



Happenings at Emanuel!

- Saturday, December 02**—Craft Inn
- Sunday, December 03**—Cookie Walk
- Saturday, December 10**—Cookies & Cocoa with Santa
- Tuesday, December 12**—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet
- Monday, December 18**—Newsletter Articles Due
- Sunday, December 17**—Christmas Program, Caroling at Midlands
- Monday, December 18**—Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday, December 20**—Dinner & Blue Christmas Service
- Sunday, December 24**—Christmas Eve Services & Brunch
- Monday, December 25**—Christmas Day, office closed
- Tuesday, Decemer 26**—Office Closed

*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**



Sunday, December 05, 2023 we welcomed four young people as confirmed members at Emanuel: Mason Lewis, Alex VanSickle, Gabe VanSickle and Grace Nixt.. These students have completed two years of confirmation classes with the leadership of Cara Knutson and Stephen Lewis.

In This Issue...

A Post from the Pastor	2
Ale & the Almighty	2
Cookie Crew.....	2
Stewardship Update	3
Advent Devotions	3
Blue Christmas.....	3
Annual Meeting	3
Directory Photos.....	3
Event Calendar	4
Worship Assistants.....	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Giving Tree.....	7
Council Notes.....	8
Cookies & Cocoa with Santa.....	9
Lutheran Services in Iowa	10
Online Giving.....	10
Sending of Communion.....	10
Keep Us Updated	10
Thoughts & Prayers.....	11
Food Collection	11
Thanksgiving Thanks!	11
New Members	11
Finance Team Update.....	11



A Post from the Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON

Good morning to my Emanuel family and friends



By the time you read this we'll be close to the season of Advent when we await the coming of Christ with hope? What do those words mean? I was always told in college when writing papers and completing exams to always define my terms. For me, this season here's how I personally mean when I say I'm awaiting the coming of Christ with hope.

For starters, I have found opportunity for lots of hopeful waiting with my parents and particularly their health. To those of you I haven't had the opportunity to share with, my parents are aging and the time has come in their life when they are needing more care. My sister and I have been thrust into the world of long term care receiving a crash course on Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and the like. At times it's been overwhelming—the role reversal of now caring for my parents came unexpectedly. But it's also surprisingly been a time of reconciliation. My mother and I have had a strained relationship for most of my life. Now she's been so loving and sweet and I enjoy spending time with her. At the same time it's so hard to see how much she's changed physically and become so dependent on other people. My awaiting the coming of Christ with hope when it comes to my parents looks like finally getting the paperwork filled out for long term health care in the home and having the peace of mind that they're being well cared for and looked after.

It's having hope that Derek will grow into a confident and capable young man and find work that gives him satisfaction and purpose and will find someone to love and share his days with. It's just wanting my brother to get his life together enough to see to him getting the medical care he needs.

As I'm writing this I've had one of those days...you know the ones. Where you wish you could crawl back into bed and start them all over again—do things differently. Those days that leave you rattled and feeling just a titch off center. Those days where you feel overwhelmed, harried, and frazzled. Then something inside of my gently says, why don't you try prayer? So I take a moment and close my eyes and a short simple prayer pours out—thank you God, be with me, help.



That's the short and simple of it, awaiting the coming of Christ with hope—calling out and trusting that Christ is there, with me in the messiness of my life, the worries, the exhaustion, the sudden change, the suprising blessings, and that together we're going to get through this.

Pastor Cara

Ale
& the
Almighty

Monday, December 11th
6 p.m.
Glory Days (106 W Broadway)

Join us for an evening of fellowship and studying scriptures and how they apply to today's world and current events. They have a full menu and drinks if you would like to plan to eat/drink there during this time.

COOKIE CREW

Saturday, December 9th
10 a.m..

We plan to have a baking party here at church to prepare cookies for the Cookies and Cocoa with Santa event the following day. If you are able to help, please contact Michaela Lewis. Also, if you help bake you also get to taste test!

COOKIES

Stewardship Update

SUBMITTED BY RICK STONE

On Pledge Sunday, we received a total of thirty -six pledges, four more than at this time last year. Some may not have had an opportunity to turn in your pledge yet. We encourage you to do so as soon as possible. The pledge may be put in any Sunday's offering or sent directly to the church, attention Stewardship Committee.

Emanuel THANKS YOU for your enthusiastic support to date. Pledges, as of November 19th totaled \$104,208. As you recall, our 2023 budget was \$171,000, so we still have some ground to cover.

The Stewardship Committee will be holding 2024 budget meetings starting Mid-December. We look forward to hearing from those who were unable to participate on Pledge Sunday.

As a reminder, Emanuel is grateful for our financial giving in 2023. We still have two strong giving months. With your support,

Emanuel will finish 2023 much stronger than originally planned.



Yours in Christ,
Stewardship
Committee

Advent Devotionals



December 3rd is the start of advent. This year, we plan on having a series of video devotions that will be posted to YouTube and Facebook each day during advent. We have been given permission to use the book

“Come, Emmanuel: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2023-2024” by Guy Erwin for these video devotions. If you would like to follow along, or prefer to have a printed copy, it is available to order online from several retailers.

Blue Christmas Service

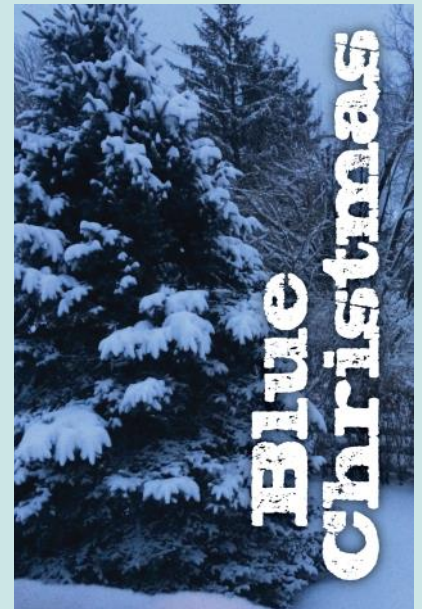
The Holiday season can be hard for those who's hearts are hurting. You are not alone. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.

Wednesday, December 20

6 p.m.

Dinner provided with funds from our Mental Health Group

7 p.m. Worship



ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2024

Meeting will follow the worship service.

Please plan to attend.

Church Photo Directory We Want You In It!

Save the Date!

February 4th
&
March 3rd



This Month's
ACTIVITIES
At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 6 pm Society for Creative Anachronism	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 6 pm Dinner & Hanging of the Greens	30 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	1	2 10 am Craft Inn 
3 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs 2 pm—5 pm Cookie Walk 	4 10 am Tai Chi	5 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6 pm Society for Creative Anachronism	6 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 7 pm Bell Choir Practice in Worship Center	7 9:30 am Adult Bible Study at Village Inn East 10 am Tai Chi	8	9
10 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs 	11 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days 	12 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	13 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	14 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	15	16
17 Christmas Program 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Christmas Program 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 11 am Confirmation Outing 2 pm SCA meet upstairs 3 pm Piano Recital 	18 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting 	19 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6 pm Society for Creative Anachronism	20 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Blue Christmas Service 	21 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	22	23
24 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship 	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	28 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	29	30
31 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	1 Office Closed	2 Office Closed	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 at Village Inn 10 am Tai Chi	5	6 10 am Craft Inn

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, December 3	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	
Lector	Jan Stone
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Peggy Jarrell
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, December 10	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	Tayah Nixt
Lector	Peggy Jarrell
Altar Guild	Deb Ebsen
Communion Assistants	Tayah Nixt & Peggy Jarrell
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, December 17	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	Garret & Grant Ashcraft
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Garret & Grant Ashcraft
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	

Sunday, December 24	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	Garret & Grant Ashcraft
Lector	
Altar Guild	Deb Ebsen
Communion Assistants	Garret & Grant Ashcraft
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, December 24	7 p.m. Service
Ushers	
Acolyte	
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	
Sunday, December 31	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	
Lector	
Altar Guild	Deb Ebsen
Communion Assistants	
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Coffee Hour	





THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

December 01
Mason Garreans

December 02
Tayah Nixt

December 04
Connie Eyberg
Zach Winter

December 05
Judy Dillon
Shirley Schuchard

December 06
Wesley Bradshaw
Shelby Rickard
Mike Winter

December 08
Andrew Borwick
Jamie Hansen

December 09
Bob Juhl

December 10
Tina Larson

December 12
Richard Borwick
Hadley Fager
Cael Hansen

December 13
Karen McPartland

December 16
Susan Wilson

December 17
Carrie Hansen

December 18
Emily True

December 19
Allen Martens

December 20
Kobie Ferguson
Taryn McSorley
Jade Wohlers

December 21
Kaitlyn Egner

December 22
Sam Heithoff
Jan Husmann

December 23
Clarissa Haats

December 25
Elaine Sasso

December 26
Emily Longnecker

December 27
Sid Dillon
Tristan Steensland

December 28
Brett Egner
Luke Hansen
Jon McGreevy

December 29
Judy Wilson

December 30
Debra Buley
Shae Nickels

December 31
Danny Britson



THIS MONTH'S
anniversaries

December 02
Larry & Sharon Hansen

December 15
Cara & Maja Knutson

December 17
Ron & Elaine 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 office@emanuelcb.org

Emanuel Lutheran Church IS SPONSORING A

GIVING TREE

FOR

SHARE MY
SMILE



Visit Emanuel and pick a child's name. Mark down on the sign-up which tag(S) you take. You do not need to purchase all of the items, the list is just to give you an idea and options of what they would like. Please spend around \$25 total, regardless of the number of items so that the spending amount is equal for all children in the family.

BEGINS
November
29

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

DROP OFF
Tues.-Fri.
9 am-3 pm

Please bring new, unwrapped
gifts to Emanuel by
Wednesday, December 6.

Please include the tag for the child
with the gift(s).



Questions? Please contact
Chris Reed
at 712-435-9461
or creed1907@aol.com





Council Minutes for November 20, 2023

RECORDED BY MICHAEL WINTER

Members Present: Greg Steensland, Mike Winter, Mike Hipnar, Richard Reed, Char Les Kemmish, Matt Perrone, Connie Edson, Pastor Cara Knutson, Mike Loos and Brittney Smith

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Greg Steensland

Devotions: Mike Hipnar

Council Agenda:

- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Richard Reed to approve the council minutes for October 16, 2023. Approved.
- Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Connie Edson to approve the Treasurer's report. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve the Consolidated Fund report. Approved.
- Motion by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Connie Edson to approve the Capitol and Building Fund report. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve the Memorial Fund report. Approved.
- The council received the November report from Michaela Lewis. The SCA would like to change their meetings from two Sundays a month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Mike Loos to increase the rent charged to SCA to \$150 per month for Sundays and \$100 per month for Tuesdays. Approved.
- Discussion was held concerning updating the electronic directory and taking updated digital camera pictures of members. Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Connie Edson to spend up to \$50 to purchase a back drop. Approved.
- It was agreed that the newsletter should notify members that pictures can be taken the first Sunday of February and the first Sunday of March for purposes of placing these pictures in the electronic directly.
- Discussion was held to ask members if they have a refrigerator they can donate since there is only one refrigerator in the storage room and large events may require more refrigeration space.

- Mason Lewis and Amari Johnson will be attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans accompanied by Stephen Lewis and Cara Knutson as leaders.
- Connie Edson reported from the Wider Ministries Committee that 20 Thanksgiving boxes were prepared and picked up by 19 families. The remaining box was not picked up despite the fact that that family was notified.
- Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Mike Loos to table discussion and payment of the estimate from A Raymond Plumbing, Inc. asking to provide more specific information. Approved.
- Motion by Matt Perrone, seconded by Char Les Kemmish to approve the payment to Olson Brothers Construction Company in the amount of \$6,673 to be paid from the Noran Davis Estate. Approved.
- Char Les Kemmish provided a maintenance list to be discussed at the December meeting to address responsibilities for those items listed on the maintenance list and to allow council members to add to that list.
- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Mike Loos to pay \$15 an hour to a person to maintain the upper and lower sidewalks removing snow and ice. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Winter, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve pastor vacation days for December 27 to December 31, which includes one Sunday on December 31 when Pastor Stephany will lead services. Approved.
- Pastor reported that the Christmas Eve service on December 24 will be a morning service at 9:30 a.m. oriented to families and children with a special Christmas story for the sermon and audience participation. The evening service at 7 p.m. will be the traditional Christmas Eve service.
- The church annual meeting will be held on January 28, 2024.
- Devotions for the next meeting on December 18 will be from Richard Reed.
- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Mike Loos to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Approved.

Note: Next meeting will be December 18, 2023 at 7 p.m.

COOKIES & COCOA

WITH

SANTA



SUNDAY
December
10

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

1 p.m.—3 p.m.

We invite you to take some time out of your busy holiday schedule to enjoy some cookies and hot cocoa at Emanuel and visit with our friend from the North Pole!

There will also be Christmas crafts.

This is a free event and open to the public.

Questions? Please contact Michaela Lewis at 712-323-9665 or office@emanuelcb.org

Merry Christmas from LSI!

SUBMITTED BY JOYCE WILLIAMS



At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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 LSIowa.org and [Facebook.com/LSI.Iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.Iowa).

Online Giving

Did you know that we have the option of online giving? You can download the Vanco Faith app on your mobile device through the Apple Store or Google Play, or you visit our website at <https://www.emanuelcb.org/> There are customizable giving options, including giving to different funds with one donation and you also have the option of setting up recurring payments. You are also able to view your electronic giving history through the app.



Sending of Communion

Now that we have the option of joining worship online several members have commented they can see and hear better than worshipping in person. However, those members are not able to receive communion. Pastor Cara is for volunteers to bring communion to members not able to easily come to church or are able to better see and hear worship online. If you would be interested in helping with this important ministry please contact Pr. Cara at pastor@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9667. Thank you!



Just a reminder to keep us updated if your address, phone or email changes. Also, if we don't have your birthday or anniversary on file, please let us know!

You can contact the office at: (712) 323-9665 or office@emanuelcb.org.



Jeanne Andrews	Deloris Christensen	Owen Hansen	Sharon Hansen	Norma Heath
Al Martens	Norma Mass	Jane Meyer	Cece Mickells	Jim O'Neill
Julie Powell	Melody Schott	Paul Schott	Tommy Schott	Ruth Sullivan

Food Collection Results are In!



	Emanuel	OSL
October 1st	22	25
October 8th	29	155
October 15th	12	60
October 22nd	36	58
October 29th	20	10
Cash Collected	423.39	421
\$1=3 cans	1,270	1,263

Total Collected	1,389	1,571
------------------------	--------------	--------------

Emanuel and Our Saviors had a contest in October to collect items to help the Food & Pet Food Pantry supply items to our neighbors in need. Emanuel collected slightly more cash, which for counting purposes was converted to three items per \$1, but Our Savior's collected more items, which made their overall total higher. Thank you to all who helped with this project! The pantry is in need of supplies and volunteers year-round, so if you would like to help more, contact Josh at foodpantry@oursaviorscb.org or call (712) 522-3522.



On October 29th, we welcomed new members to Emanuel: Jenna Ricks-Ashley, Joann Blum, Ron Reiff II. We look forward to them growing in faith and helping us with our faith as well at Emanuel.

Thank you for all your help over the Thanksgiving Holiday! We were able to provide 18 boxes of Thanksgiving meals for families in our community. We also had volunteers who made 20 green bean casseroles and delivered them to the community Thanksgiving meal which was held at Community of Christ and organized by St. Patrick's Catholic Church.



ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS



Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
November 05	86	39	125	\$3,138.00
November 12	53	48	101	\$1,386.00
November 19	93	57	150	n/a
November 26	42	30	72	n/a

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

October Income: \$7,866.00
 October Expense: \$17,540.79
 October Balance..... (\$9,674.79)

YTD Income: \$138,175.58
 YTD Expense:.....-\$152,246.04
 YTD Balance.....(\$14,070.46)
 Plus Carryover \$3,245.82
 General Budget Fund.....(\$10,824.64)



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

Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N. Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499
(712) 323-9665 Emergencies: (712) 314-0085
office@emanuelcb.org
Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutheranbia
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org
Follow us on Twitter at: https://twitter.com/Lutheranla

Office Hours: Monday 9 a.m.—1 p.m.,
Tuesday –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, Facebook & Twitter

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, Stephen Lewis (youth@emanuelcb.org)
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed