

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2015

Happenings!

Wednesday, December 2—Hanging of the Greens 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 6—Simone and Matt Weber will be here to lead worship and talk at fellowship time. Matt and Simone lead Table Grace Ministries.

Sunday, December 13—Children's program during 9:30 am Worship

Sunday, December 20—Service of lessons and carols

Christmas worship schedule:

Wednesday, December 23—7 p.m. midweek worship in sanctuary

Thursday, December 24—4:30 p.m. Family Worship

Thursday, December 24—7 p.m. Worship with festival candles, carols and communion

Thursday, December 31—New Year's Family Fun Night 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Bring Family, Friends, Favorite games and a dish to share.

Mission
Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



Enjoying fellowship and food in honor of Emanuel's 125th Anniversary.

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Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Dear friends in Christ,

Like you, I enjoy singing Advent and Christmas carols as often as I can in this season of hope and expectation. We all have our favorites (and a few of our not-so-favorites) and we try to squeeze them all into our worship services this time of year. But I wonder how often we think about the Christmas carols found in the New Testament itself? We find those carols in Luke's gospel, the most musical of all the gospel accounts.

First, there is Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55. It is often titled "The Magnificat," for the Latin words that make up Mary's first melodic notes—"My soul magnifies the Lord..." It is a song about reversals. Those who fear God receive mercy. Those who trust in themselves are scattered in confusion. The powerful are brought down and the lowly lifted up. The hungry are filled and the rich sent away empty. For Mary, our Lord's own mother, Christmas means justice for the least, the lost and the lonely

Second, there is Zechariah's song in Luke 1:67-79. It is often titled "The Benedictus," for the Latin words that make up Zechariah's ecstatic expression—"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel..." Zechariah had expressed doubts about the birth of his son, who would be called John the Baptist. So God took his power of speech during his wife's, Elizabeth's, pregnancy. He did not speak again until it was time to name the baby. Then the words came pouring forth! Again, the message of the song focuses on God's faithfulness. Jesus comes "to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Third, there is the song of the angels in Luke 2:14. This is the song you may know best. "Glory to God in the highest heaven," the divine messengers sing, "and on earth peace among those whom God favors!" God is on the move. The sign of this good news is the baby born in a Bethlehem feed box. The audience for this song does not consist of emperors and kings, or of priests and scholars. It is those grubby, fumbling, inept shepherds who hear the news and respond with trust and hope.

Fourth, there is Song of Simeon in Luke 2:29-32. It is often titled the "Nunc Dimittus," for the Latin words, "now let..." as in "now let your servant depart in peace." Simeon had been waiting his whole life for God to return to Israel. On the eighth day after Jesus was born, his parents brought him to the Jerusalem temple to be circumcised according to the Jewish law. Simeon came daily to pray for the great day to come. When he saw Jesus, he took the child into his arms and broke into grateful song. That song was about God's salvation, "a light for the enlightenment of the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." For Simeon, Christmas was about hope fulfilled.

These first Christmas carols guide our thoughts and prayers as we celebrate once again this blessed season. Take some time in the coming weeks to read the words of each of these songs. Meditate on these words as you prepare for Christmas. These are the real Christmas carols!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lowell



Bishop Roger Prois meets with the confirmation students on November 15.

Care Packages

The Youth Ministry Team is planning to send a “care package” to our members attending college, technical school or serving in the military.

Plans are to have designated boxes by December 6 ready to be filled for students to receive during finals, or a welcome gift before the holidays for those serving our country.

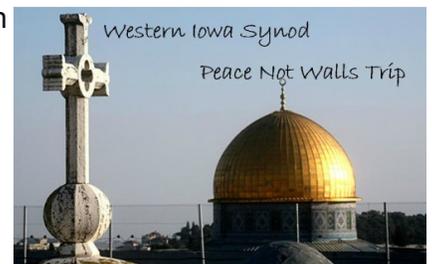
If you would like to contribute to this project, suggested items would be microwave popcorn, peanut butter, crackers, trail mix, stamps, envelopes, hard candy, gift cards, etc. along with cards of encouragement.

The **Western Iowa Synod Peace Not Walls Network** warmly invites you to join in its transformational travel opportunity to the

Holy Land...

Join us as we listen, learn, and live into the Spirit’s call:

- ◆ to **experience and accompany** the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land in its life and ministry
- ◆ to **enhance and broaden our understanding** of our Israeli and Palestinian brothers and sisters in Christ in their journey and struggle...
- ◆ to **partner in the ELCA’s Peace Not Walls initiative** and response toward peace in the region...
- ◆ to **recognize** our personal and national roles in the regional situations...
- ◆ to **visit** many profound historical sites of Jesus’ life and ministry as we invite Him into our hearts and this peace seeking process...
- ◆ to **be open and humble** so as to allow the Spirit to move us in ways we may not even comprehend this day...



Travel Logistics/Parameters:

Dates: March 27, Easter Sunday evening (likely late evening flight from Minneapolis or mid-late afternoon flight from Omaha) —April 10, 2016, (tbd).

Cost: approximately \$ 3,500-\$3,700 per person

Age: any adult in good health standing who is open and flexible within group travel dynamics

Itinerary inclusions (non-exclusive and subject to change) Augusta Victoria Hospital, Breaking the Silence, Bright Stars of Bethlehem, Tent of Nations, Jewish settlement, mosque, Deheishe Refugee Camp, Rabbis for Human Rights, Hebron, Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Dead Sea, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Christmas Lutheran Church, the Western Wall, Via Dolorosa, etc. See proposed itinerary on our website, www.wisynod.org.

Other points/expectations: opportunities to reside with local Lutheran families, hostels, churches, etc., will be sought where possible, as will opportunity to walk along side these brothers and sisters in their daily lives. Pre-trip orientation meetings are expected of participants. These meetings will work on travel logistics and, more importantly, preparation and discussion of the historical and current Holy Land realities so as to be reasonably informed prior to travel.

Application forms and Behavioral Covenants can be found on the synod website: www.wisynod.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Nov. 30, 2015

Let us boldly and prayerfully take this opportunity to more deeply Listen, Learn, and Live out the Spirit’s call to acknowledge and participate in the reality of these, our beloved ones in Christ~



In Our Prayers...

Ray Kanger
Betty Ebsen

Daphne Miller
Elizabeth Britton

Glen Fahrenkrug
Viola Anderson

Lucille Weatherill
Deb Hipnar

Leona Carlson
Monte Manser

Happy Birthday...

December 4 Connie Eyberg
Zach Winter

December 5 Judy Dillon

December 6 Mike Winter

December 7 Anita Garrett

December 8 Jamie Hansen

December 9 Bob Juhl

December 10 Tina Larson

December 12 Cael Hansen

December 14 Arlen Ellis

December 16 Susan Wilson

December 17 Carrie Hansen

December 18 Molly Lewis

December 19 Allen Martens
Pastor Lowell Hennigs

December 20 Kobie Ferguson
Jade Wohlers
Taryn McSorley



December 21
Tim Schneckloth

Erin Schneckloth

Kaitlyn Egner

Tiffany Weelborg

December 22 Jan Husmann

Sam Heithoff

Jackson Wiggington

December 25 Elaine Sasso

Heath Epperson

December 27 Sid Dillon

Tristan Steensland

December 28 Brett Egner

Luke Hansen

December 29 Judy Wilson

December 30 Lauren Nickels

December 31 Danny Britson

Happy Anniversary...

December 2 Larry & Sharon Hansen

December 17 Ron & Elaine Sasso

December 18 Bruce & Anna Ellinsen

December 31 Dan & Judy Heithoff



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



2014 Mardi Gras

Items Needed for Mardi Gras!

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Yes, that's right—Mardi Gras is really, really early. So now is the time to begin preparing for our 3rd annual (!) event. Once again we will have a silent auction as part of Mardi Gras. So, all you crafty and builder type folks, it's time to start preparing something to put on the auction.

If you aren't one of those types, then you might consider putting together a gift basket or offering an evening out at a nice restaurant or...well, let your imagination be your guide. Proceeds from the event will go to support our youth in their mission trips, camping adventures, and local events. Thanks for all your support. And let the good times roll!

Oh, and invite your friends, neighbors, family, co-workers, and even that old grump down the road (if you happen to know one)!

Bethany News

BY DIANE CARLON



BETHANY LUTHERAN HOME / BETHANY HEIGHTS

Bethany Christmas Store Update

We are still accepting items for the Christmas Store. The items must be new. Items for all ages are welcome. Gift bags, tags and tissue paper are also appreciated. The Christmas Store will be held on December 7th-8th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and on December 9th from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. The store is a place where residents can select gifts for their loved ones at no charge. Many will reminisce about days gone by and the joy of giving at Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help residents select items for their loved ones as well as wrap or gift bag the items.

The Activities Department would also appreciate help in setting up the store prior to December 7th. If you are able to help out, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500. Thank you.

Attention Christmas Carolers

We love to have you and want to encourage you to visit us with your music over the holidays. We know it brings great joy to our residents and tenants as well as an opportunity to connect with members of your congregation. We are asking however that you schedule your visit ahead of time with Sarah Norton at Bethany Heights (712-328-8228) and/or Kaily Stanley at Bethany Lutheran Home (712-328-9500, ext. 230). We love to have you come, but we want to make sure we are available to assist you. The residents and tenants love the music and the visits and

we like to spread them out if possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing your music in the coming weeks.

