

# Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2016

## Happenings!

**Thursday, December 31**—New Year's Family Fun Night 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Bring Family, Friends, Favorite games and a dish to share.

**Sunday, January 10**—Sunday School Resumes

**Sunday, January 17**—New Member Reception & Confirmation Large Group

**Sunday, January 24**—Annual Meeting with special congregational meeting to

follow. Children and Youth committee will serve lunch after meetings to raise funds for camperships and mission trip.

**Sunday, January 31**—Hymnsing! Pick your favorite hymns to sing at worship!

**Sunday, February 7**—Mardi Gras

**Sunday, February 14**—Healing Service

Mission  
Statement:  
Forgiven  
by Grace,  
Serving by  
Faith

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



Caroling at Midlands Living Center on December 13<sup>th</sup>

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# Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Dear partners in the Gospel,

Here is our theme verse for 2016: *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"* (1 Corinthians 12:7). We will give thanks to God for sending us gifts for mission and service through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The secular world defines "gifted" in this way: "having exceptional talent or natural ability." That puts the emphasis upon the person who has received the gift. But a gift requires a Giver. We rejoice to know the One who gives us gifts to benefit the Church and to serve the world.

Our giftedness arises in our baptism into our Lord's death and resurrection. You may notice a particular prayer of blessing when we baptize a person. The technical name for that prayer is the "Epiclesis." That word literally means the "calling forth." In this prayer, we name the gifts of the Holy Spirit given in baptism: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and the spirit of joy in God's presence (please see page 231 in the *ELW*). Baptism is the key that unlocks our giftedness for mission and service in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As followers of Jesus, we confess that God's gifts always lead to God's calling. So just as we "call forth" the gifts of the Spirit, we are called forth into mission and service. That's why our baptismal rite ends with a reminder of our vocation. We use Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount: *"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* Whenever the Holy Spirit gifts us, the Holy Spirit calls us into mission and service.

So we will spend time this year exploring how the Spirit is gifting Emanuel Lutheran Church for mission and service. During Epiphany, we will explore those gifts in our congregation and in our lives as individual believers. I know that Emanuel Lutheran Church is a wonderfully gifted congregation filled with wonderfully gifted disciples. As we explore those gifts, we must always ask ourselves, "To what are we being called through these gifts?"

During the rest of the year we will explore some of the most important gifts given to the Church—the gift of prayer, the gift of the Psalms, the gifts of faith, hope and love. It is my prayer that our experience of the Holy Spirit's power will grow and deepen as we make this journey together. Thank you for sharing your marvelous gifts for our common mission and service here.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lowell

*Dear friends in Christ,*

*Thank you for your kind and generous cards, gifts, prayers and good wishes for us in the season of Christmas. It is our honor to serve with you here at Emanuel. We are blessed to be partners with you in Jesus' mission of life and love here. We are very grateful.*

*Yours in Christ*

*Pastor Lowell and Brenda Hennigs*

# Special Congregational Meeting & Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 24, 2016, commencing thirty minutes after the conclusion of the Emanuel's Worship Service.

Immediately following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting there will be a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on calling Pastor Lowell Hennigs as Emanuel's Redevelopment Pastor for a four year period and compensation and benefits to be paid to and on behalf of the Pastor.

During the meetings there will be a movie for children. Following the meetings there will be lunch served by the children and youth committee with a free-will offering to help with the cost of the summer mission trip and camps.



## New Members

We will receive new members at Emanuel Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 17, 2016. If you are interested in becoming a member at Emanuel, please contact Pastor Hennigs at the church office or at [emanpas1@gmail.com](mailto:emanpas1@gmail.com). We thank God that the Holy Spirit is growing our community of faith, hope and love in the name of Jesus.

## Time to Think about Writing a Devotion for Lent

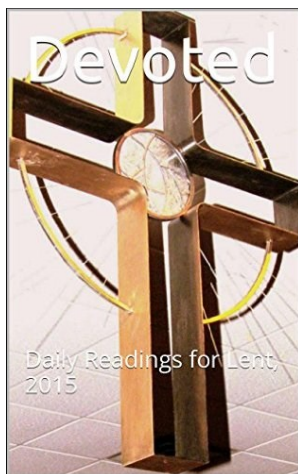
BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Lent! What are you talking about? Christmas has barely past!

Yes, we know that, and it may seem premature. But Lent begins VERY early in 2016. Ash Wednesday is February 10<sup>th</sup>. If we want to produce a congregational devotional book for Lent this year, our writers need to begin thinking and praying and preparing NOW. In order to have a printed devotional book ready for Ash Wednesday, we will need devotions written and submitted to Pastor Hennigs by January 15<sup>th</sup>! So it's not too early to think about this.

Our Sunday worship focus during the Lenten season will be "The Gift of the Psalms." The Psalms are the prayer book of Jesus and the Church. But we don't know them nearly well enough. So we will take on the challenge of reading all 150 psalms during the forty days of Lent. Our Lenten devotional book will focus on selected psalms from those daily readings. And our Sunday messages will be based on the beautiful and powerful words of the psalms appointed in the lectionary for each of the Sundays in Lent.

The Psalms are the "school" where Jesus learned to pray in his earthly life. And by the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus continues to pray with us daily in and through the Psalms, if we are willing to pay attention to his voice in these wonderful words.



So, what can you do?

**First, make a commitment to set aside time each day in Lent for Bible reading and prayer.** If you can do something for forty days, the chances are that it will become a habit that you can keep.

**Second, get ready to accept the forty-day challenge to read through the psalms as a church family.** Pick out your favorite Bible translation and get a nice book mark so you can keep your place. You might want to pick up a small

notebook or journal so you can write down those words and verses that speak to your spirit each day.

**Third, consider writing a devotion for our congregational Lenten devotional book.** When you write that devotion, be sure to write the date for which you are creating your devotional piece. In that devotion, we ask you to identify the verse or verses of the psalm on which you will focus. We ask you to share your thoughts in about 200 to 400 words. We ask you to end your devotion with a brief prayer based on the devotion. And we ask you to put your name at the end of the devotion.

The Psalms are the Spirit's gift to us—a gift that can deepen our lives of prayer. Let's take this journey together into a fuller experience of God's love for us through the cross of Jesus!



## In Our Prayers...

Ray Kanger  
Betty Ebsen

Daphne Miller  
Elizabeth Britton

Glen Fahrenkrug  
Viola Anderson

Lucille Weatherill  
Deb Hipnar

Leona Carlson  
Monte Manser

## Happy Birthday...



**January 2** Bob Bender  
Annalise-Marie Davis

**January 7** Tara McSorley  
Daniel Solon

**January 8** April Reedy

**January 9** Noah Conley

**January 10** Clayton Juhl

**January 12** Linda Martens

**January 13** Brennan Plummer  
Alice Smith

**January 15** Alce Croson

**January 19** Jerry Ebsen  
Brenda Hennigs

**January 20** Ann Goldapp  
Chris Reed

**January 21** Kara Nickels

**January 22** Ava Jarrell

**January 25** Elizabeth Britton

**January 27** Hanna Ferguson

**January 28** Tim Clark

**January 29** Amari Johnson

**January 30** Madison Nickels

**January 31** Teena Mosel  
Patty Maxwell  
Tyler Weelborg

## Happy Anniversary...

**January 10** Irvin & Norma Mass

**January 22** Ron & Alice Smith



*If we've missed a birthday or anniversary please let the church office know!*



# Thursday Morning Adult Class

BY LOWELL HENNIGS

A new Thursday adult class topic begins January 28<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the upstairs conference room, we will use a fine book called *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*. Hundreds of Christian denominations and dozens of non-Christian traditions have followers in the United States. How do we view this wide variety of beliefs and practices? How does the Lutheran tradition compare with others?

*Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* brings new light and nuance to these questions, which are as timely and vital as ever. This book explores thirty-two faith traditions (including, for example, Islam) that represent a wide spectrum of beliefs or stand out due to their size or public profile in America. Each tradition constitutes a "chapter" that includes key teachings, worship patterns and practices, and how each is governed.

This book includes updated statistics, tools for group study and discussion, and resource and website lists to facilitate further study. If you wish to receive a copy of the book, please let Pastor Hennigs know. But you can participate in the class with or without the book. Just come and be ready to learn!

## Bethany News

### Annual Meeting January 10th

The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Home will be held on Sunday, January 10th at 2:00 p.m. in the Skyrise Dining Room (Upper Dining Room) at Bethany, 7 Elliott Street. All Sponsoring Congregation Delegates are encouraged to attend. Visitors are also welcome. The meeting will include various department reports, financial report and election of Board Members for 2016. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Teresa Koch at Bethany Lutheran Home 712-328-9500. In the event of inclement weather or our need to postpone the meeting due to flu, please contact Bethany at 712-328-9500 and/or tune to your local television station if appropriate, before heading to Bethany.

### Auxiliary Meeting

The Quarterly meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on Monday, January 11th at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will include the installation of officers as well as discussion of upcoming projects. For more information, please contact your church key lady or Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451.

### Worship At Bethany

Emanuel Lutheran Church is responsible for Sunday afternoon worship in February at Bethany Lutheran Home. Services begin at 4 p.m. and last about 30 minutes. If you would like to assist with those services in any way, please contact Pastor Hennigs at the church office or at [emanpas1@gmail.com](mailto:emanpas1@gmail.com). Thank you!



BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME / BETHANY HEIGHTS

### Christmas Store Thank You

The 5th Annual Bethany Christmas Store was a huge success thanks to many donated items and the support of our congregations and Bethany Auxiliary. The Residents enjoyed many days of shopping for family members and a chance to reminisce about days gone by. The Christmas Store was a meaningful highlight for Residents and Staff and an opportunity to remember the reason for this season. Many individuals love to shop the "After Christmas Sales" and plan for next year. Christmas Store items and gift bags are accepted all year long. If you would like to donate items after Christmas, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500, ext. 230 to make arrangements. Thank you for your generosity in making this event a time to remember each year.

### Apartments Available

Bethany Heights Senior Living Community has several apartments available for seniors. Do you know someone or perhaps even you, who would enjoy the benefits of living in a senior community? Maybe someone interested in living independently or having the benefits of an assisted living community? Bethany Heights offers both independent and assisted living services in apartments ranging in sizes from a Studio to Two Bedroom/Two bathroom. As an individual's needs increase, services are delivered directly to your apartment. Something unique to the area. We'd love for you to schedule a visit and enjoy lunch on us. Small pets are welcome. For more information or to set up a visit please contact Paula Fandry at

# When should I call my pastor (712-323-9665)?

It's not always clear to folks when it might be a good idea to call their pastor. But there are many times when this could be helpful. Here are some suggestions.



- **When you're going into the hospital.** Please tell your pastor when you going into the hospital, or if a family member is. Your pastor likes to visit people who are in the hospital for a few days or more. He'll bring you or your family member God's words of comfort.
- **When you have experienced the loss of a friend or loved one (including pets).**
- **When you would like a prayer said for you.** Your pastor is always happy to do this.
- **When you are not able to come to church for more than a month.** If you are sick for a prolonged period of time or recovering from illness or surgery and can't get to church, your pastor will come to you. He will see how you are doing, pray with you, and bring you the Lord's Supper.
- **When you have a question or concern about something at church.** Many church-related questions that people have can be cleared up easily. Likewise, if you have a concern about something at church, let your pastor know and he'll see what he can do to resolve it. Or if you have a suggestion for something that can be done that is new or different, tell your pastor. Your pastor will not be able to implement every suggestion, but your input does matter!
- **When you have a personal, spiritual or family concern that is unresolved after one month.** If an issue in does not go away after one month, then it is probably not going to go away without some help. Pastoral counseling will focus on spiritual issues. Your pastor is not a professional counselor. But he is able to apply God's powerful Word to your life.
- **When your conscience is troubling you and you want assurance of God's grace.** God does not leave us alone to struggle with temptation and guilt. God invites us to confess our sin and receive God's forgiveness. In strict confidence you can confess your sin to your pastor and receive assurance of God's forgiveness and absolution delivered personally to you. You are welcome to come even if no particular sin is troubling you. It's faith-building to receive God's forgiveness at any time.
- **When you are wrestling with a spiritual issue or have a question about something the Bible says.** Call your pastor if you have a question about a Bible teaching. Talk with him about it. If you encounter something in a sermon, Bible study, or in your own personal Bible reading that makes you scratch your head, let your pastor know. Your pastor loves to discuss God's Word and to see people grow in their understanding of it.
- **When you have a friend or relative who wants to know more about Jesus.** Please pass their names on to your pastor.

This is not a complete list. But it will help you to think about the times when calling your pastor would be helpful. And if calling doesn't work for you, Pastor Hennigs' email address is [emanpas1@gmail.com](mailto:emanpas1@gmail.com). You can also chat with him or message him on Facebook.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
22 Dillman Dr, Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
Presents

A Sunday Afternoon Recital Series  
**January 10, 4 p.m.**  
**Katherine Turner, pianist**

*A goodwill offering will be gratefully accepted to support the work of St. Paul's.*



# Worship Assistant Schedule

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

<b>Sunday, January 3</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Communion</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ashley Hipnar & Taryn McSorley
<b>Lector</b>	Penny Dahlke
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Peggy Jarrell
<b>Sunday, January 10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Communion</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
<b>Acolyte</b>	Shae Nickels & Kylie Hansen
<b>Lector</b>	Loren Carrier
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Judy Heithoff
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Darlene Jeppesen
<b>Sunday, January 17</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Communion</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kobie Ferguson & Tristan Steensland
<b>Lector</b>	Linda Steensland
<b>Children's Sermon</b>	
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Peggy Jarrell
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Sunday, January 24</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Communion</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
<b>Acolyte</b>	Tyler Steensland & Owen Hansen
<b>Lector</b>	Rosie Spangenberg
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Jane Anderson
<b>Sunday, January 31</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Communion</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
<b>Acolyte</b>	Lauren Hansen & Clare Plummer
<b>Lector</b>	Brennan Plummer
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	



## Flowers

**January 3**

**January 10**

**January 17**

**January 24**

**January 31**

*The flower chart is hanging on the bulletin board at the usher station.*



## Coffee Hour

**January 3**  
Women of Emanuel

**January 10**

**January 17**  
Women of Emanuel

**January 24**

**January 31**

*The coffee hour chart is in the Fellowship Hall.*

# January 2015 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Office Closed	
3 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour No Sunday School 6:30 pm Book study	4 11:00am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Anniversary Team Meeting	5 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	6 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Table Worship with Communion 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	7 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Game Day 7:00 pm Choir Practice 	8 Office Closed	9
10 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am - 2:30 p.m. Confirmation Large Group 6:30 pm Book study	11 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee	12 8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	13 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Table Worship with Communion 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	14 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm N. Broadway Neighborhood Association 7:00 pm Choir Practice	15 Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch  DEADLINE FOR LENTEN DEVOTIONALS	16
17 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Sunday School 6:30 pm Book study	18 11:00am Tai Chi 7:00 pm MS Support Group	19 7:00 pm Children & Youth Meeting 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	20 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Table Worship with Communion 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	21 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22 Office Closed	23 8 am - 3 pm Boy Scout Merit Badge Day upstairs 11 am Private event in fellowship hall
24 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:45 am Annual Meeting 12 pm - Lunch served by youth 6:30 pm Book study	25 11:00am Tai Chi 11:00 am Communion at Midlands	26 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7 pm Wider Ministries 7 pm Area Ministry Strategy in Conference Room	27 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Table Worship with Communion 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	28 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir Practice	29 Office Closed	30



# Wider Ministries

BY JUDY MALLOY

It's hard to believe we're ending another year. Our Emanuel church family reached out to many people during 2015. Thank you all for being so generous and caring. 2016 will start with a Joyful Noise Offering for YES, Youth Emergency Services. Aly Sorensen will tell us about this organization and how they serve the homeless youth in our area.

Please keep in mind that there is an ongoing coat drive. There are many places that need coats and

other winter outer wear. If you drop it off at the church, we'll deliver it wherever the need is greatest. Now that the weather is colder, all of the shelters really need blankets, quilts, pillows, etc. Those may be left at the church also and we will see that they are taken where they are needed.

Happy New Year to all of you. We look forward to serving others with you throughout the new year.

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## Giving Voice for Iowa Children & Families: Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children who go hungry. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 17. Visit [www.LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSIowa.org/advocacy) beginning January 6 for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.



If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

## Lisa's Gifts of Generosity and Advocacy

Lisa has the gift of generosity. And that makes her mom proud.

"She is quite a giver with her time," said her mom Carolyn. "I love that she is generous, and people say she knows half the county."

Lisa is an adult living in Ames, and she partners with Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) daily supported community living services for people with disabilities. Because of that support, Lisa can participate in her community, and she loves giving back to others!

She volunteers at Reiman Gardens, she participates in ACE (Advocacy, Connections, Empowerment) through Mainstream Living and she is the President of the Cyclone County Aktion Club, a service organi-

zation created by the Kiwanis for persons with special needs. She's helped with fundraisers for neonatal maternal health and food drives for local pantries.

When Lisa was in middle school and high school, LSI helped her work on goals such as cooking, taking care of herself and becoming active in the community. Today, she lives with roommates in her own apartment, supported by LSI.

She is also an advocate, attending LSI's Lutheran Day on the Hill to speak with legislators.

"I'm proud to be out in the community and show them I can do this," Lisa said. "I can be an advocate so that no one puts down anyone with special needs. I appreciate that I can be independent."

# Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Council Minutes for 12/08/2015

SUBMITTED BY MIKE WINTER

Present: Kevin Epperson, Penny Dahlke, Carrie Hansen, Oscar Over, Danielle (Dani) Schaal, Matt Solon, Ruth Sullivan, Mike Winter, Suzanne Winter, Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Absent: CharLes Kemmish, Karen McPartland, Chris Reed,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kevin Epperson.

Devotions: Carrie Hansen

### Council Agenda:

After corrections were made to the council minutes of November 10, 2015 to reflect that the 70% rebate on the lights for the Fellowship Hall is anticipated rather than guaranteed, a motion was made by Matt Solon, seconded by Carrie Hansen to approve the minutes of November 10 and November 17. Approved.

Matt Solon moved and Penny Dahlke seconded a motion to approve the financial secretary report. Approved.

Oscar Over moved and Ruth Sullivan seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report. It was noted that an additional amount is to be paid from the Benevolence Fund and that the report is incomplete because November was not included. It was noted that the Benevolence Fund pledges 4.5% to the Synod. Approved.

Oscar Over moved and Matt Solon seconded to approve the Capital Fund Report. Approved.

Oscar Over moved and Ruth Sullivan seconded to approve the Memorial Fund report. Approved

Pastor's written report was submitted. Among the 16 points raised by the report were the following:

1. We received five new members at Worship on Sunday, November 8, and we have several more folks who wish to join our church family in the near future. Pastor recommended that our next new member reception would be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016.

2. Our oldest living member, Jim Hamilton, will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March of 2016. The council was asked to consider some sort of special recognition of that event.

3. Pastor was invited to a meeting with staff of the Council Bluffs Parks & Recreation Department on November 20. That meeting was intended to discuss improvements to Kimball Park. This is a significant way to demonstrate commitment to the welfare of our neighborhood.

4. Pastor requested that \$2,400 of his compensation would be designated as housing allowance.

5. Pastor met with Pastor Jeff Unga for one hour as a preliminary and screening interview so that we can move forward for consideration as a development pastor in the ELCA. The interview went well and a full interview will be 4-5 hours long and may take place in Chicago.

Motion made by Oscar Over and seconded by Penny Dahlke that it be resolved that of the total compensation to be provided to Pastor Lowell R. Hennigs in 2016, \$2,400 shall be designated as a housing allowance under the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. Approved.

Motion made by Suzanne Winter and seconded by Carrie Hansen to allow the Pastor to take January 10, 2016 as a day off. Approved.

Carrie Hansen reported on the Youth and Children's Ministries. She filed a written report indicating that they met on November 17, 2015. The hanging of the greens took place on December 2 with 63 persons in attendance. The third Sunday confirmation session was held on November 15. Thanksgiving baskets were picked on Sunday, November 22. The New Year's Even Potluck and Game Night will be held on December 31 from 6-9 p.m. Emanuel has reserved 12 spots for Rapid City from July 17-22. Pastor and Brenda will be attending.

Fellowship and Support Committee will need to decide what to do for Jim Hamilton recognition.

Oscar Over made the property report. Lights have been installed in the Fellowship Hall and construction of railings is going well with Bob Vergamini.

The Stewardship Committee met on December 15. Pledge cards were still coming in. 51 pledge cards had been received and 21 were yet to be received. There has been a substantial increase from 2015.

No report was made by the Worship and Music Committee.

The Evangelism Committee reported that an ad has been placed in the Nonpareil and that targeted Christmas mailings have gone out along North Broadway. The cost of the mailings was \$210. Pastor reported that he visited the Fox Run Rest Home and others before the end of the year.

There was no report from the Mutual Ministries Committee.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will be meeting in January.

Motion made by Oscar Over and seconded by Penny Dahlke that there is approximately \$2,200 shortfall in paying for the unreimbursed costs for the lights installed in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. The motion asked that this shortfall be covered first from the Fredia Walhe Fund in the amount of \$864.42 and the balance to be taken from the Special Gifts Fund. Approved.

It was reported that the terms of Penny Dahlke, Carrie Hanson, Danielle (Dani) Schaal, Matt Solon, Ruth Sullivan and Suzanne Winter will expire in January 2016. The terms of Kevin Epperson, Charles Kemmish, Karen McPartland, Oscar Over, Chris Reed and Mike Winter will expire in January 2017. Those council members whose terms are expiring are asked to find replacements. The terms will expire after the January 2016 meeting.

An application was received to hold a baby shower in the Fellowship Hall on January 23 at 11 a.m. Motion made by Carrie Hanson, seconded by Ruth Sullivan to accept the application. Approved.

Council members were provided with the facilities and grounds use policy that has been in effect for many years. Council members are to review and comment at the next meeting.

Year end reports for the 2016 budget must be submitted by no later than January 10, 2016. A meeting on the annual budget will be held on January 24.

Motion made by Suzanne Winter and seconded by Matt Solon to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7 p.m.



Linda Martens looks over the row of generously donated baskets at the 2015 Mardi Gras.

## Items Needed for Mardi Gras!

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Yes, that's right—Mardi Gras is really, really early. So now is the time to begin preparing for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual (!) event. Once again we will have a silent auction as part of Mardi Gras. So, all you crafty and builder type folks, it's time to start preparing something to put on the auction.

If you aren't one of those types, then you might consider putting together a gift basket or offering an evening out at a nice restaurant or...well, let your imagination be your guide. Proceeds from the event will go to support our youth in their mission trips, camping adventures, and local events. Thanks for all your support. And let the good times roll!

Oh, and invite your friends, neighbors, family, co-workers, and even that old grump down the road (if you happen to know one)!



Lakeside staff , helpers and campers gather in the sanctuary during the 2015 day camp.

## Save the Date for Day Camp!

BY LOWELL HENNIGS

Thinking about a summer camp for your kids? Don't forget the Emanuel Lutheran Church Day Camp here at church on August 1 through 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Day Camp will be led by trained bible camp staff from Lutheran Lakeside Bible Camp. The camp is open to children kindergarten through fifth grade. And we will need both youth and adults to serve as camp helpers and assistants. Cost for the week will be less than \$40 per camper. And camp scholarships will be available, especially for families with multiple children at camp. ***You can't get a better deal than this!***



Lakeside staff , helpers and campers make greeting cards during the 2015 day camp.

## 2016 Summer Mission Trip

BY LOWELL HENNIGS

Mission trip plans have begun! Save July 17-22, 2016, for a mission trip to Rapid City, South Dakota. Pastor Lowell and Brenda will take the first ten youth—sixth through twelfth grade—who pay a \$60 deposit. The trip is organized through YouthWorks, a nationally known organization that puts such trips together across the Midwest. Pastor Lowell and Brenda have taken this trip to Rapid City once before, and it is AWESOME! Participants will serve during the day in a variety of settings with economically challenged folks or with developmentally disabled folks or with the elderly. In the evenings, activities will include games and events with the trained counselors on site as well as sight-seeing and educational opportunities in the area. Cost for the trip will be about \$350 per person for the week (including transportation and meals). At least some of the costs for the trip will be covered by fundraising efforts through our Youth Committee. Please contact Pastor Lowell or Brenda as soon as possible if you are interested.



## November Attendance & Giving

<b>December 6</b>	139	\$3,713.00
<b>December 13</b>	170	\$8,685.00
<b>December 20</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>December 27</b>	N/A	N/A

## Finance Team Update

### Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

November Income: .....	\$18,255.51	YTD Income: .....	\$123,199.39
November Expense: .....	\$10,448.08	YTD Expense: .....	\$126,941.45
November Balance .....	\$7,777.43	YTD Balance: .....	(\$3,822.06)





There were 28 participants in this year's children's program as well as confirmation students and others who helped with worship!

## Lots of Gratitude!

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Thank you to everyone who participated in hanging of the greens. We had approximately 63 adults and children who helped decorate the church for Christmas! Special thanks to Carrie Hansen and Julie Holland who planned the crafts for the kids and all the volunteers and parents who helped with the crafts. Thank you also to Deann Over who arranged the meal that night.

Thank you also to all who helped support the children as they preformed the story of Santa Lucia for the children's program! Parents and family members helped with practices, props and costumes. The kids all practiced hard and it was wonderful to see them all show off their hard work. Special thanks to Pastor Lowell for writing the script, Cindy for sharing her musical talents and time working with the kids on the music pieces, Linda Steensland for taking charge of costumes and props, Debbie Ferguson, Erin Miller, Jolene Hansen and Steve Lewis for additional help with practices and costumes, Mike Loos for his solo of Santa Maria and for leading songs at Midlands afterwards. Brenda for taking video of the program and at Midlands, Kobie Ferguson and Tristan Steensland for ushering, Carly Sorensen for serving as visual tech for the morning, and Jan Husmann for helping with props/costumes. Thank you also to Hanna Ferfuson, Kylie Hansen, Kyle Sorensen, Carly Sorensen, Clare Plummer, Ashley Hipnar, Abaigh Plummer, Brennan Plummer and Aly Sorensen who shared their musical talents during worship, the prelude and postlude.



Julie Holland works with Alexxia, Grace and Aaralynn making ornaments during Hanging of the Greens.



Carrie Hansen supervising crafts during Hanging of the Greens.

# Thrivent Resources & Opportunities

Thrivent is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. We offer a broad range of products and services—including life insurance, annuities and mutual funds—along with guidance from our financial representatives. For more than a century we've helped our nearly 2.4 million member-owners make wise money choices that reflect their values. And we provide opportunities for them to be even more generous where they live, work and worship. At Thrivent, we believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of faith.

Funding for outreach comes from Thrivent's tax exemption as a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society. Money we would otherwise pay in certain taxes goes to strengthen communities. Members have a voice in where the money goes through Thrivent Choice. They also have an opportunity to add to the outreach with their own fundraising efforts and volunteer time.

## Thrivent Choice

Giving back has always been important to Thrivent and our members. Thrivent has provided nearly \$225 million to help churches, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations through the Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program since its 2010 introduction. The program gives eligible benefit members an opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. Eligible members can take advantage of this charitable grant program and member benefit by directing Choice Dollars® to organizations they are passionate about

Eligible members age 16 and older have the power to recommend how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds using a vehicle called Choice Dollars. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible members can recommend how to distribute some of Thrivent's charitable funds among thousands of 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including congregations, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more.

Eligible members are designated from \$25 to \$5,000 in Choice Dollars based on one or more of the following:

- The amount they pay in annual premiums for qualifying products— life, disability income and long-term care insurance.
- The total contract value of their qualifying products—annuities and life insurance.
- Whether they hold a qualifying Thrivent volunteer leadership position.

## Thrivent Action Teams

If you're a Thrivent Financial member, you can lead a Thrivent Action Team to bring people together for a one-time project to help others be wise with money and live generously. You can:

- Coordinate an educational event.
- Conduct a service activity.
- Organize a fundraiser.

Thrivent will provide:

- Resources to help you plan the event.
- Promotional items, including Thrivent T-shirts.
- Community Impact Card with \$250 of seed money.

Learn more at [Thrivent.com/actionteam](https://www.thrivent.com/actionteam) and apply online. Not a member of Thrivent? Share your service idea with me. Together, we can make a difference.

## Thrivent Builds

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity mobilizes Thrivent Financial members and other volunteers all across the country to help build homes with families in need, and change their lives. Each year, Thrivent Builds contributes financially and with volunteer hours to help build affordable homes alongside partner families in the United States. Habitat affiliates partner with Thrivent Builds to make it all possible!

If you're a Thrivent Financial member, you can become involved with Thrivent Builds through your local Thrivent Chapter.





# Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS

January is already here. From January 10, which is the Baptism of Our Lord, through February 7, which is Transfiguration, we celebrate the Sundays after Epiphany. It is a time, in our dark winters, of light. Usually, when we add light to a situation, we see things more clearly. We see more details. We are able to see more of the big picture.

So often at this time of year, I wonder if I'm seeing, and hearing, all that I'm supposed to. Stepping back to look at the big picture and evaluate my place in that picture, I realize I am continually blessed. I'm sure that I am not understanding all that I'm supposed to or even spending the time trying to. I'm sure I'm not doing all that I'm supposed to and not even asking enough what it is I should be doing. But I know that I'm continually blessed. Every bird that sings reminds me. Every child that learns the new songs for Sunday reminds me. When I hear this congregation-whom I was told when I came to Emanuel "doesn't sing"- loudly sing their praises to God, it reminds me. When the choir brings tears to my eyes with their harmonies and their incredible hard work, it reminds me. When the band plays beautiful arrangements of old and new hymns, it reminds me. I'm continually blessed.

In this new year, I hope the light illuminates your blessings too.

*Dear members of Emanuel,*

*Thank you so much for the care package.*

*The continued love and support is much appreciated,  
and I thank everyone for keeping me in your thoughts.*

*Thank you,*

*Brett Egner*

## 2016 Stewardship Campaign Update

BY THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Emanuel's stewardship campaign is very promising to date. We thank you for your continued generous support. Your efforts will not only let us take care of operational expenses but allow us to expand our ministries as discussed in our November temple talks.

To date, our pledging units have increased 17% over last years for the same time period. Our total estimated giving for 2016 will increase approximately 14%.

You still have time to submit a pledge. The church office has extra pledge cards. You may mail your pledge to the church office or simply place it in the church offering on any Sunday.

In January, we will have an opportunity as a congregation, to inventory our personal time/talent to Emanuel, our community, and to the Western Iowa Synod.

We are two weeks away from closing a successful financial year at Emanuel thanks to you. Your continued support gives Emanuel the opportunity to enrich many more lives.



**During hanging of the greens, boxes were packed and shipped to the young adults in the congregation who are in college or the military.**



**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

2444 North Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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PERMIT NO. 61

**Game Day**

Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm  
*Fellowship Hall*

**R.O.M.E.O.'S**

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)  
Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am  
*Village Inn East*

**Adult Fellowship**

Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am  
*Pizza Ranch*

**Blessings & Brunch**

Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am.  
*Fellowship Hall*  
All women are welcome!

**Mission Action Committee**

(Quilters)  
Wednesdays, 9:30 am  
*Fellowship Hall*

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

emanuellutherancbia@msn.com

Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia

Visit us on the web at: [www.luthreansonline.com/emanuelcbia](http://www.luthreansonline.com/emanuelcbia)

**Worship Services:**

Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by fellowship

Wednesday at 7:00 pm, proceeded by a meal at 6:15 pm

**Staff:**

Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis