

# Garden of Reading



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2018

## Happenings!

**Sunday, December 9**—New Member Reception, Blessing memorial gifts, Confirmation Class

**Monday, December 10**—WELCA Bible Study

**Sunday, December 16**—Christmas program during worship, Special Congregational Meeting, Caroling at Midlands Living Center, Angel Tree Party

**Wednesday December 19**—Blue Christmas worship with dinner

**Friday, December 21**—Help at Our Savior's Food & Pet Food Pantry

**Monday, December 24**—Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 pm and 7 pm

**Monday, December 31**—Family Fun Night

**Mission Statement:**  
Forgiven  
by Grace,  
Serving by  
Faith

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



We have five youth attend a one-day youth retreat hosted by Carol Joy Holling Camp: Max Sizemore, Tori Hansen, Grant Ashcraft, Mason Lewis and Garrett Ashcraft. This retreat was for elementary age kids and focused on learning about God's creation in nature. Stephen Lewis transported and helped with activities for the day.

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# Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Dear partners in mission and service,

On November 10, Judy Heithoff and I traveled to St. John Lutheran Church at Carroll, Iowa. Pastor Jeff Unga had asked members of our Emanuel FAITH Team to lead a couple of workshops on congregational hospitality in worship and fellowship. Most of the FAITH Team members had other commitments that day. So we “brought them along” on video as team members had conversation together about our efforts and accomplishments here at Emanuel in the last five years.

We shared some of the principles we have used in our transitional and redevelopment processes here. If you were at our Thankfulness event on November 11, you heard me describe those principles. Here is the list.

- Lighten up! Relax and have some fun! People do better when they are smiling. Change is easier too!
- Play from your strengths. Focus on what you do well, not on what needs fixing.
- Pick the low-hanging fruit. Find simple, impactful and immediate changes and make them.
- Lead from the front. Good behavior is modeled by visible and public leaders.
- Box above your weight. Act one congregational size larger than you are.
- Embrace the Improv Culture. Say “yes, and” rather than “no, but.”
- Call, train and empower new leaders. People want to do new things, if only we’ll let them.
- Use the “RITE” change practices
- *Rationale: Is there a good and clearly articulated reason for change?*
- *Input: is there an opportunity for input before the change happens?*
- *Testing: is there a defined period of testing for the proposed change?*
- *Evaluation: is there a process of evaluation and feedback for the change?*
- “Lather, Rinse, Repeat”

The FAITH Team will take some time in the next few months to share this presentation with you here at Emanuel. It was great fun, and I think you will find it very encouraging.

The point I want to make, however, is a simple one. About seven years ago, a number of Emanuel members travelled to St. John Lutheran Church, Carroll. The purpose of that trip was for Emanuel folks to learn about how congregational redevelopment worked. I want you to take this in. Over the course of these years, we have moved from being desperate students to being hopeful and joyful teachers. I am honored to be part of that journey.

Judy and I talked with members of eight congregations who are seeking to enhance their congregational vitality and to grow in mission and service. It was so much fun to be part of those conversations. I know those folks looked at the journey of Emanuel over these years and found both inspiration and hope in our example. I am so grateful that the Holy Spirit has used us in this way for the mission of the whole Church. And I am grateful for your partnership as we move forward on the journey.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lowell

# Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on December 16 at 10:45 am in the Community Room to consider the recommended bid for Daycare Renovation/Construction. All confirmed members of Emanuel Lutheran Church are voting members of the congregation and should plan to attend. An informational review of this bid is planned for December 9 after worship in the Community Room.

## Congregational Meeting



**DAY CARE NEWS**

## Director Search

BY AMY GARREANS

The Emanuel Daycare needs a Director! If you know someone who may be interested (and meets the requirements), please have them reach out to Amy Garreans (agarreans@gmail.com) or Pastor Lowell (pastor@emanuelcb.org) for more information.

The center director is responsible for the overall function of the center. This includes supervising staff, designing curriculum and ensuring the safety of children. The on-site supervisor is responsible for the daily supervision of the center and must be on site daily whenever children are present or a minimum of eight hours of the center's hours of operation.

### Director Requirements:

- At least 21 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- At least one course in business administration or 12 contact hours in administrative-related training **OR**
- One year of administrative-related experience
- Certification in infant, child and adult CPR and First Aid
- Certification in Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training
- Total of 100 points obtained through a combination of education, experience and child development-related training as outlined in the chart from Iowa Resource and Referral (copies available from the church office).

**CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to Nick & Amy (Steensland) Rickard who were married at Emanuel November 3<sup>rd</sup>!



We would also like to congratulate to Mike Burns (son of John & Barb Burns) and Emily Flom who were married November 10<sup>th</sup> in Omaha!



**WITH SYMPATHY:** We lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy for Jamie Hansen and family at the death of her Grandfather, Clarence Hunt, on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**THANK YOU!** My family would like to extend our thanks to everyone for the prayers and help done & offered while I recovered from surgery. It truly was a blessing!  
- Chasity Christie



## Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to order a poinsettia to be displayed on Christmas Eve, please contact the office at (712) 323-9665 or at office@emanuecb.org.

There are also ordering envelopes at the usher station and in the pews on Sunday morning.

The cost is \$6 each and you have your choice between red and white. If you would like it to be listed in memory of or in honor of someone, please indicate that with your order.



The deadline for ordering will be Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. We get these from Sherbondy's Garden Center here in Council Bluffs and they are beautiful each year.

Plants may be picked up Christmas Eve after the 7 p.m. service.



Packing boxes before worship on Wednesday, November 14. We had 31 people help pack boxes that night. The boxes were then blessed at worship on November 18th and distributed later that morning. Thank you to everyone who donated items or helped with this project in any way.

## Wider Ministries

BY LINDA STEENSLAND

Wider Ministries is very thankful for our Emanuel Family!

25 Thanksgiving Baskets are being distributed to families in our community.

13 green bean casseroles made and delivered by members to the city-wide thanksgiving dinner at

55 Lutheran Family Services children's bags will be delivered in December.

13 families with over 20 children will receive Angel Tree Gifts in December.

There will not be a Joyful Noise offering in December due to all the generous giving for these projects.

Questions? Please contact Linda Steensland

## Thankfulness Dinner

BY DEANN OVER

Approximately 75 attended the Thankfulness Dinner on November 11, where Pastor Lowell overviewed Emanuel's blessings.

A beautiful Christmas quilt sewn, designed and quilted by Elaine Sasso, Ruth Pearson & Darlene Jeppesen was donated as a fund raiser for the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering. One adult member from each family received a ticket for the quilt which won by Mike Loos.

Thanks to Judy Heithoff for preparing the pork loin and assisting in the dinner: Michaela & Steve Lewis, Tori, Kylie, Lauren, Jamie & Tyler Hansen; Mason, Amy & Mike Garreans; Kyle, Carly, Megan & Chris Sorensen; Cyndi Borwick; Carrie Hansen; Jan & Rick Stone; Darlene & Richard Reed; Connie & Matt Solon; Linda & Greg Steensland; Mike Loos; Kevin Epperson; Jan & John Husmann and Oscar Over.

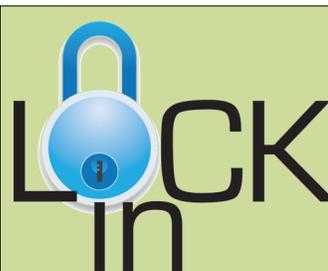


## Stewardship Update

BY RICK STONE

Commitment Sunday, November 18th, we had 39 pledges for a total of \$99,852. We are anticipating approximately 30 additional pledges to be received yet for the 2019 fiscal year. THANK YOU for your commitment to Emanuel's missions going forward!

Those who have not made a pledge yet, but plan to do so, you may place your pledge card in the Sunday offerings, or mail them to the church office. Additional pledge cards are available to anyone who may need one.



**Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**6 pm—12 am**

All middle school & high school students, friends and brave volunteers welcome!

Bring a snack to share and a drink!



## Confirmation

Congratulations to Emanuel's newest confirmed members: Andrew Borwick, Austin Borwick, Aaralyn Conley, Joshua Hubbard, Kylie Hansen, Lauren Hansen, Shae Nickels, Alexxia Richards, Shelby Rickard, and Tyler Steensland.

Fifty-two family members, godparents and mentors attended the dinner for the ten. During the evening, students explained the symbols on their designed stoles and shared their final confirmation projects.

Thanks to Darlene Jeppesen for making the red felt stoles and Michaela Lewis the stencils. And assisting in the dinner: Jan Stone, Pat Hiller, Cheryl Rowe, Char Les Kimmish, Kyle & Megan Sorensen, Kevin Epperson, Connie Solon, Elaine Sasso, Darlene Jeppesen & Linda Steensland

On November 4th, the ten were confirmed and honored with a cake reception during coffee hour. Thanks to Michaela Lewis for the photo and, of course, Pastor Lowell for teaching the two year confirmation class.

## Youth Trips Make an Impact

BY LAUREN HANSEN

Over the past three trips I have been on, I have learned something new each time. First of all, to always be grateful for the things I have and to get to do. Secondly, I have learned that I have so much support and love in my life. There are little kids all over the world that don't have parents or other family. Some haven't even heard of God. Lastly, I have learned and improved the Christian I am today because of others. The way the people in Houston explained their story and what they had been through, made me think of how lucky I am and how God has led me to what I am today.



## Program Practice

BY STEPHEN LEWIS

Its that time of year again when we begin our practices for the Children's Christmas Program. This year's program is called- The Christmas Express. It is a tale about a group of adults and children on their way to Bethlehem PA. via "The Christmas Express." It is a journey that will change the lives of everyone on that train car. The program date is December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are open to anyone that wants to participate (no matter age) we will find a place for all. If you have interest in wanting to participate or just help in general please reach out to me either in person or by email: [youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org)



**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Practice during Coffee Hour**  
 9:30 a.m. Worship,  
 10:45 am Coffee Hour

**Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Practice during Kidz Kamp**  
 6 p.m. Dinner  
 6:45 p.m. Kidz Kamp  
 7:30 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Rehearsal**  
 10:45 a.m. In Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Dress Rehearsal**  
 6:45 p.m. In Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Christmas Program**  
 Please arrive by 9 a.m. to prepare and get costumes on.



Daphne Miller  
Paul Heath  
Jim Fowler

Glen Fahrenkrug  
Mildred Rogers  
Phyllis Fowler

Daralene Smith  
Esther Bender  
Deloris Christensen

Robert Hesseltine  
Kaye Bird



- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Dec. 01</b> Mason Garreans                    | <b>Dec. 13</b> Karen McPartland                                 | <b>Dec. 25</b> Elaine Sasso                               |
| <b>Dec. 04</b> Connie Eyberg<br>Zach Winter      | <b>Dec. 16</b> Susan Wilson                                     | <b>Dec. 26</b> Emily Longnecker                           |
| <b>Dec. 05</b> Judy Dillon                       | <b>Dec. 17</b> Carrie Hansen                                    | <b>Dec. 27</b> Sid Dillon<br>Tristan Steensland           |
| <b>Dec. 06</b> Wesley Bradshaw<br>Shelby Rickard | <b>Dec. 18</b> Emily True                                       | <b>Dec. 28</b> Brett Egner<br>Luke Hansen<br>Jon McGreevy |
| <b>Dec. 08</b> Andrew Borwick<br>Jamie Hansen    | <b>Dec. 19</b> Lowell Hennigs<br>Allen Martens                  | <b>Dec. 29</b> Judy Wilson                                |
| <b>Dec. 09</b> Bob Juhl                          | <b>Dec. 20</b> Kobie Ferguson<br>Taryn McSorley<br>Jade Wohlers | <b>Dec. 30</b> Shae Nickels                               |
| <b>Dec. 10</b> Tina Larson                       | <b>Dec. 21</b> Kaitlyn Egner                                    | <b>Dec. 31</b> Danny Britson                              |
| <b>Dec. 12</b> Richard Borwick<br>Cael Hansen    | <b>Dec. 22</b> Sam Heithoff<br>Jan Husmann                      |   |



- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dec. 2</b>  | Larry & Sharon Hansen |
| <b>Dec. 17</b> | Elaine & Ron Sasso    |
| <b>Dec. 31</b> | Dan & Judy Heithoff   |

***If we've missed a birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please let the church office know!  
Contact Michaela at (712) 323-9665 or emanuellutherancbia@msn.com***



Have you visited our website?

You can view events, the newsletter, past newsletters, announcements, sermon videos, make a gift online and more!  
You can even sign up to help with worship!

[www.emanuelcb.org](http://www.emanuelcb.org)

## Worship Assistant Schedule

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



<b>Sunday, December 2</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Mike Winter
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Nikki Rickard & Kyle Sorensen
<b>Lector</b>	Rosie Spangenberg
<b>Children's Message</b>	Elaine Sasso
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Rosie Spangenberg, Angel McGee, Lauren Hansen
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Connie & Matt Solon
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Darlene Jeppesen
<b>Sunday, December 9</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Rosie Spangenberg
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Hanna Ferguson & Cole Holcombe
<b>Lector</b>	Elaine Sasso
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Peggy Jarrell, Joel Hauschild, Amy Garreans
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Pat Hiller
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Cheryl Rowe
<b>Sunday, December 16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Emma & Mia Richards
<b>Sunday, December 23</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Carly Sorensen
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Kyle Sorensen & Amari Johnson
<b>Lector</b>	Sherri Stinson
<b>Children's Message</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Amy Garreans
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Carol Fahrenkrug
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Elaine Sasso
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	<b>4:30 p.m. Service</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Grace Hansen & Cael Hansen
<b>Lector</b>	Mike Loos
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	John Spilde, Peggy Jarrell
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Monday, December 24</b>	<b>7 p.m. Service</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Hanna Ferguson & Angelina Maxwell
<b>Lector</b>	Rosie Spangenberg
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Rosie Spangenberg, Elaine Sasso
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Deb Ebsen
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Sunday, December 30</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Amy Garreans
<b>Ushers</b>	Larry & Sharon Hansen
<b>Acolytes</b>	Mason Gareans & Reagan Haats
<b>Lector</b>	John Husmann
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Amy Garreans
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Connie Eyberg
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Elaine Sasso

**December 2**  
Girl Scout  
Troop 4006

**December 9**  
Girl Scout  
Troop 4006

**December 16**  
Children & Youth

**December 23**  
Fresh Start Team

**December 30**  
Girl Scout  
Troop 4006

*The coffee hour sign-up chart is in the kitchen. Duties include picking up donuts, starting coffee, pouring juice and clean-up.*



**December 2**

**December 9**

**December 16**

**December 23**  
Poinsettias

**December 30**

*The flower sign-up is on the bulletin board above the usher stand.*

## December 2018 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour	11 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands Living Center	5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner & Hanging of the Greens	9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Band Rehearsal	Office Closed	Office Closed
9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am—Christmas Program Practice in Worship Center 11 am Mental Health Support Group Afternoon—Carpet Cleaning in Community Room	11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm FAITH Team Meeting in the Retreat House	5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Christmas Program Practice in Worship Center, Adult Study in Community Room 7:30 pm Worship in Community Room	9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Band Rehearsal	Office Closed	Office Closed
9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour with Wider Ministries Meeting 10:45 am—Christmas Program Practice in Worship Center 11 am Confirmation	11 am Tai Chi 9:30 am The Gathering (Women's Study) in conference room 7 pm Church Council Meeting	8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6:30 pm Children & Youth Committee Meeting 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal in Worship Center, Adult Study in Community Room 7:30 pm Worship in Community Room	9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Band Rehearsal	Office Closed	Office Closed
9:30 am Worship with Christmas Program 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 pm Special Congregational Meeting 11 am Mental Health Support Group 11:15 am Caroling at Midlands 2 pm Angel Tree Party 3 pm Piano Recital	11 am Tai Chi 7 pm MS Support Group	5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Blue Christmas Service in Worship Center	9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Band Rehearsal	Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's	Office Closed
9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 11 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands Living Center 4:30 pm Family Style Worship 7 pm Worship with Celebration Candles	<b>Christmas</b> Office Closed 	Office Closed 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters)	9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Band Rehearsal	Office Closed	Office Closed
9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour	<b>New Year's Eve</b> 11 am Tai Chi 6 pm—9 pm Family Fund Night	Office Closed 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Kidz Kamp in Youth Center, Adult Study in Community Room 7:30 pm Worship in Community Room	9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Band Rehearsal	Office Closed	Office Closed

# Mental Health Awareness

BY STEPHEN LEWIS



CHRISTMAS SEASON

This month I would like to share some tips about Mental Health and the Holidays. Holiday depression, anxiety and stress can affect anyone of any age. Sometimes, these feelings are triggered by specific events or life experiences. I have listed below some tips that can help with the common holiday triggers.

1. **Budget:** Plan your budget in advance of the holiday season. Only spend cash or debit. Consider hosting a Secret Santa for friends and family.
2. **Family:** Be realistic about what you can and cannot do. Set boundaries with your family and communicate with them. Limit your visits to a few hours rather than the whole day.
3. **Overindulging:** When you plan your holiday schedule, allow yourself opportunities to be active. Be gentle with yourself and understand that the goal is to limit consumption or inactivity, not eliminate it entirely.
4. **Taking on too much:** Pace yourself. Make a list and prioritize the important things. Decide your limits and stick to them. Share responsibilities of holiday tasks.
5. **Loneliness and isolation:** Pick up a winter holiday or join a group. Volunteer. Take advantage of the free holiday activities that your community offers. Please, allow people to check on you.
6. **Loss:** Acknowledge that this season will not be the same. Create a new tradition to help keep your loved one's memory alive. Spend time with supportive and caring people who understand what you are experiencing.
7. **Seasonal Affective Disorder:** S.A.D. is a type of depression that is related to the changes in the seasons. Symptoms include- tiredness, depression, mood changes, irritability, trouble concentrating, body aches, insomnia, decreased interest and overeating. Some treatments include light therapy, counseling and medications.
8. **Year end reflection:** As you reflect back on the past year take stock of the things that are going well and what you have done well. Give yourself credit. Look to the future with optimism.

The Mental Health Awareness group meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month. We are a safe place to share and we have many resources. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mike Garreans or myself.



After the Christmas Program and special meeting on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will go next door to Midlands Living Center at 11:15 a.m. to share some Christmas music with them. Kids are encouraged to wear their costumes or shirts from the program. Everyone is invited to come with us and help us spread Christmas cheer!

## Activities Grant



Jessica Rayment from Promise Partners presents Stephen Lewis with a grant on behalf of Emanuel Children & Youth on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The Emanuel Children & Youth committee was awarded a Community Networking Grant in the amount of \$340 from Promise Partners and the Pottawattamie Youth Council (PYC) to support "All Are Welcome" Community Fellowship Events.



# Council Notes

## Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes for 11/19/2018

RECORDED BY MIKE WINTER

Present: Rosie Spangenberg, Mike Winter, Amy Garreans, Elaine Sasso, Joel Hauschild, Judi Malloy, Stephen Lewis, Valarie Weelborg, Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Absent: Peggy Jarrell, John Spilde, Patty Maxwell, Connie Solon

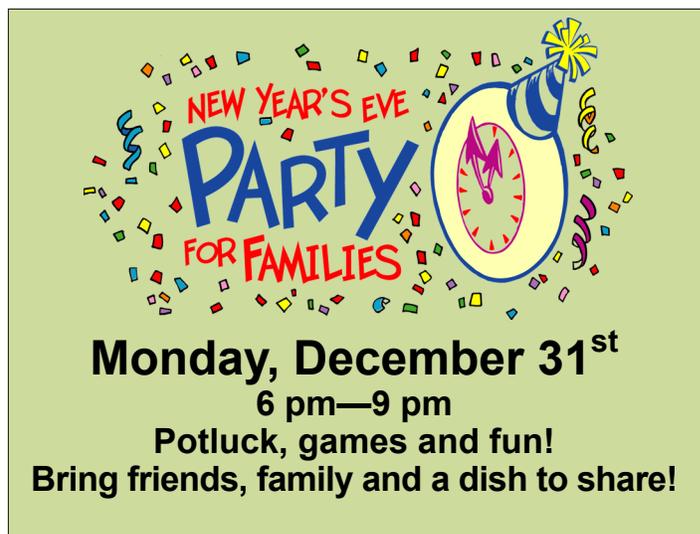
The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by President Rosie Spangenberg

Devotions: Judi Malloy

### Council Agenda:

- Alan Ellis reported on dealing with asbestos as part of the daycare project. He reported to the council that the asbestos could be sealed rather than removed and this would be a cheaper and safe way to deal with that issue.
- It is reported that as part of the daycare project, the Pastor's office will be moved to the upper level so that the daycare director can take over his old office.
- Motion by Elaine Sasso, seconded by Amy Garreans to refurbish the upstairs office at a cost of less than \$1,000 with the funds to be taken from the construction loan. Approved.
- Motion by Elaine Sasson, seconded by Judi Malloy to remodel the upstairs bathroom at a cost of about \$926 with the funds to be taken from the construction loan. Approved.
- Motion by Amy Garreans, seconded by Stephen Lewis to install a new toilet in the upstairs bathroom at a cost of approximately \$170 with the funds to be taken from the maintenance budget. Approved.
- Motion by Judi Malloy, seconded by Joel Hauschild to approve the secretary minutes for the meeting of October 15, 2018 with the correction that the projectors were to be purchased from Memorial Funds. Approved.
- Motion by Elaine Sasso, seconded by Valarie Weelborg to approve the Financial Secretary (Consolidated Fund) report. Approved.
- Motion by Judi Malloy, seconded by Amy Garreans to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved.
- Motion by Amy Garreans, seconded by Joel Hauschild to approve the Capital Fund Report. A question was asked concerning why there was \$5.25 shown as a loss under receipts in the Music Fund. No answer was given. Approved.
- Motion by Elaine Sasso, seconded by Joel Hauschild to approve the Memorial Fund Report after correcting the spelling from Weaterill to Weatherill. Approved.
- Pastor Hennigs gave a 15 point report. He continues to offer a communion service on the fourth Monday of each month at Midlands Living Center and at least one Wednesday afternoon a month at Bethany for the Vespers Service. He believes they have hired a new Spiritual Life Coordinator, but does not know the details. The Fresh Start Team continues to host the Sunday Fellowship time on the third Sunday of each month. Robert Hesseltine is a new returning citizen and he is making remarkable progress. He is working for Tyson Foods while he resides at the Residential Correctional Facility. Pastor and Judy Heithoff made a presentation at the Synod Workshop on November 10. They shared and described some of the principles which guide the work of the Faith Team at Emanuel. Copies of those principles were attached to his report. The Faith Team meets again on December 3 and will begin plans and goals for 2019. The Daycare Construction Committee is securing bids and Amy Garreans has begun work as the chair of the daycare board of directors and is recruiting nominees for the Board of Directors. The Mental Health Support Group held a mental health first aid training event on October 20 and 20 Emanuel members were trained at the event. The Stewardship and Finance Committee reported that there were 35 giving cards submitted. There is a request from the Haats Family to transfer from Our Savior's here in Council Bluffs. Robert Hesseltine wishes to join the congregation by affirmation of faith. The Western Iowa Synod Assembly will be held from May 3-5, 2019 in Sioux City. President Spangenberg had agreed to attend on our behalf, but we need one more voting member to represent Emanuel.

- Motion by Elaine Sasso, seconded by Joel Hauschild accepting the Haats family including Claire and Edward Haats, and their three children along with Robert Hesseltine as new members to the congregation. Approved.
  - Connie Solon submitted a report for the Stewardship/Finance Committee. The Stewardship dinner was held on November 11 with a good response. They are waiting for budget requests for 2019 and all requests should be submitted by December 9, 2018. They are waiting to tally up the pledges that were collected Sunday, November 18. All temple talks have been completed and all flyers and letters have been mailed. The process for the 2019 proposed budget can be submitted when all budget requests have been received.
  - Stephen Lewis reported on the Youth and Children's Ministry. He would like to see more children attend Kidz Camp. Promise Partners have awarded us a grant of \$340. Over 1,000 responses were received via facebook for the Truck or Treat held on October 28. Upcoming events include the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, November 28 and the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16. Besides Santa Claus, it is expected that Mrs. Claus may also attend. The family New Year's Eve celebration will be on Monday, December 31.
  - Connie Solon also submitted a report for the Wider Ministries. 25 Thanksgiving baskets were distributed Sunday, November 18. Angel tree requests have been posted. The green bean casserole for Thanksgiving has been organized and Christmas bags for Lutheran Family Services is in its final stages. Judy Dillon will be the church nurse beginning January 2019. Mental Health has asked to be part of Wider Ministries. A 2019 budget is being planned.
  - Joel Hauschild gave the Property Committee report. Carpet cleaning will take place next Sunday. The hole in the sidewalk in front of the Narthex has been repaired. Caulking was also to run along the bottom of the exterior of the north wall of the sanctuary. Other ceiling and caulking will need to wait until spring. Motion lights have been installed on the parsonage. (Retreat Center).
  - Rosie Spangenberg gave the report of the Worship and Music Committee. Da Band has been very busy. This year is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the writing of Silent Night which will be highlighted at the December 23 service. On their wish list is the purchase of a baby grand piano. Additional banners may be purchased after the first of the year. Mike Garreans is researching the purchase of some new microphones to be paid for from garage sale funds along with four or five new 25 foot cords. December 9 will be busy as new members will be admitted along with Lutheran Family Service bags will be blessed on December 2, Joyful Noise and much more.
  - Motion by Amy Garreans, seconded by Joel Hauschild to approve the completion and submission of an agreement with Red Cross to use Emanuel facilities in the event of emergencies or a crisis. Approved.
  - Motion by Elaine Sasson, seconded by Joel Hauschild to approve Darlene Jeppesen, Kevin Epperson and Brittany Smith as additional members to the Emanuel Daycare Board. Approved.
  - Discussion was held concerning replacing board members whose terms will expire including Mike Winter and Valarie Weelborg. We may also be looking for a third board member to replace Patty Maxwell who has been unable to attend recent meetings.
  - Motion by Elaine Sasso, seconded by Judi Malloy to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Approved.
  - All reports presented to the council may be viewed by any church member at the church office.
- The next meeting will be Monday, December 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at President Spangenberg's house. Devotions will be by Rosie Spangenberg.



# When Advent and Christmas are Blue

BY CARA STRICKLAND (FROM LIVING LUTHERAN, DECEMBER 19, 2017)

Culturally it's easy to treat Advent as a countdown to Christmas—a swirl of parties, sparkle and lights. But liturgically it's a season of anguished waiting. For many years, it seemed that God had forgotten his people. Had I lived years before Jesus was born into the world, I imagine it would have been tempting to give up hope.

Even now, looking around, it's easy to see what is wrong and broken. Our world is hurting, trying to recover from natural disasters that seem to just keep coming, as well as tragedies brought about by human hands. The people we love get sick; their hearts are broken; sometimes they die. In these moments, we find it hard to be surrounded by festive music, décor and Christmas revelry.

Last Christmas, a friend of mine took her almost 2-year-old daughter to the doctor, just to be on the safe side since she wasn't feeling well. Within a few days, the situation became dire. I joined a host of people who prayed for a miracle for this sweet little girl and her family. She weighed on my mind even as I slept.

On Christmas Eve, my friend's daughter died. That night, I read the Scriptures at church. I did so through tears, keenly aware of these words about the gift of a child who would save us all, aware that there was one family whose arms were newly empty.

As we get closer to Advent and Christmas, I keep thinking about my friend and this sorrowful anniversary she is facing. Perhaps you know someone who is struggling with grief in sorrow. Or perhaps you yourself may be holding something heavy and hard. During these times, it can be tempting to turn inward. But as Christians, God calls us to do otherwise.

Many ELCA and other congregations host "Blue Christmas" services for those who are suffering dur-

ing this time of the year. Last year, for the first time, my congregation hosted one. People were free to come and worship, cry or just be quiet. It was a place for those who didn't feel they fit in with the joviality of the season, for people who needed a space to honor the tough emotions they were feeling.

My pastor, Liv Larson Andrews, had noticed other congregations doing these services and wanted to offer something similar. "I have loved the liturgical renewal that is occurring in so many churches that lifts up the deep practices of Advent as a little bit of a corrective to the cultural obsession with Christmas that begins in October—just to offer a way in for people who are experiencing December and the 'holidays' of American culture as this one-note everyone's happy, everybody is singing 'Jingle Bells'—and to both do the Christian thing of telling the truth that 'Hey, first of all, not everybody is here,' and to welcome everyone, wherever they are emotionally,

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**God calls us to be in relationship with God and with one another. Reach out to your faith community, to your pastor, to God, to that friend who is hurting. Though we wait—sometimes in anguish—we do not wait or suffer alone.**

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into faith. Not to require that people feel blue or feel sad, but simply to acknowledge that there is a range of postures or feelings or experiences," she said.

Of course, one service is just the beginning of welcoming everyone who is experiencing sadness and grief into the church. "Christ is risen, Christ is among us, and life is full of struggle; suffering still assails us," Andrews said. "[Yet the struggle] doesn't mean Jesus isn't there with us, but we kind of hold those things together."

If you or someone you know is blue this Advent and Christmas, remember that you are not alone. Emmanuel (God with us) came down to earth to accompany us in our joy and in our sorrow. Consider seeking out a Blue Christmas service near you—and may God be with you this season.



**Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**6 pm—Dinner**  
**7 pm—Worship**

The Holiday season can be hard for those who's hearts are hurting. You are not alone. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.



# ELCA Youth Leadership

Carly Sorensen was chosen to represent the ELCA Churchwide Disability Team at the 2018 ELCA Youth Leadership Summit from November 1-4!

This annual gathering for youth leaders and adults, provided training on leadership development with sessions focusing on equipping the attendees in advocacy through the theme "Through Christ We Can."

As Carly summarized, "We are all together, welcoming all people and accepting everyone!"

Watch for an upcoming issue of Living Lutheran in an article where Carly will share her thoughts on the Summit. In the meantime, photos, posts and videos can be found on the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit facebook page.

Congratulations Carly!



Dear Emanuel members and friends,

On behalf of the Treat the Troops Project and Iowa Cookie Crumbs, I want to thank Emanuel for allowing us to use the church facilities for our monthly packing of cookies to deployed troops since 2007. In addition, the support from Emanuel's members has been and always is phenomenal!

With our November packing, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have sent **over 1,277,000** cookies to deployed service personnel in harms' way.

As part of our annual Operation Holiday Cheer, on November 5<sup>th</sup> we sent 210 holiday themed boxes of comfort items filled with decorations, Christmas stockings, games, blank holiday cards, calendars, hygiene products and hand knitted helmet liners and scarves.

Then on November 13<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Lowell blessed the 36,120 cookies shown below and took the photo before volunteers packed the cookies into 264 boxes.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs was formed by Abbie

Crawford and is part of a network of volunteers with the national Treat the Troops organization ([www.treatthetroops.org](http://www.treatthetroops.org)) begun in the 1990's by Jeanette Cram. Our first shipment of 80 dozen cookies with letters of support and thanks were packed in Abbie's kitchen in January, 2007. However, as more and more people heard about the project and wanted to help, it was apparent we could not continue packing in a home.



The Iowa Cookie Crumbs, the only Treat the Troops group in Iowa and Nebraska, has three teams with approximately 180 dedicated bakers. At one time there were over 34 crumb groups

across the USA – now there are only 4 active. We are not only the youngest of Jeanette's crumb groups – we have sent the most cookies. While we don't know the reason(s) other groups have dissolved, we do know ours has succeeded due to the outstanding support of the metro and surrounding communities.

Again, thank you for allowing the Iowa Cookie Crumbs to use the church facilities and members – a huge thank you for your wonderful support!

# Merry Christmas!



“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system, who fear they will never have a family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

*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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*



**Attendance & Offering**

Week of:	Attendance:	Offerings:
November 4	179	\$3,755.00
November 11	118	\$1,421.00
November 18	125	\$1,495.00
November 25	n/a	\$230.00

## Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

October Income: ..... \$9,594.30  
 October Expense: ..... \$13,861.48  
 October Balance ..... -\$4,267.18

YTD Income: ..... \$135,107.72  
 YTD Expense: ..... \$135,128.23  
 YTD Balance ..... -\$20.51  
 Plus Carryover ..... \$10,886.00  
 General Budget Fund ..... \$10,865.49

# Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



200 years ago this Christmas, Silent Night was first sung in St. Nikolaus Church in Oberndorf, Germany. Josef Mohr was assistant priest there at that time. He had been raised by a local parish priest at the Salzburg Cathedral because his father, also Josef Mohr, a mercenary soldier, was often away from home. The young Josef sang in the Salzburg Cathedral Choir before becoming a priest. In 1816 Mohr, while in Mariapfor, wrote a poem about the angels announcing Jesus' birth to the shepherds outside Bethlehem. While planning the Christmas Eve service in 1818, he remembered that poem, thinking it would work as a carol for that evening service. However there was no music to it. The organist at St Nikolaus was Franz Gruber. Gruber, whose father did not want his son to be a poor musician, studied violin and organ but became a school teacher in order to make a living. Mohr asked him to write a simple melody for the poem, simple because the organ not working. Some say the it was not working due to rust. Others say mice ate through some of the "vital organs". At the service Gruber, Mohr and the choir sang the carol for the first time accompanied by a Gruber on guitar.



## Silent Night, Holy Night

cher loved "Silent Night" and took copies back to his village of Kapfing. There the Strasser sisters, a local singing family, used the carol in their Christmas playlist, spreading the carol around northern Europe. 16 years later they sang it for the King of Prussia, Frederick William IV, who absolutely fell in love with the song. He later ordered it to be sung by the cathedral choir every Christmas Eve. In 1838 Silent Night was first published in Katholisches Gesang-und Gebetbuch. 20 years after it's writing, Silent Night was brought to the United States by the Rainers, another singing family from Kapfing. They performed it at the Alexander Hamilton monument outside Trinity Church in New York City. In 1863 the song was translated from German to English by John Young, the Episcopal priest at Trinity. He published it in his book *Great Hymns of the Church* in 1887. Today it has been translated into over 300 languages.

Here at Emanuel we will celebrate this carol, using it during the lighting of the Advent wreath every Sunday. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> we will also be sharing our most memorable recollections of singing Silent Night. Please fill out the form on this page and return it to me to include your reminiscence that day as we celebrate Stille Nacht. You may also email your story to [music@emanuelcb.org](mailto:music@emanuelcb.org)

**Please share your most memorable recollection of singing Silent Night.**

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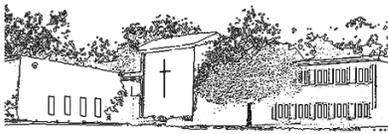
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

2444 North Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Game Day**

Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm  
*Community Room*

**The Gathering (Women's Study)**

Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 am  
*Conference Room*

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)  
Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am  
*Village Inn East*

**Adult Fellowship**

Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am  
*Pizza Ranch*

**Mission Action Committee  
(Quilters)**

Wednesdays, 9:30 am  
*Community Room*

*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  
office@emanuelcb.org

Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia  
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

*Worship Services:*

Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by fellowship  
Wednesday meal at 6:00 pm, Kidz Kamp & Adult Study at 6:45 pm,  
Worship in in Community Room at 7:30 p.m.

*Staff:*

Pastor Lowell Hennigs (*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