

Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2023

Happenings!

Saturday, February 04—Craft Inn & Art Demo with Connie Eyberg

Sunday, February 12—Blood Pressure Checks During Coffee Hour

Tuesday, February 14—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet

Wednesday, February 15—Newsletter Articles Due

Thursday, February 16—Game Day

Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday

Monday, February 20—Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 1—Lenten Dinner & Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

Saturday, March 04—Craft Inn

Tai Chi each **Monday** and **Thursday** morning at 10 a.m. in the upstairs Youth Center

Bible Study each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the upstairs conference room

Mission Statement:

Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

Vision Statement: To Grow in

Faith, Love, and Spirit

No (ever	one has seen
	but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
	1 JOHN 4:12, NIV

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In This Issue



A Post from the Pastor

By Pastor Cara Knutson

Dear Church,



I sit in my office looking out the window at the snow seeing cars venturing out after the big snow storm. I don't know if other parts of Council Bluffs got lots of snow but here at the church we had a scant amount. Yet as a city we prepared for whatever eventuality so that our community, and especially our children, would remain safe. School was called off on a Wednesday and a two hour late start the following day.

While snow days weren't recorded in Scripture, we do have messages of being prepared for an unknown future. The best parallel between the Bible and these past few days that comes to my mind is the parable of the foolish bridesmaids. To refresh your memory, the bridesmaids were to be alert and keep their lamps filled with oil and have extra with them while they waited for the bridegroom's arrival. When the bridegroom finally arrived, ten bridesmaids didn't have enough oil and asked to borrow some, which they were denied.

In our everyday lives and in our lives of faith, being prepared is a good idea. We can look at a situation, see what possible events may occur and plan accordingly. In the wintertime it's generally a good idea to always travel with a cell phone charger and a winter kit in the back in case of being stranded. In our lives of faith however, what does preparing for the unknown look like?

Martin Luther once said, "If I knew tomorrow that the end of the world was coming, I'd plant an apple tree today." In other words, when our lives are rather ordinary and boring we plant trees—we keep to the work God has given us to do. When our lives hit those icy patches that cause everything we know to spin out of control—we continue to do the work that God has given us to do. Sometimes life leaves us stranded in a ditch and we find ourselves needing to reach out and ask for help. Did you ever think that when you ask for help you're giving someone a chance to live out their calling to be good neighbors and little Christ's in the world?

As I was growing up in the Assemblies of God a book was published called "88 Reasons Why Christ Will Return in '88". Someone did some calculations and predicted a day that Christ would return. For some reason we all thought the rapture would take place in the middle of the night. Maybe because it would be more dramatic? That night our church all gathered together for a special service to pray and worship and prepare ourselves in case Jesus came in the night and snatched us up to heaven. Jesus didn't come that night.

While it's never a bad idea to gather together to pray and worship God, maybe a more faithful response would be to serve supper at a soup kitchen and then gather for worship, or to go and volunteer in the community, or visit shut-ins in the nursing home. To plant little apple trees even if the end of the world is coming.

As we continue on in our life of faith in this season let us be prepared to, in the words of Paul, "keep on pressing on" reaching out to community and each other with love and service. God created us to need each other and our best work comes when we work together.

Keep on keeping on! See you in church,

Pastor Cara

Just a reminder that if Council Bluffs Public Schools cancels activities due to weather, the office will close and activities and meetings scheduled for that day will also be cancelled or rescheduled.

If there is a cancellation of services, this will Policy be posted on our Facebook page as well as be relayed to the local news stations.





Art Demo @ Craft Inn February 4, 2023

Connie Eyberg will be doing an Art fibers demonstration at the February craft Inn: an intro to creating your own fabrics with paint and inspiration for using it in a project.

If attendees would like to participate, they should bring the following items:

- 2-3 colors of acrylic paint
- a raq
- plastic cup for water cleanup
- light cotton fabric (2-3 pieces 10" x 24")
- brushes, stencils (if you have them)
- embroidery needle
- thread & hoop
- scissors

Inter-Faith Response, Inc.

SUBMITTED BY MARY MASON, INTER-FAITH DIRECTOR

INTER-FAITH RESPONSE, INC.

TOGETHER . WE . MAKE . A . DIFFERENCE

Inter-Faith Non-Discrimination

Statement:

In all matters, Inter-Faith Response, Inc.,

shall not discriminate with respect to age,

gender identity, race, religion, national

origin, disability, sexual orientation, marital

status, and citizenship.

Hours:

Tues – Wed 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Thurs 9:00 am - 11:30 am

(712) 322-0531

What Is Interfaith Response?

Inter-Faith Response, Inc. is a private non-profit nondenominational organization whose mission is to provide assistance to those people in Pottawattamie County who are in crisis or who do not know where or how to access help in resolving their emergency or long term needs.

Who We Are ...

The Director and staff of Inter-Faith Response are all volunteers. This keeps the administrative costs at a minimum. Our administrative costs are met by contributions from a number of churches. Direct client assistance and costs are met by contributions from indi-

viduals. organizations, and churches, as well as grants.

Cold

The cold has been beastly the last few weeks. We thank heavens for the utility moratorium that has allowed people to retain heat and lights in these months when the loss would have forced people out of their homes, perhaps into permanent homelessness. We will be here to help people when the weather warms and the bills come due. Of course, situations can often reach a critical point for families with multiple stressors. Job loss, individual and/or

family illness, the list is endless, and the answer is money. We are, in our small way, there to help. These cold days do leave a mark on the heat bill.

Old Bills

The wait list for Section 8 rental assistance can be long in Council Bluffs, and we have seen clients who have been waiting for their voucher for as long as 4 years. That doesn't even approach the wait times that have been recorded in New York City. A lady interviewed on local TV waited 22 years for her name to reach the top of the list.

A number of our clients who finally get a voucher to use for affordable housing have old utility bills. Clients generally need to have utility service in their own name before moving forward with a housing voucher.

It is incredible the difference that having an affordable place to live makes in the lives of our clients. It is seldom a matter of immediate life or death, but extreme poverty shortens lives. By helping with old bills we give people a new lease on life, and the energy and fortitude to re-enter society and faith communities.

Inter-Faith in Action

Marie is the 34 year old mother of a 14 year old boy. Marie lost her job just before Christmas and is now behind on her rent. Her job hadbeen good enough that she did not qualify for any state aid. She has now applied for benefits, has been putting job applications in at various businesses and hopes to be employed soon. The fact that Marie receives no child support does not help her situation at all.

We paid a portion of Marie's rent and received a

promise from the landlord to not evict at this time.

BL is a 33 year old man of Pahe won't evict this little family

any time soon, as he knows BL is a good worker.

cific Islander extraction. He and his partner moved here from Oregon for a job. They had a baby just before the new year. The company he was working for laid him off. This lovely couple have a new baby and the rent is past due. BL moved here for a good job, and like the client above qualified for no government assistance. And once again, he is actively looking for a job. The landlord agreed to work with this family, and said

Michelle is a 49 year old woman who has been denied Social Security Disability twice, but she does have Section 8, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and a low income phone in place. Michelle can survive on the benefits she receives, but only just. The gas bill was larger than the amount Michelle's family can help her with. We hope that Michelle can get her disability soon. She really can't work, and certainly not enough hours to keep body and soul together.

Gratitude

We don't believe it is possible to work here and not have a feeling of humility and gratitude each and every day. We are grateful to you, our donors and supporters, for money in the bank to fund this ministry, for your ongoing prayers, and for our own lives that allow us to continue this purposeful work.

May the coming New Year bring many blessings to each one of you and your families.



<u>Feb. O2</u> Christina Matuszeski

> <u>Feb. 06</u> Rita Epperson

> > <u>Feb. 07</u> Mike Todd

Feb. 08 Angel McGee

<u>Feb. 09</u> Marci Boruff Janet Perrone

<u>Feb. 10</u> Kelsey Carrier Julie Holland <u>Feb. 11</u> Logan Wilson

Feb. 13
Carla Hipnar
Bettiemae Janssen
Ernie Techau

<u>Feb. 14</u> Amy Garreans

<u>Feb. 17</u> Joshua Hubbard Novalee Rowe Van Dyke Vivienne Rowe VanDyke

> <u>Feb. 19</u> Taylor Edson

<u>Feb. 21</u> LaWayne Andersen Amy Steensland-Rickard

> <u>Feb. 22</u> Leo Gurnicz Ashley Hipnar

<u>Feb. 24</u> Jason Carrier Shawn Gallagher Megan Sorensen

<u>Feb. 27</u> Jane Anderson Brett Epperson

> Feb. 29 Bob Otto



Feb. 05 Sid & Judy Dillion

Feb. 09 Gary & Jill Burton

Feb. 15 Richard & Arlene Betts Feb. 18 Amy & Mike Garreans

Feb. 19 Brad & Penny Dahlke

<u>Feb. 28</u> Matt & Connie Solon

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, February 05	9:30 a.m. Service	
Ushers		
	Greg & Linda Steensland	
Acolyte	Mason Lewis	
Lector	Linda Steensland	
Altar Guild	Debra Ebsen	
Communion Assistant		
Visual Tech		
LiveStream Tech		
Coffee Hour	0.00 0	
Sunday, February 12	9:30 a.m. Service	
Ushers	Greg & Linda Steensland	
Acolyte	Grace & Tayah Nixt	
Lector	Greg Steensland	
Altar Guild	Debra Ebsen	
Communion Assistant	Grace & Tayah Nixt	
Visual Tech		
LiveStream Tech		
Coffee Hour		
Sunday, February 19	9:30 a.m. Service	
Ushers	Greg & Linda Steensland	
Acolyte	Alex & Gabe VanSickle	
Lector	Linda Steensland	
Altar Guild		
Communion Assistant	Alex & Gabe VanSickle	
Visual Tech		
LiveStream Tech		
Coffee Hour		
Sunday, February 22	7 p.m. Service	
Ushers		
Acolyte		
Lector	Linda Steensland	
Altar Guild		
Communion Assistant		
Visual Tech		
LiveStream Tech		
Sunday, February 26	9:30 a.m. Service	
Ushers	Greg & Linda Steensland	
Acolyte	Grant & Garrett Ashcraft	
Lector	Greg Steensland	
Altar Guild		
Communion Assistant	Grant & Garrett Ashcraft	
Visual Tech		
LiveStream Tech		
Coffee Hour		

We need YOUR help!

We would love to heave you help with worship! Please contact the church office at (712) 323-9665, office@emanuelcb.org or sign-up on our website at: www.emanuelcb.org



Students who would like to attend Sunday school will leave the Sunday worship service after the Gospel reading to go to the classroom for lessons, projects and songs with Stephen Lewis & Lori Lynn Ahrends.

February 5 Singing During Worship: "This Little Light of Mine"

A Light & Hope

Celebrating the Coming King
Psalm 118; 1 Peter 2:9

Our faith in Jesus Means we
are a light to all nations.

February 12 God's Long-Ago Promise

A Look at Advent Luke 2:1-20; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 43:6-25, Jeremiah 23:5, Micah 5:2 Jesus is the Savior God promised

February 19

Mardi Gras

Jesus is Tempted

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus Fasts for 40 Days
Our preparations for lent.

February 26

God With Us

God Sent His Son, Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:11-12 Jesus' birth means God is with us.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	30 10 am Tai Chi	5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Com- munity Room 6 pm SCA Meeting Upstairs	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	2 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	3	10 am Craft Inn
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	6 10 am Tai Chi	7 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	10	11
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressures Checks with Crystal	13 10 am Tai Chi	5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Com- munity Room 6 pm SCA Meeting Upstairs	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day	17	18
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	20 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting MEE ING	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Com- munity Room	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 12 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday Worship	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	24	25
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	27 10 am Tai Chi	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6 pm SCA Meeting Upstairs	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 am Lenten Dinner 7 pm Lenten Service	2 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	3	4 10 am Craft Inn Craft Inn



Deloris Christensen

Norma Heath

Jane Meyer

Rita Epperson
Robert Hesseltine
Tommy Schott

Owen Hansen Sawyer Lorenz Ruth Sullivan Larry Hansen Norma Mass Bob Vergamini

Happy Valentines Day



At LSI, loving our neighbor is an essential value that we continuously work and grow

towards. This Valentine's Day, take time to share with your friends, family and neighbors how important they are to you. February is a time of giving, a time of love and a time of gratitude. Share with those around you how much they mean to you and the impact they have had on you.

It's also a time when we want to thank you, the congregations that so generously support the work of LSI throughout the year. We are blessed by your love and support. Your generosity has continued to offer hope and healing to lowans of all ages.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at <u>Deborah.Whitford@LSlowa.org</u> or 563-676-2065.

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

Dear Enconnel Litheran Church,

Thank you for your secent

donation of all the trimmings

for Thanksquing Dinner. Everyone

staying in Shelter this Thanksgiving

Dill who so appreciative of your

generosity. Thank you for Shasing

with us.

Cotholio Charities Donestic Violence & Sexual Assault Biogram

Save the Date

Join us for dinner and worship on Wednesdays during Lent March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29









Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
January 01	30	30	60	\$1,191.00
January 08	59	41	100	\$1,698.00
January 15	72	15	87	\$1,063.00
January 22	60	33	93	N/A
January 29	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

 December Income:
 \$12,999.00

 December Expense:
 \$13,248.75

 December Balance
 -\$249.75

YTD Income:	\$145,535.56
YTD Expense:	\$161,004.26
YTD Balance	\$15,468.70
Plus Carryover	\$14,978.52
General Budget Fund	\$490.18



Emanuel Lutheran Church 2444 North Broadway Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday, February 19th 4 p.m.—6 p.m.

Live music from DaBand, food, silent auction, children's activities, fun and fellowship.

Proceeds help support
Children and Youth events
and mission trips.

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

Contact Us

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

Worship Services

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

Children's Ministry:

Children will be dismissed to Sunday School after the Gospel reading during the Sunday worship service (September—May)

Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson (pastor@emanuelcb.org)
Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards (music@emanuelcb.org)
Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis (office@emanuelcb.org)
Children & Youth Programming, Stephen Lewis (youth@emanuelcb.org)
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed