

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2018

Happenings!

Sunday, December 31—Family Fun Night

Friday, January 12—Help at Our Savior's Food Pantry

Sunday, January 14—Confirmation

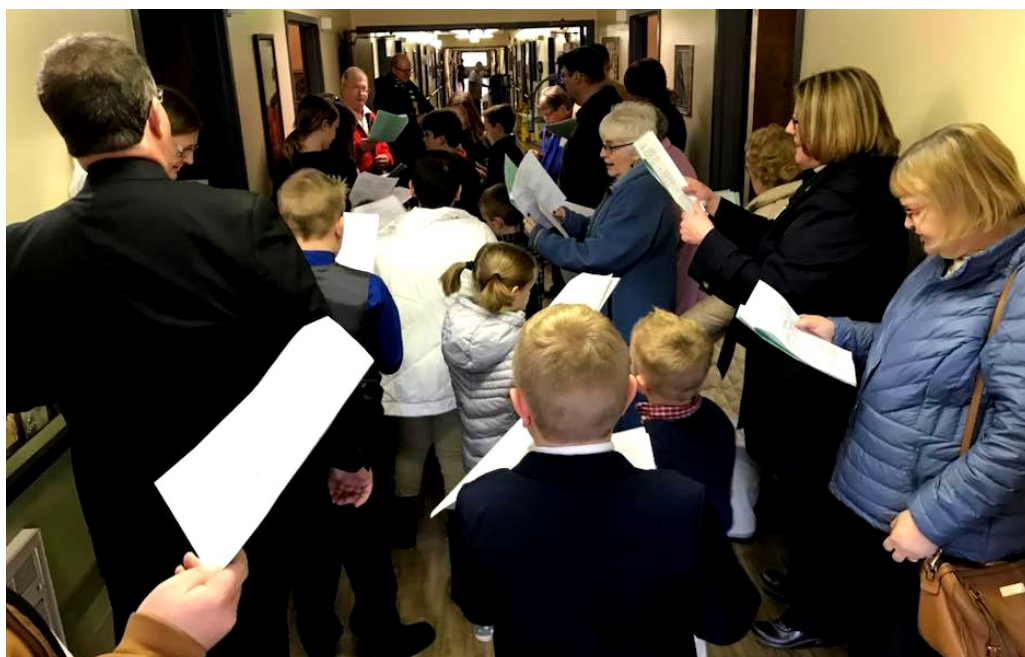
Friday, January 19—Potluck & Movie Night

Sunday, January 21—Daycare Informational Meeting, Family Swim Outing

Sunday, January 28—Annual Meeting with lunch hosted by Gathering Group

Mission Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



Spreading Christmas cheer with caroling at Midlands Living Center December 17th. We had about 30 people that participated and many of the residents were delighted.

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Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Dear partners in mission,

New Year's resolutions—we all make them with the best of intentions. Studies demonstrate suggest that about eight percent of us keep the resolutions we make. Our desire to make resolutions demonstrates our need to live with purpose and direction in our lives. Opening a new calendar year is often an opportunity to examine our purpose and

direction.

The German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, once said, "He who has a why to live can bear almost any how." The power of purpose can propel us into a new and brighter future. That is certainly true here at Emanuel Lutheran Church. We will take time this year to reflect on and to establish a renewed sense of purpose and direction for our congregation.

That is the primary function of our FAITH Team here at Emanuel. "FAITH" stands for "Future Action, Innovation, Trust and Hope." We have spent several years together rebuilding the foundations for mission and service here. We are enjoying a sense of vitality and energy that Emanuel had not seen for some time. We have not only new energy but new people, not only new activities but new hope. It's a joy to be in mission and service together.

From this position of strength, we can do our best to discern the Holy Spirit's call to Emanuel Lutheran Church. "Emanuel" means "God with us." In our very name we have a calling—to be the "with us" congregation here on North Broadway. The FAITH team is working to develop a new mission statement that incorporates that sense of presence and solidarity so much at the heart of our life together.

That mission reflects our values as a congregation. The FAITH team has been working to capture those values in just a few memorable words, so that we can all know them together. We're getting closer. Here at Emanuel we value community, compassion and commitment in the name of Jesus. Those values describe and drive all that we do. Those values can help us to see the vocation the Holy Spirit has in mind for us now and in the future.

