

# Garden of Reading



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2020

## Happenings!

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

**Saturday, October 3**—Blessing of Pets

**Sunday, October 4**—Worship in community room, Scavenger Hunt winners announced, Online Sunday school begins, Emanuel Golf Outing

**Sunday, October 11**—Worship in community room

**Friday, October 16**—Volunteers for food pantry meet at Our Savior's

**Sunday, October 18**—Worship in community room

**Sunday, October 25**—Reformation Sunday, Worship in community room, Halloween Parade

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

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



### In This Issue...

A Post from the Pastor .....	2
October Mowers .....	2
Garage Sale Thank You .....	3
Blessing of the Animals .....	3
Online Sunday School .....	3
Member Notes .....	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries .....	4
Pastor Appreciation Month .....	4
Council Meeting Minutes .....	5
Joyful Noise .....	6
Halloween Parade .....	6
Lutheran Services in Iowa .....	6
Music Ministry .....	7
Finance Team Update .....	7
Offering & Attendance .....	7

Thank you to everyone who helped with donations of cards and time to help sign and write a note in each card for residents at Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights. We sent several birthday cards for the October birthdays, 140 thinking of you, and 140 Halloween cards.

# Ponderings From Your Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



As I'm writing this Larry is out mowing and it's a beautiful afternoon in early autumn. The leaves are just beginning to turn; coyly teasing of the gorgeous gloriousness yet to come. Fall has always been my favorite time of year. I love the crunch of leaves, and the bite of cold on the tip of my nose. It's a time of apple orchards and pumpkin patches, hayrides, and hot apple cider. Once I graduated from school I still carry this sense of new possibility and opportunities for learning as the days grow shorter and colder. For me every fall is a new beginning: new school pencils and pink erasers, and backpacks and back to school clothes. Fall is a time of education and growth.

Here at Emanuel autumn also means the return of Sunday School and the continuation of Christian education. At this time the Children and Youth Ministry committee and I plan to offer Sunday School online. On Oct. 4 we will launch our first virtual Sunday School lesson on God's creation of the earth using our Manna and Mercy curriculum.

During the service we will also have our drawing to determine the winner of the Fall Scavenger Hunt. We have more fun fall antics to follow. Sun. Oct. 25 after we finish celebrating Reformation Sunday you're all invited to go home, hop into your Halloween costume, decorate your car and join back at the church at noon for our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Halloween parade. Our youth will wait on their lawns for us to come and bring them candy and treats.

Later in Oct. our confirmation students will meet one final time to wrap up any information we want to cover, try on robes, and send home with each student a kit to make their own confirmation stole. Parents, if you could begin thinking of how many family you'll each be bringing that will help us figure out if we will need overflow seating. As the pandemic continues we'll continue to sit spaced apart.

Confirmation will take place at the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> worship service which will also be available to view, as all of our worship services are, online. Please continue to hold our young people in your prayers as they finish preparation for making their confession of faith and are admitted into membership of the church.

We continue to be church together even if the shape or configuration of our community shifts with the changing tides of COVID. Many of us are weary—there's even a term for it—COVID fatigue. We pray for a timely and efficacious vaccine and the end of this virus.

But through it all, we can look outside our window with each changing season and see the cycle of birth, growth, maturation and dormancy repeat again and again. For me there's something comforting that something in my world remains familiar and unchanging, even if it's only the fall of an orange leaf. Our God created a wonderful word and called it good. Let that goodness be a reminder of God's constant presence and abiding love sustain and comfort us when so much else is constantly changing and in a state of flux.

Spread a pandemic of kindness, be well, stay safe, and I'll see you in church—whether it's in person or "Church on the wall" as my grandma calls it.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Cara

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.



- Oct. 6 Mike Winter
- Oct. 13 Chris Sorensen
- Oct. 20 Alan Ellis
- Oct. 27 Mark Ellis

# Many Thanks

FROM THE CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Our thanks to the Worship & Music Committee for organizing another successful garage sale. Over \$2,000 was raised to help send Emanuel's youth and adult leaders to the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering!

Thanks to all who sorted items in the evenings and helped during the sale day. Emanuel's sponsored Boy Scout Troup set up the tables outside at 6:30 a.m. and returned at 1:00 for the cleanup. Unsold items were loaded and delivered to Habitat for Humanity, Sequels and the Good Will – by 2:30 the parking lot was clear.

We also want to acknowledge Mike Hipnar, Kevin Epperson and Mike Loos. They worked many hours during the evenings and on the sale day from the early morning set up through the final clean up.



# Blessing of the Animals

**Saturday, October 3**  
**3 pm**

We will host our annual Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, October 3rd at 3 pm in our UPPER parking lot. Please wear a mask when social distancing may not be possible.

Please bring your animal friends and family for this service of blessing and joy. We have blessed dogs, cats, hedgehogs, turtles, goats and many other species of God's beloved creatures over the years. We hope to see you there!



Andrea and Larry Britton are please to announce the marriage of their daughter Elizabeth to Andrew (Drew) Melani, Thursday, September 18, 2020. Elizabeth is also the granddaughter of Elaine and Ron Sasso.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions a celebration of their marriage will be held at a later date.

Jeff and Sandy Smith would like to thank Emanuel for allowing the baptism of Jeff's month, Dona Mae, in 2018. She also chose to keep her church membership at Emanuel until she passed away July 31, 2020 at St. Joseph hospital in Highland, Illinois. There will be some memorials given to Emanuel at this time in her name.

One note—About 8 years ago when Dona gave up her large apartment, Sandy promised t do something very useful with 10 boxes of cotton fabric. That fabric was made into mission quilts by the Emanuel quilters. She was very pleased that it was used for this.

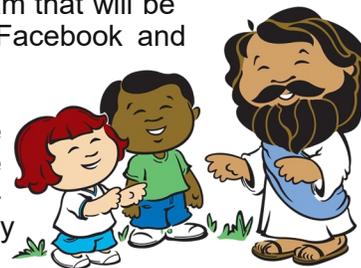


# ELC Sunday School

BY STEPHEN LEWIS

As we get ready to start the Sunday School year, we must say goodbye to the Kidz Kamp name and look into the future. This year will be different in many ways. We will not have in person Sunday School as social distancing puts a hamper on that. Instead we will be moving to an online format. We will have a weekly program that will be available on Facebook and Youtube.

We will be launching the Emanuel Lutheran Sunday School



Show on Oct 4, 2020. We will be sharing stories from the bible as well as having a project or something fun to go along with the Bible lesson. We will be using Manna and Mercy for kids as well as the Sparks Children Bible for the lessons each week.

You can follow us on the Emanuel Lutheran Youtube page as well as Emanuel Lutheran Sunday School Show on Facebook. We look forward to a fun and educational year with many great things in store. Thank you all for your support and participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org).

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

Show will post to YouTube each Sunday  
Link to YouTube on the Facebook page and [emanuelcb.org](http://emanuelcb.org).



Paul Heath  
Bob Vergamini

Daralene Smith  
Deloris Christensen

Robert Hesselstine  
Phyllis Fowler

Esther Bender  
Jim Fowler

## **OCTOBER** Birthdays

**October 01** Jessica Gearhart  
Ron Smith

**October 09** Lacey Fischer  
Nicole Fischer

**October 25** Hannah Goldapp  
John Spilde

**October 02** Tyler Hansen

**October 10** Jesse Hansen

**October 28** Darlene Reed

**October 04** Nick Rickard  
Jeanine Schademann  
Norma Stairs

**October 15** Alyssa Snell

**October 31** Judith Loos  
Danielle Schaal

**October 22** Cynthia Richards

**October 06** Kyle Sorensen

**October 23** Emma Wilson

## **OCTOBER** Anniversaries

**Oct. 6** Andrea & Larry Britton

**Oct. 16** Beth & Tom Lewis

**Oct. 7** Autumn & Adam Tanner

**Oct. 17** Deb & Jerry Ebsen

**Oct. 12** Natasha & Matthew Wiese

**Oct. 20** Rachel & Ian Spangenberg

**Oct. 14** Shirley & Duane Schuchard

**Oct. 27** Debbie & Keven Ferguson

*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](mailto:office@emanuelcb.org)*



**Clergy**  
APPRECIATION  
month

*Thank you Pastor Cara!*

October is Pastor appreciation month and we would like to thank Pastor Cara for her leadership through such a challenging first year.

Please take time to show your appreciation this month.

# Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Sept. 21, 2020

RECORDED BY ROSIE SPANGENBERG, EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Members present: Pastor Cara Knutson, Mike Winter, Jane Anderson, Rosie Spangenberg, Nick Rickard, Char Les Kemmish, Mike Loos, John Spilde, Matt Solon, Greg Steensland

Members absent: Stephen Lewis, Joel Hauschild, Alan Ellis

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

Secretary's minutes from the August meeting: Motion to approve by Mike Loos, seconded by John Spilde. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Matt Solon. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Char Les Kemmish. Motion carried.

Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by John Spilde, seconded by Jane Anderson. Motion carried.

- President Mike Winter reported that Emanuel received \$83,681.66 from the estate of Rudy and Elizabeth Miller. The Council expressed their gratitude for this generous gift. No immediate plans were made on how these funds would be used.

Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Mike Loos, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.

## Committee reports:

- Rosie Spangenberg gave a report from the Worship and Music committee. Cindy Richards has researched the opportunity to rent a set of two-octave handbells at a cost of \$150 per month. Eight people have expressed an interest in being part of a bell choir, which would enhance worship at Emanuel since musical instruments, communal singing, etc. are currently not a part of worship services due to safety concerns. The cost of this rental could later be applied to the purchase of a set of bells if this proves to help fill the need for music during services. Rosie asked that the committee be allowed to use funds from the Music Fund (under Consolidated Funds) to try out these bells for three months. She will then report back to the Council. Nick made a motion to approve, John seconded it. Motion carried.

Pastor Cara gave her monthly report.

## Old Business:

- John Spilde continues to work with Pastor Cara on redeveloping the Prayer Chain. He encouraged Council members to ask if members are interested in being added to this when they make their Shepherding calls. He also asked that his contact information be listed in these minutes so members could contact him directly if interested: John Spilde,

[spildejs@cox.net](mailto:spildejs@cox.net), 402.813.2070

- Reopening of the church:
  - A review showed that inside services (in the Community Room) are going well.
  - Greg Steensland made a motion to have the reopening committee make a recommendation to the Council at the October meeting for moving worship services back into the Worship Center. Matt Solon seconded it. Motion carried. Pastor Cara will contact that committee.
  - The Executive Committee reported that they approved the use of the church for the nonprofit group Cookie Crumbs. John Spilde reported that the Boy Scouts will soon be returning to monthly meetings in the church. Neither group will be charged a rental fee.
- Mike Winter reported that there still may be a need for a few more volunteers to serve as Confirmation mentors. Pastor Cara will work with Stephen Lewis and Deann Over to get this finalized.

## New Business:

- Mike Winter reported that the Garage Sale profits exceeded \$2500. He expressed thanks to all those involved, and added that everything left at the end of the sale was donated so it all can be put to good use. These funds will go towards the Youth Gathering postponed until next year.
- There will be no "Trunk or Treat" this year.
- Pastor Cara presented a request from the church secretary, Michaela Lewis, to purchase "Stream Yard," a streaming service that will allow her to share church services more easily. It costs \$20 per month, to be paid out of the office supplies budget. She also would like to purchase a new digital camera and microphone, again to help with sharing church services. Greg Steensland made a motion to approve these purchases, not to exceed \$750, with funds to be taken from Memorial Funds. Nick Rickard seconded it. Motion carried. Matt Solon will talk with Richard Reed about securing the approval of family members to use memorial funds for this purpose.
- Matt Solon brought up which funding account should be used for the purchase of Covid-related materials. Connie Solon joined the meeting to clarify what materials that involved and what the cost has been. John Spilde made a motion to approve the use of maintenance funds for these purchases. Nick Rickard seconded it. Motion carried.
- Matt Solon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by President Mike Winter.
- Next meeting is October 19, devotions by Alan Ellis.

## Joyful Noise Offering

The Wider Ministries Committee is announcing that the Joyful Noise Offering will begin again on October 11. This Joyful Noise will be for Thanksgiving Baskets. Questions? Please contact Linda Steensland



## Halloween Parade

Due to COVID we will not be having our annual Trunk-or-Treat event since it normally gathers a large crowd. Instead we will do a Halloween parade (similar to the birthday parades we have seen during the pandemic). Members will gather at noon on October 25<sup>th</sup> at church and drive by the houses of the children of Emanuel to give them treats. We do need those families to let us know that they will be home and would like us to come by.

If you would like the parade to come by your house, please let us know at [youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org).



## Warming Hearts with God's Love & a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### A Path to Healing

When 14-year-old Bri first came to LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, she was struggling with aggression, frequently ran away, and had a hard time focusing in school. And as she was trying to heal from years of trauma, Bri's beloved grandpa suddenly passed away. She felt stuck and nothing was getting better, no matter what she tried. But her Beloit team was there to cheer her on.

The LSI team at Beloit provides 24-7 mental health treatment for Iowa children who have often experienced years of trauma, abuse, or neglect. Staff members are there to encourage children on their path to hope and healing, and they were there to lift up Bri when she decided to make a positive change in her life. Bri began actively participating in individual and group therapy sessions provided at Beloit, and

she made it a point to encourage her peers on campus every day. Her Beloit team helped her to feel more comfortable opening up about her grief, and staff members were there to remind her of all the progress she had made to help her stay focused on the positives.

After months of hard work, Bri found a loving foster family and was able to leave Beloit's programming. And while she felt uncertain and anxious about leaving, she knew she was ready to move forward.

Bri continues to keep in touch with the team at Beloit, providing details on her new life, school, and her new room at home. Bri's anxiety about the unknown has diminished, she feels confident communicating her emotions, and she has hope for the future.

# Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



There is a relatively new song by one of my favorite composers, Marty Haugen, that I purchased for the choir earlier in the year, pre-pandemic. This anthem, Choose to Hope, was written for his church in Minneapolis. He said, "Like many Americans-indeed, like many people in Europe and around the world-our community had been troubled by a sense of growing isolationism in our culture, a sense that we were abandoning trust in God and in one another, that we were being driven by fear to build walls of hate and prejudice." I'd hoped to use this song with the choir and teach to the congregation. As the year progressed and choir was unable to meet, the words started to leap out at me, especially with the unrest in this country. You will hear this soon, perhaps as a solo. I am already using the melody during preludes. The lyrics move me each time I read them, opening different avenues of thought and contemplation.

## Choose to Hope

Hope is born when we choose to believe  
that love is stronger than hatred.  
Love is born when our hearts learn to see  
that every person is sacred.  
In the times of darkness,  
in times of fear, choose to hope, choose to love,  
and know that God is near.

Hope will grow when we choose to believe  
that we are sisters and brothers.  
Love will grow when our hearts learn to see  
the life we share with each other.  
In the times of darkness,  
in times of fear, choose to hope, choose to love,  
and know that God is near.

Hope will shine when we choose to believe  
a little child will lead us.  
Love will shine when our hearts learn to see  
that God is dwelling within us.  
In the times of darkness,  
in times of fear, choose to hope, choose to love,  
and know that God is near.

Sing out hope through the violence and fear,  
for God is present beside us.  
Prince of Peace, make your home with us here;  
your love and wisdom will guide us.  
In the times of darkness,  
in times of fear, choose to hope, choose to love,  
and know that God is near.

**Attendance & Offering**

Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Offerings:
Sept. 6	36	19	\$2,194.00
Sept. 13	28	26	\$2,410.00
Sept. 20	39	11	\$2,249.00
Sept. 27	27	32	n/a



## Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

August Income: .....\$7,787.00  
August Expense: .....\$11,848.81  
 August Balance ..... -\$4,061.81

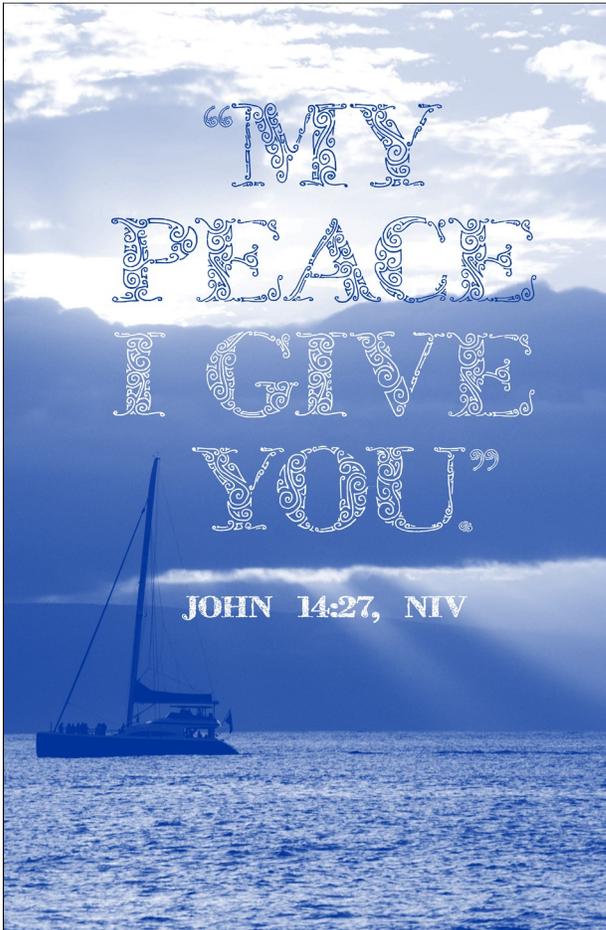
YTD Income: ..... \$120,197.80  
YTD Expense: ..... \$103,491.56  
 YTD Balance ..... \$16,706.24  
Plus Carryover ..... \$16,983.29  
 General Budget Fund ..... \$33,689.53



**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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Like us on facebook: [facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia](https://www.facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia)

Visit us on the web at: [www.emanuelcb.org](http://www.emanuelcb.org)

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Community Room.

Virtual services posted each Sunday on YouTube and our Facebook page

Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson ([pastor@emanuelcb.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelcb.org))

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards ([music@emanuelcb.org](mailto:music@emanuelcb.org))

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis ([office@emanuelcb.org](mailto:office@emanuelcb.org))

Kidz Kamp/Activities, Stephen Lewis ([youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org))

Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed