

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2016

Happenings!

Sunday, December 4—Christmas Program Practice

Wednesday, December 7—Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program

Friday, December 9—Food Pantry Volunteers meet at Our Savior's Lutheran

Sunday, December 11—Christmas Program at Worship, Large Group confirmation.

Wednesday, December 14—Bingo at Bethany Lutheran

Saturday, December 17—Family Movie Night "A Muppet Christmas Carol"

Wednesday, December 21—Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day! Come celebrate at worship

Saturday, December 31—Family Fun Night, potluck & games

Mission
Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



Our 2016 Confirmands—Front Row: Carly Sorensen, Jessica Hipnar, Taryn McSorely, Pastor Lowell. Second Row—Alaire Carrier, Tristan Steensland, Kobie Ferguson and Clare Plummer.

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Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him 'Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.'"*
Matthew 1:23

Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas is the season to remember our congregation's name—"Emanuel."* The name means "God with us." It is more than a name. It is a promise.

It is the promise of the Incarnation. In John one, verse fourteen we hear these words: *"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."* Jesus is the human face of God among us, with us and for us. At Christmas, we celebrate the Festival of the Incarnation of our Lord. We do not worship a god who lives at a distance, who is uninvolved in the cosmos, who is disengaged from life. We worship the "with us" God.

We proclaim that our God is with us forever. Matthew's gospel starts with the "with us" verse in the Christmas story. And Matthew's gospel ends with the "with us" Lord who sends us out in mission and service. In Matthew twenty-eight, verses nineteen and twenty, Jesus says, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* The "with us" God is with us always.

So we are "with us" people. It is a spiritual principle that we become like what (or Who) we worship. The Holy Spirit sends us to be with anyone and everyone in need of God's compassion and mercy. Emanuel people here do so much to live out that "with us" part of our name. It's been a joy once again to be part of distributing Thanksgiving boxes and meals, preparing for Angel Tree and Cap and Mitten Tree gifts, filling up Advent boxes with items for those in need, and many other service projects. We strive here to be a "with us" congregation.

And we look forward to even greater ways to be a "with us" sort of place. We're talking in depth about starting a congregational daycare. We are growing an energetic and relational worship service on Wednesday evenings. We are deepening our friendship with our friends and neighbors at St. Pau's Episcopal Church. As a synod, we are launching a mission and service ministry with our Latino/a sisters and brothers in Denison. We are a "with us" bunch of believers.

I pray that you will meet the God "with us" in this Christmas season!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lowell

*This name comes from the Hebrew language and has been spelled a variety of ways in English: Immanuel, Emmanuel, Imanuel, Emanuel. In fact, there was a time when the name of our congregation was spelled "Emmanuel." Whether with an "I" or an "E," with one "M" or two, it is the same name.



You are invited to celebrate Larry & Sharon Hansen's 50th Wedding Anniversary. The family will be hosting a reception in the fellowship hall on December 4th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Thank you so much with helping our Scout Troop with their popcorn sale! We met our goal much more easily with the help you gave!



Jan Rosdail, Girls' school liaison to the Western Iowa Synod Companion Synods Network, visited on November 20th. Pictured with the 125th anniversary committee: (front row) Jan Rosdail, Alice Smith, Ron Smith, Deloris Christensen, Connie Solon, Michaela Lewis and Chris Reed. (Back Row) Elaine Sasso, Linda Steensland, David Appel, Pastor Lowell Hennigs, Richard Reed, Kevin Epperson and Stephen Lewis.

Emanuel Gift to Igumbilo

The Anniversary Committee was able to present a check from Emanuel for \$7,704 to the Igumbilo Lutheran Girls School in Tanzania during worship on November 20th.

Thank you to all who contributed money, time and effort to this project! This is a life-changing program for the students who attend the school. The school opened in 2006 with 83 students. Today the enrollment is about 450.

The school provides capacity-building educational opportunities for young women who often do not have equal access to other educational opportunities within the country. Yet, it is women who are the proven sharers of such education, resulting in wider economic development of their families and communities. This project provides scholarships to the neediest of students and educational resources such as laboratory equipment, mosquito netting, laptops and textbooks.

Jan Rosdail shared information during coffee hour about the school and opportunities for those who were interested to travel to Tanzania to see their work first hand and volunteer at the school.

On The Verge

BY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Sunday, November 20th, members of Emanuel Lutheran Church had the opportunity to place their financial pledge for 2017 on the altar. It was fitting that this was also Emanuel's 126th anniversary.

We are grateful for the response of our congregation and their strong support of Emanuel's missions going forward in 2017. To date we have received pledges from approximately 2/3's of our giving members. Those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to complete your financial pledge for 2017 may put it in the offering Sunday or mail it to the Emanuel church office.

In December the stewardship committee will present the proposed budget to Emanuel's Church Council. Thanks to all for your continued support in 2016 and we look forward to being able to make even stronger mission statements at Emanuel in 2017.



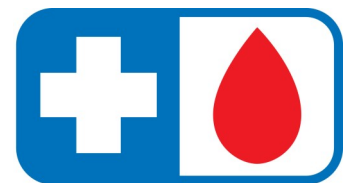
Happy Holidays From Council Bluffs Senior Center



This entitles you to the month of December, 2016 FREE at The Center. Good for all non-members (50 years of age or older) attending any class or workout area of the facility.

**Guest registration card is required. Offer for new members only.*

The Center 714 S. Main St., Council Bluffs, IA 712-323-5995



**GIVE
Blood**
December 18

9 a.m.—2 p.m.

Emanuel Upper Parking Lot

Sign-up at:

www.redcrossblood.org

or contact the church office.

Walk-ins welcome.



Ray Kanger
Betty Ebsen

Daphne Miller
Viola Anderson

Glen Fahrenkrug
Deb Hipnar

Lucille Weatherill
Dwight Rogers

Helen Stinson
Andrea Britton



		Dec. 13	Mary Hansen Karen McPartland	Dec. 22	Sam Heithoff Jan Husmann
		Dec. 14	Arlen Ellis Travis Weelborg	Dec. 23	Ray Kendall
		Dec. 16	Ben Foutch Adam Tanner Susan Wilson	Dec. 24	Glenn Lefgren
Dec. 04	Connie Eyberg Brandy Smith Zach Winter	Dec. 17	Matthew Ellis Carrie Hansen	Dec. 25	Elaine Sasso
Dec. 05	Judy Dillon	Dec. 18	Lisa Connell Madeline Lewis Emily True	Dec. 26	Emily Longnecker
Dec. 06	Wesley Bradshaw Noel Thielen Mike Winter	Dec. 19	Lowell Hennigs Al Martens	Dec. 27	Sid Dillon LeRoy Lipes Tristan Steensland
Dec. 08	Jamie Hansen	Dec. 20	Kobie Ferguson Taryn McSorley Jade Wohlers	Dec. 28	Brett Egner Chuck Fous Luke Hansen Jon McGreevy
Dec. 09	Bob Juhl	Dec. 21	Kaitlyn Egner Erin Schneckloth Gabe Sullivan Tiffany Weelborg	Dec. 29	Judy Wilson
Dec. 10	Tina Larson			Dec. 30	Debra Buley Shae Nickels
Dec. 12	Cael Hansen			Dec. 31	Dan Stinson



December 02 Larry & Sharon Hansen

December 17 Elaine & Ronald Sasso

December 31 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*

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, December 4	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Aaralynn Conley & Grace Hansen
Lector	Elaine Sasso
Children's Message	
Communion Assistants	Peggy Jarrell, Oscar Over
Communion Set-Up	LaWayne & Jim Andersen
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sunday, December 11	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Owen Hansen & Shae Nickels
Communion Assistants	Jolene Hansen, Patty Maxwell, Kevin Epperson
Communion Set-Up	CharLes Kemmish
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sunday, December 18	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Tyler Steensland & Amari Johnson
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistants	
Communion Set-Up	Connie Eyberg & Carol Fahrenkrug
Visual Tech	Brenda Hennigs
Saturday, December 24	4:30 p.m. Service
Ushers	
Acolytes	Lauren Hansen & Kylie Hansen
Lector	
Communion Assistants	Jolene Hansen
Communion Set-Up	
Visual Tech	
Saturday, December 24	7:00 p.m. Service
Ushers	
Acolytes	
Lector	
Communion Assistants	Patty Maxwell
Communion Set-Up	
Visual Tech	Elaine Sasso
Sunday, December 25	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	
Lector	
Children's Message	
Communion Assistants	Patty Maxwell
Communion Set-Up	Jeanine Schademann
Visual Tech	Brenda Hennigs



Altar Flowers

December 4
Judy Dillon

December 11

December 18

December 24-25
Poinsettias

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



December 4

December 11

December 18

December 25

*The coffee hour
chart is in the
kitchen.*

*If you are interested in helping with worship, please contact the church office,
(712) 323-9665, emanuellutherancbi@msn.com or sign-up on our website at:
<http://emanuellutherancbi.wix.com/emanuel>*

December 2016 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45am-11:30am Adult Study	28 11 am Communion at Midlands Living Center 11 am Tai Chi	29 5:30 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	30 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner & Hanging of the Greens	1 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Practice 	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion and Confirmation 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 pm Christmas Program Program Practice 2 pm Larry & Sharon Hansen's 50th Anniversary Celebration	5 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm North Broadway Neighborhood Association in Fellowship Hall	6 5:30 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	7 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 	8 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Practice	9 Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's 	10
Joyful Noise 11 9:30am Worship with Children's Christmas Program 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 11 am Confirmation Large Group 3 p.m. Worship Center in use (Richards)	12 11 am Tai Chi	13 8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 5:30 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center 7 pm Church Council Meeting	14 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 2:30 pm Bingo at Bethany Lutheran 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies & Activities	15 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Practice 	16 Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch 	17 7 pm Family Movie Night (A Muppet Christmas Carol) 
18 9:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 	19 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm MS Support Group	20 5:30 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 6:45 pm Worship & Music Meeting 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	21 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Blue Christmas Service 	22 9:30 am Adult Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	23 Office Closed	24 4:30 pm Family Style Worship with Communion 7 pm Candlelight Worship with Communion 
Christmas 25 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 	26 Office Closed 11 am Communion at Midlands Living Center	27 5:30 Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	28 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies & Activities	29 9:30 am Adult Study	30 Office Closed	New Year's Eve 31 6 pm—9 pm Family Fun Night (Potluck & Games)  Welcome 2017!

What is Angel tree?

BY BRENDA HENNIGS

Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that serves incarcerated parents by providing a pathway for strengthening and restoring their relationships with their children and families



ANGEL TREE®

A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

Volunteers purchase and deliver presents with a loving message from the incarcerated parent, and also get a chance to share the greatest gift of all – the good news of Jesus!

Angel Tree is a unique program that give our church an opportunity to share Christ's love with the families of prisoners.

Angel Tree connects parents in prison with their children through delivery of Christmas gifts given on the parent's behalf.

YOU can help by purchasing a gift from an Angel Tree ornament! Or you can also help by delivering the gifts to the families! NOTHING compares to seeing the looks of joy and hope on the faces of the children served by Angel Tree! Questions? Ask Brenda Hennigs or any member of the Wider Ministry Team!

Merry Christmas from LSI

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." – John 1:5



As Christmas approaches, we give thanks for 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 adults with disabilities who have no caring family presence in their lives. We know families in Des Moines who spent 20 years living in refugee camps and are finally regaining some hope for the future. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system and fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI's work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction and crisis. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

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 and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A New Kind of Family

For Kristie, respite caregiving through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities is more than just a job. It's a time for her to be with family.

Kristie has helped to take care of Trevor since she began working with LSI. Trevor stays one night with her family most weekends and during many weeknights, he spends time and eats dinner with Kristie's family.

"He gets to come over and go to sporting events, or go camping, or go to family functions with us," Kristie says. "He likes to interact with my own children, who are about the same age."

The whole family has developed a relationship with Trevor, and even extended family members consider him as "one of the kids."

"Respite care has been a great outlet for me and my kids, and it's a growing opportunity for all of us. I've developed a relationship with Trevor's family. It gives them a break, and my kids can learn and grow," Kristie says. "This gives me an opportunity to work with kids and still be able to do things with my own family. It doesn't interfere with my life. It adds to it."

Children's Ministries

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

This year we have had many changes in our children's programming, which has allowed for more flexibility for busy families! Brenda Hennigs leads the Wednesday night program which continues to grow. We may need to recruit more helpers soon! The schedule on Wednesdays provides educational opportunities for kids while adults take part in Bible study. Dinner is at 6 p.m., followed by a short worship service at 6:45 p.m. The classes start at 7:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome!



On Wednesday November 30th (Hanging of the Greens) we will go over songs and parts for the Christmas Program. On Sunday, December 4th we will practice after church in the Sanctuary and there will be a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 7th. The Christmas program will be Sunday, December 11th.

If we have any adults who would like to help with the program, please let me know! Not only will we need help with directing and practice, but also with costumes and props!

The next Family Movie night will be December 17th. We will be watching "A Muppet Christmas Carol". A retelling of the classic Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge (Michael Caine), miser extraordinaire. He is held accountable for his dastardly ways during night-time visitations by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and future. Invite friends, family and neighbors! We will have popcorn. Feel free to bring snacks to share and your own drink.

We will also have our third annual Family Fun Night on December 31st from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Bring a potluck item and join us for friends, food, games and karaoke.

Wider Ministries

BY JUDI MALLOY

This is a busy time at Emanuel with many activities and many opportunities to serve others. We gave out 30 Thanksgiving baskets that included everything needed for Thanksgiving dinner and a little more. That could only have happened with the whole congregation taking part. A big thank you to all of you who helped in any way to make this ministry successful.

Once again we provided green bean casseroles for the community Thanksgiving dinner. They asked for 11 and 15 of you volunteered. After talking with Brenda Moran at St. Patrick's we provided 13. Thank you again for wanting to be a part of this. Thanksgiving will be over by the time you read this but always remember if you aren't with family on Thanksgiving, the community dinner is a great place for your holiday meal and you will certainly see people you know. Or you might consider volunteering to help serve the dinner. There are families that make helping with the dinner a part of their holiday.

The December Joyful Noise Offering will be for the Angel Tree. The names of children who have a parent who is incarcerated will be on the tree and you can choose one or more to buy Christmas gifts for. Brenda will be telling you more about it when we have the Joyful Noise Offering.

We will also have the hat and mitten tree again with those things to be donated where they are needed. Besides the hats and mittens, don't forget the ongoing collection of winter coats. They are donated to several different places and there is always a need.

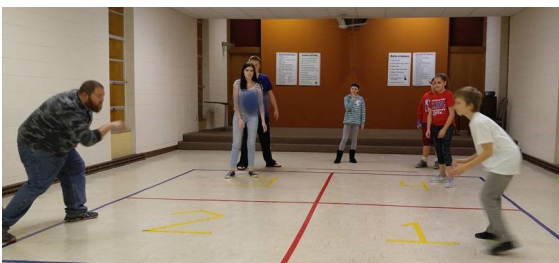
We are continuing to work at Our Savior's Food and Pet Pantry on the second Friday of the month. If you would like to be a part of our team, let me know. There is a list of all the food pantries in town and their hours on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you or anyone you know is in need of help with groceries, please share that information with them. Also, there is a list of ongoing needs for Phoenix House posted there.

This is a very busy time of year with too much to do and too little time for all of us. I hope in the midst of all the activity you will take time to stop and think about the meaning of this wonderful season. Listen to the words of the Christmas carols, savor the memories of past Christmases, relax and enjoy time with your family and friends, and thank God for the gift of His son.

Merry Christmas to all of you.



Shooting foam darts at each other was a popular activity for the night.



Four-square in the youth center has been a great addition to the lock-ins.



Pizza along with all the snacks helped everyone refuel after running during activities.

It's been a busy month!

BY DEANN OVER

On November 6th, Alaire Carrier, Kobie Ferguson, Ashley Hipnar, Taryn McSorley, Clare Plummer, Carly Sorensen and Tristan Steensland were confirmed. On Sunday, October 30th, a dinner attended by their family, sponsors and mentors was held in their honor.

The Childrens' and Youth committee hosted Emanuel's Stewardship Dinner on November 13th. Free will donations of over \$560 will be the directed for sending our youth and adult leaders to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

A combined Middle & High School lock-in was held on November 18. Twenty-two students and eight adults enjoyed an evening of nerf, karaoke, hide & seek, four square and plenty of food.

Confirmation students will again be selecting a live tree for the narthex.

Special thanks to:

- * Jan Husmann & Rosie Spagenberg on the table scapes for the Family Confirmation dinner and Kylie, Lauren, Jamie and Sharon Hansen for setting up in addition to helping in kitchen with Angel McGee, John Spilde, Kim Egner and Oscar Over
- * Sandy Kanger for obtaining the pork loin for the Stewardship Dinner. Jan Husmann for the table scapes, Jamie & Tyler Hansen, Mike Nickels, Angel McGee, Jolene Hansen, Jan Stone and Sharon Hansen for help in setting up and the kitchen. Linda Steensland for the preparation of the pork loin (she's willing to share the recipe!). Confirmation wait staff, Kylie, Lauren and Owen Hansen, Lexia and Xander Richards, Aralynn Conley and AJ Borwick.
- * Natasha Anderson, Tyler Hansen, Heather Linsenmeyer, Steve & Michaela Lewis, Pastor Lowell and Brenda for their help in the lock-in.



Saturday, December 17
7 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church
We will provide popcorn.
Weather will determine if we have the movie outside or inside.

We will be watching
"A Muppet Christmas Carol".

A retelling of the classic Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, miser extraordinaire. He is held accountable for his dastardly ways during night-time visitations by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and future.



December 31
6 p.m.—9 p.m.

Emanuel Fellowship Hall
Friends, potluck, games and fun!



Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for 11/08/2016

RECORDED BY MIKE WINTERS

Present: Kevin Epperson, John Husmann, Peggy Jarrell, CharLes Kemmish, Judi Malloy, Patty Maxwell, Oscar Over, Connie Solon, Bob Vergamini, Mike Winter, Suzanne Winter, Pastor Hennigs

Absent: Jolene Hansen

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

Devotions: Peggy Jarrell

Council Agenda:

- Motion by Judi Malloy, seconded by Bob Vergamini, to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 18, 2016. Approved.
- The financial secretary's report indicated that the income for the year was behind schedule and that the pledges were not up to date. Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by CharLes Kemmmish to approve the Financial Secretary's report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Bob Vergamini to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Peggy Maxwell, to approve the Capital Fund Report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, second by Judi Malloy, to approve the Memorial Fund Report. Approved.
- Pastor Hennigs gave his report and updates that included 20 items. He reported that the Bethany Village Project was currently on hold and that the project was being scaled down as evidenced by a letter from Michael Van Sickle, the chief operating officer, dated November 7, 2016. The council secretary was directed to send a letter to Mr. Van Sickle to address the issue of fencing between their project and the church property as it creates an attractive nuisance to children from the church. He reported that the Bethany Lutheran Home annual meeting will be held in January of 2017 and that Ken Kemmish is no longer eligible to serve on the board. He requested that someone from Emanuel volunteer to serve on that board. The meeting will be held on January 8. Pastor also requested that he be allowed to take January 29 for his grandchild's first birthday. Motion made by Judi Malloy, seconded by John Husmann to allow the pastor to attend that event. Approved.
- Pastor reported that there will be a joint Thanksgiving Event at St. Paul Episcopal Church on Wednesday, November 23 at 5:30 with supper at 6 p.m. and a 7 p.m. service. Pancakes, sausage and scrambled eggs will be served. The choir will be represented by members of both churches.
- Pastor also reminded everyone that the Stewardship Dinner would be held on November 13 from 5-7 p.m. and that Pledge Sunday would occur on November 20.
- Oscar Over presented the property report and reported that the flat roof on the north portion of the church building has been replaced by Bates Roofing. He thanked Alan and Mark Ellis and Larry and Tayler Hansen for repairs to the south retaining wall by the spillway. Oscar also reported that Ian Walden wants to complete an eagle scout project and that the cost of the materials for five benches would be \$339.02 which included a \$40 leeway and \$60 for food. The Youth Committee has indicated that it has \$300 which was donated to purchase a basketball pole and hoop which was subsequently donated by Bob Carlson.
- Judi Malloy made the Wider Ministries report and said that the November Joyful Noise will be Our Savior Food & Pet Pantry. We have 30 Thanksgiving baskets and help was needed to make calls to those receiving the baskets. December Joyful Noise will be the angel tree project on the second Sunday in December. We will also have a blood drive on December 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church.
- Kevin Epperson gave the report of the Worship and Music Committee. The Aebelskiver dinner will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church from 4-8 p.m. on November 17 with entertainment provided by Da Band. Rosie wants the band to play at Heartland Christian on December 16. The hanging of the greens will occur on November 30 from 6-8 p.m.
- Pastor reported on the Evangelism Committee and indicated that there may be potential new members.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Bob Vergam-

ini to allow Oscar to sign an agreement to proceed with the Eagle scout project with five benches with \$300 to be paid from the Youth Fund for the cost of materials and food. Motion approved. It was also approved that the Property Committee chairman could sign an application form for Ian Walden.

- The council reviewed the daycare feasibility study and a motion was made and approved to proceed to ask the architect and Kim Over to make a report at coffee hour on December 4, 2016.
- Oscar Over indicated that Bates made a bid of \$600 to repair and replace the flashing along the metal roof. Work is guaranteed for two years. Flashing is located on the south side of the old

building. Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Peggy Jarrell to approved this expenditure. Approved.

- Oscar Over, Kevin Epperson, John Husmann and CharLes Kemmish will no longer be serving on the board at the end of their term. The process has begun to work for replacements.
- Motion by John Husmann, seconded by Connie Solon to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Approved.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Honey of an idea

INDIA
ELCA.org/hunger



What "crop" doesn't need any extra land for production? And, its raw materials provided generously for free by mother nature? For farmers in rural India, it is honey.

Like most farmers, Sonamuni Tudu of West Bengal, India, relies on the land to produce crops to support his family. Changes in weather patterns have created challenges in food production. One alternative for him is to migrate or work at stone quarries, but both of these options carry risks, including human trafficking.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, through the Lutheran World Service India Trust, the Santhal tribal people, like Sonamuni, now have a safer and a more sustainable option – beekeeping.

In this part of India, the raw materials for honey are readily available and

beehives require neither additional land nor compete with agriculture. For Sonamuni and other rural and tribal farmers, beekeeping has become an additional source of income, as they produce high-quality honey that is in demand in markets around the region.

"Beekeeping has come to us as an alternative source of income," says Sonamuni. "The extra money we earn from honey production has increased our family income, which we use to invest in our children's education, cover health care costs, and improve our living situation. We feel that we are earning money with dignity in an eco-friendly environment."

Thank you for supporting ELCA World Hunger. Through your gifts, the rural and tribal farmers in West Bengal, India, now have a tailored solution that can help put an end to hunger – for good.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038)

- ☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$100
☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$250
☐ Other \$ _____



Mail Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:
 ELCA
 P.O. Box 1809
 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online ELCA.org/hunger/donate

Phone 800-638-3522

ELCA World Hunger
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



6 p.m.-Dinner
6:45 p.m.-Worship
7:15 p.m.-Adult Bible Discussion
&
Children's Activities

December 7
 Chili Dogs
 Chips

December 14
 Spaghetti
 Garlic Bread
 Salad

December 21
 Chicken & Noodles
 Mashed Potatoes

December 28
 Rice
 Stir Fry
 Egg Rolls



Dear 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 phenomenal!

With our November packing, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have sent **over 1,032,500** cookies to deployed service personnel in harms' way.

In addition on November 7th we sent 116 holiday themed boxes of comfort items filled with decorations, Christmas stockings, games, blank holiday cards/stationery, calendars, hygiene products and hand knitted helmet liners and scarves. The following week, on November 15th Pastor Lowell blessed the 235 boxes containing 30,336 cookies and took the photo below.

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) begun in the 1990's by Jeanette Cram. Our first shipment of 80 dozen cookies and 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 is the only group in Iowa and Nebraska and now has three teams with approximately 180 dedicated bakers a third of which bake monthly. At one time there were over 34 crumb groups across the USA – now there are only 5. We not only are the youngest of Jeanette's crumb groups – we have sent the most cookies.

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

Sincerely,
Deann Over and the Iowa Cookie Crumbs





*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.*

Blue Christmas Service

at Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N Broadway, Council Bluffs, Iowa

December 21, 2016

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Service at 6:45 p.m.

December 2016

Dear Friends of Bethany,

I heard someone say, "You know we tell the same old story every year at this time of the birth of Jesus." The one thing I can tell you is that it's never the "same old story." The Bible story continually reminds us not only of the birth of Jesus, but also the regeneration of HOPE each day in our lives. Hope for peace, understanding, and commitment to one another and the future. Hope is what we see each day in our children and grandchildren at the wonderment of what He has created and given to us to care for. It becomes our duty and our obligation to hold onto and maintain those things we wish to pass on.

The opening paragraph continues to be my message every year. While my message, prayers and hopes for you remains the same, I want you to think about something. I want you to remind you about HOPE! When Bethany was being contemplated the whole idea was to provide a living environment for the elderly that would be both a home and provide Christian caring and love. How many of those people through the years felt the safety of Bethany and the warmth of that love the staff gave? How many of those individuals experienced Bethany first hand from the bricks and mortar in the 1970's to years later, a place they would call home. A place brought about by Hope.

In 1992 Bethany Heights opened its doors and in 2008 we started offering assisted living where the HOPE and Christian caring continued. We developed a Scholarship program, thanks to the Bethany Foundation. The Scholarship program allowed us to help people (who didn't have enough funds to reside at ANY assisted living in the area) to live at Bethany Heights.



Continuing in the spirit of HOPE, it is the hope of Bethany Lutheran Home to provide additional assisted living apartments in the future, with emphasis in the area of Memory care. Plans for Bethany Village, located south of Emanuel Lutheran Church are currently in a re-development phase. We want to address the changing needs of our community, rising costs as well as addressing shortages in healthcare workers in the industry. We want to create a viable addition for the present, while planning responsibly for the future.

With each year many experience some kind of change. We may lose someone dear to us or experience a feeling of absence in our hearts that cannot be filled. That space is also the place where we remember them. We are reminded however that there is Hope. Our solace is in knowing that they are with Him. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let's celebrate the lives of those who have and do occupy that space in our hearts.

Bethany continues to be a place of comfort for some and of Hope for others. We are blessed that the Bethany Boards and our supporting churches have had the foresight over the years continue to grow and provide HOPE and comfort to so many. We look forward with Hope to the future, while building on the past and recognizing the present. Please join us as we all celebrate "the regeneration of HOPE and the birth of Christ".

My staff and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Van Sickle
Chief Operating Officer



Advent Boxes

YOUR WIDER MINISTRY TEAM

Advent is fast approaching! Typically, families will make use of an Advent Calendar during this season. These calendars may provide scripture, or thought provoking prayers, or a family activity for each day during Advent. This year, your Wider Ministry Committee is inviting you to do something DIFFERENT!

On Wednesday November 30th, during the Hanging of the Greens, families made a **Reverse Advent Box!** During the season of Advent, we would encourage you to place in these boxes an item to be sent to lo-

cal pantries, shelters, and ministries that provide services to our neighbors here in Council Bluffs! These boxes are available in the Fellowship Hall and can be decorated as you wish. Each box will also have a printed list of suggested items you can place in your box during the 28 days of Advent. If you missed the Hanging of the Greens, NO WORRIES!!! Boxes will also be available each Wednesday and Sunday through Advent. It is our prayer that every family will participate in this fun new way of sharing Christ's love by giving to our neighbors in need.

Bethany News

BY LAUREN BURKE



Decorating for Christmas

The residents and Activities Department at Bethany Lutheran Home will be decorating for Christmas on Thursday, December 1st at 1:00 p.m. We would love to have volunteers be a part of the activity. If you are able to attend, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500, ext. 230.

Bethany Christmas Store Update

We are still accepting items for the Christmas Store. The items must be new. Items for all ages are welcome. Gift bags, tags and tissue paper are also appreciated. The Christmas Store will be held on December 5th-6th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and on December 7th from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. The store is a place where residents can select gifts for their loved ones at no charge. Many will reminisce about days gone by and the joy of giving at Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help residents select items for their loved ones as well as wrap or gift bag the items. The Activities Department would also appreciate help in setting up the store prior to December 5th. If you are able to help out, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500. Thank you.

Attention Christmas Carolers

We love to have you and want to encourage you to visit us with your music over the holidays. We know it brings great joy to our residents and tenants as well as an opportunity to connect with members of your congregation. We are asking however that you schedule your visit ahead of time with Sarah Norton at Bethany Heights (712-328-8228) and/or Kaily Stanley at Bethany Lutheran Home (712-328-9500, ext. 230). We love to have you come, but we want to make sure we are available to assist you. The residents and tenants love the music and the visits and

we like to spread them out if possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing your music in the coming weeks.

A Thought

I'm reminded of a quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The small group of citizens joined hands 40+ years ago to establish Bethany Lutheran Home. Without the physical and financial support of many in addition to their prayers, Bethany would not be in a position to provide all we do today. The physical and financial support as well as prayers continue to be an important part of Bethany's mission. We are thankful for the blessings we have received in the past and ask you to consider a year-end financial gift to Bethany. Your generosity is appreciated and helps us to continue our mission of serving our area seniors in a Christian environment. Blessings to you this holiday season.

Bethany Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Home will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in the Skyrise Dining Room (Upper Dining Room) at Bethany, 7 Elliott Street. All Sponsoring Congregation Delegates are encouraged to attend. Visitors are also welcome. The meeting will include various department reports, financial report and election of Board Members for 2017. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brenda Hennigs at Bethany Lutheran Home 712-328-9500. In the event of inclement weather or our need to postpone the meeting due to flu, please contact Bethany at 712-328-9500 and/or tune to your local television station if appropriate, before heading to Bethany.

Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



On Sunday, December 18, during the worship service, the choir will present a cantata called "What Sweeter Music, A Festival of Carols" by Mark Hayes. As with a lot of the music we sing, learning about the carols makes them much more meaningful. A little known carol to us in this cantata is "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day".

"Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance!
Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love"

This medieval carol first appeared in writing in William B. Sandys' Christmas Carols Ancient and Modern of


1833. John Rutter, whose melody is used in this version, said, "The age-old relationship between religion and the dance is the source of the unusual and vivid imagery of this carol (which, in its complete form, has eleven verses covering all the events of Christ's life up to the Ascension)."

Some say the words are from Christ's point of view, showing His love for his bride-the church. My dancing day may refer to the day He was born. The legend of my play may refer to mystery plays of the medieval times that taught stories of the Bible. According to Thomas Cahill, in his book *Mysteries of the Middle Ages*, these plays were often done in the late middle ages, perhaps the fourteenth century. The plays would often last three or four days, with each day ending in a dance.

In the entire carol, Jesus' life is depicted as a dance. This concept was again used in the song "Lord of the Dance" which is in our choir's repertoire.

How interesting!



Attendance & Offering		
		
November 6	195	\$7,681.96
November 13	129	\$2,704.65
November 20	139	\$1,656.50
November 27	91+	\$4,923.00

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

October Income:\$11,231.44
October Expense:\$14,809.03
October Balance\$-3,577.59

YTD Income:\$112,153.16
YTD Expense:\$131,038.23
YTD Balance\$-18,885.07
Plus Carryover.....\$13,968.78
General Budget Fund\$-4,916.29



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Game Day

Thursday, December 1st, 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Tuesday, December 13th, 8:30 am
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, December 14th
11:30 am
Pizza Ranch

Blessings & Brunch

Friday, December 16th, 9:30 am.
Fellowship Hall
All women are welcome!

Mission Action Committee
(Quilters)

Wednesdays, 9:30 am
Fellowship Hall

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

emanuellutherancbi@msn.com

Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutherancbi

Visit us on the web at: www.emanuellutherancbi.wix.com/emanuel

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by fellowship
Wednesday at 6:45 pm, preceded by a meal at 6:00 pm ,
and followed by adult Bible discussion in the fellowship hall
and Kidz Kamp in the youth center.

Staff:

Pastor Lowell Hennigs
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed