

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2021

Happenings!

Due to COVID 19 the church building remains closed for most activities except for Sunday mornings for worship and activities approved by the Church Council. If you do not feel comfortable coming to worship in person, please connect with us virtually via Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube channel.

Sunday, February 7—Worship

Sunday, February 14—Worship with Joyful Noise Offering

Wednesday, February 17—Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 19—Volunteers meet at OSL Food Pantry

Sunday, February 21—Worship

Wednesday, February 17—Lenten Worship

Sunday, February 28—Worship

Mission Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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

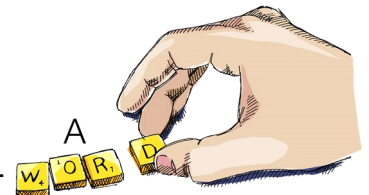


In This Issue...

A Post from the Pastor	2
In Our Thoughts & Prayers.....	2
Online Directory	3
Bethany Update	3
Lutheran Services in Iowa	3
Online Sunday School.....	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
ELC Event Calendar.....	5
Church Council Notes	6
Music Ministries.....	7
Finance Team Update.....	7
Offering & Attendance	7

A Post from the Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



I don't know about you but this part of the winter is the most bleary for me. The holiday festivities are over, the decorations all packed away, and spring seems so far away. It seems to also be the season of winter storms, delighting children when school is called off and making the roads that much more difficult to drive on. Everyone has to remember how to drive on slick and icy roads and once in awhile we get stuck.

As we look to the news we hear of a vaccine, and we wait for our turn which seems an eternity. This pandemic has gone on for so long; we're tired and weary and long for a return to the familiar and comfortable only to hear we've arrived at a new normal and social distancing and masks will be a part of our lives for some time yet. We may feel stuck in a rut—what we thought would be a sprint has turned into a marathon and we wonder how much longer we'll have to go on like this.

I'm very privileged to have the flexibility to work from home and living so close to my work that if need be I can sled across. ☺ During the snowday the synod was still able to gather for a Zoom meeting with the bishop. She reminded us of those who aren't so fortunate. Those for whom their work and safety and protections have been swallowed up by this pandemic. And the situation will only grow worse. Food insecurity is rising; and needs swell all around us.

This is one of those times where we cling to the promise that Christ is with us—even in the bleariest, impossible seeming chapters in our lives. While we've never been promised a life of ease and bliss; in Christ we claim as our birthright membership in God's family and kingdom. And while we as human beings are limited in our capacities—the God we know, love, and serve is powerful beyond our comprehension and invites us to roll up our sleeves and take part in the work of salvation in this very time and place.

I'd like us all to think about where are we hungry? What is it that we most desire that seems just beyond our fingertips? And is there a creative way we can work together to meet that craving? Where in our neighborhoods do we find people who simply don't have enough of anything—and can we find a way to extend a hand in God's love? Can we find some creative ways to finance these endeavors? I just learned today money is available in the forms of grants and business tax writeoffs for community development. Perhaps this could be an avenue worth exploring.

And I don't know about you—but when I'm feeling down this time of year and see all the uncertainty of times like these, I feel better when I can be looking for ways to take action and do something—not to earn praise or pats on the back but because I've been made free by the grace of God and gifted with talents I'm not meant to squander.

Will you join me in looking for ways to be a blessing to others? We look to Scripture and find simple instruction—if you have two coats give away one. Perhaps this can be a call to clean out closets and donate our surplus to those who need it. Derek's feet grow so fast we've come across three different pairs of snowboots that have barely been worn that we've been able to donate. I don't like to think of a child with cold feet when we have extra we can share. We share our joys and concerns with one another and commit to pray for each other. People step up when someone needs help with rides to appointments or help in grocery shopping.

Even in these small simple ways we can share God's love and care for our world. That's one small step for us and one giant leap of God's presence and grace in the world around us.

In Christ's Service,
Pr. Cara Knutson



Esther Bender
Robert Hesseltine
Bob Vergamini

Deloris Christensen
Norma Mass

Paul Heath
Daralene Smith

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you 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.

Visits at Bethany

We have GOOD NEWS! The Nursing Home side of Bethany Lutheran Health Services is resuming visits. We have opened up the vestibule area for visits so they will be inside the doorway area, however this does not mean our building is open. Please read below for the information:

1. Two guests allowed at each visit.
2. Only one visit per week per resident.
3. Take out food is not allowed (even though it's good!)
4. You may bring things, but please note that items will be kept in quarantine for 72 hours prior to the resident keeping the item.
5. All visits must be scheduled (call 712-328-9500 to schedule your visit)
6. Visits are no more than 15 minutes at a time.
7. Visiting times run between 8am-11am and 1:00pm-4:00pm no weekend visits at this time.
8. Masks must be worn at all times during visits and can not be cloth. Surgical masks are ok.
9. The building is not open so please be sure to use the restroom prior to your visit.

We are so excited to have you all come and visit your loved ones!

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19



Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065. -____

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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.



Join us each Sunday for a Sunday School lesson for kids and those who are young at heart!

Emanuel Sunday School videos post to our youtube channel and the Sunday School Facebook Page each Sunday.

www.facebook.com/EmanuelCBChildren

February 2021 -- Birthdays Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Christina Matuszeski			Sid & Judy Dillon	Rita Epperson
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES						
7 Mike Todd	8 Angel McGee	9 Marci Boruff Jane Meyer	10 Kelsey Carrier Julie Holland	11 Logan Wilson	12	13 Carla Hipnar Bettemae Janssen Ernie Techau
14 Amy Garreans	15 Richard & Arlene Betts	16	17 Dennis Beckman Joshua Hubbard	18 Amy & Mike Garreans	19 Taylor Edson Brad & Penny Dahlke	20 Esther Bender
21 LaWayne Andersen Amy Steensland- Rickard	22 Leo Gurnicz Ashley Hipnar	23	24 Jason Carrier Shawn Gallagher Megan Sorensen	25	26	27 Jane Anderson Brett Epperson
28 Matthew & Connie Solon	Bob Otto (Leap year birthday, Feb 29)					

February 2021 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion	1 11 am Tai Chi	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	3 9	4 9:30 am Bible Study in Conference Room 11 am Tai Chi	5	6
7 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion	8 11 am Tai Chi	9 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	10	11 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 7 pm Band Practice	12	13
14 Joyful Noise 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion Girls Scout Cookie sale in Narthex after Worship 	15 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting 	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	17 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service 	18 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Band Practice	19 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's 	20
21 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion	22 11 am Tai Chi	23 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	24 7 pm Lenten Service with Holden Evening Prayer LENT	25 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Band Practice	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion	1 11 am Tai Chi	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	3 7 pm Lenten Service with Holden Evening Prayer LENT	4 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Band Practice	5	9



Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for 01/18/2021

RECORDED BY ROSIE SPANGENBERG

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

Members absent: Joel Hauschild, Jane Anderson, Stephen Lewis

Guests: Rick Stone, Connie Solon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Mike Winter. Char Les Kemmish gave devotions.

Secretary's minutes from the December meeting: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Char Les Kemmish. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by Greg Steensland, seconded by Alan Ellis. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Greg Steensland, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried.

Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by John Spilde, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried after some discussion.

Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Alan Ellis, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried after some discussion.

Committee reports: Finance committee members Rick Stone, Connie Solon, and Matt Solon gave a recap of 2020 finances. This report will be given to the congregation at the Annual meeting January 24th. They thanked the congregation for their continued support during this difficult year. They then presented a proposal to transfer some funds listed on the Consolidated Funds Report as they do every year. Greg Steensland made a motion to approve the proposal. Alan Ellis seconded. Motion carried. The committee members then presented the proposed budget of \$160,984 for 2021. John Spilde made a motion to approve, Nick Rickard seconded. Motion carried. The committee will present the budget to the congregation at the annual meeting January 24th for approval. The Council thanked the finance committee for their hard work during the year and in putting the new budget together.

Pastor Cara gave her monthly written report. She highlighted that the dates for Synod Assembly are April 9-10. This will be held remotely this year at a cost of \$110 per person if registered by

March 15th. Emanuel would like one other person to take part in this along with the pastor. She also highlighted the 2020 Sunday School program of Lessons and Carols held on Dec. 20, thanking all those involved, especially Steve and Michaela Lewis and Cindy Richards.

Old Business:

- Rosie Spangenberg presented a proposal from the Worship and Music committee to purchase a used three-octave set of handbells including cases, 7 4x4 tables with foam and coverings, music binders, mallets, toolkit, polish, and cloths from Epworth Methodist Church. The proposal noted that purchasing this equipment new would cost around \$12,000 to \$13,000. Emanuel has been renting a set of handbells, which now need to be returned. With the restrictions in music brought about by the pandemic, the handbells have been a welcome addition to worship services. Nick Rickard made a motion to approve the purchase for \$4500, using funds from the Elizabeth Miller estate, as discussed at previous Council meetings. Char Les Kemmish seconded it. Motion carried.
- Plans for the annual meeting to be held on January 24th were outlined.

New Business:

- President Mike Winter received a request from the Girl Scouts to allow them to set up a table to sell cookies at church on February 14 and March 21. Greg Steensland made a motion to allow this with a maximum of three sellers. Alan Ellis seconded it. Motion carried.
- President Winter presented a request from the Boy Scouts to hold a drive up pancake breakfast at church on Saturday, March 13, from 9-11 a.m. John Spilde made a motion to approve this request, which includes using the church kitchen. Char Les Kemmish seconded it. Motion carried.
- Next meeting is January 24 immediately after the annual meeting to elect new officers. The February meeting is set for February 15, with Mike Winter doing devotions.
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Loos, seconded by Nick Rickard. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Winter at 8:09 p.m.

Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



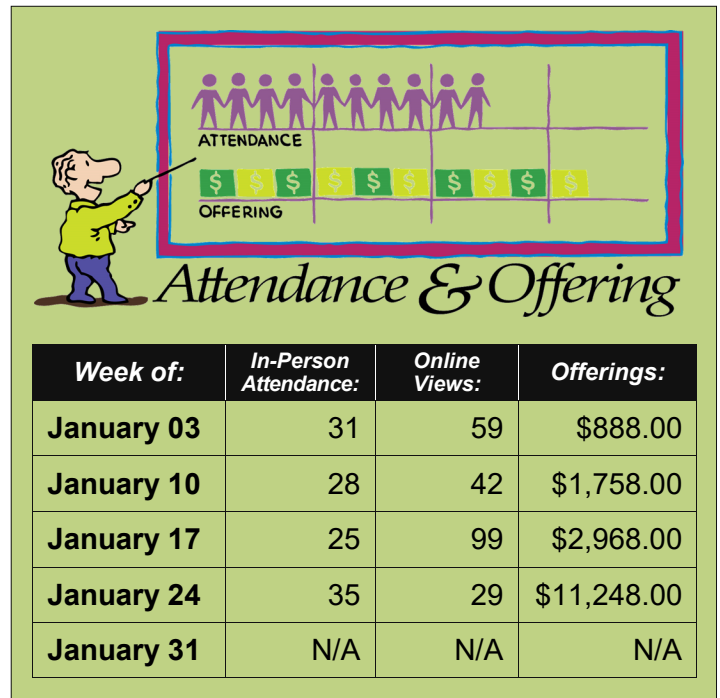
February is considered the “love” month. Seems kind of funny that we only celebrate love one day a year. Shouldn’t it be 365 days a year? There are so many kinds of love that I’m sure we can fill all our days celebrating love.

He seems far away. We need those heart songs, those love songs from God. Often, we hear them when we need them most. But sometimes, we need to be actively searching for them, so we can have that comfort they deliver.

In music, there are many ways that love is portrayed. Sometimes I listen to the oldies station. Other times, it’s the classical station. Each song I hear brings back memories. That is what music does. It creates an emotion tied to memories. It takes us back to emotions we had when we listened to those songs before. Even in church we have those songs. They tug at our emotions, bringing us back to a time when God’s presence was very evident in our lives. Sometimes we need them because

Amazing Grace. Beautiful Savior. Jesus Loves Me. This is My Father’s World. Just as I Am. On Eagles Wings. What a Friend We Have in Jesus. Here I Am, Lord. What are your comfort songs? Your love songs from God?

The stress of the last year has left us all yearning for something more “normal”. God’s comfort songs to us are so healing, so cathartic. Wrap yourself in a blanket of God’s love songs.



Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

December Income:\$11,813.88
December Expense:.....\$12,770.27
December Balance.....-\$956.39

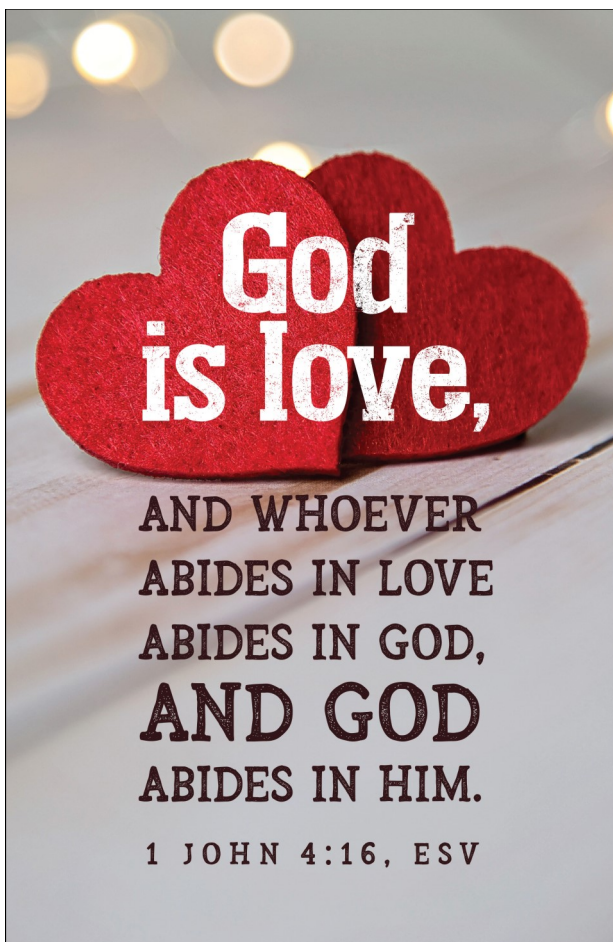
YTD Income:\$158,779.45
YTD Expense:\$153,691.94
YTD Balance\$5,087.51
Plus Carryover.....\$16,983.29
General Budget Fund\$22,070.80



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

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the worship center.
Virtual Services live on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter

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