

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2021

Happenings!

Due to COVID 19 the church building remains closed for most activities except for Sunday mornings for worship and activities approved by the Church Council. If you do not feel comfortable coming to worship in person, please connect with us virtually via Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube channel.

Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 1—Maunday Thursday

Friday, April 2—Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 4—Easter worship at 7:30 am outside and 9:30 am inside

Friday, April 16—Food Pantry Volunteers meet at Our Savior's

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

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON

The joy of the Lord is our strength! Neh. 8:10



By the time you read this we will be in the midst of Holy Week, looking forward to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In many ways our Emanuel family has been living a year plus long Lent, and now as more and more of us receive our vaccines, we are resurrected into new life. Last year during Holy Week it hit me especially hard that here I was with my first congregation celebrating my first Easter with all of you and we were all quarantined away from each other. Now this Holy Week we're together in person and online anticipating perhaps not a return to normal, but a new life together as the body of Christ.

And we will celebrate! Cindy Richards, our Director of Worship and Music, has decided we get to sing (with masks on) beginning Easter Sunday! As the days and weeks move ahead we will be able to come together more and more. Anticipate picnics, and potlucks, and worship on the porch! I'd really like to focus on our youth and children welcoming them back with joy and excitement. Do you know we have 22 elementary age children among our members? Being the parent of a young child myself, I see how hard this time of pandemic has been on our son and his friends at school. I envision lots of fun activities and events geared for some of our youngest members such as lock ins with Nerf guns.



After such a long period of heavy hearts we need joy and laughter! April 11, 2021 we will have our Holy Humor Sunday which I look forward to...this will be my first with Emanuel. I understand often there is some type of theme. All this year people who have worshipped from home could wear their pajamas. It seems appropriate this year that those who come to worship in person have an opportunity to wear their pajamas too! So April 11 come to church in your pajamas, bring some jokes, and come prepared to laugh!

I don't know about you but I am really looking forward to fun and fellowship with all of you. Firepit nights and campouts, outdoor waterslides, Fall Festivals with our own version of Family Feud, Mardi Gras, potlucks and coffee hour...just being able to gather together, enjoy one another's company, and connect as the community of Christ that is Emanuel!

Fellowship is the glue that holds communities together. It's like COVID hit a great big pause button on the typical things a new pastor does with a new congregation. So I'm very much excited about getting together with you for coffee and lunches, walks and talks, and continue to connect and make memories together.

And don't forget...my birthday is April 22!

See you in church!
- Pastor Cara

Support for Owen

Owen was in a snowboarding accident in February, breaking his neck in two spots and injuring his spinal cord. At the current time he cannot move anything from his shoulders down, but is working with therapy each day at a rehab center in Lincoln, and is learning to drive a special wheelchair.

Several people have asked about how to help. Prayers for healing always appreciated. Cards and messages to help inspire Owen are especially helpful. You may send them to Jesse & Jolene's address at 229 12th Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA 51503. Also prayers for the medical team caring for him.

If you would like to help financially, there is a go fund

me page set-up by Owen's cheer team as well as an account set-up for people to donate to the family at United Credit Union (1900 W Broadway, Council Bluffs, IA 51501).

If you have a giftcard you would like to donate to the family, we are collecting them at church and will get them to them.

Jesse and Jolene have been posting updates on a Facebook page dedicated to following Owen's story called "Owen Strong." There has been a great amount of support from the community and several fundraisers for the family. All are listed in this group if you would like to follow it.

I want to send a thank you to my very special Emanuel family for your care, concern, and prayers this winter when I broke my leg and had surgery! We loved the food, visits, and cards! I am doing fine and starting to walk again.

- Linda Steensland



Thank you to everyone for praying for Owen and our family. If everyone continues to pray he will come through this just as God wants him to. Thank you for the help with the benefits and keeping us in your thoughts.

- Jolene Hansen



Esther Bender
Robert Hesseltine
Bob Vergamini

Deloris Christensen
Norma Mass
Owen Hansen

Paul Heath
Daralene Smith

Bethany Lutheran Health Services

BY CHRISTINE GOCHENOUR

Hello! What a whirlwind February and March have been so far! The Home and Heights have been very busy with lots of activities. Some of the more popular activities the residents have enjoyed are our hallway dance parties, movie day, craft day and of course BINGO! We have been blessed to have the go ahead to hold outside of the room activities as long as we are socially distanced and in a limited capacity. The residents have been hesitant, but have been getting out more and more as the weeks carry on. Communal dining will be starting again at limited capacity and we are so excited to see the residents being able to dine with their friends. **The biggest news we have to share is our visitation policy change! We are**



now able to have visitors in the rooms with their families for a two hour time period! For more information and details on the rules please see our Facebook post. We cannot thank you all enough for your support during all of this and we know that one day we will be back to "normal" and we are so looking forward to that!

Amanda Richardson, Activities Director at the Home shared **activities** that she has planned for March: Out of Room Activities--exercises, Wii, story time, church/communion, leprechaun horse racing, karaoke party/sing-a-long, and brain games. In Room Activities—bingo, movie/snack cart, manicures, and hand massages.

Let's Support Phoenix House!

SUBMITTED BY LINDA STEENSLAND

Thank you for your support of the Phoenix House through the joyful noise offering in March. They are always in need of items to help them carry out their mission.

You can find the items listed below and more on Amazon Smile. To find their list, open you Amazon account, on the top right of open up Accounts & Lists, on the left side is YOUR LISTS—scroll down and you will find AmazonSmile Charity Lists. You would then choose your charity: Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program—Council Bluffs.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Personal Items

- Diapers—Size 4 and up
- Pull-Ups
- Womens' Disposable Razors
- Elastic Hair Ties
- Wet Hair Brush
- All Purpose Hair Brush
- Full Size Shampoo
- Full Size Conditioner
- Tampons

Linens

- Crib Sheets
- Twin Bed Sheets

Laundry

- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap

Paper Products

- Sandwich Bags
- 30 Gallon Trash Bags

Miscellaneous

- Baking Pans

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for February 23, 2021

RECORDED BY CHRIS REED, COUNCIL SECRETARY

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

Member absent: Joel Hauschild

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

- Secretary's minutes from the January meeting: Motion to approve by Mike Loos, seconded by Matt Solon. Motion carried.
- Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Greg Steensland. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.
- Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Greg Steensland. Motion carried.
- Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve Mike Hipnar, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.

Pastor Cara gave her monthly written report. She highlighted the Synod Assembly dates are April 9-10. Shelby Rickard has agreed to be a delegate. Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Greg Steensland. Motion carried. Motion by Char Les Kemmish to approve \$110 for each Pastor Cara and Shelby Rickard (totaling \$220) to attend Synod Assembly, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried. Pastor Cara will register them both.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Elizabeth Miller Estate is now \$327,903.07. Alan Ellis will ask Property Committee to provide a list of future foreseen property expenses. Matt Solon mentioned that Rick Stone is reviewing whether to put part of the Estate in a CD with dividends.
- President Mike Winter received a request from Michaela Lewis for video equipment for live streaming church services totaling \$1,565.65 plus changing StreamYard to a

yearly subscription for a \$60 discount (totaling \$240/year). Motion to approve by Greg Steensland, seconded by Alan Ellis. After discussion, motion was withdrawn. Mike Hipnar suggest we find a long term plan for live streaming. Pastor Cara will talk to St. John Lutheran Church Pastor and see if their guy could provide some input.

- Pastor Cara requested days off for March 8-11 (Monday-Thursday). Motion to approve by Chris Reed, seconded by Mike Hipnar. Motion carried.
- President Mike Winter presented a request from the Boy Scouts to hold a drive up pancake breakfast at church on Saturday, March 13 from 9-11am. Motion to approve by Mike Loos, seconded by Shelby Rickard. Motion carried.
- Nick Rickard presented the church buying a 15 person Van. Nick will contact dealers to get a general idea of costs for new vs used. Mike Winter will contact Edwards Nissan. Alan Ellis suggested AWD vehicle.
- Nick Rickard asked if the church was ready to relax COVID restrictions since the State of Iowa has relaxed theirs. President Mike Winter recommended we keep as is for the next few months and review again in a few months.
- Chris Reed presented to set up a committee to look into Solar Panels. She mentioned that Cindy Richards was attending a webinar regarding the matter. Alan Ellis mentioned to look into GEO Thermal, he will call to get more information. No committee was formed at this time.
- Chris Reed presented adding the church to the weekly church listing/activity in The Daily Nonpareil if free. Pastor Cara will talk to Michaela Lewis to get the church added. Alan Ellis suggested our Welcoming Statement too.

Next meeting is March 15 with Pastor Cara doing devotions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Greg Steensland, seconded by Shelby Rickard. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Winter at 7:45pm.

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for March 13, 2021

RECORDED BY CHRIS REED, COUNCIL SECRETARY

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

Member absent: Joel Hauschild, Matt Solon

Guests: Oscar Over, Rick Stone, Richard Reed (from the Finance Committee)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Mike Winter. Pastor Cara gave devotions.

- Finance Committee Report: Oscar Over, Rick Stone and Richard Reed reported the committee decided to invest some of \$404,206.09 Elizabeth Miller Estate instead of earning no interest in the checking account. The committee committed to two \$100,000 to the ELCA Mission Fund for 3 years with 1.5% interest. If the church does an early withdrawal, a penalty of 1.5% will be charged. The committee also discussed plans for two additional CDs with Veridian Credit Union for \$50,000 for 7 months with 0.75% interest and another \$50,000 for 21 months with 0.90%. The committee recommended to keep \$50,000 liquidated for an emergency fund. The committee will hold off on the Veridian Credit Union CDs until the church council discusses further.
- Secretary's minutes from the February meeting: Add member absent: Joel Hauschild. Motion to approve by Nick Rickard, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried.
- Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by Chris Reed, seconded by Alan Ellis.
- Motion carried.
- Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Nick Rickard.
- Motion carried.
- Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Shelby Rickard.
- Motion carried, included approval of two \$100,000 CDs to ELCA Mission Fund.
- Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Chris Reed, seconded by Char Les Kemmish. Motion carried.

Pastor Cara gave her monthly written report. She highlighted the Boy Scouts will be rescheduling their pancake breakfast sometime in April. They will no longer be meeting after the end of the year. If anyone is still needing to get their COVID vaccine and is finding it difficult navigating the system to get an appointment, she is will to help. Pastor also talked to Michaela Lewis regarding the Church News section of The Daily Nonpareil. We've been in the last two weeks, Michaela will continue to submit weekly.

Old Business:

- Mike Winter received two proposals for a van purchase. First, for a new 12 person van \$39,331 and second for a used 12 person 16,000 miles for \$29,500. Also received an estimated proposal of \$1,800 for insurance per month. Mike Hipnar said The Band would use the van 4 times a year. After further discussion, no motion was made.
- Alan Ellis did research on solar panels, this is not a good area for them. Also, GeoThermal would be better in our climate, estimated cost \$25,000-\$35,000 and the return is average 3 years. Mike Winter asked Alan if GeoThermal would replace some of the furnaces. The answer was No.

New Business:

- President Mike Winter asked each council member to circle their top 3 priorities for potential spending of Elizabeth Miller bequest. Results will be distributed by next meeting.
- President Mike Winter made a recommendation to nominate Connie Edson to join the church council for a 2 year term. Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Mike Hipnar.
- Council discussed some options to invest money for improvements for the church. One, upgrading the electronic equipment to stream online. Pastor Cara will contact Midwest Sound & Lighting to do full evaluation. Second, Alan Ellis remembered the bid on upgrading the current restrooms and adding an un-sex handicap bathroom estimated costs of \$60,000 from the day care start up project.

Continued on page 8

Third, outside display sign was discussed, Alan Ellis said he reviewed traffic study and North Broadway is a high volume traffic location. Fourth, Mike Hipnar researched Robot vacuums estimating around \$400/each. Alan Ellis added they would need to be more durable, have several of them and self-empty. Fifth, Property Committee provided a document of capital repairs or replacements we should anticipate and prepare for, including air conditioners, furnaces, parking and roofs. Once bids are received, more discussion will continue.

- President Mike Winter reminded the council of our bylaws “may incur obligations more than \$2,500 in excess of anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregational Meeting”.

Next meeting is April 19 with Mike Hipnar doing devotions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Shelby Rickard, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Winter at 8:20pm.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month



According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 9,532 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2020, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 18,000 in-home and virtual visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI 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.

Empowering Iowa Families

Gaylene was overwhelmed raising three young boys. Finances were strained and she and her partner, José, worked hard to make ends meet. Suddenly, well into her second trimester, Gaylene learned she was pregnant with her daughter, Julieanna. Left with less time to prepare her home for a fourth child, Gaylene was stressed at the thought of welcoming a little girl into a house with three energetic older brothers. And once Julieanna was born, Gaylene began experiencing postpartum depression.

Gaylene enrolled in LSI Early Childhood Services for help, and she and José began meeting with their LSI worker, Kellie. She provided the family with age-appropriate ideas and developmental activities for the

kids, and served as a shoulder to lean on whenever Gaylene or José needed guidance or advice. Gaylene recently graduated from college with a degree in early childhood education, and her family is thriving. Gaylene also graduated out of LSI services last year. The family still keeps in touch with Kellie, and Gaylene says she will forever be grateful for the support she received when times were difficult.

“We got so used to Kellie coming to our home for five years, it’s going to be different. But now I know where to turn and how to help my family down the road,” Gaylene says. “I feel like Kellie and LSI actually care about people and parents.”



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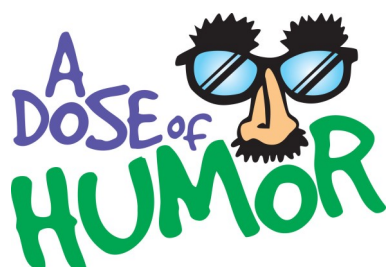
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individuals.

Holy Humor Sunday, April 11, 2021



You are encouraged to wear pajamas or other appropriate comfy clothes to service.

Bring jokes to share!

Broken to Beautiful



Ruthie Oberg is an ordained Assemblies of God minister and conference speaker. She and her husband have also served as a foster family for 32 children, specializing in helping drug-addicted moms and babies reunite. In addition, Ruthie has had a daily radio program and serves as a retreat speaker.

"Broken to Beautiful" WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 24th
8:00 am til 1 pm.

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

2600 Ave A,
Council Bluffs, Iowa
(at First Church of the Nazarene)

COST: \$25
Light Breakfast included

BREAK-OUT SPEAKERS



Lori McGoldrick, Ministry Coach
M.O.P.S., Intl-Council Bluffs, IA



Donna Hoefs, Fresh Hope, Omaha
Trauma Healing Coordinator



Dee Johnston, Founder
Healing Hearts Ministry—Omaha

TO PURCHASE TICKETS-- CHECKS: mail \$25 to **Hope-Net Ministries**, P.O. Box 281, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0281
CREDIT CARD: www.hopenetministries.org or call 402-718-0181 to pay by credit card

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!



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.



Join us each Sunday for a Sunday School lesson for kids and those who are young at heart!
Emanuel Sunday School videos post to our youtube channel and the Sunday School Facebook Page each Sunday.

Ramblings from the Back Corner

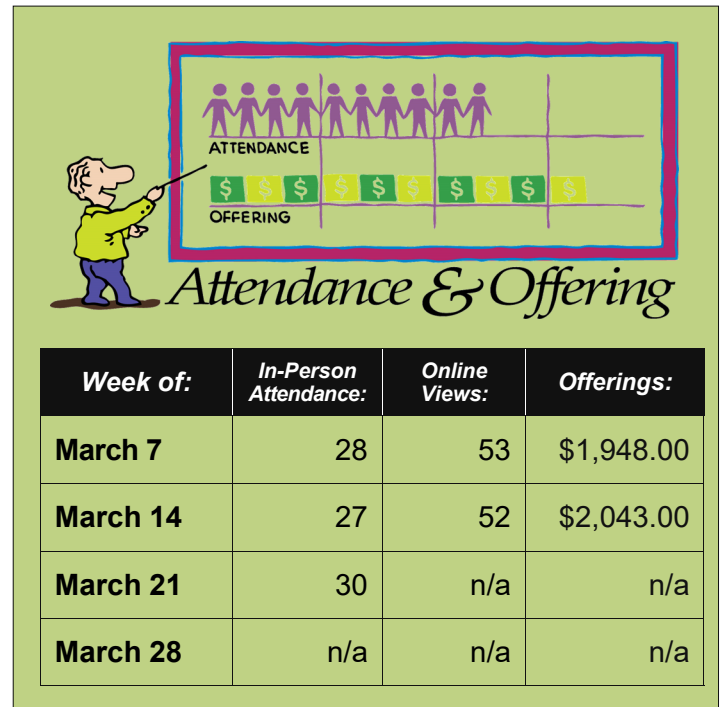
BY CINDY RICHARDS

The song "When We Are Tested" is from the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal. Mike Loos sang this hymn on March 21st. The tune used is Slane, an old Irish traditional tune we usually use for "Be Thou My Vision". The text is by Ruth Duck, written in 1996. The words are so meaningful today.

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
Famished for bread when the world offers stone,
Nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
Food that sustains us by night and by day.
When in the desert we cry for relief,
Pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
Lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
Trusting your presence, our only true rest.
When we are tempted to barter our souls,

Trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
Teach us to worship and praise only you,
Seeking your will in the work that we do.
When we have struggled and searched through the night,
Sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
Angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Ruth is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She taught worship and the arts, teaching congregational song, and healing and reconciliation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Early in her career she updated older hymns using more inclusive language. In addition to writing several collections of poetry (*The Poetry of Grace*, *Welcome God's Tomorrow*, and *Circles of Care*) she edited and contributed to *Everflowing Streams-Songs for Worship*. Our ELW contains four of her hymn texts, *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*, *Wash, O God, Our Songs and Daughters*, *Remember and Rejoice*, and *In Christ Called to Baptize*. In the new *All Creation Sings* hymnal, there are six of her hymn texts which we will be exploring in the coming year.



Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

February Income:\$18,608.99
February Expense:.....\$11,396.32
February Balance.....\$7,212.67

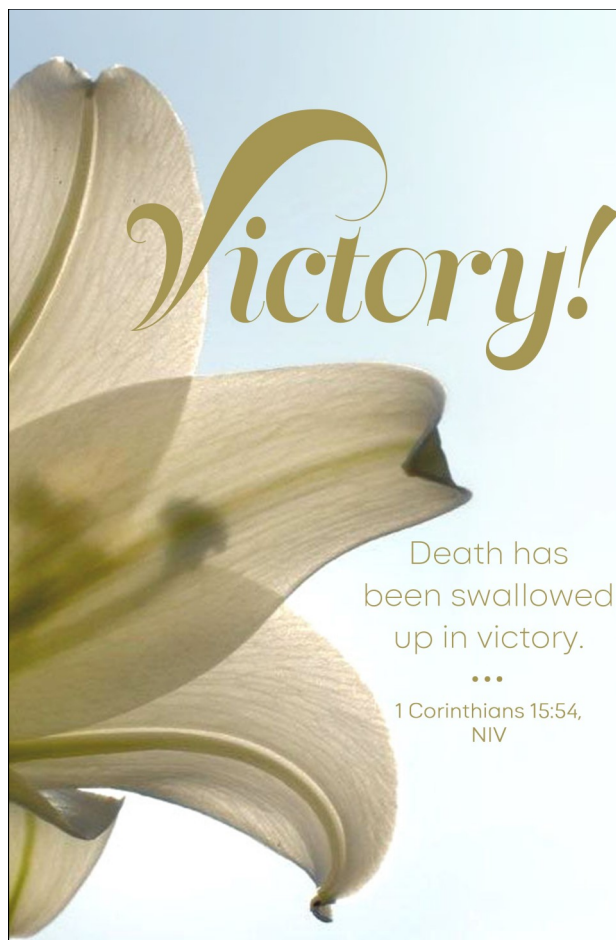
YTD Income:\$53,448.99
YTD Expense:\$23,906.03
YTD Balance\$29,542.96
Plus Carryover.....\$20,408.34
General Budget Fund\$49,951.30



Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

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office@emanuelcb.org
Like us on facebook: [facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia](https://www.facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia)
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the worship center.
Virtual Services live on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter

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)
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed