

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2021

Happenings!

Saturday, November 6—Craft Inn

Sunday, November 7—Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 14—Joyful Noise Offering for Christmas Bags

Wednesday, November 24—Thanksgiving Eve Service

Sunday, November 21—Confirmation

Sunday, November 28—Hanging of the Greens

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

Dinner and Intergenerational Bible Study each **Wednesday** at 5:30 p.m.

Mission
Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



Pastor Cara Knutson, Pastor Stephany Sanborn, Darlene Jeppesen, Sherri Stinson and Chris Reed show off their craft projects from Emanuel's first "Craft Inn." This will be a monthly event on the first Saturday of each month. Everyone is invited to bring their crafting projects, crockpots, and snacks and others us in the community room for a day of fellowship and fun!

In This Issue...

A Post from the Pastor	2
Stewardship Plans.....	3
Christmas Bags	3
Worship Assistants	4
Mowing Crew	4
Church Directory	4
ELC Event Calendar.....	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Council Notes.....	7
Hanging of the Greens	7
ELCA National Youth Gathering	8
Thanksgiving Cenerpiece	9
Thanksgiving Baskets	9
Christmas Program	9
Lutheran Services in Iowa	10
Thanksgiving Service	10
Member Notes.....	11
Warmth Tree	11
Blue Christmas.....	11
Offering & Attendance	11
Finance Team Update.....	11



A Post from the Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



Good morning church! And when I say this, I mean all you here at Emanuel Lutheran and beyond who make up the church—the faithful followers of Jesus Christ. I have experienced the support, love and prayer of God's extended church and I want to say thank you. As many of you may know I got a phone call that no one ever wants to hear. My baby brother, Tommy, was bleeding internally and not expected to live. After a flurry of phone calls I found myself up very early getting a ride to the airport for a 6 am flight. The not knowing was agony! Then I arrive in Texas and because of COVID only one family member could be with my brother per 24-hour time period. I was really angry that I my sister and I had come all this way, and were scared and just wanting to be with our brother and we couldn't.

My sister's sister-in-law and her wife offered up their spare bedroom to my sister Miranda and myself, my cousin picked us up from the airport—my sister's mother-in-law even came to Houston from her home two hours away to be a stand in mother for the weekend. Everywhere I turned I literally could feel myself and my family being lovingly held in prayer. I let my sister see my brother first because I felt she needed to see how bad it was so she could have realistic expectations. We arrive at the hospital together, I was thinking I could hole up in a coffee shop somewhere in the hospital and be nearby if Tommy's condition suddenly got worse. Well I was only allowed into the building to the temperature check station and wasn't allowed any farther into the hospital as my brother could only have one visitor. I wasn't even allowed into the building. My sister turned around to say bye and I was already up the sidewalk not knowing what to do, alone and scared in a big city with my brother very very sick.

I found my way to a Starbucks but there was no room in the inn there either—they had only four tables all occupied. So I went next door to Chipotle and got in line to buy a bottle of water so I could at least make use of their air conditioning until I could figure out what to do next. Then my sister calls me up sobbing that it was so awful seeing him so pale and hooked up to so many machines. I just wanted to be able to give my sister a hug, in big sisterly fashion, and reassure her it was all going to be ok. I sat down with my water and tried to figure out how to get an Uber so I could get back to where we were staying. I asked a nurse from the hospital sitting near me if she could help me as I was so upset. I told her, "my brother is dying". Tears immediately sprang to her eyes and she asked if she could pray with me. There in the middle of this strange, big, scary city and experience this complete stranger takes my hands in hers and prayed with me, right in the middle of a busy Chipotle! My Uber driver, Patrick from Cameroon, shares that he thinks people are basically good and asks for my brother's name and says he'll pray for him.

My sister sent me pictures of my brother and all of his monitors which I then sent to Megan Sorenson who helped us interpret what was going on. At the start the doctors and medical team were reluctant to share medical information with us and my brother named his roommate Erin to make decisions for him if he wasn't able to make them for himself. Then Sat. it's my turn. By this time, he's starting to make a tiny bit of headway and as the day continues it's becoming more and more apparent that Tommy is going to pull through. Needing a break, I go to stretch my legs and make my way to the chapel and sit in quiet for several minutes gazing up at a crucifix mounted on the wall. I see Jesus near death, with a piece of cloth across his hips reminding me so much of my brother six floors up lying pale in a bed draped in a towel to protect his dignity. The message of Jesus, who took on all of the suffering and brokenness in the world, and took it into his physical body never hit me more profoundly than that afternoon sitting in a small chapel.

After I came back up to Tommy's room I felt this very surprising yet deep calm, and was at peace. I felt as ready as I could be for my brother to die or to live. After several conversations I felt that I could be assured that my brother was going to live, that he was in the best possible hands, and it was ok for me to go home.

Within the last two days, my brother was taken off the ventilator, taken off sedation, taken off dialysis had his medications decreased, and I even got to talk to him! It's a miracle that he's alive! Again I want to thank all of you for your continued support and prayers. This whole event was so huge and overwhelming, at times really scary and at other times indescribably joyful! I am so blessed to serve this community and want to let you know how much I care and love all of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you and most of all thank you God!

In loving service,
Pastor Cara

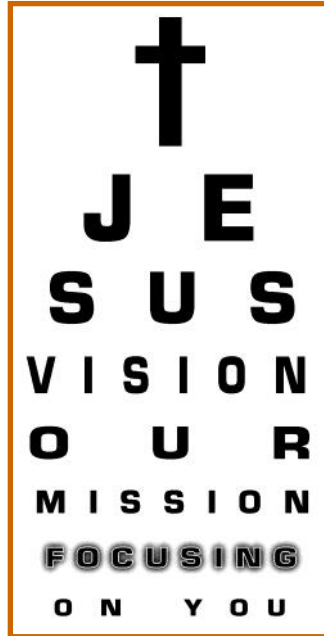
Emanuel's Stewardship Plans for 2022

You should have received a letter from the stewardship committee detailing Emanuel's plans for 2022. Therefore, I will just hi-light a few key points and dates.

This year, we are changing our format. We will have a roundtable discussion on a specific question in the community room after our services on Sunday, November 7th and Sunday, November 14th. We will meet in groups of six to eight people and each table will have a facilitator to help with the discussion as well as take notes of the points discussed. These sessions will last approximately 30 minutes.

The discussion on November 7th will be addressing the question, "How can Emanuel effectively meet your needs and the needs of our community in 2022?" November 14th, we will be discussing, "Aside from not being comfortable with COVID, why aren't people back 100% at Emanuel?"

We want everyone's comments to be addressed. If you are listening to broadcasts of the services on



those two Sundays, you will have an opportunity to state your comments online each of those Sundays. For those unable to attend in person, or via the broadcasts, Pastor Cara will send out a mailing to all members early in November asking for feedback.

On Sunday, November 21st, during the service we will get a brief summary of all the comments received on November 7th and 14th and from those who participated online and by mail.

Included in our mailing on October 22 was a pledge card for 2022. Pledges are relied upon to help determine what is reasonable for a 2022 budget. Each of us will have the opportunity to bring our pledge card forward to the altar during the service on Sunday, November

21st. Our coffee hour on the 21st will include a light brunch.

Emanuel certainly is appreciative for everyone's support during 2021. We look forward in 2022 to supporting more of JESUS VISION-OUR MISSION- FOCUSING ON YOU.

Lutheran Family Christmas Bags

BY WIDER MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Again our church will be donating gift bags for children ages 0-5 years old. These 56 bags will be filled with items to support the health of these children.

Our November Joyful Noise will provide the resources to fill the bags. If you enjoy shopping these ideas may help.

- Lotion
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Hand sanitizer

If you have questions please ask Connie Solon, Linda Steensland, or Jan Husmann. We will deliver them in early December.

Thank you for helping young families provide for their children.



**Just a reminder that if
Council Bluffs Public
Schools cancels activities
due to weather, the office
will close and activities
and meetings scheduled
for that day
will also be
cancelled
or
rescheduled.**



Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, November 7	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Acolyte	Mason Lewis
Lector	
Visual Tech	
Coffee Hour	Finance Committee
Sunday, November 14	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Acolyte	
Lector	
Visual Tech	
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, November 21	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Acolyte	Grace Nixt
Lector	
Visual Tech	
Coffee Hour	Kathy Schneckloth
Sunday, November 28	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Acolyte	
Lector	
Visual Tech	
Coffee Hour	

If you are interested in helping with worship, please contact the church office, (712) 323-9665, emanuellutheranchbia@msn.com or sign-up on our website at: www.emanuelcb.org

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android

Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to **CREATE A LOGIN** the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Thank You to Our Mowing Crew!

Thanks for volunteering to mow the church lawn. With nine mowers, we have a nice rotation where we are not mowing all the time. We ask that you mow the lawn sometime 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. If you use all the gas in the container, please fill up the container and turn the bill into the church. Keys for the mower and the garage are in the secretary's office which is open Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:30 am—3 pm. You can also contact Michaela to make arrangements to pick them up at another time. Any questions, problems, or suggestions, call Larry at 323-7379.



Nov 7-----Larry Hansen

Nov 14-----Tyler Hansen

This Month's ACTIVITIES

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 1 pm Trunk-or-Treat	1 10 am Tai Chi	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room  ELECTION DAY	3 5:30 pm Dinner & Wednesday night Recharge	4 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	5	6 10 am Craft Inn 
7 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Stewardship Roundtable	8 10 am Tai Chi	9 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	10 5:30 pm Dinner & Wednesday night Recharge	11 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi  Veterans Day: Thank You for Your Service!	12	13
14 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Stewardship Roundtable	15 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	17 5:30 pm Dinner & Wednesday night Recharge Newsletter Articles Due SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES 	18 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	19	20
21 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Confirmation	22 10 am Tai Chi	23 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	24 7 pm Thanksgiving Worship 	25 	26  NATIVE AMERICAN Heritage Day	27
28 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Hanging of the Greens & lunch 	29 10 am Tai Chi	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	1 5:30 pm Dinner & Wednesday night Recharge	2 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	3	4 10 am Craft Inn 



THIS MONTH'S birthdays

Nov. 01

Larry Hansen

Nov. 02

Maja Knutson

Nov. 04

Norma Heath

Nov. 06

Kaden Krauth

Nov. 07

Garrett Haats
Hailey Holcombe
Sean Larson

Nov. 08

Nichlos Matuszeski

Nov. 09

Beth Schultz

Nov. 11

Jan Stone

Nov. 13

Daralene Smith

Nov. 14

Haley Holland
Michaela Lewis

Nov. 15

Connie Beckman
William Spangenberg

Nov. 16

Todd Over

Nov. 17

Penny Dahlke
Clare Plummer
Paul Schwartz

Nov. 18

Matt Clark

Nov. 18

Alexxia Richards

Nov. 19

David Fietz

Nov. 20

Valerie Weelborg

Nov. 21

Grace Hansen
Jessica Hipnar
Ruth Sullivan

Nov. 22

Barry Larson

Nov. 23

Joel Parker

Nov. 24

Lauren Hansen

Nov. 26

Aaralynn Conley
Char Les Kemmish

Nov. 27

Gary Pleas

Nov. 28

Nikki Rickard

Nov. 29

Loren Carrier
Brayden Hansen
Steve Plummer

Nov. 30

Helen Baker
Mike Hipnar



THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

Nov. 02

Alyssa & Desirée Snell

Nov. 07

Jeffrey & Teresa Fischer

Nov. 22

Oscar & Deann Over

Nov. 03

Nick & Amy Steensland-Rickard

Nov. 09

Mike & Emily Burns

Nov. 23

Arlen & Kathy Ellis

Nov. 05

Dick & Judy Borwick

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 Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for October 18, 2021

RECORDED BY CHRIS REED



Members present: Mike Winter, Char Les Kemmish, Mike Hipnar, Matt Solon, Connie Edson, Al Martens, Nick Rickard, Shelby Rickard, Alan Ellis, Mike Loos, Chris Reed

Member absent: Pastor Cara Knutson, Greg Steensland

The meeting was called to order at 6:56pm by President Mike Winter. Nick Rickard gave devotion.

Secretary's minutes from the September meeting:

Motion to approve by Alan Ellis,
seconded by Matt Solon. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by Nick Rickard, seconded by Al Martens. Motion carried.

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

Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Connie Edson. Motion carried.

Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Shelby Rickard. Motion carried.

Pastor Cara was not present, no written report.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship - Matt Solon reported that small group discussions will be held during coffee hours on November 7 and 14. Pledge cards will be distributed shortly after that. Loss of Giving is about 25%. Stewardship Committee is evaluating cutbacks, if possible. Salaries are over 75% of budget.

Wider Ministries - Chris Reed reported that the committee is going to be busy the next few months with Thanksgiving Baskets, Lutheran Family Services gift bags, Green Bean Casseroles and Our Savior's Food and Pet Pantry. Wider Ministries is looking for a new committee chair and additional members. If interested, contact Linda Steensland.

Old Business:

Parking Lot repairs - Alan Ellis reported that he has been calling the company, no update.

Bathroom remodeling - Alan Ellis reported that he has been calling the company, no update.

New Business:

Recent vandalism at church - the guy called the church office and meet with President Mike Winter. He apologized and paid \$100 for the damage of the church.

Authorizing Mission Investment Fund electronic services - Motion by Mike Loos to approve Rick Stone and Richard Reed for online administrators, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried. Motion by Alan Ellis to approve Richard Reed to be enrollment officer, seconded by Al Martens. Motion carried.

Next meeting is November 15 with Al Martens doing devotions.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:37pm by Chris Reed, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.



**Help Us "Spruce"
Up the Church!**

*Join us for the
Hanging of the Greens!
We will be "decking the halls"
and having lunch on
November 28th!*

EPHESIANS 3:19 CEV
I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

July 24-28 | Minneapolis, MN

gathering@elca.org 888-411-3522 elca.org/gathering

MYLE
MULTICULTURAL
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
EVENT OF THE ELCA



PRE-GATHERING EVENTS
JULY 21-24



the tAble
AN ELCA GATHERING
OF YOUTH
WITH DISABILITIES

fb.com/youthgathering [@elcagathering](https://twitter.com/elcagathering)



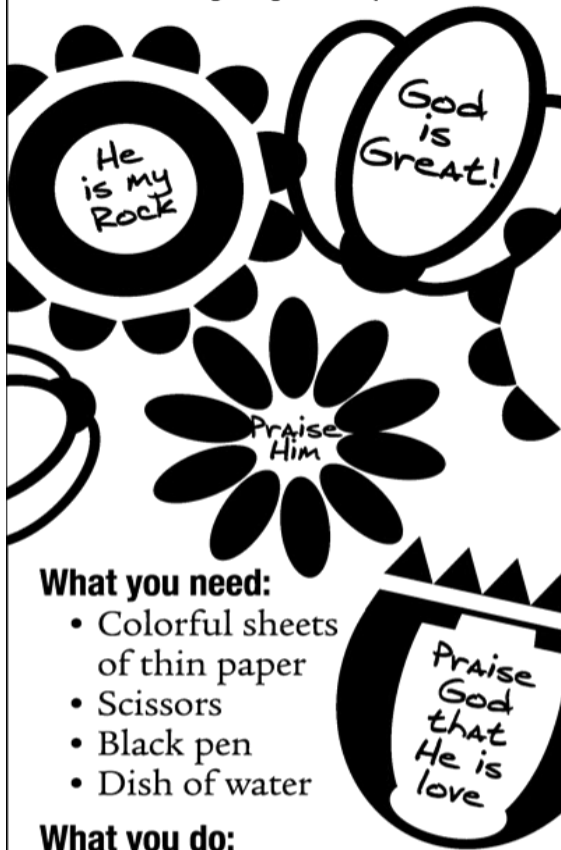
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

#ELCAYG2022

If you have a high school youth that would like to attend and have not already let us know, please contact Stephen Lewis at youth@emanuelcb.org. We would like to register by November 14th to get the earlier bird discount.

PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display of God's provision for a Thanksgiving centerpiece.



What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

What you do:

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.

Thanksgiving Baskets

BY LINDA STEENSLAND

This year we will again have the families come to Emanuel on Sunday, November 21 to receive their basket. Baskets will include a turkey and all the fixings for a dinner, a devotion, napkins, and an invitation to attend our church.

The money will go toward turkeys, potatoes, pumpkin pie, whipped cream, rolls, and butter.



Also, donations can be brought to the church the first two Sundays in November, and can be green beans, cream of mushroom soup, fruit, jello, pudding, juice, onion rings, sweet potatoes, turkey bags, relishes, and any items you would use for your own dinner.

Questions? Contact Linda Steensland



National Adoption Month



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

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

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

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Giving Back to Their Community

Amber and Donald had always felt called to provide foster care. But any time they would consider taking the leap and starting the process, the thought of “what if?” would leave them feeling stuck. Now, Amber can’t imagine life without the children her family has cared for over the years.

Amber and Donald became licensed to provide foster care and adopt children almost seven years ago. Since then, they have provided foster care for 17 Iowa children and adopted six. Amber says one of her favorite parts of the experience is seeing her adult children bond with each child who enters their home.

“It’s crazy to see our 25-year-old so bonded with our two-year-old. We don’t label the kids as

‘adoptive’ or ‘biological’, they’re just all our kids,” Amber says. “That bond is just as huge whether it’s biological or not.”

As Iowa continues to see a need for more foster and adoptive families, Amber says becoming licensed is one way Iowans can give back to their community.

“God gives us all gifts, and parenting and helping in the community seemed to be what He put in our hearts,” Amber says. “If you haven’t found a place to help in your community, consider foster care and adoption,” she says. “It could be exactly what your purpose is.”

Join us Thanksgiving Eve for
a service of thankfulness.
November 24th at 7 p.m.

Happy
Thanksgiving
We are blessed and grateful.

WITH SYMPATHY: We lift up in prayer and offer sympathy to the family of Vern Vuley, who passed away October 20. Vern has been a member of Emanuel for over 58 years.



Blue CHRISTMAS

**Wednesday, December 15th
7 p.m.**

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.



Christmas "Warmth Tree"

BY WIDER MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

It is time to think of the homeless and those in need of warmth-both in feelings and for their bodies.

We will be collecting socks, gloves, mittens, and hats for all ages. New or gently used items are welcome. They can be put on the tree when the church is decorated in December.

These are delivered to homeless shelters, schools, etc.

Thank you!

Attendance & Offering

Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Attendance:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
Oct. 03	51	5	56	\$3,937.86
Oct. 10	44	39	83	\$2,169.00
Oct. 17	55	35	90	\$1,154.00
Oct. 24	46	38	84	N/A

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

September Income:\$5,753.00
 September Expense:.....\$12,731.65
 September Balance.....-\$6,978.65

YTD Income:\$120,038.99
 YTD Expense:\$117,162.68
 YTD Balance\$2,876.31
 Plus Carryover.....\$20,408.34
 General Budget Fund\$23,284.65



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Craft Inn

**Saturday, November 6th
10:00 a.m.**

Bring your crafting projects, your crockpots, and snacks and join us in the Fellowship Hall for a day of fellowship and fun! We will meet the first Saturday of each month.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 7th



Thanksgiving Eve Service

**Wednesday, November 24th
7 p.m.**

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 28th



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/emanuellutherancbia
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the worship center followed by coffee hour. Facemasks are required.
Services are streamed live on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter

Children's Ministry:

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. in the classrooms.

Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson (pastor@emanuelcb.org)
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards (music@emanuelcb.org)
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis (office@emanuelcb.org)
Kidz Kamp/Activities, Stephen Lewis (youth@emanuelcb.org)
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed