Welcome to Emanuel Lutheran Church

Garden of Readin'

Emanuel Newsletter

Happenings at Emanuel!

Tuesday, October 13—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet

Monday, October 12—Ale & the Almighty

Sunday, October 18—Council Meeting & Blood Pressure Checks

Monday, October 19—Newsletter Articles Due

Tuesday, October 20—Book Club Meets in Conference Room

Wednesday, October 21—Dinner Church

Saturday, October 24—Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, October 25—Reformation Sunday

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

Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

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



We celebrated new members Joe & Brandi Luther on Sunday, September 27. Their daughter, Anna, was baptized at Emanuel and we are happy to have them here.

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Growing Emanuel's Story

By Pastor Cara Knutson

I think we all can agree that we love Emanuel and want to see us continue and grow together. Some of us may picture more people in the pews or multiple Sunday School classes, and I think again we can all agree that at times we may get discouraged. We look at larger, thriving congregations and wonder, how could we become like that?

The good news is that God does not ask small churches to become big churches. God asks us to be faithful. And sometimes faithful doesn't automatically lead to growth but becoming more deeply alive. We begin by asking Who Are We? Pr. Melissa Pickering from the synod met with us and asked what gifts does Emanuel have to offer? We listed everything from quilting to Thanksgiving baskets, to blood pressure checks from our own parish nurse. We have such beautiful people with beautiful, caring hearts.

I think we sometimes ask the wrong question. Maybe instead of how do we get more people to come to church the question to ask is what has God uniquely equipped us to do? What gifts has God given us that our neighbors need? What are families struggling with? Where are people lonely? What do older adults need? Where do young adults gather? What could Emanuel do that would genuinely bless Council Bluffs? We don't have to wait for people to come looking for us. We can begin being more faithful by going to where the people already are.

And why does Emanuel Lutheran Church at 2444 N Broadway in Council Bluffs matter? We can share with people our story. We can tell stories of where we've found hope through our congregation. We can tell stories about families we've helped. Members can tell stories about families they've been helped by. We can tell stories about the meals we've shared, the prayers we've offered and the lives we have touched.

Then we can invite people to come and be part of the story. Come worship with us is an invitation. Come be a part of a community where nobody has to face life's hardest moments alone is a vision. People are often looking for meaning, connection, purpose and community. Emanuel has something to say about all of those things. We don't have to be afraid to try something new. Not everything we try will work and that's ok. Not everyone will agree on what we should try, and that's ok too. We'll talk it out and decide together. Jesus didn't call us to come together in a particular way of doing church forever. He called us to make disciples, love our neighbors, and proclaim the good news. Sometimes faithfulness means being willing to experiment.

Remember that growth takes many forms: Emanuel can grow in generosity. We can grow in prayer. We can grow in service. We can grow in compassion. We can grow in its welcome of strangers. We can grow in its ability to share faith with others. We can grow in its willingness to take risks for the sake of the gospel. And yes, sometimes those things lead to more people wanting to join us. Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed–something tiny that grows into something much larger than anyone would expect. Perhaps this is a particularly good image for us. We don't have to be the biggest. We don't have to compete with the church down the road. We don't have to recreate the church of twenty years ago. We simply have to plant the seeds God has placed in our hands. Pray. Welcome. Serve. Listen. Experiment. Tell our story. Love our neighbors. And then trust God with the growth. Paul reminds us, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (I Cor. 3:16). Our job is to plant and water faithfully. God's job is to make things grow.





Mower Replacement: Help Us Cut the Cost of Cutting Grass

Submitted by Rick Stone

Recently, our current mower had the right rear wheel motor go out. Cost to repair would be about $2,000. We have no idea how much longer the mower would continue or even if in a short time the left rear motor would go out.

The proposed riding mower is an XMARK brand which is popular with a number of lawn services. Also, that brand is what many churches use as well as Iowa Western Community College, and Hoy funeral home to name a few.

The mower is a mid-commercial which we need with the size of our area to mow. It also has a 4-year warranty or 500 hours, whichever comes first, warranty. We would qualify for the full 4-year warranty.

Retail price is $7,699. We will receive a $500 discount which XMARK gives to a service person or an honorable discharged veteran who is purchasing the mower.

This is an unexpected expense that was not budgeted in 2026. We would welcome donations from members to help defray some of the cost. We have a few that have already donated a total of $2,000.

Any further questions or comments contact Mark Ellis or Rick Stone.

New Internet & Phones

Submitted by Michaela Lewis

We had had issues with our current internet provider for the last year or so. Slow speeds and interruptions in service. We have had them out several times and they have been unable to resolve the issues.

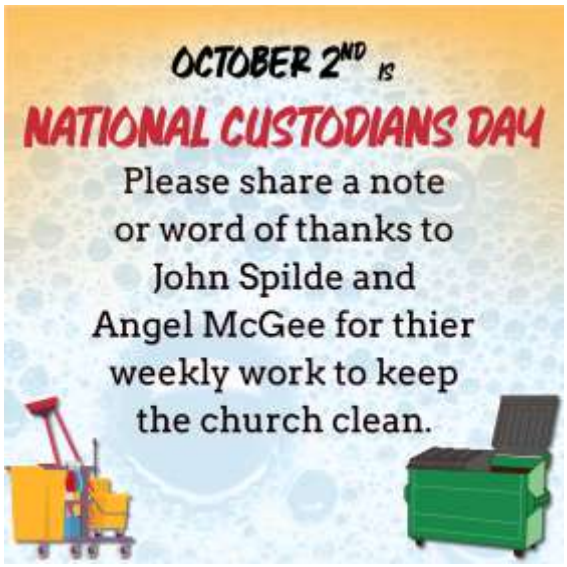
After looking at some other options, we are going to be switching to Great Plains Communications. This should result in higher internet speeds at a lower cost. This will save approximately $50 a month.

This will also include updating the current phone system. This should improve sound quality and also give us caller ID, something that the 20+ year system did not have. The phone in the main office will also be a cordless phone, so if someone needs to use it they don't need to be at the desk.

Along with this, if there is a day when it snows and I need to work from home, there is an app that will allow me to answer calls to the church from my cell phone. It also allows calls to be made using the Church caller ID instead of a cell phone. Rev. Cara will also have this capability for her phone as well.



Oct 4	Ken Kemmish
Oct 11	Mike Winter
Oct 18	Sid Dillon
Oct 25	Chris Nixt





EMANUEL Lutheran Church & Midlands Living Center

ARE TEAMING UP TO HOST A
FUN AFTERNOON FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

TRUNK OR TREAT

CANDY DONATIONS APPRECIATED! ♡

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
DECORATE YOUR CAR AND PASS OUT CANDY! ♡

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

2:00 PM

FRONT PARKING LOTS OF BOTH
MIDLANDS AND EMANUEL
2444 N BROADWAY
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA



IF CANDY IS A BARRIER BETWEEN PARTICIPATING WITH YOUR VEHICLE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO ALEESHIA AT MIDLANDS LIVING CENTER AT 712-323-7135. WE WILL GLADLY SUPPLY CANDY! ♡

FAMILIES ♥ FRIENDS ♥ NEIGHBORS ♥ ALL ARE WELCOME!

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, October 04	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Dan & Judy Heithoff
Lector	Connie Beckman
Altar Guild	Kathy Schneckloth
Communion Assistants	Kevin Epperson & Pat Hiller
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LifeStream Tech	Kathy Schneckloth
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Kathy Schneckloth
Sunday, October 11	**9:30 a.m. Service**
Ushers	Dan & Judy Heithoff
Lector	Connie Beckman
Altar Guild	Kevin Epperson
Communion Assistants	Maja Knutson & Derek Knutson
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Dan & Judy Heithoff
Sunday, October 18	**9:30 a.m. Service**
Ushers	Dan & Judy Heithoff
Acolyte	Katrina Nixt
Lector	Maja Knutson
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Richard Reed & Barb Burns
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Matt & Connie Solon
Sunday, October 25	**9:30 a.m. Service**
Ushers	Dan & Judy Heithoff
Lector	Kevin Epperson
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Pat Hiller
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Richard Reed



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

VIEW OUR DIRECTORY!

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

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



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



Christianbook «GIVEBACK«

Emanuel giveback ID: UDXHMD



Jane Anderson
Bob Bender
Connie Edson
Alan Ellis

Owen Hansen
Sharon Hansen
Norma Heath
Sandy Kanger

Norma Mass
Patty Maxwell
Oscar Over
Abaigh Plummer

Elaine Sasso
Ron Sasso
Ruth Sullivan



October 01
Jessica Gearhart

October 02
Tyler Hansen

October 04
Nick Rickard
Norma Stairs

October 06
Kyle Sorensen

October 09
Lacey Fischer
Nicole Fischer

October 10
Jesse Hansen

October 19
Grace Nixt

October 20
Abbie Ashcraft

October 22
Cynthia Richards

October 25
Hannah Goldapp
John Spilde

October 28
Darlene Reed

October 31
Judith Loos
Danielle Schaal



November 01
Larry Hansen

November 02
Maja Knutson

November 04
Norma Heath
Margaret Tiffey

November 06
Kaden Krauth
Brandi Luther

November 07
Garrett Haats
Hailey Holcombe
Sean Larson

November 08
Nichlos Matuszeski

November 09
Beth Schultz

November 11
Jan Stone

November 14
Haley Holland
Michaela Lewis

November 15
Connie Beckman
William Spangenberg

November 16
Todd Over

November 17
Penny Dahlke
Clare Plummer
Paul Schwartz

November 18
Matt Clark

Alexxia Richards

November 19
David Fietz

November 21
Grace Hansen
Jessica Hipnar
Ruth Sullivan

November 22
Barry Larson

November 23
Joel Parker

November 24
Lauren Hansen

November 26
Aaralynn Conley
Carolyn Grieder
Char Les Kemmish

November 27
Gary Pleas

November 28
Nikki Rickard

November 29
Brayden Hansen
Steve Plummer

November 30
Mike Hipnar

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



October 06
Larry & Andrea Britton

October 07
Adam & Autumn Tanner

October 16
Thomas & Beth Lewis

October 17
Jerry & Debra Ebsen

October 20
Jenna & Jamie Ricks-Ashley
Ian & Rachel Spangenberg

October 27
Keven & Deborah Ferguson



November 03
Nick & Amy Steensland-Rickard

November 05
Dick & Judy Borwick

November 07
Jeffrey & Teresa Fischer

November 09
Mike & Emily Burns

November 22
Oscar & Deann Over

November 23
Arlen & Kathy Ellis

Community Resources

If you or someone you know are in need of assistance, below are some of the resources in our community.

Inter-Faith Response Inc. - Offers prescriptions and eye care, bus tickets, food pantry, rent assistance to prevent eviction and utilities and heating assistance to prevent shut-offs of utility or energy services. Council Bluffs Iowa. (712) 322-0531

Salvation Army - The non-profit will refer clients to basic needs, such as shelter or a free meal for the low income. While it will vary, in some cases there may be grants for needs such as rent or heating bills, however any financial support is very limited. (712) 328-2088.

American Red Cross - Helps during an emergency and sometimes has financial assistance available. (712) 322-4017

Pottawattamie Country Homeless Link - Provides outreach, referrals and services to homeless and near-homeless individuals in the Council Bluffs area. One-time financial assistance, Short- Term Transitional Housing, and material donations are also available. (712) 309-0016

Pottawattamie County General Relief - The government agency will support residents of the county only. All applicants need to meet all qualifications in place. Among the programs provided are rental or utility bill assistance. (712) 328-5867

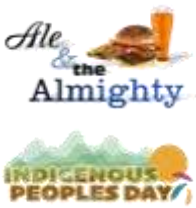
Our Savior's Lutheran Food and Pet Food Pantry
Open every Thursday (except holidays) and the fourth Friday of the month. Call (712) 322-6655 for an appointment two hours before pantry starts. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 600 Bluff Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Friendship Pantry - Open the second Saturday of the month from 1 pm to 4 pm, First Church of the Nazarene, 2616 Avenue A, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Offers non-food pantry items such as laundry detergent, toilet paper, dish soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo and soap.

There are many other great organizations in our area that help with various needs, but newsletter space is limited. We do have these all listed on our website as well. Please contact us if there is an organization that you think should be added to the list!

OCTOBER

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 10 am Grant Playing Golf for AL at Dodge Riverside	**2** *Office Closed* National Custodians Day	**3**
4 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**5** 10 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands	**6** 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East) 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**7** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**8** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**9** *Office Closed* 7 pm Mason Playing with Band at Football Game Rev. Cara out of office	**10** 12:45 am Mason Performing with TJ Band at Loess Hills Field Fest in Glenwood
11 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School (Rev. Stephany Sanborn) 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**12** 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	**13** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club 	**14** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**15** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Garrett & Grant Have XC Meet at Wispering Woods	**16** *Office Closed*	**17** TBD Mason Performing with TJ Band at Two Band Festivals 2 pm Anna has piano recital at Broadway United Methodist Church
18 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 10:45 am Council Meeting 	**19** 10 am Tai Chi Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 pm Music with Lori Lynn at Library 	**20** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**21** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 pm Dinner Church 	**22** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**23** *Office Closed* 7 pm Mason Playing with Band at Football Game	**24** 2 pm–4 pm Truck or Treat
25 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	**26** 10 am Tai Chi Rev. Cara out of office	**27** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**28** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**29** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**30** *Office Closed*	**31** 

NOVEMBER

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	**2** *Office Closed* 10 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands	**3** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 	**4** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**5** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**6** *Office Closed*	**7** 11 am Veterans Day Parade
8 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**9** *Office Closed* 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	**10** 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East) 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**11** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**12** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi Rev. Cara at Training	**13** *Office Closed*	**14**
15 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School& Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 10:45 am Church Council Meeting 	**16** 10 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Music with Lori Lynn at Library  Rev. Cara out of office	**17** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club in Conference Room 	**18** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**19** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**20** *Office Closed*	**21**
22 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**23** Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Tai Chi	**24** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6 pm Pizza & Hanging of the Greens 	**25** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**26** *Office Closed* 	**27** *Office Closed*	**28**
29 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**30** 10 am Tai Chi					

LUNCH & LEARN AT BETHANY HEIGHTS

Empowering Your Future with Knowledge & Care



Date: October 7, 2026
Time: 12PM - 1PM
Location:
Bethany Heights
Assisted Living
11 Elliott St
Council Bluffs, IA

Bonus:
All attendees receive a complimentary lunch and a free resource packet!

RSVP by: October 5, 2026
Call: 712-328-8228
Email: activitiesbh@blhs.care

Join us as Mikala Smith, Clinical Manager with Care Initiatives Hospice presents on:

Hospice 101: Understanding the Benefits of Earlier Admission

Discussing the basics of hospice care and how it can support individuals and their families during a difficult time. Learn what hospice really means, who can benefit from hospice services, what support is available, and why considering hospice earlier can provide meaningful benefits for both patients and their loved ones.

BETHANY
Lutheran Health Services
Bethany Lutheran Home: 712.328.9500
Bethany Heights Assisted Living: 712.328.8228

Care Initiatives Hospice

BETHANY
Lutheran Health Services



CLEAN UP DAY

Join Us for Clean Up Day! Let's make our community sparkle—volunteer and make a difference. Lunch Provided!

10.03.2026

9:30AM - 12:00PM

BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME
7 ELLIOTT ST. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

BETHANY HEIGHTS ASSISTED LIVING
11 ELLIOTT ST. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA

BETHANY
Lutheran Health Services

HALLOWEEN

Trick or Treat



Bethany Lutheran Home
7 Elliott St. Council Bluffs, IA

Bethany Heights Assisted Living
11 Elliott St. Council Bluffs, IA

Join our band



...wait, not THAT one...

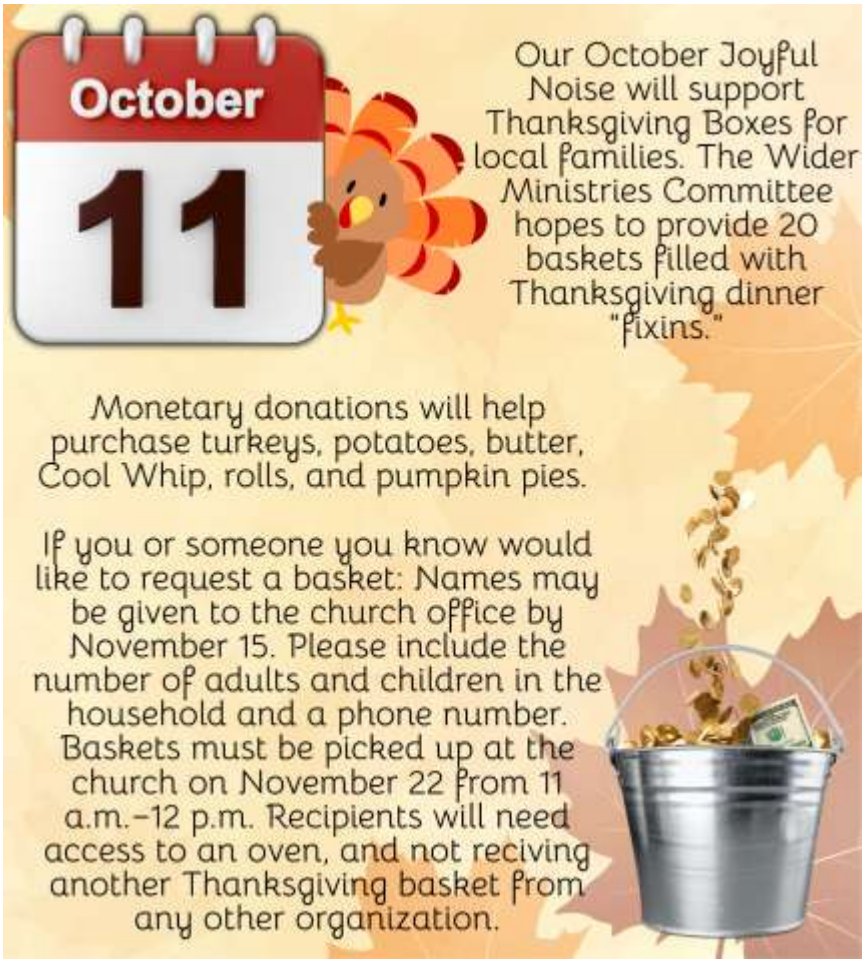
...although if you want to play music, we would love to have you play...please have a chat with Cindy!

The Band app is a central hub for staying informed. You can adjust notification settings, chat with other members, share prayer requests with the prayer chain, view upcoming events, see church calendar, receive announcements and more!



SCAN ME!





Attendance & OFFERINGS

Services	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Weekly Offerings:
Sunday, August 02, 2026	40	N/A	40	$2,135.00
Sunday, August 09, 2026	31	6	37	$604.60
Sunday, August 16, 2026	38	20	64	$565.00
Wednesday, August 19, 2026	6	N/A		
Sunday, August 23, 2028	44	23	67	$12,985.00
Sunday, August 30, 2028	36	11	47	$3,315.00

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

August Income: $19,604.61
August Expense: $13,961.24
August Balance $5,956.44

YTD Income: $115,133.49
YTD Expense:..... (-$125,283.81)
YTD Balance..... (-$10,150.32)
Plus Carryover ..... (-$5,564.00)
General Budget Fund..... (-$15,714.37)

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith
Vision Statement: To Grow in Faith, Love, and Spirit

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

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

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

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

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