

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2020

Happenings!

Due to COVID 19 the church building will remain closed except for Sundays mornings for worship in the worship center. Please connect with us virtually via Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube channel in the meantime.

Sunday, November 1—Worship with Rites of Confirmation, All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 8—Worship with Joyful Noise Offering

Sunday, November 15—Worship

Friday, November 20—Volunteers for Food Pantry Meet at Our Savior's

Sunday, November 22—Worship

Sunday, November 29—Worship, First Sunday in Advent

Mission Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



Dressed in her witch costume, Leah Clark greets Ironman (Mason Lewis) as he helps deliver bags of goodies. Due to COVID, we weren't able to have our annual Trunk-or-Treat event and the "Halloween Parade," was cancelled due to snow. We were still able to deliver items through the week to those who had signed up to participate.

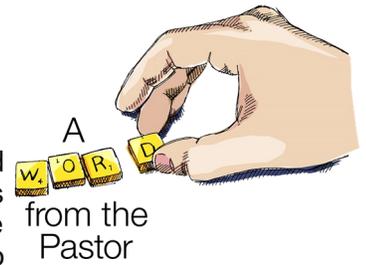
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Ponderings From Your Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON

Fall is my absolutely most favorite time of year. What's not to love! The colors and sounds of leaves crunching underfoot, the nip of cold that tickles your nose—it's just the best. I've found a place in town that makes a wonderful hot caramel apple cider—you should try it! Thanksgiving is around the corner and we're beginning to see Christmas displayed in the aisles of shops and stores. Merry Hallowthanksmus!



Thanksgiving in our house will look different this year. Typically we would go to Des Moines to spend Thanksgiving with my grandmother and extended family. We book the day room at the facility where she lives and our noisy, boisterous clan would come with our crockpots for an afternoon of lots of good food and a dull roar of laughing and kids running around and screeching. Christmas would find us in Minneapolis spending the holidays listening to Maja's mom Mary sing in the choir and dancing around the tree after our big Christmas meal in fine Danish fashion. But with COVID both sides of the family have decided to not gather together. So our family decided to volunteer to deliver community Thanksgiving meals and then celebrate the holiday with a friend in town.

As the pandemic continues to disrupt our lives and our patterns and our routines we continue to rise to the challenge to find new and innovative ways to keep being the body of Christ in our ministry and life together as the body of Christ. Take our quilters for example. While they haven't been meeting together in person since March they've still found a way to continue making all of these beautiful quilts. Someone makes the quilt tops, another picks them up and adds the padding, maybe another stitches on the backing, and they find their way into the quilting room to be blessed and sent out into the community and the world sending Christ's love with them. If you want to know what the kingdom of heaven looks like—just look to our quilt ministry as a fine example.

And that's just one of a number of examples of a growing pandemic of kindness and generosity that has been spreading throughout our church and community. This year's Stewardship Theme is A Pandemic of Generosity. We'll be hearing from local members, our neighbors, and our synod of generosity we've seen, participated in and can aspire to in this new time. I know we all long for the familiar and ask when will things get back to normal? I think we'll find things will never be exactly the same yet we'll come to a new normal.

And while change and loss are always hard, can we see this time as an opportunity to follow God into new territory—finding creative ways to continue being the children of God here at Emanuel. My mother-in-law, who has joined Emanuel as an associate member, can see our services from Minneapolis. My sister and her family, who have joined as members, watches from Honolulu. They have the opportunity to become a part of the Emanuel family and participate in the life and ministry even though they live too far away to join in person.

As we explore this Pandemic of Generosity together I'm excited to see all the ways our generous spirits can join with God in bringing about the kingdom through our time and talents and treasures. We live in a world surrounded by scared, hurting and vulnerable people who desperately need to experience God's love in their lives in a real and tangible way. Let's start a Pandemic of Generosity and watch it spread like a virus until everyone has been infected by the love of God!

Thanks for volunteering to mow the church lawn. We ask that you mow the lawn **some-time** during your scheduled week, preferably by Thursday. If you have a conflict, just trade dates with someone on the list. Mowing consists of the church lawn and the parsonage lawn.



**LAWN-MOWING
TEAM**

Nov. 3 Terry Eyberg
Nov. 10 Ken Kemmish

A Pandemic of Generosity

BY THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of Emanuel Lutheran Church should have received a letter from the Stewardship Committee last week detailing the 2021 Stewardship campaign.

Our theme is “A Pandemic of Generosity”. We want everyone to examine how during these last nine months you have witnessed positive stewardship changes---changes in one’s time, talent or monetary giving. Hopefully, we can continue to carry out similar changes in the future at Emanuel as well as in our community.

Four individuals will discuss this theme with us during the months of October and November. Our first temple talk was October 25. A second temple talk will be given Sunday, November 8th. Our guest speakers will be November 8 and November 15.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, we will not be hosting our annual Thanksgiving dinner this year.

Sunday, November 22, will be Commitment Sunday. During the service each of us will be given the opportunity to place our pledge on the altar. In the original letter each of you received a pledge card and self-address envelope. For those not comfortable attending church services yet, please mail your pledge to the church.

As a congregation, we are thankful for all those who continue to contribute and support our church. Emanuel looks forward to continue being a strong, positive force for you as well as Council Bluffs and beyond.

Emanuel Safety Update

I would like to start by thanking everyone for their cooperation and adhering to the newly placed guidelines for our time together for worship. We have had great success in finding a way to distance, yet worship together. It has been almost two months since we moved into the fellowship hall. This has been a successful move and we will be taking the next step and moving back to the sanctuary on November 1. I believe as long as we continue following the guidelines in place and adjusting if needed, we will slowly get back to a touch of normalcy.

The property committee has purchased another Ring doorbell for the back door as well as 2 Echo shows and an Echo dot. This will help to increase our security on the doors and add visibility to the doors for Michaela and Pastor Cara. The Echo dot will be placed with Cindy to help alert her if there is someone at the doors. I feel this is a great step in increasing the security for Emanuel and its Staff, as well as its members.

As we move into the colder and winter months, I want to remind everyone to please take it easy as the roads and sidewalks become wet or icy. Here lately I have been reminded that it is important to walk like a penguin on such surfaces. We have a great grounds crew here and Emanuel and I would like to thank them ahead of time for all the hard work they do to clear our parking lots and sidewalks.

If anyone has any questions of concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at the below email. Thanks.

Stephen Lewis
youth@emanulecb.org



Confirmation

BY DEANN OVER, YOUTH CHAIR

On Sunday, November 1st, ten of Emanuel's youth will receive the Rites of Confirmation.

Due to pandemic restrictions, classes, volunteer service and especially mentor activities were adjusted. We congratulate Emanuel's youth and are grateful to the mentors for their willingness to share their faith.

Following are the confirmands and their mentor: Hanna Ferguson (Judy Heithoff) - Mason Garreans (Mike Winter) - Reagan Haats (Cindy Richards) - Grace Hansen (Pastor Cara) - Hailey Holcombe (CharLes Kemmish) – Kade Holcombe (Steve Lewis) - Amari Johnson (Greg Steensland) - Angelina Maxwell (Deann Over) - Nikki Rickard (Linda Steensland) – Kyle Sorensen (Kevin Epperson).

We also want to thank:

- Pastor Cara and Steve Lewis for their leadership and guidance
- Darlene Jeppesen for sewing the red felt stoles. Confirmands were given take home packets to personalize for the service.
- Michaela Lewis for customizing white masks for confirmands with the Lutheran Rose also for the 1st.



Paul Heath
Bob Vergamini

Daralene Smith
Deloris Christensen

Robert Hesselstine
Phyllis Fowler

Esther Bender
Jim Fowler

NOVEMBER Birthdays

Nov. 01 Larry Hansen

Nov. 02 Maja Knutson

Nov. 04 Norma Heath

Nov. 06 Kaden Krauth

Nov. 07 Garrett Haats
Hailey Holcombe
Sean Larson

Nov. 08 Nichlos Matuszeski

Nov. 09 Beth Schultz

Nov. 11 Jan Stone

Nov. 13 Daralene Smith

Nov. 14 Haley Holland
Michaela Lewis

Nov. 15 Connie Beckman
William Spangenberg

Nov. 16 Todd Over

Nov. 17 Penny Dahlke
Clare Plummer
Paul Schwartz

Nov. 18 Matt Clark
Alexxia Richards

Nov. 19 David Fietz
Judy Johnsen

Nov. 20 Valerie Weelborg

Nov. 21 Grace Hansen
Jessica Hipnar
Ruth Sullivan

Nov. 22 Barry Larson

Nov. 23 Ken Nelson
Joel Parker

Nov. 24 Lauren Hansen

Nov. 26 Aaralynn Conley
Char Les Kemmish

Nov. 27 Gary Pleas

Nov. 28 Nikki Rickard

Nov. 29 Loren Carrier
Brayden Hansen
Steve Plummer

Nov. 30 Helen Baker
Mike Hipnar

NOVEMBER Anniversaries

Nov. 2 Alyssa & Desirée Snell

Nov. 3 Nick & Amy Rickard

Nov. 5 Dick & Judy Borwick

Nov. 7 Jeffrey & Thresa Fischer

Nov. 9 Mike & Emily Burns

Nov. 22 Oscar & Deann Over

Nov. 23 Arlen & Kathy Ellis

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

Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

RECORDED BY ROSIE SPANGENBERG, EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Members present: Pastor Cara Knutson, Mike Winter, Rosie Spangenberg, Nick Rickard, Char Les Kemmish, Mike Loos, John Spilde, Greg Steensland, Stephen Lewis, Alan Ellis

Members absent: Joel Hauschild, Matt Solon, Jane Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike Winter. Alan Ellis gave devotions.

Secretary's minutes from the August meeting: Motion to approve by Stephen Lewis, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by John Spilde, seconded by Char Les Kemmish. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.

Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Mike Loos, seconded by Char Les Kemmish. Motion carried.

Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

- Rosie Spangenberg gave a report from the Worship and Music committee. The new handbells are in, and practice will be starting.
- The Children's/Youth committee submitted a written report. Confirmation for 10 students will take place Nov. 1st.
- Alan Ellis reported for the property committee. A fuse panel at the parsonage will be replaced with circuit breakers. The committee submitted

a list of capital repairs or replacements that will need to be done in the near future.

- Stephen Lewis reported for the Safety Committee. Some security issues have been updated with new technology. Following the return to worship plan developed earlier, Sunday worship services will be moved to the Worship Center beginning Nov. 1st. Stephen Lewis made a motion to approve this change, Alan Ellis seconded. Motion carried.
- The Finance Committee presented a written "Gift Acceptance Policy." John Spilde made a motion to accept it as written, Alan Ellis seconded it. Motion carried.
- John Spilde reported that the Prayer Chain is in place with 12 teams, 6 on each team.
- Nick Rickard will work with Amy Garreans to continue the work of updating Emanuel's constitution and by-laws.

Pastor Cara gave her monthly written report. She said Sunday services were going well, and there have been a few visitors in attendance. She asked for vacation time from Nov. 2-12th. Motion to approve by Greg Steensland, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Items listed under New Business were covered under committee reports.
- Next meeting is November 16, devotions by Greg Steensland.
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Nick Rickard, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Winter at 7:45 p.m.



**Joyful Noise for November
will be on Nov. 8 for
Lutheran Family
Service bags.
Donations are still be
accepted for the
Thanksgiving baskets.**

And whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.

Colossians 3:17



Thanksgiving Volunteers

The past several years Emanuel families have volunteered to make the green bean casseroles for the annual city-wide Thanksgiving meal. Due to an increased need, they plan to serve 800 this year, which means we need 18 people or families to volunteer to bake a green bean casserole and deliver it Thanksgiving morning to the Council Bluffs Country Club. If you would like to help, please sign-up at the link below or contact the church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a49a9a62cabf58-thanksgiving1>

They also need volunteers to prepare, serve and deliver meals that day. You may also donate food: canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, Durkee's French Fried Onions, as well as other ingredients for the meal.

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.



In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Children's Programming

BY STEPHEN LEWIS

It has been a few weeks since we debuted our programming online. I will say that the response has been very positive. We are getting good reviews and a very good amount of views. If you have not had a chance to see our programming, you can find a link to it on our Facebook page or on YouTube page, or type in the link below.



<https://www.facebook.com/EmanuelCBChildren>

This year the children's Christmas program will look a little different. We plan on filming the kids separately and putting them together to make the program. If you would like your child, or if you yourself would like to be part of the program please reach out to Michaela or myself. We would love to everyone involved.



Until next time my friends, Be kind and Do good.

youth@emanuelcb.org

Quilt Donations

Once again the quilters have been busy. We have a total of 135 quilts of which 60 will be donated to local charities. The remaining 85 quilts will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

LWR requires \$2.25 per quilt to ship.

We would be grateful for any assistance you could provide towards the cost of shipping.



Please add a memo "quilt shipping" with you donation.

Thank you,
Mission Action Quilters



Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



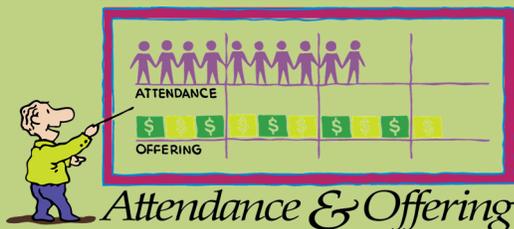
A new way to make music is coming to Emanuel. We are starting a handbell choir. Especially during this time of masks and social distancing, this will be a great way to continue to make music.

We have 2 octaves of bells that are being rented (to see if we like them and have enough interest). By Advent, we will have music to play for church! We are sooo excited!! This is a fun way to share in making music.

If you would like to join the fun, please let me know-music@emanuelcb.org



Thank you to Phil Meyer for donating pumpkins for the kids of Emanuel. We posted about them in the children & youth Facebook group as well as the Emanuel Sunday School Facebook Page. Before the first freeze we let Midlands Living Center know about them so that their staff and residents could enjoy some as well.

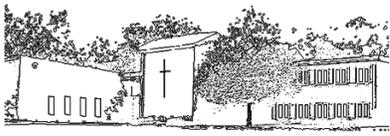


Unable to afford bells for a bell choir, members of the Rocky Valley Church improvised as best they could.

Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

September Income:\$8,447.00
 September Expense:.....\$11,869.58
 September Balance.....-\$3,422.58

YTD Income: \$128,644.80
 YTD Expense: \$115,361.14
 YTD Balance \$13,283.66
 Plus Carryover..... \$16,983.29
 General Budget Fund \$30,266.94



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 Sanctuary.

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