The Ten Minute Bible Hour. Gregory describes this podcast thus: "fly fisherman and scholar Matt Whitman takes us through one book of the Bible at a time, broken down with literary insight and old fashioned edge-of-your-seat storytelling in episodes that are—as promised—ten minute snackers."

I gave it a listen and really enjoyed the episodes I've listened to so far. Matt is a very knowledgeable man with a conversational style that makes Scripture interesting, relevant, and captivating. I'd recommend scrolling to the very bottom and begin with episode 1.

On Thursday morning Bible study we've been viewing the video series Chosen which focuses on the life of Jesus. Far from a documentary, the Chosen takes the life and times of Jesus and tells them as a story with interesting characters that you can relate to. I especially like the character of Nicodemus and Simon.

If you're looking for a great book to get you thinking about God, try out Rachel Held Evans Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again. Rachel blends the biblical narrative with her own life and reflections in an enjoyable way that really makes you think whether you're new to studying the Bible or have been reading it all of your life. Rachel's book is available on Audible as well as in print and is read by the author. I've found I enjoy hearing books read, especially on road trips, or when I'm working on projects that keep my hands busy and leaves my mind available for thinking.

Let me know if you come across an interesting book, show, article, program, etc. I'm always interested and can share with others.

See you in church,
Pastor Cara

Keeping in touch with former members:

Jane and Phil Meyer were members at Emanuel for 44 years before moving a few years ago. They remain friends of Emanuel today.

Recently while visiting family in California, Jane had to be moved into a memory care facility. Her birthday is February 9 and while she may not remember people Phil thought she might enjoy receiving cards and letters.

If you would like to send a card, you may send it to the address below.



Jane Meyer
Ivy Park Sabre Springs
12515 Springhurst Drive
San Diego, CA 92128

Church Photo Directory
We Want You In It!

Save the Date!
Sunday, February 4th
&
Sunday, March 3rd
During Coffee Hour

If you would like to be included, but are unable to make it on either of these dates, please contact the church office so we can make other arrangements.



Ramblings from the Back Corner

Submitted by Cindy Richards

During the Midweek Lenten services, we will once again be using the Holden Evening Prayer. Why again? Because there are requests for it before and after Lent. It is like other liturgical works. Once learned they become part of us. We can recall them at various times in our life when we need them. They bring us comfort, and in today's world, especially during Lent, we long for that comfort, that familiarity.

Here are the words of Marty Haugen on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2015.

“Holden Evening Prayer is a vespers service that was written during the winter of 1985-1986 while my family and I were living at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington state. The community living there that winter sang through (and commented upon) many revisions of each part of the service; in that sense, this is the most collaborative project I have ever done.



I believe the durability and longevity of this evening prayer is due, in part, to having created the setting for that specific community, with their active participation in the process....

Holden has always been and continues to be a vibrant and important place of spiritual renewal, creativity, and Christian witness to the world. As the Village and the surrounding wilderness begin the long process of healing, fostering new growth after the devastating fires last summer, I am grateful for and inspired by the many faithful people-staff, guests, fire crews and remediation workers-who have given their time and hearts and minds over the many years to the on-going life and ministry of Holden Village”



Ale
&
the
Almighty



Monday, February 5th
6 p.m.

Glory Days (106 W Broadway)
Join us for an evening of fellowship and studying scriptures and how they apply to today's world and current events. They have a full menu and drinks if you would like to plan to eat/drink there during this time.

What does an usher do?

For each worship service at Emanuel, we have two ushers. Ushers arrive about 30 minutes prior to the service to greet people. For visitors, they will be the first friendly face they see when they arrive. Ushers give each person or family an announcement page and an attendance form.

Once the service starts, ushers still keep an eye on the door to greet anyone who might be arriving a bit late. The doors to the sanctuary remain open during the service so that Emanuel remains welcoming to latecomers. This also helps avoid shaking the mounted cameras for the livestream.

During the readings, ushers count the number in attendance and record it in a small white binder that sits on the usher stand.

During the offering, ushers pass the offering plates. Ushers also dismiss people by rows to go up for communion. If anyone wants to take communion from their seat, ushers will let Pastor know when they take communion after everyone else.

Rick Stone recruits volunteers to help with this important role at Emanuel. If this is something you think you would like to help with, please contact him or the church office.

**FIND
YOUR
NICHE**



What is the altar guild?

Our altar guild has a few different rolls at Emanuel. They are responsible for setting up communion each week and then cleaning up the altar after the service.

Before the service, they prepare the trays of wine and grape juice. We have a small communion cup filler that makes it easy to fill the small cups, so it doesn't take too much time. Our wafers come in packs of 100 and are poured onto the communion plate. There is also a larger wafer that is placed on a plate for pastor and some wine is put in a chalice for her to use when reading the words of institution during the service.

When the service is done, the altar guild puts away the communion trays and cleans up any spills and disposes of the used communion cups. This is a great behind the scenes job if you are not a fan of being up in front of others.

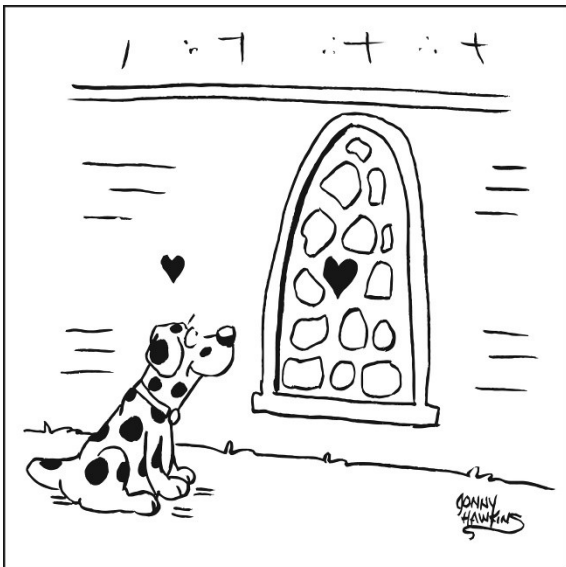
For those interested in helping with this, please contact Mike Loos or the church office.

What does a coffee hour host do?

Coffee hour is a nice way to socialize after the church service. Most weeks we order donuts from Walmart, as they seem to be the most cost effective option in the area. If you sign-up to host coffee hour, Michaela will see which store you prefer to pick-up donuts at and order them for curbside pickup on Sunday morning. All other supplies should be stocked in the kitchen.

After coffee hour, the host wipes down tables and consolidates any leftover pastries. If we are low on supplies, hosts can let Michaela know so that they can be restocked.

If a person or group prefers to bring something other than donuts, they just need to talk with Michaela so the donuts are not ordered that week.



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 or activities, this will be posted on our Facebook page as well as be relayed to the local news stations. WOWT and KETV are the most accurate to watch for closings, as they update as soon as I get them the information.



Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, February 4	9:30 a.m. Service	Sunday, February 18	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Mike Winter	Ushers	Rick & Jan Stone
Acolyte	Tayah Nixt	Acolyte	Garrett & Grant Ashcraft
Lector		Lector	
Altar Guild	Pat Hiller	Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Tayah Nixt	Communion Assistants	Garrett & Grant Ashcraft
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe	Visual Tech	
Sound Tech		Sound Tech	
LiveStream Tech		LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour		Coffee Hour	
Sunday, February 11	9:30 a.m. Service	Sunday, February 25	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Rick & Jan Stone	Ushers	Rick & Jan Stone
Acolyte		Acolyte	
Lector		Lector	
Altar Guild	Pat Hiller	Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants		Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech		Visual Tech	
Sound Tech		Sound Tech	
LiveStream Tech		LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour		Coffee Hour	





THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

February 02
 Christina Matuszeski

February 06
 Todd Eyberg

February 07
 Mike Todd

February 08
 Angel McGee

February 09
 Marci Boruff
 Janet Perrone

February 10
 Kelsey Carrier
 Julie Holland

February 11
 Logan Wilson

February 13
 Carla Hipnar
 Bettiemae Janssen
 Ernie Techau

February 14
 Amy Garreans

February 17
 Joshua Hubbard
 Novalee Rowe Van Dyke
 Vivienne Rowe Van Dyke

February 19
 Taylor Edson

February 21
 LaWayne Andersen
 Amy Steensland-Rickard

February 22
 Joann Blum
 Leo Gurnicz
 Ashley Hipnar

February 24
 Jason Carrier
 Shawn Gallagher
 Megan Sorensen

February 27
 Jane Anderson
 Brett Epperson

February 29
 Bob Otto



THIS MONTH'S
anniversaries

Feb. 5
 Sid & Judy Dillon

Feb. 9
 Gary & Jill Burton

Feb. 18
 Amy & Mike Garreans

Feb. 19
 Brad & Penny Dahlke

Feb. 28
 Matthew & Connie Solon

*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*

This Month's
ACTIVITIES
At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	29 10 am Tai Chi	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	31 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	1 9:30 am Adult Bible Study at Village Inn East 10 am Tai Chi	2  Groundhog Day	3 10 am Craft Inn 
4 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour/Photos 10:45 am Children & Youth Meeting 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	5 10 am Tai Chi	6 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 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—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour with Mardi Gras Potluck 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	12 10 am Tai Chi	13 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 7 pm Ash Wednes- day Service 	15 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	16	17 1 pm—3 pm Community Room in Use
18 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 11 am Confirmation 2 pm SCA meet upstairs 	19 10 am Tai Chi  SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES  PRESIDENTS Day	20 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Church Council Meeting 	21 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer	22 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	23	24
25 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	26 10 am Tai Chi	27 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	28 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer	29 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	1	2 10 am Craft Inn



Council Minutes for January 22, 2024

Notes

recorded by Michael Winter

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

Members Absent: Brittney Smith

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

Devotions: Pastor Cara Knutson

Council Agenda:

- The council received a report regarding the 2024 budget from Rick Stone and Connie Solon. The initial proposed budget for 2024 is \$178,108, but that might be slightly higher after correction for staff salaries. After taking into account pledges, it is estimated that there will be a deficit for 2024 of over \$15,000. This deficit is after taking into account estimated interest income from certificates of deposit in the amount of \$33,000.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Richard Reed to amend the staff salaries to reflect the church secretary working 30 hours a week. Approved.
- Motion by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve the budget as amended. Approved.
- Report from Richard Reed concerning transfer of funds from special accounts totaling \$5,773.13. Those accounts return to zero beginning in 2024. Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Connie Edson to approve those transfers. Approved.
- Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Mike Loos to correct the December minutes to reflect that the invoice from A Raymond Plumbing was to be paid from the Noran Davis Estate rather than dividends received from CD's in February. Approved.

- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Char Les Kemmish to approve the December minutes as amended. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Mike Winter to approve the Treasurer's report. Approved.
- Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Char Les Kemmish to approve the Consolidated Funds report. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Connie Edson to approve the Capitol and Building Fund report. Approved.
- Motion by Connie Edson, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve the Memorial Fund report. Approved.
- Mike Loos reported that we need volunteers for the Altar Guild.
- Mike Hipnar reported that we need to come up with new ideas for raising revenue to address the budget deficit. He suggested renting the facilities, both indoor and outdoor, for organizations and perhaps a virtual bingo. He invited others to think outside the box for other revenue raising ideas.
- Pastor Cara reported on repairs to the parsonage and reported on upcoming events including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Greg Steensland will do devotions for the February meeting.
- Motion by Mike Winter, seconded by Mike Hipnar to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Approved.

Note: The date of the February meeting will be decided at the first meeting of the new church council after the annual meeting.

Online Giving

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 <https://www.emanuelcb.org/> There are customizable giving options, including giving to different funds with one donation and you also have the option of setting up reoccurring payments. You are also able to view your electronic giving history through the app.



Happy Valentines Day from LSI

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19
Submitted by Joyce Williams



The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

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We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.



For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 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 and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Sending of Communion

Now that we have the option of joining worship online several members have commented they can see and hear better than worshipping in person. However, those members are not able to receive communion. Pastor Cara is for volunteers to bring communion to members not able to easily come to church or are able to better see and hear worship online. If you would be interested in helping with this important ministry please contact Pr. Cara at pastor@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9667. Thank you!



Do We Have Your Current Address? Just a reminder to keep us updated if your address, phone or email changes. Also, if we don't have your birthday or anniversary on file, please let us know!

You can contact the office at: office@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9665.

DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON,
***we praise God for
his righteous Son,***
who perfectly kept all of God's commandments
for us and paid the full price
for our disobedience.

Lent

From the ELCIA Blog

Definition

Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter.

A Very Brief History

The term "Lent" originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten" which means "spring." This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses' forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

A Few Notes on Current Practice

The appointed liturgical color for Lent is purple because purple has long been associated with royalty. In this case, Christ reigns from a cross.

Currently, the ancient understanding of Lent as both a time for baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal is being rediscovered in Lutheran rites and practice. Many congregations hold mid-week services during Lent and a baptismal renewal theme is particularly appropriate for these.

Many congregations refrain from speaking or singing the word "alleluia" during Lent. "Burying" the alleluia occurs at the conclusion of worship on Transfiguration Sunday and it is restored at either the Vigil of Easter or Easter Sunday. A Lenten acclamation replaces the alleluia verse in preparation for hearing the Gospel.



**If you have something you would like to submit for the newsletter,
please email it to office@emanuelcb.org by the third Monday of the month.**

Thank you!

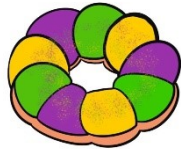


Jeanne Andrews	Deloris Christensen	Owen Hansen	Sharon Hansen	Norma Heath
Al Martens	Norma Mass	Jane Meyer	Patty Maxwell	Jim O'Neill
Julie Powell	Melody Schott	Paul Schott	Tommy Schott	Ruth Sullivan



All-Church Potluck

Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) falls the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. We will be having a special coffee hour with food to celebrate on Sunday, February 11th, before the start of Lent. If you would like to bring a dish to share, it will be greatly welcome. We are not open to all food styles, so bring ever you like! We will have a King Cake to tie in with Mardi Gras. If you are interested in donating anything for a silent auction, please touch base with Pastor Cara.



Building Community

Submitted by Michaela Lewis

As we look forward to the rest of 2024, we would like to plan more events that invite the community to Emanuel, especial children, youth and families. While we always welcome visitors, but some people can be intimidated by showing up on a Sunday morning, and an invitation to a social event where we can meet a need or provide some entertainment, and visit with them can make a difference.

Events such as or Trick-or-Treat event and Cookies and Cocoa with Santa brought in lots of visitors. We have had wildlife encounters in the past that also drawn a large crowd. It gives us an opportunity to connect with our neighbors without them feeling like something is expected from them.

This includes events where members of Emanuel can also visit and see each other outside of a Sunday morning worship service. Maybe this is a game or movie night, potluck, class or outing.

If you have and interest or idea, I would love to hear it to see if we can explore the possibility of adding it to the calendar!



ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS



Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
January 07	53	39	92	n/a
January 14	No service due	to weather		n/a
January 21	42	26	68	n/a
January 28	47	20	67	n/a

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

December Income: 25,852.25
 December Expense: -\$8,825.05
 December Balance \$17,027.20

YTD Income: \$170,251.83
 YTD Expense: -\$174,185.00
 YTD Balance (\$3,822.08)
 Plus Carryover \$3,245.82
 General Budget Fund (\$576.26)



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THERE'S A PLACE FOR

YOU!

EMANUEL
Lutheran
Church

**Come as you are!
Be who you are!**

*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/emanuellutheranclbia](https://www.facebook.com/emanuellutheranclbia)
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)