Decorating for Christmas



The residents and Activities Department at Bethany Lutheran Home will be decorating for Christmas on Tuesday, December 1st at 9:00 a.m. We would love to have volunteers be a part of the activity. If you are able to attend, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500, ext. 230.

A Thought

I'm reminded of a quote by Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The small group of citizens joined hands 40+ years ago to establish Bethany Lutheran Home. Without the physical and financial support of many in addition to their prayers, Bethany would not be in a position to provide all we do today. The physical and financial support as well as prayers continue to be an important part of Bethany's mission. We are thankful for the blessings we have received in the past and ask you to consider a year end gift to Bethany. Your generosity is appreciated and helps us to continue our mission of serving our area seniors in a Christian environment. Blessings to you this holiday season.

Pantry News

BY JOSH WEESNER



Our Savior's Lutheran

Food & Pet Food Pantry

Food Pantry Needs:

- Boxed Dinners
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Dry Dog Food
- Canned Cat Food
- Plastic Bags

Items for the food pantry may left at Emanuel on the blue shelf in the hallway near the offices or taken to Our Savior's Lutheran Church (313 Story St, Council Bluffs, IA).

In October Our Savior's Food & Pet Pantry served 174 households which consisted of 455 people and 366 pets. Through October we have served 1,618 households, 4,298 people, and 3,368 pets. We are on pace to serve 1,942 households, 5,158 people and 4,042 pets in 2015.

In October we received 11,399 pounds of food at a cost of \$552.12 from the food bank. Year to date we have received 92,347 pounds of food at a cost of \$6,764.53

Dear Friends of Bethany,

I heard someone say, "You know we tell the same old story every year at this time of the birth of Jesus." The one thing I can tell you is that it's never the "same old story." The Bible story continually reminds us not only of the birth of Jesus, but also the regeneration of HOPE each day in our lives. Hope for peace, understanding, and commitment to one another and the future. Hope is what we see each day in our children and grandchildren at the wonderment of what He has created and given to us to care for. It becomes our duty and our obligation to hold onto and maintain those things we wish to pass on.

The opening paragraph is the same one my letter has started with the last two years! While my message, prayers and hopes for you remains the same, I want you to think about something. I want you to think about HOPE! When Bethany was being contemplated the whole idea was to provide a living environment for the elderly that would be both a home and provide Christian caring and love. How many of those people through the years felt the safety of Bethany and the warmth of that love the staff gave?

In 1992 Bethany Heights opened its doors and in 2008 we started offering assisted living where the HOPE and Christian caring continued. We developed a Scholarship program, thanks to the Bethany Foundation. The Scholarship program allowed us to help people (who didn't have enough funds to reside at ANY assisted living in the area to) live a Bethany Heights.



Now we are beginning a new endeavor to provide comfort and caring to those who have Alzheimer's and dementia related diseases with a warm

and safe 15 apartment home. We are also adding additional assisted living apartments in hopes we can expand our Scholarship program.

Though the message is the same each year, it has not changed! He is still the HOPE! Each year many experience some kind of change. We may lose someone dear to us or experience a feeling of absence in our hearts that cannot be filled. That space is also the place where we remember them. We are reminded however that there Hope. Our solace is in knowing that they are with Him. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let's celebrate the lives of those who have and do occupy that space in our hearts.

Bethany continues to be a place of comfort for some and of Hope for others. We are blessed that the Bethany Boards and our supporting churches have had the foresight over the years continue to grow and provide HOPE and comfort to so many. We look forward with Hope to the future, while building on the past and recognizing the present. Please join us as we all celebrate "the regeneration of HOPE and the birth of Christ".

My staff and I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Blessings in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Van Sickle
Chief Operating Officer
Bethany Lutheran Home and Bethany Heights



Treat The Troops

PACKAGES FROM HOME FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

Dear members and friends,

On behalf of the Treat the Troops Project and Iowa Cookie Crumbs, I want to thank Emanuel for allowing us to use the church facilities for our monthly packing of cookies to deployed troops. In addition, the support from Emanuel's members has been phenomenal!

With our November 10th packing, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have sent **over 928,000** cookies to deployed service personnel in harms' way. In addition on November 2nd we sent 115 holiday themed boxes of comfort items filled with decorations, Christmas stockings, games, blank holiday cards/stationery, calendars, hygiene products and hand knitted helmet liners and scarves.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs was formed by Abbie Crawford and is part of a network of volunteers with the national Treat the Troops organization (www.treatthetroops.org) begun in the 1990's by Jeanette Cram. Our first shipment of 80 dozen cookies and letters of support and thanks were packed in Abbie's kitchen in January, 2007. However, as more and more people heard about the project and wanted to help, it was apparent we could not continue packing in a home.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs is the only group in Iowa and Nebraska and now has three teams with approximately 180 dedicated bakers a third of which bake monthly. We not only are the youngest of Jeanette's crumb groups – we are second only to Jeanette's in number of cookies sent.

Again, thank you for allowing the Iowa Cookie Crumbs to use the church facilities and members – a huge thank you for your wonderful support!

Sincerely,

Deann Over and the Iowa Cookie Crumbs



A Note From the Parish Nurse

I will be retiring as the parish nurse as of December 21, 2015. I am very pleased to announce that Chasity Christie will be taking over the duties. She is very excited about the opportunity to serve the congregation and would appreciate help with the duties. You do not need to be a health care professional to help, just call the church office to get in contact with her. Thank you for the opportunity to work with our church family as the parish nurse. *-Linda Martins*



Thank You!

A special thank you from the property committee and the congregation to Jim and LaWayne Andersen for covering with cloth material over 40 chair seats in the fellowship hall. They look great!

Merry Christmas from LSI

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." – John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks for you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know adults with disabilities who have no caring family presence in their lives. We know families in Des Moines who spent twenty years living in refugee camps and are finally regaining some hope for the future. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system and fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI's work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction and crisis. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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.

Monique Finds A Place for Hope

On a rainy morning, the radiant laughter and smiles of two young sisters fill the room.

"My daughters are very energetic," said their mom Monique, with a tired smile.

Monique began partnering with LSI's HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success) when her oldest daughter was just a couple months old.

"I was a first time mom and young. I was so scared I would be the worst mom possible," Monique said.

When parents enroll in HOPES, they are connected with a family support worker who visits them in their home to offer parenting support, track child development and help families achieve their goals.

"The people at HOPES are my family. I couldn't tell you where I'd be without them," Monique said.



Monique was struggling to provide for herself without a high school diploma, adequate transportation or family support.

"She was kicked out of her house and has been on her own since she was a teen," said Linda, an LSI supervisor. "She was forced to grow up really fast. She had to sink or swim, and she chose to swim."

With support from LSI, Monique earned her GED and went immediately into CNA (certified nursing assistant) classes. Today, Monique needs less support than she once did, but LSI is still there to provide a listening ear and guidance. Her family is now happy, healthy and thriving with optimism for the future.

"Our futures look very bright. My new goals are to go back to school, work on buying a house, and get my kids into a really good school. Because of LSI, my family will succeed in life."

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, December 6	9:30 a.m. Communion
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Ashley Hipnar & Taryn McSorley
Lector	Mike Winter
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sunday, December 13	9:30 a.m. Communion
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Shae Nickels & Kylie Hansen
Communion Assistant	Peggy Jarrell
Communion Set-Up	Jane & Phil Meyer
Visual Tech	
Sunday, December 20	9:30 a.m. Communion
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Tyler Steensland & Owen Hansen
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistant	Elaine Sasso
Communion Set-Up	Jeanine & Todd Schademann
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppeson
Thursday, December 24	4:30 p.m. Communion
Ushers	
Acolyte	Lauren Hansen & Clare Plummer
Lector	Deann Over
Communion Assistant	Karen McPartland
Communion Set-Up	
Visual Tech	Brenda Hennigs
Thursday, December 24	7 p.m. Communion
Ushers	
Acolyte	Kobie Ferguson & Tristan Steensland
Lector	Darlene Jeppeson
Communion Assistant	Brenda Hennigs
Communion Set-Up	
Visual Tech	
Sunday, December 27	9:30 a.m. Communion
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Alaire Carrier & Aralynn Conley
Lector	J. Husmann
Communion Assistant	Brenda Hennigs
Communion Set-Up	Connie Eyberg & Carol Fahrenkrug
Visual Tech	Jane Anderson



Flowers

December 6

December 13

December 20
Poinsettias*

December 27
Norma Heath

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



Coffee Hour

December 6
Wider Ministries

December 13
Children & Youth

December 20
Fresh Start

December 27

The coffee hour chart is in the Fellowship Hall.

*** Poinsettias may be ordered by filling out an order envelope in the pews or from the office.**

December 2015 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Hanging of The Greens with meal and Worship	9:30 am Adult Study 11:00am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Game Day 7:00 pm Choir Practice	Office Closed	
9:30am Worship with Matt & Simone Weber 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Program Practice No Book Study	11:00am Tai Chi	8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 6:00 pm Meal 6:30 pm Christmas program dress rehearsal	9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm N. Broadway Neighborhood Association 7:00 pm Choir Practice	Office Closed	
Children's Program 13 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion Children's Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 11:00am Visit Mid-lands to share Christmas cheer 6:30 pm Book study	11:00am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee	7:00 pm Children & Youth Meeting 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:15 pm Meal 7:00 pm Table Worship with Communion 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	9:30 am Adult Study 11:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Choir Practice	Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch (meet at Main Street Café & then visiting the Mormon Tabernacle)	4:00 pm Graduation Party (Christensen)
8 am – 2 pm Blood Drive 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour No Sunday School 11:00am – 2:30pm Confirmation 3:00 pm Christmas Recital (Cindy) 6:30 pm Book study	7:00 pm MS Support Group	7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	7:00 pm Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary	Christmas Eve 24 Office Closed 4:30 pm Family Style Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion	Christmas 25 Office Closed 	
9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship & Coffee Hour No Sunday School No Book Study	11:00 am Communion at Midlands	7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:15 pm Table Worship with Communion 7:30 pm DaBand	9:30 am Adult Study 6 pm - 9 pm Family Fun Night		

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Minutes for 11/10/2015

SUBMITTED BY MIKE WINTER

Present: Kevin Epperson, Penny Dahlke, CharLes Kemmish, Karen McPartland, Oscar Over, Matt Solon, Ruth Sullivan, Mike Winter, Suzanne Winter, Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Absent: Carrie Hansen, Chris Reed, Danielle (Dani) Schaal

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kevin Epperson.

Devotions: Suzanne Winter

Council Agenda:

After corrections were made to the council minutes of October 13, 2015 amending on two occasions Matt Sullivan to Matt Solon and it was pointed out that Stephanie and Stacie Green, although approved for membership, did not join Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church; with those changes Matt Solon moved and Ruth Sullivan seconded approval of the secretary minutes with those amendments. Approved.

Oscar Over moved and Penny Dahlke seconded approval of the financial secretary report. Discussion was held concerning the Project Comfort Fund, Special Gift Fund and Fellowship Fund. Approved.

Oscar Over moved and Matt Solon seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Approved.

Penny Dahlke moved and Karen McPartland seconded approval of the Capital Fund Report. Approved.

Ruth Sullivan moved and CharLes Kemmish seconded approval of the Memorial Fund report. Approved.

Pastor's written report was submitted. Among the 18 points raised by the report were the following:

1. The Adult Study on Thursday mornings continues to focus on Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

2. The Anniversary Team met on October 26 and finalized plans for anniversary weekend on November 15. It is expected that up to 200 people will attend.

3. The Emanuel Fresh Start Team met on November 2 and ceased its material and financial support for Monte. The team will meet again in January.

4. Five new members were received on Sunday, November 8.

5. The video projectors were hung from the ceiling in the sanctuary. This could not have happened without several hours of work by Brad Dahlke and his assistant Pastor Hennigs.

6. Nearly 110 quilts for Lutheran World Relief Distribution were prepared by our quilters.

Oscar Over presented the Stewardship Committee report and indicated that pledges would be going out. He reported that the congregation paid out \$11,000 more than it took in and that it was necessary to use carryover funds from the previous year. Oscar warned that the carryover funds would soon be exhausted and that there is a need to keep a carryover fund.

The Council received a written report from Youth and Children's Ministries that met on Tuesday, October 20.

Oscar Over made a report on the Property Committee and thanked Brad Dahlke and Al Martens for the work they did on the exterior ceiling over the entry to the Narthex and thanked LeWayne and Jim Andersen for repairs to several chairs that were torn and had been recovered. The window for the parsonage has been ordered, but not installed. Bob Vergamini has volunteered to make and install railings along the recessed area in front of the center pews. Motion was made by Oscar Over and seconded by Karen McPartland to pay for the materials for the railings and that it is estimated to cost somewhere between \$500-\$700 from the Capital Fund Account. Approved.

Kevin Epperson made a report from the Worship and Music Committee. There will be five new coverings for the altar in colors to match the seasons. They will be asking for congregation input regarding the colors with the possible financing coming from memorial funds.

Pastor Hennigs reported on the Evangelism Visitation Committee that the reception for the new members went off well.

There was no report from Mutual Ministries this month.

The Council received an update on the Anniversary Committee. There are 15 ornaments available for sale for \$10. Contact Connie Solon.

There will be a special council meeting on November 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. and a meeting with Bishop Prois.

The Council inspected the two possible choices for lights in the Fellowship Hall. Motion made by Suzanne Winter and seconded by Matt Solon to purchase 49 lights from Echo at \$126 apiece less the

70% rebate. Kevin Epperson will make the order immediately. Approved.

Due to a computer error, \$962.84 was inadvertently placed in the Pastor's Retirement Account. Discussion was held on whether or not the Pastor must reimburse the church for that overpayment. Motion made by Oscar Over and seconded by Suzanne Winter that no reimbursement would be requested. Approved.

Motion made by Karen McPartland and seconded by Penny Dahlke to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Time to Think about Writing a Devotion for Lent

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Lent! What are you talking about? It's not even Christmas!

Yes, we know that, and it may seem premature. But Lent begins VERY early in 2016. Ash Wednesday is February 10th. If we want to produce a congregational devotional book for Lent this year, our writers need to begin thinking and praying and preparing NOW. In order to have a printed devotional book ready for Ash Wednesday, we will need devotions written and submitted to Pastor Hennigs by January 15th! So it's not too early to think about this.

Our Sunday worship focus during the Lenten season will be "The Gift of the Psalms." The Psalms are the prayer book of Jesus and the Church. But we don't know them nearly well enough. So we will take on the challenge of reading all 150 psalms during the forty days of Lent. Our Lenten devotional book will focus on selected psalms from those daily readings. And our Sunday messages will be based on the beautiful and powerful words of the psalms appointed in the lectionary for each of the Sundays in Lent.

The Psalms are the "school" where Jesus learned to pray in his earthly life. And by the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus continues to pray with us daily in and through the Psalms, if we are willing to pay attention to his voice in these wonderful words.



So, what can you do?

First, make a commitment to set aside time each day in Lent for Bible reading and prayer. If you can do something for forty days, the chances are that it will become a habit that you can keep.

Second, get ready to accept the forty-day challenge to read through the psalms as a church family. Pick out your favorite Bible translation and get a nice book mark so you can keep your place. You might want to pick up a small

notebook or journal so you can write down those words and verses that speak to your spirit each day.

Third, consider writing a devotion for our congregational Lenten devotional book. When you write that devotion, be sure to write the date for which you are creating your devotional piece. In that devotion, we ask you to identify the verse or verses of the psalm on which you will focus. We ask you to share your thoughts in about 200 to 400 words. We ask you to end your devotion with a brief prayer based on the devotion. And we ask you to put your name at the end of the devotion.

The Psalms are the Spirit's gift to us—a gift that can deepen our lives of prayer. Let's take this journey together into a fuller experience of God's love for us through the cross of Jesus!



Pastor Lowell Hennigs leads the children in memorizing a Bible verse with actions during Sunday school.



Matt & Connie Solon with their Grandkids at Trunk or Treat.

Children's Ministry

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Christmas Program

The year is flying by and practice for the children's program is underway. Practices will be November 22 & December 6. There will be a dress rehearsal December 9. Dinner will be provided that night at 6 p.m. with rehearsal starting about 6:30 p.m.

The Program will be Sunday, December 13th at 9:30 a.m.

This year's program falls on Santa Lucia Day, a history festival in the Swedish Lutheran Church. With this being the anniversary year, the program will focus on the history of this.

Thank you to everyone who is helping with this year's program!

Family Fun Night

This will be the second year for our New Years Ever Family Fun Night! Bring friends, family, neighbors, favorite games and a dish to share!



Thank you to all who came out to Trunk-or-Treat! There were over 60 kids plus parents who visited us on Halloween.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ December 2nd - Hanging of the Greens
- ◆ December 13th - Christmas Program
- ◆ December 13th - Caroling at Midlands
- ◆ December 20th - January 3rd - No Sunday School
- ◆ December 31 - Family Fun Night 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Cindy working with Tori and Mason on rhythm and working together on Wednesday night.

Remember when . . .

BY CONNIE SOLON

The Willing Workers Society, offers an activity for those women who find it difficult to meet with the Guild in the afternoons. Apparently the group began in 1919 and met through 1944. All WW meetings opened with song, scripture, readings and prayer. Dues in the early years were 10¢ per month and eventually rose to 25¢. The women worked very hard to raise funds for the church. Here are some of the highlights from the WW minutes.

Small red journal 1927-1944:

1927 – Valentine Social, picnic at Lake Manawa, Fall Festival with \$30.92 profit and Rummage Sale showing \$109.50 profit.

1929 – Annual Picnic at Big Lake Park.

1930 – Valentine Social having individual tables for each month of the year and admission charged according to your waist measurement – **WHAT?** Profit \$6.50.



1931 – Motion made and carried we take \$5 from flower fund and buy food for a poor family, each member to bring a potato and a canned good for the family.

1932 – American Red Cross invited WW to attend sewing classes at St. Paul Episcopal Parish House to sew for the unemployed and needy persons of our city.

1933 – “Depression Party” everyone to bring “two bits”. Members bought inexpensive gifts for the children of the Emmanuel Deaconess Institute in Omaha.

1934 – Gifts and warm clothing given to Iowa Lutheran Children’s Home in Stanton, IA. Also, curtains made for Children’s Home.

1935 – A trip through Continental-Keller Company. This must have been a “big deal” because they talked and planned for this trip quite a long time and went back the next year. Also made candy to sell at the Guild’s Lutfisk Dinner and send to the Stanton Children’s Home.

1936 – Ordered packages of Gelatin Dessert (Jell-O) and sold to church members and the community @ 10¢ per package. Cost of Jell-O \$22.50 + freight \$2.25. This was such a popular fund raiser that they ordered Jell-O several more times.



1937 – “Smorgasbord” was held for a profit of \$49.15. A rising vote of thanks was given to **Ruth Haas** for her splendid work in connection with the “smorgasbord”. At the end of the meeting the topic of the “Coronation of George VI” was reviewed.

1938 – Sent 12 bath towels and 6 pillow cases to Old Peoples’ Home of Madrid for a total cost of \$4.08.

1940 – WW purchased one dozen small hymnals for the church. Soap chip box tops were sent to Proctor & Gamble for 1¢ each – they received \$4.96 profit from the box tops.



In June two representatives from the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. gave a demonstration of the new dial telephone system which goes into effect in September.

1942 – Made sewing kits for the boys in the service. In December toys and small gifts were sent to Bethpage Mission in Axtell, Ne.

1943 – A demonstration of the Stanley Home Products was given. In May a meeting honoring graduates from our local high schools: Phyliss Nuzum, Louise Goran, Mary Alice Shatts and **Darlene Mendenhall (Smith)**, each was given a copy of the Lord’s Prayer.

1944 – A book review of “The Robe” brought in \$22.50. The last minutes in the book indicate the WW paid for carpeting of the stairway, upper and lower hallways of the parsonage at a cost of \$98.20.

It must be noted that the WW raised a lot of money for the church, and received numerous requests from the treasurer, pastor and church secretary for funds to “meet their obligations”. The WW always gave anywhere from \$35 to \$150 each time.

If you have remembrances you would like to share please contact a committee member or Connie Solon (siscss@aol.com) or Michaela in the office.

Sharing Gifts, Offering Hope

BY BRENDA HENNIGS

Emanuel's Wider Ministry team will once again participate in the Angel Tree Ministry by sponsoring 25 local children. Angel Tree is a Prison Fellowship Ministry that provides incarcerated parents the opportunity to have a gift delivered to their children while the parent is incarcerated.



The Angel Tree Team will need YOUR help!

- ◆ You can volunteer to make phone calls to the caregivers of the children to verify their information.
- ◆ You can volunteer to deliver the gifts before Christmas.

Founded in 1982 by an ex-prisoner who witnessed firsthand the strained relationship between prisoners and their children, Angel Tree has grown to become the largest national outreach specifically for the children of prisoners.

- ◆ You can sponsor a child/children and purchase a gift.

Christmas is coming soon, and Angel Tree's goal is to reach children of prisoners who hope for a Christmas filled with joy. They yearn for their absent parent's love, and more than that, they need to know that Jesus Christ can fill the void in their hearts and is able to bring healing and restoration to their families destroyed by crime.

We need your help in one or all areas of this important ministry. If you are interested in helping, contact Brenda Hennigs at (402) 650-0786 or blhennigs@hotmail.com

Watch for the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall! Always thank you for your generosity!

Women of Emanuel

BY DARLENE JEPPESEN

Blessings & Brunch will meet on their usual 3rd Friday in December (December 18th). We will meet at Main Street Café for breakfast and then visit the Mormon Tabernacle to see their seasonal ginger house display (free admission and handicapped accessible).

Save the 3rd Friday each month and join us for this special celebration.

*Blessings
&
Brunch*



Darlene Jeppesen, Deloris Christensen, Darlene Reed and Connie Solon, sort 110 blankets they made throughout the year. These blankets went to several local charities as well as Lutheran World relief.

November Attendance & Giving

November 1	139	\$4,996.25
November 8	120	\$1,694.66
November 15	177	\$6,037.76
November 22	78	N/A
November 29	N/A	N/A

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

October Income:	\$8,855.80	YTD Income:.....	\$104,893.88
October Expense:.....	\$11,944.57	YTD Expense:.....	\$116,491.77
October Balance.....	(\$3,088.77)	YTD Balance:.....	(\$11,597.89)



Preparing Thanksgiving boxes at a Wednesday night service with Wider Ministries.

Wider Ministries

BY JUDY MALLOY

A big thank you to all who made donations for our Thanksgiving baskets. As I write this we are planning on 25 but may be able to increase that to 29 including one for Phoenix House. This is actually being written early so I don't have definite numbers. The important thing is that your generosity and caring allows at least 25 families to have a special Thanksgiving meal. And thank you to all who volunteered to make green bean casseroles for the community Thanksgiving dinner. We were asked for 10 but they need 12. The people planning the dinner will be surprised and very happy to know that we will provide 12!

A big thank you as well for your donations for the Christmas bags for children through Lutheran Family Services. Fifty bags will be delivered on Dec. 8 filled with small toys, books, socks, mittens, and assorted items for specific ages. Bags were also put together for the children in the Christmas program. We will continue to collect coats to be distributed where needed throughout the winter.



American Red Cross

We had to cancel the Red Cross blood drive in September and have rescheduled for **December 20, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The Red Cross will have their bus in the upper parking lot. When I spoke with the Red Cross he said that several drives in December had been cancelled. Often their greatest need is in December and it's also the most difficult time to get sponsors for blood drives. If you are a regular donor you can register on line, call the church office, or you can call me, Judi, at

328-9093 for an appointment. If you've never been a donor please consider making your first donation on Dec. 20. You all know what a difference it makes to have blood available when it's needed. It saves lives. Please think about donating blood as another way of giving to others during the holiday season. If you can't donate on that day, consider going to www.redcrossblood.org to find out where other drives are taking place or the times that you can go to the Red Cross to donate blood.

Our Joyful Noise offering for December will be for Table Grace on the 6th. Matt and Simone from Table Grace will be doing the service that day and they will

TABLE GRACE CAFE give a presentation about their ministry during coffee hour.
Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

There are many activities happening at Emanuel during this holiday season and I hope you will take part in as many as you can. Thank you so much for always being willing to help when we ask. There are many people who will benefit from your generosity and caring. I hope you will also do yourself a favor. In the midst of all the rushing around you all do during this time of year I want you to stop, take a deep breath, and take time to thank God for your family and friends and for all the blessings you've received. Look around you and enjoy all the beauty of the season. Listen to the beautiful music of Christmas. Feel God's gift of peace as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Merry Christmas from the Wider Ministries Committee.



Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS

For our children's Christmas program this year, we will be having a Santa Lucia program, celebrating our Swedish heritage. The song "Santa Lucia" originally was an Italian song, however the Swedes have their own rendition of it. Here are two.



Sankta Lucia

(Swedish)

Natten går tunga fjät
rund gård och stuva;
kring jord, som sol förlät*,
skuggorna ruva.
Då i vårt mörka hus,
stiger med tända ljus,
Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia.

Natten går stor och stum
nu hörs dess vingar
i alla tysta rum
sus som av vingar.
Se, på vår tröskel star
vitklädd med ljus i hår
Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia.

Mörkret ska flykta snart
ur jordens dalar
så hon ett underbart
ord till oss talar.
Dagen ska åter ny
stiga ur rosig sky
Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia.

Santa Lucia

(English)

Night walks with a heavy step
Round yard and hearth,
As the sun departs from earth,
Shadows are brooding.
There in our dark house,
Walking with lit candles,
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia!

Night walks grand, yet silent,
Now hear its gentle wings,
In every room so hushed,
Whispering like wings.
Look, at our threshold stands,
White-clad with light in her hair,
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia!

Darkness shall take flight soon,
From earth's valleys.
So she speaks
Wonderful words to us:
A new day will rise again
From the rosy sky.....
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia!

Santa Lucia

Night's heavy footprints lie
'Round farm and toil
Spirits shall haunt the world
Shadows on soil
In our dark house at night
Rising with candles bright
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.

Night's full of black and gloom
Now hear her swing
Through all our darkened
rooms

On her sweet wings
At our door clad in white
Wearing a crown of light
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.

Darkness would fain out flee
From valleys deep
Marvelous words to us
We hear her speak
New day again shall rise
Coming with rosy skies
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.

Fair-Trade Items!

Emanuel women have Fair Trade items for sale in the Fellowship Hall!

A variety of flavors are available for coffee, hot cocoa and chocolate bars!

Thank you for your support of this ministry!



Join Us For

Family FUN Night

December 31, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church
Council Bluffs, Iowa



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

Game Day

Thursday, December 3rd, 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

R.O.M.E.O.'S

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Tuesday December 8th, 8:30 am
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, December 9th
11:30 am
Pizza Ranch

Blessings & Brunch

Friday, December 18th, 9:30 am.
Fellowship Hall
All women are welcome!

Mission Action Committee

(Quilters)
Wednesdays, 9:30 am
Fellowship Hall

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

emanuellutherancbia@msn.com

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Visit us on the web at: www.luthreansonline.com/emanuelcbia

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by fellowship

Wednesday at 7:00 pm, preceded by a meal at 6:15 pm

Staff:

Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis