



The Garden of Readin'

April, 2015

Emanuel Lutheran Church
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Director of Music Ministries: Cindy Richards
Youth Ministries: Deann Over
Children's Ministries: Michaela Lewis
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Happenings!

Thursday Morning Group Tackles First John

The weekday Bible study group will finish "More Than a Fish Tale," a study of the Old Testament book of Jonah, on April 16th. On April 23rd, the group will begin a study of the First Letter of John. This little book highlights the light, love and living possible through our Lord Jesus. And the study will look at the book through the lenses of the English, German and Swahili translations of the original text. Bring your Bible, your questions and your friends!

First Communion Class Celebrated April First

The following young people are participating in their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at our 7 p.m. worship service: Hanna Ferguson, Cael Hansen, Grace Hansen, Ava Jarrell, Emma Richards, Mia Richards, Xander Richards, Alexxia Richards.

"Devoted" Book read on two continents!

We hope you have been enjoying "Devoted," the book of Lenten meditations produced by members of Emanuel Lutheran Church. That book was made available as an electronic book as well as a hard-bound edition. People in Great Britain and Canada both purchased and borrowed copies of the devotional book. In fact, more than thirty people in Great Britain and Canada read and appreciated the devotions. Another forty people in this country purchased or borrowed the book online. We gave out over sixty copies of the book here at Emanuel, for a total publication of about 130 copies! What a wonderful and broad impact this project had—on two different continents! Thanks to the fourteen contributors to the book and to you for reading it. Hard copies can still be ordered in anyone would like a bound version of the book. Contact Pastor Hennigs to order.

Holy Humor Sunday on April 12th

Emanuel Lutheran Church will hold our second annual Holy Humor Sunday on April 12th at both Sunday Services. The theme for these services will be "Lighten Up" (based on the reading from 1 John, chapter 1 for that day). Bring your favorite "light bulb" jokes. Come dressed as a light fixture. Wear something sparkly and bright! Bring a light saber, a glow stick, a headlamp or anything else to light up the place for Jesus! And bring your favorite jokes (and/or jokesters!). There is no scientific evidence to prove the proposition that life is serious. Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Well, you get the idea!

Periodic Pastoral Ponderings (from a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

Dear friends in Christ, on these Lenten Sundays, we have been reflecting on Holy Communion together. I have found it to be a rich and meaningful time for preparing sermons. Here are some things to remember from this experience.

+Luther's *Small Catechism* can be found in the back of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book. Don't forget about that resource for our faith and life. When there's a baptism, take a few moments to read about baptism before worship. If you need a refresher on Holy Communion, you can do some reading. If you need some perspective on the Ten Commandments, you can't do better than Luther. The meanings for the Creed go to the heart of our Lutheran theology. The Lord's Prayer and Confession sections can guide you in your daily walk of faith.

+You can find prayer resources in the front of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book. Come to worship several minutes early. Take some time to prepare for worship with these prayers. There is time for conversation during the fellowship hour. You will find that worship is far more meaningful if you approach it with a time of prayer. And our hymnal provides some great resources for that preparation.

+We offer Holy Communion at each Sunday Service. This is the historic Lutheran practice. The only exception here at Emanuel is when there is a 5th Sunday on the calendar. We take a small sabbatical from the supper so we can remember how much we would miss it. And we take that time to sing some of our favorite hymns as well.

+We practice open communion at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Here is the invitation we now use prior to Holy Communion: "All who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. We invite you to come, expecting to meet Jesus." We are glad to have newcomers at the table. We know that some folks struggle with allergies of various kinds. So we offer grape juice as an alternative to the wine. And we are preparing to make gluten-free wafers available for those who need that service from us.

+Holy Communion is far too big and beautiful to celebrate in only one way. So we offer Holy Communion in a variety of ways during any given month. We coordinate the use of intinction with our contemporary worship services in keeping with the less formal nature of those services. So we offer intinction the first and third Sundays of the month at our 11 a.m. service and the second and fourth Sundays of the month at our 8:30 a.m. service. At the alternate services, we use individual cups for the wine/grape juice. On the first Sunday of the month at 8:30 and the second Sunday of the month at 11, we kneel at the rail to emphasize our grateful humility. At other times we walk for communion to emphasize our faith journey. We can find many layers of meaning in the Lord's Supper, and we don't limit ourselves to one way of experiencing that meaning.

+We rejoice as we welcome new participants to the Lord's Table. You can see the list of first communicants elsewhere in this newsletter. It has been a joy to lead them and their parents through an exploration of the Sacrament of the Altar. We had a wonderful time making "Remembrance Boxes" that they can take with them wherever they go. These little boxes contain mementos of Communion and what it means to us in our faith journeys. And we had a great time at our simulated Seder meal as we explored the historic roots of the Supper. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

We are part of God's family around the table, gathered in all times and in all places at the invitation of our Lord. May the Lord's Supper strengthen and nourish your faith, hope and love.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Lowell

Let's Review the Schedule

for Holy Week and Easter!

- **There will be no midweek worship or confirmation on Wednesday, April 1st**, to allow for rehearsals and worship walk-throughs.
- **Maundy Thursday worship will be offered on April 2nd at noon and 7 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. The 7 p.m. service will include First Communion and Foot-washing.
- **Good Friday worship will be offered on April 3rd at noon and 7 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. The 7 p.m. service will include the dramatic reading of "The Cry of the Whole Congregation" and pounding our nails into the cross.
- **Easter Sunday is April 5th with worship at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.** Easter breakfast and activities will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. that day. Those activities will include an Easter egg hunt for the children at 9 a.m. ***Van transportation to and from Emanuel will be available. Please contact the church office at your earliest convenience if you think you would like a ride to worship on Easter Sunday.***
- **The second Sunday of Easter, April 12th, will be "Holy Humor Sunday" at both services.** Bring your jokes and be ready to share in the Blessed Mirth of the season.

Table Tennis Tournament Results!

I would like to thank everyone for their help and participation in the tournament this year. A special thank you to John and Jan Husmann, Greg and Linda Steensland, Oscar and Deann Over, and Mike and Carla Hipnar for their help making the tournament a success.

Team	First Place	Second Place
Youth Division 9 years and under	Kylie Hansen	Cael Hansen
Youth Division 10 and older	Lauren Hansen	Owen Hansen
Women's Singles	Carla Hipner	Jamie Hansen
Men's Singles	Tyler Hansen	Kevin Epperson
Men's Doubles	Tyler Hansen /Mike Hipner	Mike Loos/ Kevin Epperson

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*The Western Iowa Synod Assembly will be held in Spencer Iowa on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2015, and will feature keynote speaker Jim LaDoux. If you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Lowell.*

**CELEBRATE CB!!** Don't miss this year's parade on May 16th! It brings the Downtown Council Bluffs area to life every May. The Theme this year is Picture Me in CB! The route begins and ends in Downtown Council Bluffs, and is centered around the historical and beautiful Bayliss Park area. After the parade, activities abound in the park including music, kids activities and carnival rides. This year Emanuel WILL have a float in the parade! Help decorate the float, ride in costume (riders will be dressed in VBS themed character!) Contact Michaela Lewis to help out!

### **HAVE ANY OLD ELETRONICS LYING AROUND?**

Compassion International has a wonderful recycling program! If you have old cell phones, tablets, lap tops, they will take them and wipe them clean and use the funds generated by sale of the electronics to help unsponsored children receive the care and education they are lacking. We will be sending several and would be happy to share the process. Please contact Richard Reed or Brenda Hennigs in the church office to participate! Your old stuff can help a child go to school!

**Our friends at Hope-Net Ministries are hosting their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Spring "A Woman of Worth" event on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup>! This year the event is titled "The Art of Recovery" and will offer treats to eat, a silent auction and inspirational testimonies! The event is being held at the United Methodist Church located on 14955 Somerset Ave, next to Risen Son. Doors open at 6:30pm and program begins at 7:00pm. Don't miss this fun and hope filled event!**

# Our Church Family

## In Our Prayers...



Ray Kanger  
Lucille Weatherill

Daphne Miller  
Leona Carlson

Glen Fahrenkrug  
Elizabeth Britton

Jay Edson  
Betty Ebsen

## Happy Birthday to...

|          |                  |          |                      |          |                    |
|----------|------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| April 1  | Elizabeth Miller | April 15 | Sharon Hansen        | April 21 | Glenda Smith       |
|          | Barb Burns       |          | Jim Andersen         |          | Lucille Weatherill |
| April 4  | Scott Carrier    |          | William Donovan      |          | Jenna Comley       |
|          | Bethany Fietz    | April 16 | Analise Madsen       | April 22 | Kathy Schneckloth  |
| April 6  | Suzanne Winter   |          | Amy Epperson         | April 23 | Linda Steensland   |
|          | Amanda Wilson    |          | Marissa Lewis        |          | Kurt Schneckloth   |
| April 9  | Joshua Tiffey    |          | Emma Hansen          | April 24 | Priscilla McGee    |
| April 12 | Dick Steensen    | April 17 | Laura Kemmish        | April 27 | Kylie Hansen       |
|          | Nate Larson      | April 19 | Christian Chatterton | April 28 | Gaylene Wohlers    |
| April 13 | Tesia Winter     | April 20 | Heather Wilson       |          |                    |

## Anniversaries...

|          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| April 13 | Judy & Carl Wilson      |
| April 14 | Dennis & Connie Beckman |
|          | Richard & Jackie Ogg    |
| April 15 | Tim & Joy Clark         |
| April 20 | Dick & Donna Steensen   |

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



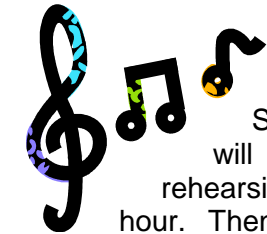
## WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS

### **BELL CHOIR OF EMANUEL**

Cindy Richards and Elaine Sasso lead our Bell Choir! All youth ages 7 and older are invited to participate. Adults are also welcome to participate! The Bell Choir meets most Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the lower level Sunday School rooms. Come and be part of the fun!



### **Children's Music!**



Cindy Richards will continue to lead our young people in rehearsal and singing the first Sunday in Apr and May. She will spend time with them rehearsing during the Sunday School hour. Then the young people will sing on that Sunday as part of our 11:00 worship services.

It's hard to believe that the annual Garage & Bake Sale has been going strong now for 5 years. It has grown every year and has become a highly anticipated community event that we want to continue building. Over that time we have brought in thousands of dollars that has benefitted this church in many different ways, very little of which has been utilized by worship & music. What started out as a Worship & Music fundraising event has become more of an entire church event.

The Worship & Music committee feels this is no longer an event that falls under this committee's umbrella and should have its own dedicated planning group that can focus on its continued growth and success. This planning group will work together on planning, organizing, promotion and advertising and distribution of funds raised. Committees will be able to submit requests to this group for money needed not in their budget which will then be approved by this group for distribution. We hope you will consider being part of this important group as we continue to grow the ELC annual Garage & Bake Sale. We need new ideas and continued enthusiasm to keep this event going. Please contact Mike Hipnar if interested.



## WIDER MINISTRY NEWS

The Wider Ministries Committee is still collecting the following items for the Survivor Bags given out by Wings of Hope to cancer patients.

**Chap stick**

**Travel size hand lotion**

**Travel size hand sanitizer**

**Kleenex**

**Crossword puzzle books, word search books, etc.**

**Journals (No bigger than 7"x9")**

**After looking for chap stick I would advise you not to buy the ones with a flavor or smell.**

**Tastes and smells can cause nausea in someone receiving chemotherapy.**

The items can be placed in the container in the entryway at church.

The personal items for the **Angel Tree** children going to camp are nearly complete. Below is a list of things the camp could use.

**Large lemonade and Kool Aid mixes**

**Toilet paper**

**Paper towels**

**Sheets and pillow cases**

These items can be given to Linda Steensland or labeled and left at the church.

Thank you for always being so supportive of our projects.

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"Attention all Emanuel builders!!! Our Vacation Bible School will feature experiences of Nazareth during the time of Jesus. FIRST, If you would be interested in hearing more about building a replica well, wine press or olive press, please see Pastor Hennigs. The construction will not be complicated, and the items will not be full-sized. We'd like to use them for our float in the Celebrate CB parade on May 16 as well. SECOND, if you would like to be part of a first-century woodshop during VBS (June 21-25, evenings), please talk to Pastor Hennigs. No previous carpentry skills required.



125th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE NEWS

Remember when . . .

In the early years of Emanuel communion was served only occasionally, sometimes only once or twice per year.

In 1924 a Meeting of the Board of Deacons and Trustees was held. A motion was made and carried that Rev. Henderson buy one gallon of California port wine to be used for Holy Communion.

In 1939 Holy Communion was celebrated 5 times.

In 1948 there were complaints as to the taste and probable high alcohol content of the present sacramental wine. Mr. Ralph Berryhill was instructed to secure a more suitable sacramental wine.

In 1993 there was a break-in at Emanuel. Pastor Jenkins called Matt Solon to investigate who broke into "his" church. It was soon determined neighborhood teenagers had broken a window in the church and the door of the shed. Among the items taken were: lawn mower, weed eater, gas can, hand tools, \$20 cash, four offering plates, two gallons of communion wine and communion wafers.

When the teenagers were brought to the church to return the stolen property they remarked that "it was cheap wine anyway and the little 'crackers' weren't very good!" As you can imagine, Pastor Jenkins was furious that they had complained about the "cheap wine and crackers" and "those kids should be coming to church rather than breaking into church."

Today Holy Communion is served at most services and we have a choice of wine or grape juice. Pastor Lowell reminds us that Holy Communion is a celebration, in Holy Communion we get a preview of the feast of victory that will never end.

If you have remembrances you would like to share please contact a committee member or Connie Solon (siscss@aol.com) or Brenda in the office.



WELCA NEWS

**Bethany Auxiliary Meeting
and Bake Sale
Monday, April 13
2:00 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Home
7 Elliott Street**

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS WILL SUPPLEMENT THIS ACTIVITY

Each church is requested to furnish a minimum of 5 items, but we will gladly accept more. One item is classified as a cake, a pie, two dozen cookies, two small loaves of bread, one large loaf of bread or sweet rolls, etc.

We encourage all ladies to attend. If you would like to donate a baked item, please contact Darlene Reed (366-4853) or Jan Stone (323-7827).

Women of the ELCA: Our Savior's Lutheran of Council Bluffs invites you to the Tabitha Cluster meeting on Saturday, April 25, at the Museum of Religious Arts located between Missouri Valley and Logan on Highway 30. They will be opening the doors at 9:45 am with registration and coffee until 10:15. There is an admission fee of \$5 (if you are a member of AARP or AAA, it is \$2.50). We are honored to have Pastor Steve Pera from Missouri Valley conduct the Bible Study on the theme verse: Psalm 119:111 "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever; for they are the rejoicing of my heart." A representative will give an overview and history of the Museum. Lunch will be provided. A free-will offering will be taken with one-half going to the Igambilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School campaign (ILSGSS) and remaining will cover expenses and to WISWO

Upcoming Dates for WELCA:

- May 29-30, 2015: Western Iowa Synod Convention in Spencer IA
- June 19-20, 2015: Tri-Synod Women's Convention in Fort Dodge IA
- July 2017: 10th Triennial gathering of the ELCA in Minneapolis MN

Lutheran Lakeside holds its 22nd Annual Quilt Auction on April 11, 2015 at St. John Lutheran Church in Carroll. Quilts are handmade by individuals and women's groups who support the camp. Our thanks go out to all those who made the quilts. The event begins with quilt viewing and lunch between 11:00am and 12:30pm. The auction begins at 1:00pm. If you would like to help us reach our goal but are unable to attend the auction you may send your gift to : Lutheran Lakeside Camp, 2491 170th St, Spirit Lake, IS 51360. Make note on your check it's for the quilt auction. Thank you!



Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

A small group of people. That's what it may have looked like in the early stages of Bethany. That group of people, known as *Volunteers* built something that would change the face of aging and provide a place for area seniors to live. Volunteers are still making an impact at Bethany. Bethany Volunteers can be found hosting Birthday parties, Bingo, baking a cake or a pie for the ice cream social, making a salad for the Salad Luncheon, collecting candy for Halloween or items for the Christmas Store, reading to a resident or tenant, helping out with an activity, hosting a Bethany Sunday in their church, serving on the Board of Directors or providing words of encouragement and friendship to a resident or tenant who needs a friend. Bethany volunteers are all ages; from different backgrounds or groups and have varied talents and interests. A common thread can be found woven through it all- **Commitment**. Bethany Volunteers continue to remain committed to the mission of Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights—"We serve by sharing Christ's Love."

Volunteer Tea- We are proud of our Volunteers and want to say thank you. Whether you've helped out with Bingo, a Birthday Party or the Auxiliary; baked a pie, cake or have helped out at the Ice Cream Social; whether you've contributed or helped at the Salad Luncheon; whether you have provided volunteer time visiting Residents and Tenants or helping with an Activity; or whether you have supported us through contributions or prayers or anything else; we want to recognize and thank you. Please join us as we recognize our volunteers on **Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Home, 7 Elliott Street**. Please join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and entertainment as we say thank you for what you have done for Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights.

Auxiliary Meeting and Bake Sale -Please note that the April meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on **April 13th at 2:00 p.m.** This will be the quarterly meeting and bake sale. This year the bake sale will be held at both Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights. Individuals are encouraged to donate baked good items for the sale. (Items packaged in smaller quantities are always appreciated by the Residents and Tenants). Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.



April is Young Child & Child Abuse Prevention Month

In 2014, LSI's early childhood programs made more than 14,900 home visits to Iowa families with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. These programs help parents learn about child development, parenting strategies and community resources, and they can also help reduce some of the risk factors that may lead to child abuse or neglect, such as critical stress. LSI often partners with parents who grew up in unstable home environments and desire to give their own children a different quality of life. Your support helps our youngest Iowans grow up healthy and safe!

A New Parenting Path

When Kalee became a young mom in high school, she knew exactly what kind of parent she *didn't* want to be. "My childhood was very different," she said. "There was a lot of miscommunication on all levels and yelling all the time. I had a lot of trouble growing up, and I didn't want my kids to go through that." Instead, Kalee and her partner Shane are finding their own parenting style, thanks to some support from LSI's Families Together program. Families Together is a voluntary home visitation program that offers families parenting education, community resources, support and more. "Kalee and Shane are so much fun to work with," said Gaylene, an LSI caseworker. "They are very good parents. They just needed a little more confidence in their skills." For example, the family learned new communication tips to use with their son Gabe, age 4. "Before we started the program, Shane and I fought a lot about different parenting styles," Kalee said. "We would get frustrated when we couldn't get Gabe to understand what we wanted him to do. We learned how to talk to him better, and now we're on the same page."

Through Families Together, LSI can partner with families at any time from before their child is born up to age 18. On average, an LSI caseworker will meet with a family for 10 – 12 months. That approach, which builds trust and relationships, is comforting, Kalee said. "Gaylene feels like a part of our family," Kalee said. "Gabe always asks when she's coming. Having her here also helped prepare Gabe for school." Kalee hopes her two children will grow up happier than she was, she said. "I don't think it will be as much of a struggle for them to succeed," she said. "They will feel more secure and loved than I felt growing up."

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

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

April	Worship Time & Ushers	Worship Time & Ushers
EASTER April 5	7:00 a.m. Communion OPEN	10:00 a.m. Communion/Stinson
Acolyte	Kylie & Lauren Hansen	Owen & Macy Hansen
Lector	OPEN	Darlene Jeppesen
Children's Sermon	NONE	NONE
Communion Assistant	OPEN	Peggy Jarrell
Communion Set-Up	Jim & LaWayne Andersen	Carol Fahrenkrug
April 12	8:30 a.m. Communion/Pat Hiller	11:00 a.m./OPEN
Acolyte	Clare Plummer	Ashley Hipnar
Lector	Brennan Plummer	Deann Over
Children's Sermon	NONE	NONE
Communion Assistant	Alan Ellis	Elaine Sasso
Communion Set-Up	Pat Hiller	Schademann Family
April 19	8:30 a.m. Communion/Pat Hiler	11:00 a.m. Communion/Stinson
Acolyte	Aralynn Conley	Kobie Ferguson
Lector	Jane Meyer	J Husmann
Children's Sermon	Brenda Hennigs	John Husmann
Communion Assistant	Debbie Ferguson	Suzanne Winter
Communion Set-Up	Jane Meyer	Carol Fahrenkrug
April 26	8:30 a.m. Communion/Mike Nickels	11:00 a.m. Communion/Stinson
Acolyte	Shae Nickels	Tyler Steensland
Lector	Kevin Epperson	Linda Steensland
Children's Sermon	NONE	NONE
Communion Assistant	Judy Heithoff	Mike Winter
Communion Set-Up	CharLes Kemmish	Connie Eyeberg & Carol F.

April Flowers

April 5 Easter Plants
 April 12 Mike & Jan Clark
 April 19
 April 26

April Coffee Hour

April 5 Youth Breakfast!
 April 12 Patty Maxwell & Chasity Christie
 April 19 Brad & Penny Dahlke
 April 26

***The flower chart for 2015 is hanging on the bulletin board at the usher station.**

***The coffee hour chart is by the window in the kitchen.**

: MARCH ATTENDANCE & GIVING

March 1	97	\$4143
March 8	74	\$1993
March 15	80	\$2258
March 22	84	\$1536
March 29		Not Avail

April 2015 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
			1 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30pm Walk through for GF drama	2 9:30 am Adult Stdy 11:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Game Day Noon & 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 8:00pm MS Youth Lock In!	3 Office Closed Noon & 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	4 10am Easter set-up
5 EASTER SUNDAY 7:00 am & 10:00 am Worship & Holy Comm 8:00am to 10:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn (weather permitting) NO Men & Women Book study	6 11:00 am Tai Chi	7	8 9:30 am Mission Action 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 5:30pm Anniv. Team NO Confirmation 7:00 pm DaBand	9 9:30 am Adult Stdy 11:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm N Broadway Nghbrhd Assctn 7:00 pm Choir	10 Office Closed	11 Clark 50 th Wed Anni Celeb
12 HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY 8:30am & 11:00am Worship & Holy Comm 9:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hr 9:45 am Adult Study & Family Sunday Schl 10:30 Bell practice 6:30 pm Men & Women Book study	13 <i>Cookie Crumbs</i> 11:00am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Worship & Music Comm	14 <i>Cookie Crumbs</i> 8:30 am ROMEOs 7 pm Council Meeting	15 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm DaBand	16 9:30 am Adult Stdy 11:00am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir	17 Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch	18
19 8:30am & 11:00 am Worship & Holy Comm 9:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hr 9:45 Family Sunday Schl & Adult Study 10:30 Bell practice 2:00pm Piano Recital 6:30 pm Men Book study	20 7:00 pm MS Support Group	21 7 pm Children & Youth Min. Mtg	22 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30 pm Confirmation Class	23 9:30 am Adult Stdy 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir	24 Office Closed 10:30 Beta Sigma Phi Recep.	25 10:00 am Trans Team
26 8:30am& 11:00 am Worship & Holy Comm 9:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hr 9:45 Family Sunday Schl & Adult Study 10:30 Bell practice	27 11:00am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands	28	29 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm DaBand	30 9:30 am Adult Stdy 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir		

Pictorial Directory Photography taken

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry

By Michaela Lewis

Thank you to everyone who donated items to help with the Easter egg hunt! Thank you to the confirmation students who filled the Easter eggs during their lock-in! We really appreciate your support! We hope to have a great turnout on Easter!



April 5th we will have an Easter Egg hunt at 9 a.m. between services for children up to 6th grade. **BRING FRIENDS!** We will have gift packs for all kids participating! No need to bring baskets. We will need volunteers to spread eggs around outside (or inside if we don't have the best weather).



During March the kids practiced a song with Cindy and performed at the 11 a.m. Service on Palm Sunday. We have some wonderful singers and it is great for them to be able to share this with us once a month. Thank you Cindy for your creativity and leadership!

Vacation Bible School will be in the evenings **June 21–25**. Our theme is “Hometown Nazareth.” Volunteers are always needed and a planning session will be held soon. Contact me if you are interested in helping!



This year we will also have **Lutheran Lakeside** coming to hold a day camp **July 27-30**. Watch for registration materials soon!

For those interested in traveling to one of the Lutheran camps in Iowa or Nebraska, there are brochures in the fellowship hall. Camp is not just for confirmation students. There are also camps opportunities for early elementary students as well as family camp!



Students working on remembrance boxes while learning about communion.

Transition Team Presentation to Emanuel Luther Church Congregation
March 1, 2015

With about 50 members of the congregation present, Pastor Hennigs presented an update on the Transition Team at Emanuel Lutheran Church. In review, the Transition Team has completed the Discovery and Dream phases, and is now in the early stages of the Design phase, focusing on development of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for Emanuel Lutheran Church (ELC), with the tentative date for completion of the MSP of August 1, 2015. The completed MSP will then be presented to the church council and the congregation of Emanuel for adoption and acceptance prior to submitting the MSP to the Western Iowa Synod. Target date for submission to the synod is September 15, 2015. Upon receipt and acceptance of the MSP by the synod, the MSP will be shared by the synod with prospective pastoral candidates.

Pastor Hennigs asked for input from the congregation in developing the MSP for Emanuel. Members were asked to talk with others at their table, and provided the following information.

Context (list 3 ways that the community in which you are located has been challenged by change and transition in the last 3-5 years):

- The economy specific to the North Broadway Neighborhood Association
- Closing of Gunn School
- Consolidating into larger centers results in lost neighborhood connections; smaller organizations and churches lessons the bystander effect
- Council Bluffs has become a destination for the homeless because of a high number of services available
- The number of people in Council Bluffs who are eligible for meal support
- Greater transiency
- Increase in the number of working poor
- Stress and demands on local food pantries
- Increase in Hispanic population
- Business closings, e.g. , Griffin Pipe, as well as new business openings, e.g., Metro Crossing

Trends (list 3 changes or events within the congregation which have occurred in the last 3-5 years):

- Big changes in programs at ELC
- Parsonage improvements
- Video technology and use
- Still traditional in 2 Sunday morning church services
- Drop in youth attending Sunday school
- Lack of influx of new young families, aging congregation
- Involvement of pastor in church activities is important and currently providing great direction and leadership in confirmation class

Programs (describe your congregation's current programs for mission and ministry):

- Serving the needy, e.g., Wider Ministries providing ~\$5000 annually to local organizations
- Da Band
- Local service organizations that meet at/through ELC (e.g., Boy Scout troop, North Broadway Neighborhood Association, Cookie Crumbs)
- Very good property management team
- Easy to find volunteers
- Increase in bible study opportunities
- Cool worship services
- In favor of having fun (at parties, social gatherings)
- Offering noon Lenten services

Pastor Hennigs again emphasized his interim role as pastor at ELC, stating his role is to get ELC to the next generation.

EMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Notes

Tuesday, 03/10/2015

Present: Kevin Epperson, Penny Dahlke, Debbie Ferguson, CharLes Kemmish, Oscar Over, Chris Reed, Matt Solon, Mike Winter, Suzanne Winter

Absent: Carrie Hansen, Karen McPartland, Danielle Schaal

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

Devotions by Keven Epperson.

Council Agenda:

- The following amendments were made to the minutes of February 10, 2015.
 1. Misspellings were corrected.
 2. It was noted that soot was removed, not dirt, from the wall.
 3. Deb Ferguson was not present at the meeting.
 4. After the amendments were noted, motion was made by Penny Dahlke, second by Chris Reed to approve the minutes as revised. Approved.
- Motion was made by Oscar Over and seconded by CharLes Kemmish to receive and approve the financial secretary report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Matt Solon to receive and approve the treasurer's report. Approved
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Penny Dahlke, to receive and approve the Capital Fund Report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Debbie Ferguson, to receive and approve the Memorial Fund Report. Approved.
- Pastor Report was received and discussed. The Adult Study on Thursday mornings will continue to discuss the Biblical book of Jonah. Adult Class will not meet in March. Communion service will continue to be provided at Midlands Living Center on the fourth Monday of each month. The Transition Team facilitated a feedback session on March 1. Confirmation instruction continues to go well with 12 students in the class. The Anniversary Team met on March 5. Emanuel hosted the Spring Assembly of the Rivers of Grace Conference of the Western Iowa Synod. The men's study group invited Paul Abbott to speak between services on March 29. Attendance at Mardi Gras increased by 10%. On February 14, Pastor attended the Western Iowa Synod Leadership Academy. Jeff and Sandy Smith will serve as voting members.
- No report was received from the Stewardship, Youth and Children's Ministries, Fellowship and Support, Property, Wider Ministries, Worship and Music, Evangelism, Visitation and Mutual Ministries. It was noted that a white board was installed with a case in the board room.

Old Business:

1. There were no updates from the transition team.
2. The 125th Anniversary Committee was to meet the following Saturday at 10 a.m. at the church. Elaine Sasso has access to a high speed scanner. Chris Reed reported that the windows were removed from the former church used by Emanuel. Carol Wood from Children's Square had the window appraised that had the church's name on it. The old church building is now owned by Children's Square. The board would like to have the window donated to our church. Maybe offer bids on other items from the old church. No one knew the answer to when the old building would be demolished, but some members of Emanuel may want to be present.
3. Pictures for the church directory will be taken from April 22-25 and Rick and Jan Stone are on the calling committee.
4. Discussion was held regarding sanctuary lighting and Echo provided a bid for \$3,714.68. The lighting in the sanctuary now is currently 20 years old. We will need 30 lights and 2 dimmers and church members could install the lights. A rebate will be available from MidAmerican Energy for one-half of the cost. There is a 6-8 week lead time after the order is made and another 4-6 weeks before we receive the rebate. The new lighting will lead to

a 40% reduction in energy use. Discussion was also held concerning lighting for the fellowship hall and that the cost could be taken out of the capitol account.

New Business:

1. Synod Assembly will be held on May 29-30. Sandy Smith has been nominated to the Western Iowa Synod Council. You must be registered by April 29 and the fee for sending our members will be \$585 for a one night's stay. The event will be held in Spencer, Iowa at the Clay County Event Center. The Council approved the spending of \$585 for two rooms for one night. Motion was made by Suzanne Winter and seconded by Penny Dahlke. Approved. The same motion also approved Jeff and Sandy Smith as voting members.
2. Discussion was held regarding the parsonage bathtub which presents a problem with paint peeling. Oscar Over reported options and they're looking for estimates. It could be paid for out of the building and grounds account. Suzanne Winter made a motion, seconded by CharLes Kemmish for the executive committee to move ahead with this project. Approved.
3. Discussion was held regarding church computers and that one or two of them need to be recycled. The recycling cost is by the pound. Other congregation members may want to participate. Some of the computers are unusable.
4. A discussion was held holding a special congregational meeting to vote regarding going to one Sunday morning service year round. Questions were asked what would happen to fellowship, Sunday school and wanting some input from the worship and music committee, children's ministries and Joyful Noise.
5. The board voted to adopt the new cancellation policy concerning when services, Sunday School or other scheduled meetings would be canceled. Oscar Over moved to approve the written cancellation policy, seconded by CharLes Kemmish. Approved.
6. Motion by Suzanne Winter, seconded by Chris Reed, to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

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

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

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

Game Day

Thursday, April 2nd at 1:00pm
in Fellowship Hall

Romeo's (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Tuesday April 14 @ 8:30a.m. at
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, April 8 at 11:30 a.m.
at Pizza Ranch

Women of Emanuel Blessings & Brunch

Friday April 17 at 9:30am

Mission Action Committee (Quilters)

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall



SAVE THE DATE!

***Women of Emanuel will be holding a Garden Party retreat! One day at the Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center in Waterloo NE. Saturday June 20th. Contact Brenda in the office or Darlene Jeppesen for more details**

****WOMEN OF FAITH! Farewell Tour August 28-29! Sign up NOW in the Fellowship Hall. Approximate Ticket cost is \$79, many of the women will be staying overnight the 28th. If you are interested contact Brenda in the church office – 712-323-9665**



Ramblings from the back corner....

Recently I finished reading the book "A Beautiful Mystery". It is a murder mystery set in a monastery in remote Quebec. The beautiful mystery was the effect of the chants on the singer and the listener. Over the years I've listened to chants, aware of how they made me react, so I looked into it further and started researching the effects of chant.

Gregorian chant modality gives it its "feel". It is a single melodic line with no harmony and no accompaniment, that is sung rather than played on an instrument. It has no set rhythmic structure and was originally composed for ceremonies in the Roman Catholic Church.

Learning to chant fine tunes our capacity to listen, and listening requires an open mind. Chanting makes the mind alert, able to shift focus quickly and strengthens the memory.

Chanting decreases our rate of breath and we breathe deeper, more abdominally. It decreases our heart rate and can lower our blood pressure.

When chanting wholeheartedly we can release negative emotions. It is a physical exercise for the body that empties the lungs and muscles of toxins created by frustration and stress.

Chanting requires mental, emotional, and physical functions to engage in and concentrate on a single act. This unites the body, breath, voice and mind. When we put all of our attention and all of our emotion on one word at a time as we do in chanting, we are learning how to focus our mind. The Reverend Cynthia Bourgeault teaches that, "In Christian chant you have to know and understand the words. You have to accept them into your heart in a very deep way. The words are always primary in Christian chanting. Focusing the mind on Truth in this way helps us surrender our small 'self' and opens us to the Holy Spirit and transformation."

Taizé chanting of short songs, repeated again and again, gives it a meditative quality. We've used these in our services before from the ELW. Very few words expressing a basic reality of faith are quickly grasped by the mind. As they are sung over many times the truth in the words slowly seep into the whole being. Meditative singing, chanting, is a way of listening to God.

Dr. Alfred A Tomatis, a French doctor, pioneered research on the effect chanting had on the well-being of the human body. His studies with monks found that there are two kinds of sound: there are "discharge" sounds (those which tire, fatigue and drain the listener) and "charge" sounds (those which give energy, life and health). His work with the monks opened the door for extensive research in sound therapy. Find more at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AnS/psychology/health_psychology/TOMATIS.

The calming and uplifting effects of chant are easily testable. So try listening to a small amount of it each day, or better still, singing some, and you will quick notice the difference it makes in your life.