



Garden of Reading!

Emanuel Newsletter

Happenings at Emanuel!

Monday, June 08—Ale & the Almighty

Monday, June 8—Thursday, June 11—St. John Lutheran VBS

Tuesday, June 09—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet

Tuesday, June 16—Book Club Meets

Sunday, June 21—Father's Day

Monday, June 22—Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, June 28—Blood Pressure Checks

Tai Chi each **Monday** and **Thursday** morning at 10 a.m. in the upstairs Youth Center.
Bible Study each **Thursday** at 9:30 a.m. in the upstairs conference room.

Mission Statement:
Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

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



We celebrated senior Sunday on May 3rd. Grace Nixt graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School, as well as Iowa Western Community College. She will be attending Hamline University this fall.

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Jalapeño Cornbread

By Pastor Cara Knutson

When I went through the assignment process I did my homework and weighted my preferences based on RIC synods and open calls available. But I wasn't selected—it was a painful and humiliating moment for me. Now, I'm happy to say, twelve years later, a young promising candidate has many possibilities of congregations she could serve. I loved that her gifts for ministry were highlighted and the fact that she was queer was a sidenote. And I rejoiced for this candidate, I rejoiced for our church, and I rejoiced to see evidence of the Holy Spirit alive and moving through our life together.

As I think of being a queer rostered minister in the rural Midwest and coming up on Pride month, I've been reflecting on our call as church together for the sake of the world. We're not called to be of one mind and one opinion in our politics, in our support of policies, in our polity, even in our identity. But we are all following one Christ, going about God's work with our hands. Jesus called people to come and follow him and be led on a life changing journey of discovery and discipleship and a willingness to be transformed. Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, and Simon, a zealot, who would have been politically and socially at odds with one another. If and when their two worlds collided the result would have been upheaval and possibly violence. Yet both of these men were called, and followed and were changed as a result. If Jesus can call Simon and Matthew, and the two men can work together and serve Jesus together, there's hope for the rest of us.

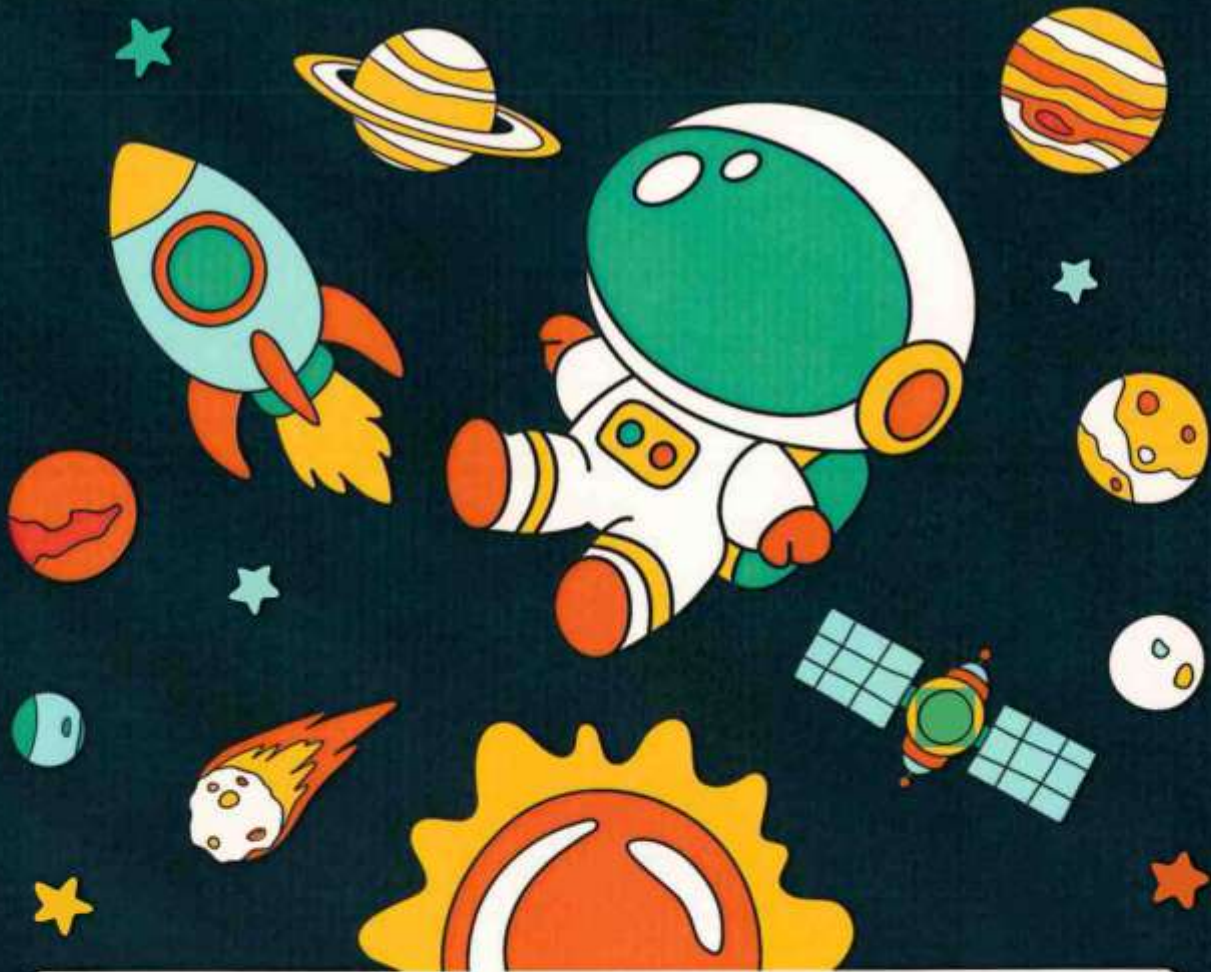
Where did we get the idea that somehow life in the church allows us to self-segregate ourselves building fences around people like us? Aren't we instead called to build a longer table? We don't have to agree with one another to truly love each other. When we come to worship together we share in the one bread of communion, a symbol of the one body of Christ and the unity of the church. We hold in common the most important elements—our belief and trust and faith in the life-giving promises of God, made present and real in the life and ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. It is in Jesus we place our hope, our trust, who we follow, and allow to lead us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we run out of bread we get more. I remember during seminary worshipping in a small, actually tiny, neighborhood church. One morning we had no bread when it came time for communion. Luckily someone lived nearby and saw that we'd need bread, and quickly ran home and brought fresh bread still warm from the oven. Communion began and as people received the bread tears were in their eyes. The pastor thought it must be one of those meaningful, special, God moments, when the Spirit shows up and melts hearts. As it turned out the bread the thoughtful parishioner brought and shared was a jalapeño cornbread and was too spicy for some. My eyes would have been watering too. But was Jesus not present in the bread because it wasn't to some people's taste? Absolutely not.

God showed up in bread that made eyes water and set mouths on fire. Perhaps those burning tongues were cooled by the cup of salvation, the living water that when we drink it causes us to never thirst again. Whether you're a zealot, a tax collector, or a loaf of jalapeno cornbread, queer or straight, trans, non-binary, or cisgender there literally is a place at the table for you. Thanks be to God. Amen, and so be it!



May 31	Ken Kemmish
June 7	Mike Winter
June 14	Sid Dillon
June 21	Chris Nixt



JOIN US AT SAINT JOHN FOR

VBS!

JUNE 8 - 11

5:00- 7:30PM

A LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED

- JUNE 11 WILL BE FAMILY NIGHT!

Registration form on next page.

2026 VBS Registration

June 8 –11, 5:00 –7:30pm
4 years through entering 5th grade
A light supper will be served

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Grade entering in the **Fall**: PreK Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th
School: _____ Allergies: _____
Special Needs / Additional Info: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Grade entering in the **Fall**: PreK Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th
School: _____ Allergies: _____
Special Needs / Additional Info: _____

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Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Grade entering in the **Fall**: PreK Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th
School: _____ Allergies: _____
Special Needs / Additional Info: _____

Primary Contact Information

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

Emergency Contact – Name and Phone

1st _____
2nd _____

Permission to be photographed

We may take pictures to put on our website, Facebook, social media, and in our newsletter. Please sign if we have permission to have your child(ren) be photographed and posted. (No names will be labeled on the pictures).

Forms may be placed in the offering plate, mailed, or emailed

info@saintjohnelca.org
SaintJohn Lutheran Church
633 Willow Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Worship Assistant Schedule

(If unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange a substitute and notify the church office.)

Sunday, June 07	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
Lector	Al Martens
Altar Guild	Deb Ebsen & Sherrill Stacy
Communion Assistants	Richard Reed & Sherrill Stacy
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LifeStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Richard Reed & Sherrill Stacy
Sunday, June 14	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
Lector	Connie Beckman
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Barb Burns & Maja Knutson
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Connie & Matt Solon
Sunday, June 21	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
Lector	Al Martens
Altar Guild	Al & Linda Martens
Communion Assistants	Al & Linda Martens
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, June 28	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Chris Reed & Pat Hiller
Lector	Maja Knutson
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	



We are in need of volunteers for worship assistants (lectors, altar guild, communion assistants, visual tech, livestreaming tech) as well as coffee hour hosts. You can sign-up at emanuelc.org under "ministries". You can also volunteer by contacting Sherrill Stacy at volunteers@emanuelcb.org

VIEW OUR DIRECTORY!

DOWNLOAD "INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY" THROUGH THE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY AND SIGN-IN WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SIGN-IN, LET MICHAELA KNOW SO SHE CAN CHECK YOUR EMAIL IN OUR SYSTEM.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PRINTED COPY OF THE DIRECTORY, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THERE ARE UPDATES ALMOST WEEKLY, SO THE ONLINE ONE WILL BE THE MOST ACCURATE.



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR HAVE TROUBLE ACCESSING IT, CONTACT MICHAELA AT OFFICE@EMANUELCB.ORG.



Christianbook
«GIVEBACK»



Emanuel giveback ID:
UDXHMD



Jane Anderson
 Bob Bender
 Connie Edson
 Alan Ellis

Owen Hansen
 Sharon Hansen
 Norma Heath
 Sandy Kanger

Norma Mass
 Patty Maxwell
 Oscar Over
 Abaigh Plummer

Elaine Sasso
 Ron Sasso
 Ruth Sullivan



June 03

Jeselyn Maxwell

June 04

Danette Hein-Snider
 Bette Juhl
 Katrina Nixt

June 05

Sarah Britson

June 07

Connie Solon

June 10

Heather Linsenmeyer
 Nolan Winter

June 16

Judy Heithoff
 Kennedy Rickard

June 17

Ben Heithoff

June 18

Ken Kemmish
 Ryan Nordstrom

June 21

Kade Holcombe
 Porter McSorley

June 29

Jeff Wilson

June 30

Connie Edson
 Mason Lewis



July 02

Shelby Clark
 Edward Haats

July 03

Greg Steensland

July 04

Jackie Ogg

July 07

Jeffrey Fischer

July 09

Connor Snyder

July 10

Bruce Ellingsen

July 11

Benjamin Hansen

July 12

Tori Hansen

July 15

Mary Lou Johnson

July 17

John Burns
 Michele Loos

July 18

Garrett Ashcraft

July 19

Oscar Over

July 21

Matthew Maxwell

July 22

Grant Ashcraft

July 23

Emily Edson
 Keven Ferguson

July 23

Cheryl Rowe

July 25

Xander Richards
 Jake Ferguson
 Autumn Tanner

July 26

Mary Clark
 Jordyn Schaal
 Miranda Schwartz

July 28

Darryl Petersen

July 29

Kristy Naumann



June 01

Michael & Carla Hipnar

June 11

Ryan & Tara McSorley

June 28

Dennis & Jane Eitmann
Jesse & Jolene Hansen
Michael & Suzanne Winter

June 01

Kenneth & Char Les Kemmish

June 19

Michael & Carolyn Andersen

June 29

Christopher & Megan Sorensen

June 04

Laura & Clayton Kai
Stephen & Jennifer Plummer

June 21

Carrie & Paul Nygard

June 25

Jennifer & Brandon Clark



July 03

Chris & Amanda Hansen

July 15

Mahala & James Jankowski

July 27

Jakob & Molly Ferguson

July 10

Todd & Jeanine Schademann
Karen & James Smith

July 16

Ridgeway & Danette Hein-Snyder

July 29

Brian & Renee Goss

July 23

Suzanne & Thomas Tucker

If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, let us know!
office@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9665

God's Work. Our Hands.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 13, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands."

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, "Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing." With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 13, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day. This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.



Be sure to save the date and check resources soon. ELCA.org/DayOfService for updated Go in peace.





JUNE

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands 10:30 am Music at Bayliss Park with Lori Lynn	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	3 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room)	4 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 1 pm Shelby & Leah have Dynamix Dance Recital at Lewis Central PAC
7 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	8 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	9 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	10 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	11 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13
Cara out of office						
14 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour	15 10 am Tai Chi	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club 	17 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 pm Dinner Church	18 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20
Michaela out of office						
21 Father's Day 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	22 10 am Tai Chi Newsletter Articles Due 	23 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	24 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	25 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27
Michaela out of office						
28 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 12 pm-3 pm Community Room reserved 	29 10 am Tai Chi	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room				
Cara out of office						



JULY

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	2 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	6 10 am Tai Chi	7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	8 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	9 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11
12 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	13 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	14 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	15 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	16 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18
19 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 11 am Church Council Meeting 	20 Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Tai Chi 	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club in Conference Room 	22 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	23 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25
26 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	27 10 am Tai Chi	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	29 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am-3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	30 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	

Cara out of office



All Together in One Place

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

Every day, I receive emails and messages from members across this church. Many of you share concerns about the state of the world and how faith informs your response to troubling or perplexing events.

Sometimes you ask me to speak out more often regarding current affairs, and sometimes you ask me not to speak so much. I cannot answer every message, yet I am learning from you and feel the heartbeat of this church through the concerns, fears and hopes you share with me.

To continue our conversation and respond to what I am hearing from you, I will issue a monthly message through the end of this year in a series called "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word that witnesses to God's presence today, rooted in Scripture, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us for life together.

At the first Pentecost, the disciples were guided by the prophet Joel's assurance that, even in troubling and perplexing times, God is faithfully present.

Our baptismal vocation together is to serve God and neighbor in daily life, fostering "a faith that is active in love, a love that seeks justice, and an insight that strives to discern what is right, good, and fitting" (ELCA social statement *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, 1991, p. 6). Baptism invites us to love our neighbor, to steward creation, to advocate justice and mercy in situations of brokenness, and to seek peace.

As much as we strive to be "all together in one place," we may not agree on how to do this. The letters I receive testify that we span a beautiful and God-given diversity that invites Lutherans into deep listening, moral deliberation and a certain humility as we seek the common good.

In our differences, we can still be together in one place, when that place is connection in the unity that only Christ gives us (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We stand in one place when we embrace the dignity of every human being by engaging others with curiosity and respect. We stand in one place when we shake off the immobility of fear to nurture connection in diversity. Our witness to the world embodies 2 Timothy 1:7: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

Just as those early followers of Jesus Christ experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, may we also trust when the Holy Spirit comes blowing into our lives to connect the body of Christ.

In peace,

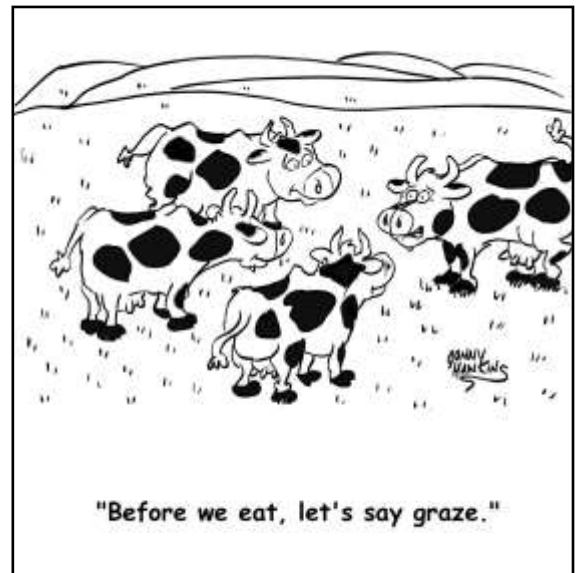
The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Make sure we have your current address, email and phone number.

If you have something going on where others can help support you, please let us know and we will add it to the calendar.

Follow us on Facebook & YouTube!



Your Support Helps Families like Monica's

*Submitted by Andrea Maschka
LSI Chief Development Officer*



Monica never imagined she would become a mother.

After a childhood marked by trauma, the devastating loss of her sibling to violence, and years spent in turbulent foster care settings, she made a quiet promise to herself: she would never bring a child into a world that had caused her so much pain. But life has a way of opening doors we never expect. In her thirties, alongside her husband Tim, Monica found herself preparing to welcome a baby girl. Even then, fear and uncertainty lingered.

When Monica heard about LSI's free community baby shower in Le Mars, she hesitated. Social gatherings often triggered her anxiety, but something told her to take a chance. That decision would change everything.

At the event, Monica met Angie, a Family Support Specialist who immediately made her feel safe, seen, and supported. For the first time, Monica felt like she didn't have to navigate motherhood alone. Encouraged by that connection, she took a leap of faith and enrolled in LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) program. Soon after,

baby Lily was born, and with her came a love that transformed everything.

Today, Monica and Tim eagerly welcome Angie into their home each week. Together they are building the kind of family Monica once believed was out of reach. Monica soaks up every parenting resource she can, applying what she learns with determination and care. Tim is a steady, patient presence. And Lily? She is a joyful, thriving toddler growing exactly as she should be.

But Monica's journey didn't begin with confidence. It began with a single moment of courage and an agency that showed up for her. Because of that one event, Monica found more than support, she found belief in herself. She found the tools to heal, to grow, and to become the loving, capable mother she once thought she could never be.

Stories like Monica's are only possible because of compassionate donors.

Community support makes it possible to host community baby showers that connect families to vital

Services	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Weekly Offerings:
Sunday, May 3, 2023	53	29	82	\$3,854.00
Sunday, May 10, 2026	44	47	91	\$1,388.00
Sunday, May 17, 2026	39	14	62	\$300.00
Wednesday, May 20, 2026	9	N/A		
Sunday, May 24, 2026	37	N/A	37	\$581.00
Sunday, May 31, 2026	39	5	44	\$647.00

Finance Team Update

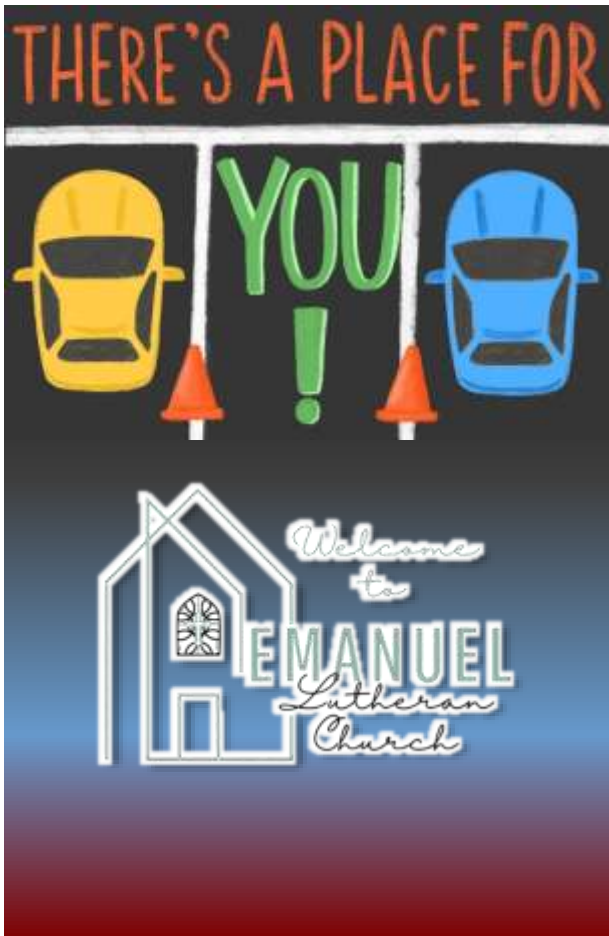
Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

April Income:	\$6,180.00	YTD Income:	\$67,390.28
April Expense:	<u>(-\$17,605.52)</u>	YTD Expense:	<u>(-\$65,744.98)</u>
April Balance	<u>(-\$11,425.52)</u>	YTD Balance	\$1,645.30
		Plus Carryover	<u>(-\$5,564.00)</u>
		General Budget Fund	<u>(\$3,918.70)</u>



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

Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N. Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499
(712) 323-9665 Emergencies: (712) 314-0085
Like us on facebook: [facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia](https://www.facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia)
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

Office Hours: Monday –Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the worship center followed by coffee hour in the community room. Services are streamed live on YouTube.

Children's Ministry:

Children will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Gospel reading during the Sunday worship service (*September—May*)

Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson (pastor@emanuelcb.org)
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards (music@emanuelcb.org)
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis (office@emanuelcb.org)
Children & Youth Programming, Lori Lynn Ahrends (youth@emanuelcb.org)
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed
Treasurer, Connie Solon (finance@emanuelcb.org)