



The Garden of Readin'

January, 2015

Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N. Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
(712)323-9665

emanuellutherancbia@msn.com
www.lutheransonline.com/emanuelcbia

Director of Music Ministries: Cindy Richards
Youth Ministries: Deann Over
Children's Ministries: Michaela Lewis
Parish Assistant: Brenda Hennigs

www.facebook.com/emanuel.elca.cbica

Happenings!



Emanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday January 25th at 10:45am. We will have only one worship service that day at 9:30am. Please make note of this special date and be sure to attend the annual meeting!

Immediately following the Annual meeting Pastor Lowell will hold a training session for anyone who is interested in helping to run the visual screens during worship services. Be sure to be there! In addition, the Youth Group will be hosting a luncheon following the Annual Meeting!

If you have not yet sent your 2015 Pledge card into the church, you still can! 2015 pledges are still being gathered. Knowing the estimate of giving for each family makes planning for mission and ministry easier for the staff and volunteers at Emanuel! Thank you for your generosity!



JOIN US

New Year's Eve!

Football Tournament
Board Games
Friends
Food

BRING FAMILY, FRIENDS, A DISH TO SHARE AND A NON-PARISHABLE ITEM FOR THE FOOD BANK.

6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2444 N. BROADWAY, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA



During the Christmas season our sanctuary was adorned by beautiful poinsettias that were generously purchased by the following individuals.

Donated by:	In Honor of:	In Memory of:
David Appel		Eileen
Mildred Rogers		Husband Jim Rogers & Son Steven Jewell
Irv & Norma Mass	Our 4 children & Great Grandson, Cody who is in the US Calvary	
Melvin & Kaye Bird		Daughter Terri and Son Fred
Marjorie Powell (2)	My mother, Hazel Schnieder	
Brad & Penny Dahlke		
Al & Linda Martens (2)		
Oscar & Deann Over		
Chris Reed (2)		
Dan & Judy Heithoff (2)		Our parents Jim Robinson and Bob & Donna Heithoff
Barb & John Burns (2)		Barb's dad Bob Kalton & John's parents Millard & Irene Burns
Larry & Sharon Hansen		All our loved ones who have passed
Jim & Phyllis Fowler		Our grandson Cory
Rick & Jan Stone		Michael Stone
Rosie Spangenberg	Maxima Spangenberg's baptism	
Elaine Sasso		Almond & Elizabeth Orsian
Ruth Sullivan		Jack, Mike, & Randy Sullivan
Steensland Family		
John Spilde		
Angel McGee		Dorothy & Herman Larson
Richard & Darlene Reed		
Steve, Michaela & Mason Lewis		K.C. Johnson Jr.
Suzanne & Mike Winter		
Norma Heath		My loved ones
Laverne Buley		Carol H Buley
Jim & LaWayne Andersen		

Thank you to all who purchased a poinsettia to adorn the worship center!

Periodic Pastoral Ponderings (from a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

*“For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.”*
Psalm 96:5-9

Dear friends in Christ,

On January 18th, we will host our annual Emanuel Lutheran Church Arts Festival. **Beauty** is a critical part of our life as Jesus followers. It is, unfortunately, a part of our discipleship that is too often ignored. Psalm 96 captures some of that necessary beauty. I like, however, how it is worded in another translation: “*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*”

I hope that you are preparing something to share on January 18th. It may be singing or playing an instrument. It may be a poem or a painting. It may be a short story or an essay. Perhaps you will bring a gorgeous quilt or a delicious pie or a stunning banner. I am bringing some of my model train constructions (built at 1:160 scale). Maybe you also are a model hobbyist! You might bring some furniture you have built or refinished or a clock you have repaired or a chair you have repurposed. We will display your offerings in our sanctuary and fellowship hall. We will include your gifts in our worship services in what way is most appropriate.

My favorite biblical historian, N. T. Wright, speaks often and at length about the necessity of beauty in our worship life. In his book *Surprised by Hope*, “To make sense of and celebrate a beautiful world through the production of artifacts that are themselves beautiful is part of the call to be stewards of creation...Genuine art is thus itself a response to the beauty of creation, which is itself a pointer to the beauty of God” (page 223).

There it is! We live in a drab, functional, utilitarian culture. Art has been reduced to politics and pornography. It tends to appeal to the lowest in our natures rather than to the highest parts of ourselves. For Jesus followers, art is not for art’s sake. It is for God’s sake. That does not mean that all art has to be somehow “religious.” Instead it means that we need beauty in our lives to draw us beyond ourselves. And when we are drawn beyond ourselves, we are more likely to encounter God.

Wright gives us the perspective for real beauty in the life of the Church. “When art comes to terms with *both* the wounds of the world *and* the promise of resurrection and learns how to express and respond to both at once, we will be on the way to a fresh vision, a fresh mission” (page 224).

So bring your artistic gifts and share them with your church family here. And don’t protest that you have no gifts! That is simply a failure of your imagination. For example, one of the most beautiful creations I have seen is the work of a friend who ties fishing flies as a hobby. These lures are designed to attract and hook the Big Fish. And in the process, they are exquisite little sculptures of wire and feathers, of beads and thread. They are works of art.

So continue to prepare your offerings for our Arts Festival. Let us spend a morning truly worshiping God in the beauty of holiness.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Our Church Family

In Our Prayers...



Ray Kanger
Joyce Miller
Elizabeth Britton

Elton & Daphne Miller
Lucille Weatherill

Glen Fahrenkrug
Leona Carlson

Happy Birthday to...

January 2	Bob Bender	January 13	Brennan Plummer	January 25	Elizabeth Britton
	Annalise-Marie Davis		Alice Smith	January 27	Hanna Ferguson
January 7	Tara McSorley	January 15	Alce Croson	January 28	Tim Clark
	Daniel Solon	January 19	Jerry Ebsen	January 30	Madison Nickels
January 8	April Reedy		Brenda Hennigs	January 31	Teena Mosel
January 9	Noah Conley	January 20	Chris Reed		
January 10	Clayton Juhl	January 21	Kara Nickels		
January 12	Linda Martens	January 22	Ava Jarrell		

Anniversaries

January 10 Irvin & Norma Mass

*If we've missed a birthday or
anniversary please let the church office know!*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

If you have been unable to return a pledge card for 2015, you can still do that! You can place your pledge in the offering at an upcoming Sunday, or you may also mail it in to the church office if you'd rather. If you need another pledge card, simply call the church office and we will mail it to you. **Please remember to sign your name to your pledge card.**

Recently Emanuel has set up a Securities Brokerage Account with TD Ameritrade to receive appreciated securities that members want to give to Emanuel. If you would like to give securities to Emanuel, please contact Oscar Over (712-322-5075) or Brenda at the church (712-323-9665)

Also, some may not know you can have your pledge automatically withdrawn from your bank account through a program called Simply Giving through Thrivent. If that appeals to you, please contact Richard Reed (712-366-4853) or Brenda at the church.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS

If you would like to write one or more devotions for our congregation's Lenten devotional booklet, please talk to Pastor Hennigs as soon as possible. Each devotion should be no more than 400 words. We will base our devotions on one of the readings from the Daily Lectionary in the ELW. You can find those readings on pages 1134-1135 in our hymnal. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who would like to write.

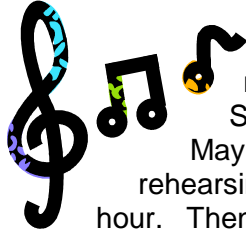
The devotions need to be in Pastor Hennigs' possession by **January 15th** if we are to have a devotional booklet for Ash Wednesday. It would be most efficient if you could produce the devotions in Microsoft Word format and then email them to Pastor Hennigs.

BELL CHOIR OF EMANUEL

Cindy Richards and Elaine Sasso will lead our Bell Choir! All youth ages 7 and older are invited to participate. Adults are also welcome to participate! The Bell Choir will start up again Sunday January 11th and meets Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the lower level Sunday School rooms. The choir will share during worship sometime in February. Come and be part of the fun!



Children's Music!

 Cindy Richards will continue lead our young people in rehearsal and singing the first Sunday in Feb, Mar, Apr and May. She will spend time with them rehearsing during the Sunday School hour. Then the young people will sing on that Sunday as part of our 11:00 worship services.

Talents Abound!

Emanuel is blessed with so many talented people! On January 18, we want to celebrate those talents with the **2015 Arts Festival**. During the services, we will share in the visual talents (painting, sculpture, photography, arts and crafts, and flower arranging, to name a few) while we are treated to some culinary arts from Emanuel's many cooks and bakers. We will also be entertained by music, dancing, and poetry. The possibilities are endless! Signup sheets are available at the ushers stand in the lobby!

WIDER MINISTRY NEWS

Lutheran Family Service Christmas Bags

We were able to pack 56 bags for the young children, plus extra items that we put in a larger bag to be used as needed. We also have some money which we plan to use on coats as they go on sale. Thanks so much for taking part. Wider Ministries Committee.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Sunday January 25th will be the date for our Annual Congregational meeting! Be sure to attend worship at 9:30 that day and stick around after worship for the annual meeting! Following the meeting our Youth will be hosting a luncheon fundraiser! The youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2015 will be serving lunch! Watch the announcements for additional information!

ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

The Thursday morning adult study will begin a new topic on January 29th. The focus will be on the Old Testament book of Jonah. The title of the study will be "More than a Fish Story!" Bring your Bible, your sense of humor and your curiosity. All are welcome!

Sunday Evening women's book study will continue to meet into the new year and will soon be reading and discussing a book written by Barbara Brown Taylor titled "Learning to Walk in the Dark" Join us Sunday evenings at 6:30pm for lively conversation, good laughs and lots of learning!

TRANSITION TEAM NEWS

Watch for a report from the Transition Team at the ELC Annual meeting on January 25th. Thanks for your feedback through the Cottage Meetings and the individual appreciative interviews!

WELCA NEWS

Upcoming Dates for WELCA:

- February 22, 2015: Bold Women event at Our Saviors Lutheran in Council Bluffs IA
- May 29-30, 2015: Western Iowa Synod Convention in Spencer IA
- June 19-20, 2015: Tri-Synod Women's Convention in Fort Dodge IA
- July 2017: 10th Triennial gathering of the ELCA in Minneapolis MN

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE NEWS

Remember when...

1911 - The Board of Trustees appointed Rev. Glad to inquire the advisability of installing an oil heater in the furnace of church basement, such as was demonstrated during serving of meals by our ladies on South Main Street. It was further decided to reduce the janitor fee to \$5.00 per month for the winter season (apparently because oil was cleaner than coal).

In 1913 Riley Nelson was hired as janitor for the winter months only @ \$6.50 per month. In 1920 that fee went up to \$50 per year.

Fast forward to 1963. The Alter Committee ladies want a ladder so the cross at the altar can be cleaned. It was decided, rather than have the ladies climbing ladders; the Committeemen Johnson & Heath will polish & clean the cross.

If you have remembrances you would like to share please contact a committee member or Connie Solon (712-328-2936) or Brenda in the office.

Bethany Lutheran Home News

Bethany Lutheran Home Annual Meeting

January 11th-The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Home will be held on Sunday, January 11th at 2:00 p.m. in the Skyrise Dining Room (Upper Dining Room) at Bethany, 7 Elliott Street. All Sponsoring Congregation Delegates are encouraged to attend. Visitors are also welcome. The meeting will include various department reports, financial report and election of Board Members for 2014. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Teresa Koch at Bethany Lutheran Home 712-328-9500.

Bethany Auxiliary Meeting- The Quarterly meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on Monday, January 12th at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will include the installation of officers as well as discussion of upcoming projects. For more information, please contact your church key lady or Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451.

Bethany Christmas Store Thank You-The 4th Annual Bethany Christmas Store was a huge success thanks to many donated items and the support of our congregations and Bethany Auxiliary. The Residents and Tenants enjoyed many days of shopping for family members and a chance to reminisce about days gone by. The Christmas Store was a meaningful highlight for Residents, Tenants and Staff and an opportunity to remember the reason for this season. Thank you for your generosity in making this event a time to remember.



National Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month, a time to celebrate mentors and the positive effect they can have on young lives. LSI is blessed to have great volunteer mentors from the community who are investing their time in the children and youth at our Beloit and Bremwood campuses. Thank you to these dedicated individuals! If you are interested in becoming a mentor, visit www.LSIowa.org/volunteer. Or, find a mentoring program in your local area. All it takes is your time, friendship and sharing yourself and your interests to make a difference as a youth mentor!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

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“Your church brought so much joy to prisoners’ children in your community. Nationwide, Angel Tree was able to share gifts and the Gospel with hundreds of thousands of children who were missing their parents this Christmas! Thank you for being the “hand in between” a child and their prisoner-parent, reminding their children that they love them despite the distance between them. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in sharing Christ’s love with prisoners and their children in the future!” This is a portion of a thank you letter sent to ELC from Jim Liske, President & CEO of Angel Tree Ministries.

With Special Thanks

Pastor Lowell and Brenda want to thank all of you for the beautiful cards, the special gift of a stay in Kansas City, the gifts, the treats, the good wishes and the kind words they received during the Christmas holidays. They are honored to be part of this church family and feel deeply loved and valued.

Edna Morgan sends a thanks – “For everything you’ve done...” to help her celebrate her 90th year!

Kanesville Therapy deeply appreciated all you have done for community families in need...through Thanksgiving baskets, clothing, toys, blankets, food, and gas vouchers for countless families!

From The Phoenix House – Thank you so much for your continued support of the Phoenix House. The blankets, the Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, coats, ets Wow! The women and children staying with us benefit from your generosity. Thank you for helping them in their journey.

Did you know that just by shopping online, you can donate to the Western Iowa Synod. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase (of eligible items) to the Western Iowa Synod. It's easy to do - go to smile.amazon.com and sign in to your Amazon account (or create one if you haven't shopped with Amazon before) and Amazon will ask you to choose your charity. Type Western Iowa Synod in to the search bar and it will bring up Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Click on that and you're set.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

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

January Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen	Kevin & Rita Epperson
January 4	8:30 a.m. Communion	11:00 a.m. Communion
Acolyte	Kylie Hansen	Andrew Hubbard
Lector	Loren Carrier	Mike Winter
Children's Sermon	Brenda Hennigs	NONE
Communion Assistant	OPEN	OPEN
Communion Set-Up	Matt & Connie Solon	Carol Fahrenkrug
January 11	8:30 a.m. Communion	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Macy Hansen	Ashley Hipnar
Lector	Rick Stone	John Husmann
Children's Sermon	Rosie Spangenberg	Carrie Hansen
Communion Assistant	OPEN	OPEN
Communion Set-Up	Pat Hiller	Brenda Hennigs
January 18	8:30 a.m. Communion	11:00 a.m. Communion
Acolyte	Clare Plummer	Tyler Steensland
Lector	Abaigeal Plummer	Linda Steensland
Children's Sermon	Linda Steensland	Elaine Sasso
Communion Assistant	OPEN	OPEN
Communion Set-Up	Al & Linda Martens	Barb Burns
January 25	9:30 a.m. Communion	One Worship Service Annual Mtg
Acolyte	Taryn McSorley	N/A
Lector	Deann Over	N/A
Children's Sermon	NONE	N/A
Communion Assistant	OPEN	N/A
Communion Set-Up	Carol Fahrenkrug	N/A

January Flowers

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

January Coffee Hour

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

***The flower chart for 2015 is hanging on the bulletin board at the usher station.**

***The coffee hour chart is by the window in the kitchen.**

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE & GIVING

December 7	99	\$5995
December 14	132	\$3110
December 21	104	\$3114
December 24	172	Not Available
December 28	61	Not Available

January 2015 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
				1 Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 Office Closed	3
4 8:30am Worship & Holy Comm 9:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hr 11:00 am Worship & Holy Comm & Baptism 6:30 pm Men & Women Book study	5 11:00 am Tai Chi	6	7 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30 pm Confirm. Class 6:30 pm UN–Hanging of the greens! 7:00 pm Band practice 7:00 pm Wider Ministries	8 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Game Day 6:30 pm N Broadway Nghbrhd Assctn 7:00 pm Choir	9 Office Closed	10 Troop #550 Merit Badge Celeb.
11 8:30am Worship & Holy Comm 9:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hr 9:45 am Family Style Sunday School 9:45 am Adult Study 11:00 am Worship & Holy Comm & Baptism 6:30 pm Men & Women Book study	12 <i>Cookie Crumbs</i> 11:00 am Tai Chi	13 <i>Cookie Crumbs</i> 8:30 am ROMEOs 7 pm Council Meeting	14 9:30 am Mission Action 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 6:30 pm Conf. Class 7:00 pm Band Practice	15 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir	16 Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch	17
18 <i>ELC ARTS FESTIVAL!!</i> 8:30am Worship & Holy Comm 9:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hr 9:45 am Family Sunday Schl 9:45 am Adult Study 11:00 am Worship & Holy Comm 6:30 pm Men & Women Book study	19 11:00am Tai Chi 7:00 pm MS Support Group	20 7 pm Children & Youth Min. Mtg	21 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30 pm Conf Class 7:00 pm Band practice	22 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:30am Worship & Holy Comm 10:45 am Annual Congregational Meeting JOYFUL NOISE!!	26 11:00 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands	27	28 9:30 am Mission Action 6:30 pm Conf Class 7:00 Band practice	29 9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir	30 Office Closed	31

Children's Ministry

By Michaela Lewis

Okay, we have lots of exciting plans for 2015. The first day back to Sunday school will be January 11! We will be exploring Jesus' baptism this month. To help celebrate and share, we would like everyone to share pictures of their own baptism! If you email photos to me at michaela_lewis@icloud.com we can print them off so that originals are not damaged.


In order for everyone to be able to attend the annual meeting on January 25th, we will have a movie set up for the kids to watch.

A big thank you to all the children who participated in the Christmas program! You all did a wonderful job! Thank you also to Debbie Ferguson for directing the Children's Program this year. Thank you also to the other adults who helped with the program and the gift bags that the children received after the program!

Wishlist

- Easter Eggs! Plastic eggs of every color and size.
- Candy and trinkets for Easter Eggs.





Songs and Online Games!
<http://www.faithink.com/finklink/about.asp>
Use the code **GN04** for January's lesson.



EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA
PERMIT #61

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

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

Game Day

Thursday, January 8th at 1:00pm
in Fellowship Hall

Romeo's (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Tuesday January 13th @ 8:30a.m. at
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, January 14th at 11:30
a.m. at Pizza Ranch

Women of Emanuel Blessings & Brunch

Friday January 16th at 9:30am

Mission Action Committee (Quilters)

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall



SAVE THE DATE!

***January 18th Emanuel's Arts Festival!**

***January 25th Emanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting!**

One service at 9:30 am followed by the annual meeting!

Youth group will serve lunch following the meeting!

**Interested folks can also learn how to operate the worship
slide shows! Pastor Lowell will hold a training for anyone
interested in learning and helping!**

Ramblings from the back corner....

All the happenings of the Christmas season are now a memory. To some it is a let down. To others a relief. To others it's a renewal time. For us here at Emanuel we will be thinking about our baptism. Once again this season we will enjoy a theme hymn-Baptized and Set Free.

Baptized and Set Free

We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.
We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.
We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.
Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

Cathy Skogen-Soldner (b. December 9, 1956) wrote this hymn and tune for Holden Village, a year-round Lutheran renewal center in the mountains near Chelan, Washington. Holden's theme for the summer of 1996 was "Baptized and Set Free," which is the last line of the hymn. The overflowing abundance of God in baptism is the hymn's theme. Of it Skogen-Soldner says that "even though we may only use a few handfuls of water when we baptize, I included larger bodies of water (ocean, fountain, river) to invite the singing congregation to celebrate the generous heart of God. In the water of Baptism," she continues, "our gracious God gifts us with mercy, love, healing, wholeness and more than we can ask for or even imagine." The hymn was first used at evening worship in Holden Village in the summer of 1996. Published in the collection *Worship and Praise Songbook* (1999), its first appearance in a primary hymnal is here.

Cathy Skogen-Soldner was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and grew up on a farm close to Battle Lake. For twenty years she has served Lutheran churches in Minneapolis, Roseville, Shoreview, and New Brighton, Minnesota, as a youth director and contemporary worship coordinator. Currently she works as a full-time composer, especially for pre-school music and children's Christmas and all-season musicals. She also conducts children's music workshops across the country.

Taken from *ELW Hymnal Companion*.