I urge you to attend the annual meeting of the congregation on January 28th after our worship service. You'll hear a report from the FAITH team on our continuing efforts at congregational renewal and how those efforts can shape who we are for the next generation of mission and service.

I am honored to worship and serve and grow with you in this mission we share. I look forward to how we shall come to an even deeper understanding of our "why" that drives us in joy to carry out the "how's" of mission and service. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lowell

THANK YOU—We want to thank all of you for your prayers, thoughts, cards and gifts during the Christmas season. It is a joy to be part of this community of faith.
—Pastor Lowell and Brenda Hennigs



Mari Gras 2018!!

Mark your Calendars!!

BY DEANN OVER

Emanuel 5th annual Mardi Gras Celebration will be Sunday, February 11th again featuring:

- Silent Auction: Brenda Hennigs will again be coordinating. If you are a crafter or builder – it's time to prepare something to put in the auction. If you aren't, consider putting together a gift basket or offering an evening out at a nice restaurant or just let your imagination be your guide!
- Live Music from Emanuel's Da Band: You love Da Band at worship – now enjoy their jazz and Dixieland style!
- Food - A "Taste of New Orleans": Cajun (along with a non-spicy cuisine and kid friendly)!
- Fun and Fellowship: Activities for all ages! Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors!

Free will donations will help fund Emanuel's Youth who will be attending the 2018 Gathering in Houston in June.



Daycare Information Meeting January 21 Following Worship

Please plan to attend an informational update meeting on January 21 after Sunday worship regarding the Day-care Mission Project here at Emanuel. We will share information regarding the loan application with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, local lending options, and the grant from the ELCA's Congregational Renewal office. Please make this a priority on your schedule.



Lutheran Men In Mission

We are interested in building a Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) group here at Emanuel. As a past member in another ELCA church I can personally attest that a Men's group can be a wonderful and rewarding experience. We would like to have a group of interested men attend the retreat together. If you are interested please contact Bob Vergamini at 720-340-0335 or Rvergami@yahoo.com

Men's Retreat

"Come and Share - Build Relationships"

The Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Men in Mission will be hosting their annual retreat...

When: Friday, Feb. 2nd - Sat., Feb 3rd

Where: Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake

Cost: \$50 (includes room and meals)



The theme is "Come and Share - Build Relationships." The retreat will begin Friday, February 2nd with registration at 6:30 PM in the Upper Shalom House. The retreat will conclude Saturday the 3rd at 3 PM with a service of Holy Communion. Friday night will be filled with fun, fellowship, and laughter as men play the card game, "Man Talk."



Daphne Miller
Harvey Coble
Melvin Bird
Gary Stinson

Glen Fahrenkrug
Mildred Rogers
John Smith II
Jeanine Schademann

Lucille Weatherill
Dana Blessum
Glenda Smith
Kaye Bird

Dwight Rogers
Clair Ossian
Paul Heath
Andrea Britton



Jan. 02 Bob Bender
Annalise-Marie Davis

Jan. 04 Jamie Combs
Eric Fietz

Jan. 06 Chris Hansen
Christian Hansen

Jan. 07 Tara McSorley
Daniel Solon

Jan. 09 Noah Conley
Noah Smith

Jan. 10 Clayton Juhl
Ron Reiff

Jan. 12 Linda Martens
Debbie Miller

Jan. 13 Brennan Plummer
David Porter
Alice Smith

Jan. 14 Bill Holding
John Schweer, Jr

Jan. 15 Alce Croson

Jan. 19 Gerald Ebsen
Brenda Hennigs

Jan. 20 Chris Reed

Jan. 21 Ann Goldapp

Jan. 22 Ava Jarrell

Jan. 24 Mike Andersen
Denny Clark

Jan. 25 Elizabeth Britton

Jan. 26 Andrew Fietz

Jan. 27 Hanna Ferguson
Leon Gehrig Jr
Stephanie Hansen

Jan. 29 Amari Johnson

Jan. 30 Madison Nickels

Jan. 31 Teena Mosel



January 10 Irv & Norma Mass

January 22 Ron & Alice Smith

January 27 Suzane & Les Merit

*If we've missed a birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please let the church office know!
Contact Michaela at (712) 323-9665 or emanuellutherancbia@msn.com*

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, January 7	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Amy Garreans
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolytes	Cael & Owen Hansen
Lector	Elaine Sasso
Communion Assistants	Mike Winter, Susan Winter, Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Set-Up	Connie Eyberg & Deb Ebsen
Visual Tech	Brenda Hennigs
Sunday, January 14	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Rosie Spangenberg
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolytes	Andrew Borwick & Xander Richards
Lector	Danette Hein-Snider
Communion Assistants	Elaine Sasso, Robert Vergamini, Peggy Jarrell
Communion Set-Up	Linda & Al Martens
Visual Tech	
Sunday, January 21	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Bob Vergamini
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolytes	Grace Hansen & Amari Johnson
Lector	
Communion Assistants	
Communion Set-Up	Connie & Matt Solon
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
Sunday, January 28	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolytes	Shae Nickels & Aaralyn Conley
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistants	Rosie Spangenberg, Brenda Hennigs
Communion Set-Up	Carol Fahrenkrug
Visual Tech	Elaine Sasso



Altar Flowers
January 7

January 14

January 21

January 28

The flower sign-up is on the bulletin board above the usher stand.



January 7

January 14

January 21
Fresh Start Team

January 28

The coffee hour sign-up chart is in the kitchen. Duties include picking up donuts, starting coffee, pouring juice and clean-up.

If you are interested in helping with worship, please contact the church office, (712) 323-9665, emanuellutherancbia@msn.com or sign-up on our website at: <http://emanuellutherancbi.wix.com/emanuel>

January 2018 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 6 pm Family Fun Night 	1 New Year's Day Office Closed 	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	3 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Kidz Kamp 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	4 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal 	5 Office Closed	6
7 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour	8 11 am Communion at Midlands Living Center 9 am Cookie Crumbs Sorting 11 am Communion at Midlands 11 am Tai Chi 6 pm Kanesville Symphony in Youth Center	9 8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 9 am Cookie Crumbs Packing 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	10 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Kidz Kamp 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	11 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 p.m. Game Day 6:30 pm North Broadway Neighborhood Association 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	12 Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's	13
14 Joyful Noise 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Wider Ministries Meeting 11 am—2:30 pm Confirmation	15 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting 7 pm MS Support Group 	16 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center 7 pm Children & Youth Meeting 	17 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Kidz Kamp 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	18 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm North Broadway Neighborhood Association Meeting 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	19 Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch 6 pm Potluck 6:30 pm Movie 	20
21 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 pm Worship & Music Meeting 12 pm Swimming Outing 	22 11 am Tai Chi 6 pm Kanesville Symphony in Youth Center	23 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	24 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Kidz Kamp 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	25 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	26 Office Closed	27
28 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:45 pm Annual Meeting 12 pm Lunch hosted by Gathering Group 	29 11 am Communion at Midlands Living Center 11 am Tai Chi	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	31 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Kidz Kamp 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	1 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	2 Office Closed	3

Children/Family Events

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Movie Night

Each month we try to do a movie night with a potluck and a family friendly movie. If you have a suggestion for a movie, please let me know! Our next one is planned for Friday, January 19th!

Swimming Outing

As we prepare to celebrate the Baptism of Jesus in January, we thought it would be a good time to remember our own by going swimming. This is open to all ages, kids or adults! We get a flat rate, so the more the merrier! We plan to go to the pool at Kirn on Sunday, January 21st from noon to 1 p.m. I will have a sign-up on the clipboard so that we know how many people to expect. YMCA members get in free and are not included in our count, so please indicate if you are a member when signing up. A light lunch will be provided at church before we go.

Monthly Events

Each month we try to plan an event for children and families. If you have an idea for something or would like to plan a month, please let me know! In the past we have done kite making, carnival games, etc. Suggestions are always welcome!

Vacation Bible School

I know it is early, but about January is when planning begins for our Vacation Bible School. We will need a few directors of various parts of VBS, so if you are interested, please let me know. We do not have the kit yet, but usually this would be someone in charge of games, one in charge of crafts, one person in charge of dramas, someone for groups and someone for food. VBS is too big of an undertaking for just one person, so this helps split it up into more manageable tasks. If you are interested in helping plan, email me at sewwhatmichaela@gmail.com or at the church email, emanuellutherancbia@msn.com.



Angel Tree

Brenda Hennigs did a wonderful job of organizing the angel tree needs this year and arranging a party for the families. In the past we have had people drive to the homes to deliver the gifts, but this was a special opportunity to provide some fun activities, snacks and a visit from Santa. While not all the families were able to attend, it was a wonderful way to bring these families together for some holiday fun. Angel Tree is a program of Prison Fellowship that connects parents in prison with their children through delivery of Christmas gifts given on behalf of the parent in prison.



Western Iowa Synod Leadership Academy

“Leading Change in the Heartland”

Saturday, February 10

Snow Date: February 17

9 a.m.—3 p.m.

St. John Lutheran in Carroll, IA

\$20 per person if registered by January 25th.

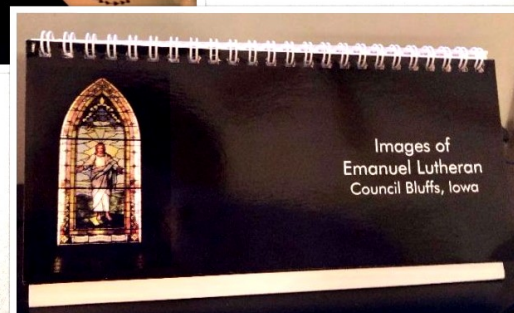
If you plan on going, please let the office know in addition to registering. In the past we have carpooled to the event.



For sale at the church
or email cmsorensen1@cox.net to order.

Available Now!

Images of Emanuel
2018 Desk Calendar
\$7 each





Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes for 12/18/2017

RECORDED BY MIKE WINTERS

Present: Rosie Spangenberg, Suzanne Winter, Mike Winter, Bob Vergamini, Peggy Jarrell, Patty Maxwell, Connie Solon, Judi Malloy, Valarie Weelborg, Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Absent: Elaine Sasso, Stephen Lewis, Dwight Rogers

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. by President Rosie Spangenberg

Devotions: Rosie Spangenberg - What's A Piffany?

Council Agenda:

- Motion by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Mike Winter to approve the secretary minutes for November 20, 2017. Approved.
- Motion by Judi Malloy, seconded by Valarie Weelborg to approve the Financial Secretary (Consolidated Fund) report. Approved.
- Motion by Judi Malloy, seconded by Patty Maxwell to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved.
- Motion by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Connie Solon to approve the Capital Fund Report. Approved.
- Motion by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Judi Malloy to approve the Memorial Fund Report. Approved.
- Pastor Hennigs presented a 10 point report. He continues to offer communion service on the fourth Monday of each month at Midlands Living Center. He encouraged us to attend the annual meeting of Bethany to be held on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. The Emanuel Fresh Start Team met on November 28 and it was reported that Dwight Rogers is now working for Super Saver and things are working out well. The Emanuel Renewal (Faith) Team met on November 6 and November 27. We have applied for a loan with ELCA Mission Investment Fund. At this time, they will only approve a one year grant from the ELCA Congregational Renewal Office of \$12,000 for calendar year 2018. We need to execute a partnership covenant document in order to receive that support. We must reapply each year. We had hoped to obtain \$60,000 over three years, but that has changed. A request was made in early November for \$300 from a member family from the Special Needs Fund. That fund now has a balance of \$858.21. Amy and Mason Garreans were baptized on November 19 and became members. Mike Garreans made his affirmation of faith and they were all recognized at worship on December 10. Pastor and his wife Brenda have now purchased a home in Omaha near 135th & Harrison. The Synod Leadership Event will occur on Saturday, February 10, 2018 in Carroll, Iowa. Everyone was encouraged to attend. They leave Emanuel at 7 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m. If you are interested, you must register before January 25 to get a \$10 discount.
- Motion by Judi Malloy, seconded by Patty Maxwell to approve the Partnership Support Covenant with ELCA. Approved.
- Motion by Peggy Jarrell, seconded by Bob Vergamini to approve the housing allowance resolution for calendar year 2018 as follows: "It is resolved that the total compensation paid to Reverend Lowell R. Hennigs for calendar year 2018 shall be \$51,500 of which \$18,000 is hereby designated as a housing allowance pursuant to Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code and it is further resolved that the designation of \$18,000 of Reverend Lowell R. Hennigs' annual compensation as a housing allowance also shall apply to all future years that Reverend Lowell R. Hennigs is employed by Emanuel Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa, unless otherwise provided." Approved December 18, 2017.
- Connie Solon gave the Stewardship/Finance Committee report and reported that they have not received as many pledges as hoped for. There have been 59 pledges so far which is 70% ahead of last year's total, but last year had total pledges of 72.
- Motion by Connie Solon, seconded by Bob Vergamini to purchase a computer for the work room for a cost similar to what was paid for the last computer of \$292.70. Approved.

- Report was received and prepared by Stephen Lewis on the Children's/Youth Ministry Committee. Among other things, ten households participated in the Angel Tree Party with six households attending the party. Santa Claus also attended. Fundraisers for the 2018 Youth Gathering have raised \$6,487.67. Fundraisers for the Youth Fund have raised \$3,113.17.
- Bob Vergamini gave the Property Committee report. \$419.21 was spent to repair the dishwasher. The office computer has been freezing up and a new one can be purchased for less than \$300. Alan Ellis recommended the computer which he is using in his business which was purchased for a cost of \$292.70. The purchase of the new computer was approved. Bob Vergamini talked about providing an area on one of the walls in the Fellowship Hall to display artwork that has been given to the church or created by members of the church. That issue was tabled until Bob could visit with other interested parties. The Property Committee recommended the lease of a new copying machine. Based upon that recommendation, a motion was made by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Suzanne Winter, to lease a Kyocera 3252CI copying machine with a projected cost of \$232 per month which includes service, two sided and color copying, scanner and stapling. That would be \$100 per month more than the cost of the current lease. Approved.
- Suzanne Winter gave the Wider Ministries report. There were 20 Thanksgiving baskets serving 182 people.
- All committee reports must be submitted by no later than January 12. Earlier would be better.
- Alan Ellis will be working with Elaine Sasso concerning the outside sign.
- Suzanne Winter and Bob Vergamini will be leaving the church council because their terms have expired. John Spilde, Joel Hauschild, Connie Solon, Elaine Sasso, Peggy Jarrell and Judi Malloy have shown an interest in serving on the council. Church council members will be elected at the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held after the 9:30 a.m. service on January 28, 2018.
- Peggy Jarrell, Connie Solon and Bob Vergamini are working on the facility's usage request form.
- A congregational information meeting will be held during coffee hour after the January 21, 2018 service.
- Judi Malloy will provide devotions at the next meeting.
- Motion by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Suzanne Winter to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Approved.
- All reports presented to the council may be viewed by any church member at the church office.

Open your heart and home to a child

Children experience a great deal of loss when they have to be placed in a home far from their parents. Can you help meet the growing need for foster homes in Council Bluffs and surrounding communities? If every church in Iowa had one to two Foster and/or Adoptive homes it would greatly reduce the number of children waiting in shelters for homes that could provide them safety, love and security they need while they are temporarily separated from their family. Staff from Lutheran Services in Iowa, who are administrators for the program in Western Iowa, invite you to attend an important Informational Session hosted by St. Paul Lutheran in Treynor at 9:15 on Sunday morning, January 7 to learn more. For more information on the foster care/adoption program, go to www.LSIowa.org/foster.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7 p.m.



**Friday,
January 19th**

6 p.m. Potluck
6:30 p.m. Movie

Free event for all ages!
**Bring friends, family
and a dish to share!**

The Hennigs Have Bought a House



Pastor Lowell and Brenda have purchased a home at 13574 Drexel Street in Omaha. You may recall that that Brenda and Pastor owned a home in Bellevue, Nebraska, when they came to Emanuel. It has been a good arrangement for all involved over the past three and a half for Pastor Lowell and Brenda to live in the parsonage. But it was always the plan that at some point they would return to owning a home. Market conditions, financial advantages, and the right home have come together at this time in a very favorable way for Brenda and Pastor Lowell. Over the next few months they will gradually move their belongings to the house in Omaha. Pastor Lowell will begin commuting to Emanuel (and Brenda's Omaha commute will be much shorter!). This does not affect Pastor Lowell's service as pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church. He will continue to serve until such time as his term call comes to an end and/or new pastoral leadership is identified. That term call runs at least through January of 2020.

Bethany News

SUBMITTED BY DIANE CARLON



Christmas Store Update

Thank you for filling the shelves and tables for the Annual Bethany Christmas Store. Your generosity was overwhelming!! The residents enjoyed "shopping" for their loved ones for the holidays. We also want to extend our thanks to the Volunteers who came to help the residents shop and wrap the gifts. We are appreciative of all of you!

We've had some inquiries already from individuals regarding donations for next year. Many are wanting to take advantage of after Christmas and January Sales. We accept donations all year long for the Christmas Store. We have the availability to store the items during the year. Please feel free to drop off items at the Front Desk at BLH anytime. Please be sure to let them know you are dropping off items for the Christmas Store. Thank you again for your donations and support.

Bethany Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Home will be held on Sunday, January 7th, 2018 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 2018. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Peggy Karstens at Bethany Lutheran Home 712-328-9500. In the event of inclement weather or our need to postpone the meeting due to flu, please contact Bethany at 712-328-9500 and/or tune to your local television station if appropriate, before heading to Bethany.

Thank you Christmas Carolers & Visitors

We want to extend a big "THANK YOU" for the gift of music heard through the halls and Dining Rooms at BLH and BH in December. The familiar tradition of caroling is a great memory for many of our residents and tenants. Thank you for taking time to remember Bethany with your gift of holiday music.

Bethany Auxiliary Meeting

The Quarterly meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on Monday, January 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Dining Room at Bethany Lutheran Home. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Treynor is the host. The meeting will include the installation of new officers, discussion of the upcoming bake sale and a highlights from the Christmas Store and other activities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your church Key Lady or Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451.

Bethany Heights Apartments Available

Bethany Heights Senior Living Community has several apartments available for seniors. Do you know someone or perhaps even you, who would enjoy the benefits of living in a senior community in the New Year? Maybe someone interested in living independently or having the benefits of an assisted living community? Bethany Heights offers both independent and assisted living services in apartments ranging in sizes from a Studio to Two Bedroom/Two bathroom. As an individual's needs increase, services are delivered directly to your apartment. Something unique to the area. We'd love for you to schedule a visit. Small pets are welcome. For more information or to set up a visit please contact Paula Fandry at Bethany Heights 712-328-8228.

Raising our Voice for Iowa Children & Families

Lutheran Day on the Hill



Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

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

Emanuel's Nativity Set

BY VIOLA ANDERSON

In 1969, during our fun years camping with the family, Lucille Weatherill, Viola Anderson and Gladys Jensen, sisters and members of Emanuel, made several nativity sets. These consisted of nineteen pieces and one was given to the church.

We cleaned the green ware and painted them at the campgrounds and our picnic tables in our back yards.

While we were doing our "crafts", Nyal made the wooden nativity. John, Folmer and Nyal like to fish and play horseshoes as we all just visited and had a picnic on our days off from works.

Our parents, Grace and Fred Bird, were also members of Emanuel. We came from a family of eleven children and are very close. We still enjoy seeing it at church over the Christmas Season.

After looking at all of the work that went into creating these lovely pieces, Mrs. Crosen made individual storage bags for each piece for storage. Each storage bag is sewn with padding to prevent any chipping or coming to any harm.

Care Packages

One of the activities at Hanging of the Greens was packing "final's week care packages" for Emanuel's college students full of goodies. We received several "thank you's" through Facebook, email and cards that we would like to share.



Overflowing With Thanks

Thank you guys so much! Means a lot every time I hear from Emanuel!

John Scheffler
(Iowa State)

Dear Emanuel Lutheran Church Members,
WOW! It's already my junior year of college, where did time go? Thanks for the care package this semester while studying for finals. Finals week is an extremely stressful week, as some of you know, and it's nice to be thought of by our church community during this stressful week. I thank you for the continued support of not only me, but the other college attendees at Emanuel and God Bless!

Will Schademann
(Creighton University- Class of 2019)

I go it! Thank you so much!

Brett Egner
Midland University)

Dear Emanuel,
Thank you so much for the yummy and thoughtful care package! It really brightens up my day when I get mail from home. I am always thinking of you all. I'm so lucky to have people like you for never ending support! I am sure the church is looking very festive and full of cheer! Miss you all, sending love! Thank you again,

Baylee Snyder
(Midland University)

Thank you so much for the finals care package! It is so nice to have a little something from home when the semester is wrapping up! God Bless,

Alyson Sorensen
(Drake University)



Christmas Program

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

We had a wonderful turnout for the Children's Christmas program and I am so proud of how hard all the kids worked on it. It was very neat to see the kids tell the story of having a family of unruly kids take over the Christmas program and see the Christmas story from a new perspective. They really seemed to have fun with it and it reminds us that everyone can be touched by the gospel, no matter their background, and we need to make sure to invite and welcome them every chance we get.

Special thanks to Pastor Lowell Hennigs, Cindy Richards, Stephen Lewis, Brenda Hennigs, John Husmann, Jamie Hansen, Tyler Hansen, Carly Sorensen and Chris Sorensen for helping with production of the program. Thank you to Jan Husmann and Deann Over for assembling the gift bags for kids after the program and also for hosting coffee hour. Also a huge thanks to parents for helping their kids with lines and getting them here for practices. I apologize if I am missing anyone from my list. This was a much bigger undertaking than we have done in the past and we wouldn't have been able to do this without everyone's help.

Hanging of the Greens



READERS:

Luella Fahrenkrug
Ava Jarrell
Maximus Sizemore
Mason Garreans
Cael Hansen
Kade Holcombe
Hailey Holcombe

CAST:

Rosie Spangenberg—Narrator
Mia Richards—Beth
Kylie Hansen—Alice
Jamie Hansen—Mother
Tyler Hansen—Father
Emma Richards—Imogene Herdman
Kyle Sorensen—Ralph Herdman
Tori Hansen—Gladys Herdman
Mason Lewis—Claude Herdman
Garrett Ashcraft—Leroy Herdman
Gabe Vansickle—Ollie Herdman
Chris Sorensen—Fire Chief
Alex Vansickle—Elmer Hopkins
Lowell Hennigs—Rev. Hopkins
Lauren Hansen—Church Lady
Carly Sorensen—Mrs. Armstrong

ENSEMBLE:

Iris Fahrenkrug
Bettie Mae Dalton
Kami Maxwell
Cole Holcombe
Lucas Holcombe
Amari Johnson

SPECIAL MUSIC: Mason Garreans

Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



I will come to you in the silence,
I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice,
I claim you as my choice.
Be still, and know I am here.

I am hope for all who are hopeless,
I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night,
I will be your light.
Come and rest in me.

Refrain:

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow Me,

I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.

I am strength for all the despairing,
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,
And all will know my name.

Refrain

I am the Word that leads all to freedom,
I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now, walk, and live!

Refrain

This song, written by David Haas, is one of my favorites in the ELW. As the ELW Hymnal Companion says, "It takes God's words and puts them in the mouths of the congregation." He has embodied us, taken over our mouths and his words are coming out. But it's not like one of those horror movies where the alien takes over makes us do things we don't want to. No. He loves us so much, in such a perfect way that what comes out of us is a continuation of his love-if we let it. If we are open. We are a conduit of his love. This isn't always evident though. Most of the time I'm sure we are not very good at this conduit business. We think about ourselves too much. What's in it for me? Why did she look at me like that? He's so mean to say that to me. Me! Me! Me! And our conduit gets plugged like a bad artery....or a plugged toilet.

But when we look outward and upward our conduit opens up.

During Epiphany, we will be focusing on inviting. He invites us, and we invite others. God takes us as we are, therefore, we take others as they are. We are a working conduit. When that thought comes into our minds "I could ask....." then Just Do It.



SING PRAISES TO HIM;
TELL OF ALL HIS WONDERFUL WORKS.
PSALM 105:2

Week of:	Attendance:	Offerings:
December 3	145	\$2,941.50
December 10	146	\$4,482.57
December 17	183	\$3,533.67
December 24	243	\$5,033.25
December 31	n/a	n/a

Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

November Income:\$10,809.55
November Expense:.....\$13,392.88
November Balance-\$2,583.33

YTD Income: \$137,649.90
YTD Expense:..... \$143,481.72
YTD Balance-\$5,831.82
Plus Carryover \$9,506.26
General Budget Fund..... \$3,674.44



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Game Day

Thursday, January 4th, 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Tuesday, January 9th, 8:30 am
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, January 10th
11:30 am
Pizza Ranch

Blessings & Brunch

Friday, January 19th, 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

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

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by fellowship

Wednesday meal at 6:00 pm, Kidz Kamp & Bible Discussion at
6:45 pm and worship at 7:30 pm

Staff:

Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis

Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed