Welcome to Emanuel Lutheran Church

Garden of Readin'

Emanuel Newsletter

Happenings at Emanuel!

Monday, September 07—Labor Day, Office Closed

Tuesday, September 08—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet

Monday, September 14—Ale & the Almighty

Tuesday, September 15—Book Club Meets

Wednesday, September 16—Dinner Church

Sunday, September 20—Rally Sunday, Potluck & Blood Pressure Checks

Monday, September 21—Newsletter Articles Due

Tuesday, September 22—Book Club Meets in Conference Room

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

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The Gift of Two Clouds

By Pastor Cara Knutson

Throughout this year I've been making time for regular spiritual retreats. I plan to start spiritual direction training this fall and so I'm curious about retreat locations in my area— what kind of experiences does each community offer? How are they similar, different, and which kinds do I prefer? Most recently I made a pilgrimage to Conception Abbey in Conception MO, near Maryville, MO. It was an absolutely lovely place and the hospitality was warm and sincere even though I barely spoke to anyone. Signs everywhere said welcome guest and helped me figure out where I wanted to go and how to get there.

I spent a better part of a day curled up in the lounge with a pot full of coffee, a quilt over my lap, and The Cloud of Unknowing in my hands. Written by anonymously in the later half of the 14th century, the book offers guidance for beginners. I found a very old, and very helpful way of imagining prayer. The Cloud teaches that God is beyond our ability to know or understand completely. Between us and God is a cloud of unknowing, a darkness, not of sin or anything bad. The darkness is like when Paul writes we see through a glass darkly. Our humanity prevents us from being able to see or comprehend God. However, we can connect with God through love, and in so doing, experience God through the power of God's love.

"Faith doesn't mean having all the answers but trusting God even with all of our questions and unknowing." We come to and experience this love through prayer. This is where the second cloud comes in, the cloud of forgetting. This becomes a type of place holder for all the things we think about and random thoughts that float across our minds. These things aren't bad, but when we place the below the cloud of forgetting we create an internal space that makes room to connect with God's love through prayer. When approaching God through prayer and love, the writer teaches to choose a word, the shorter the better, to gently draw our attention back to when our mind wanders. Sound familiar? What I found really interesting is that The Cloud of Unknowing was little known until the early 20th century. Spiritual writer Evelyn Underhill wrote an adaptation of the work and brought it into the public awareness. Since then this work became the primary basis for Centering Prayer developed by Trappist monks William Meninger, Basil Pennington and Thomas Keating.

I've been attracted to meditation and centering prayer for years, but in the back of my mind I wondered how Christian was it? It was reassuring to me that this form of prayer is well grounded in both Christian tradition and Scripture. D avid writes in the Psalms: Be still and know that I am God. In 1 Kings the prophet Elijah doesn't find God in the wind or earthquake or fire but in the sound of sheer silence. Paul not only wrote about dark mirrors but also that we can trust while we may not be able to fully understand God, God's love is complete. Martin Luther even chimed in. If Brother Martin wrote about it, we know it's kosher for Lutherans (I'm hoping you caught the humor of that remark). Luther often spoke of God being hidden even when God is made known fully and most clearly through Christ. We are not saved because we have perfect faith or absolute certainty, but because of the gift of grace from God. Faith doesn't mean having all the answers but trusting God even with all of our questions and unknowing.

The great thing about the prayer practice presented in The Cloud of Unknowing is that it's not something you have to do for years to master and finally break through to God's love. A absolute beginner can practice this form of prayer right away and experience God. Find a quiet place, sit comfortably, and choose a simple word like love, peace, or grace. When thoughts arise notice them and gently return to your prayer word and awareness of God's loving presence. There's no right experience or feeling required but simply offering yourself to God. I've been using a free app through Contemplative Outreach that walks you through how to do Centering Prayer and lets you customize your time with different types of prayers, Scriptures and sounds. I really like it— it's simple and easy to use. We' re a society not much accustomed to silence. We get uncomfortable with silence, or at least I do, wanting to fill it up with chatter and noise. Which is probably why this raving extrovert is so drawn to this solitary and silent practice. It helps bring balance I'd like to invite you just starting with five minutes each day simply resting in God's presence. Simply be. Trust that even when God seems to hide behind a cloud of unknowing, Christ is present, holding you in love.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated items, time, baked goods or concession items for the Garage Sale & Bake Sale. Setting up and preparing for the sale is not a small task and we appreciate everyone who helped throughout the week.

We had a lot of people come though and get items. After the sale we had several organizations that benefited from items that did not sell.

At the time of printing, we collected just over $5,200. 75% of these funds will go to Share My Smile. The remaining 25% will go towards replacing Emanuel's sign.

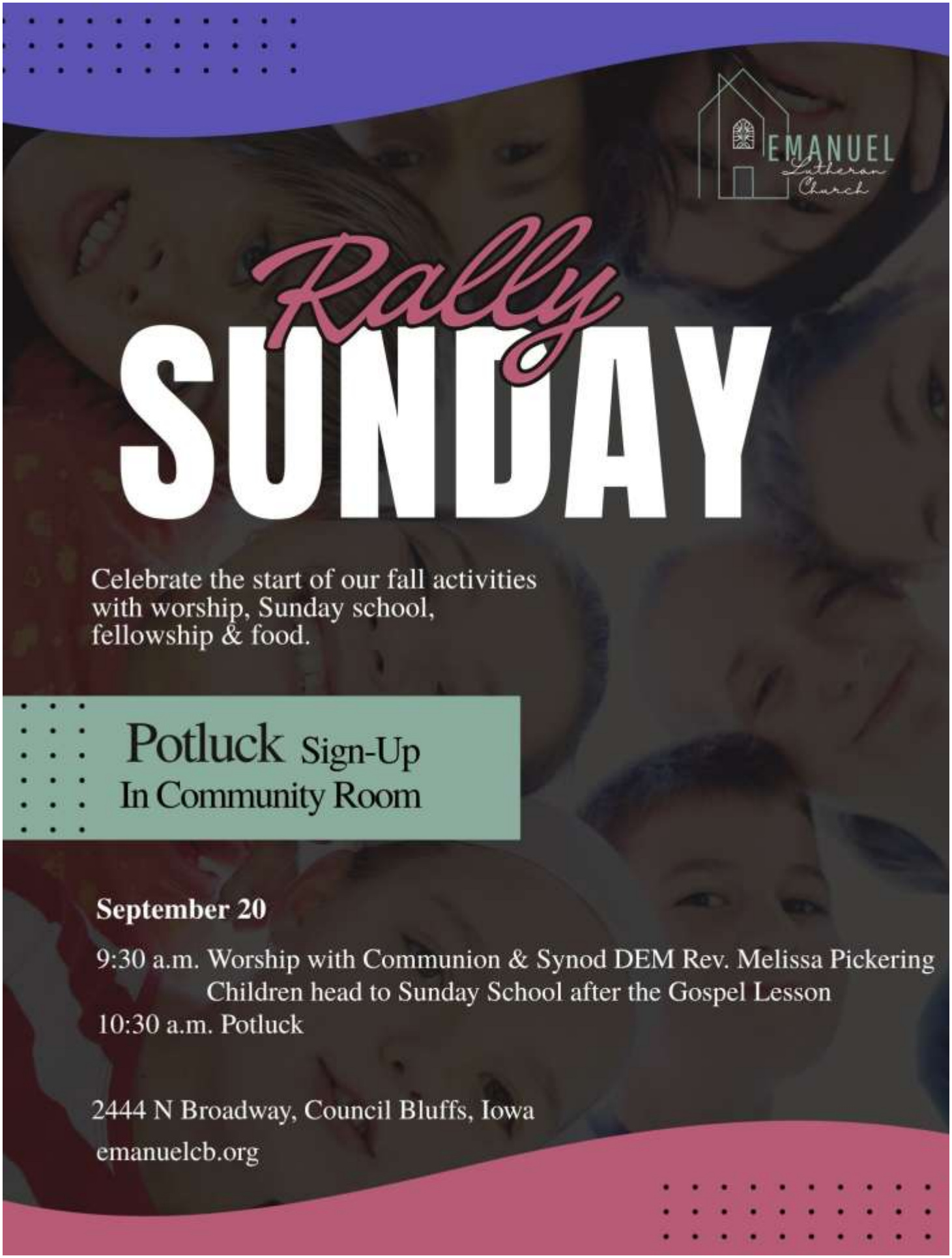
Thank you so much!

Lutheran Family Services Christmas bags

Submitted by Sherrill Stacy

Thanks to everyone for bringing in donations during our Christmas In July drive. The donations will be given to the Lutheran Family Services office to be handled out to families with children between the ages of 0 to 5. The bags will hopefully provide items to help out during the Christmas holiday and throughout the year. Blessings to you all!

Sept 6	Ken Kemmish
Sept 13	Mike Winter
Sept 20	Sid Dillon
Sept 27	Chris Nixt


EMANUEL
Lutheran
Church
Rally
SUNDAY
Celebrate the start of our fall activities
with worship, Sunday school,
fellowship & food.
Potluck Sign-Up
In Community Room
September 20
9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion & Synod DEM Rev. Melissa Pickering
Children head to Sunday School after the Gospel Lesson
10:30 a.m. Potluck
2444 N Broadway, Council Bluffs, Iowa
emanuelcb.org

Worship Assistant Schedule

(If unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange a substitute and notify the church office.)

Sunday, September 06	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Lector	Connie Beckman
Altar Guild	Kevin Epperson & Al Martens
Communion Assistants	Richard Reed & Pat Hiller
Visual Tech	Connie Edson
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LifeStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Richard Reed & Jan Stone
Sunday, September 13	**9:30 a.m. Service**
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Lector	Connie Beckman
Altar Guild	Connie & Matt Solon
Communion Assistants	Kevin Epperson & Matt Solon
Visual Tech	Connie Edson
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Connie & Matt Solon
Sunday, September 20	**9:30 a.m. Service**
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Lector	Mike Winter
Altar Guild	Kathy Schneckloth & Al Martens
Communion Assistants	Richard Reed & Pat Hiller
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Kathy Schneckloth
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Cathy Schneckloth & Char Les Kemmish
Sunday, September 27	**9:30 a.m. Service**
Ushers	Al Martens & Sid Dillon
Lector	Al Martens
Altar Guild	Al & Linda Martens
Communion Assistants	Maja Knutson & Derek Knutson
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sound Tech	Kevin Epperson
LiveStream Tech	Sherrill Stacy
Donut Liaison	Lori Lynn Ahrends
Coffee Hour	Caroll Grieder

We are in need of volunteers for worship assistants (lectors, altar guild, communion assistants, visual tech, livestreaming tech) as well as coffee hour hosts. You can sign-up at emanuelc.org under “ministries”. You can also volunteer by contacting Sherrill Stacy at volunteers@emanuelcb.org

VIEW OUR DIRECTORY!

DOWNLOAD "INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY" THROUGH THE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY AND SIGN-IN WITH YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO SIGN-IN, LET MICHAELA KNOW SO SHE CAN CHECK YOUR EMAIL IN OUR SYSTEM.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PRINTED COPY OF THE DIRECTORY, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THERE ARE UPDATES ALMOST WEEKLY, SO THE ONLINE ONE WILL BE THE MOST ACCURATE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR HAVE TROUBLE ACCESSING IT, CONTACT MICHAELA AT OFFICE@EMANUELCB.ORG.

Christianbook
«GIVEBACK«

Emanuel giveback ID:
UDXHMD

Jane Anderson
Bob Bender
Connie Edson
Alan Ellis

Owen Hansen
Sharon Hansen
Norma Heath
Sandy Kanger

Norma Mass
Patty Maxwell
Oscar Over
Abaigh Plummer

Elaine Sasso
Ron Sasso
Ruth Sullivan

September 02
Darlene Jeppesen

September 03
Jonathan Scheffler

September 10
Ian Carrier

September 12
Kevin Epperson
Judi Malloy

September 13
Cheryl Coble

September 15
Ryan Epperson

September 16
Ridgeway Hein-Snider

September 17
Sandy Kanger

September 19
Maxima Spangenberg

September 20
Marcus McGee
Seth Schwartz

September 21
Reegan Haats

September 22
Norma Mass
Alyson Sorensen

September 24
Deann Over

September 25
Jenna Ricks-Ashley

September 27
Dan Heithoff
Janet Kendall

September 28
Alan Ellis
Alexandra Heithoff

September 29
Leah Clark

October 01
Jessica Gearhart

October 02
Tyler Hansen

October 04
Nick Rickard
Norma Stairs

October 06
Kyle Sorensen

October 09
Lacey Fischer
Nicole Fischer

October 10
Jesse Hansen

October 19
Grace Nixt

October 20
Abbie Ashcraft

October 22
Cynthia Richards

October 25
Hannah Goldapp
John Spilde

October 28
Darlene Reed

October 31
Judith Loos

October 31
Danielle Schaal

September 07
Michael & Michele Loos

September 08
Robert & Bette Juhl

September 11
James & LaWayne Andersen

September 14
Greg & Linda Steensland

September 17
Elizabeth & Drew Melani
Brittney & Garett Smith
Jodi & Brian Vodicka

September 19
Ryan & Jenny Jarrell-Smith

September 23
Michael & Anita Garrett

September 24
Randy & Nancy Palmer

September 30
Alan & Kimberly Egner

October 06
Larry & Andrea Britton

October 07
Adam & Autumn Tanner

October 16
Thomas & Beth Lewis

October 17
Jerry & Debra Ebsen

October 20
Jenna & Jamie Ricks-Ashley
Ian & Rachel Spangenberg

October 27
Keven & Deborah Ferguson

If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, let us know!
office@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9665

God's Work. Our Hands.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 13, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands."

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, "Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing." With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 13, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day. This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.

Be sure to save the date and check resources soon. ELCA.org/DayOfService for updated Go in peace.

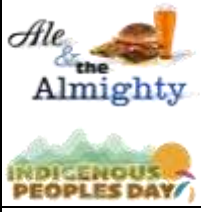
SEPTEMBER

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	**2** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**3** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**4** *Office Closed*	**5**
6 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**7** *Office Closed* 10 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands 	**8** 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East) 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room Cara out of office	**9** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**10** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**11** *Office Closed* 7 pm Mason Playing with Band at Football Game Cara out of office	**12**
13 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School (Rev. Stephany Sanborn) & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**14** 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 6:30 pm Music with Lori Lynn at Library 	**15** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club in Conference Room	**16** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**17** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Garrett & Grant Have XC Meet in Bennington, NE	**18** *Office Closed*	**19**
20 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School (DEM Rev. Melissa Pickering) 10:30 am Potluck & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 	**21** Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Tai Chi 	**22** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 3 pm Garrett & Grant Have XC Meet in Boystown, NE 	**23** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**24** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**25** *Office Closed* 7 pm Mason Playing with Band at Football Game	**26**
27 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**28** 10 am Tai Chi	**29** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**30** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room			

OCTOBER

At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 10 am Grant Playing Golf for AL at Dodge Riverside	**2** *Office Closed* National Custodians Day	**3**
4 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	**5** 10 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands	**6** 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet @ Village Inn East) 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**7** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**8** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**9** *Office Closed* 7 pm Mason Playing with Band at Football Game	**10** 12:45 am Mason Performing with TJ Band at Loess Hills Field Fest in Glenwood
11 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	**12** 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Ale & the Almighty at Glory Days Bar & Grill 	**13** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 7 pm Book Club 	**14** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**15** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi 6 pm Garrett & Grant Have XC Meet at Wispering Woods	**16** *Office Closed*	**17** TBD Mason Performing with TJ Band at Two Band Festivals
18 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 10:45 am Council Meeting 	**19** 10 am Tai Chi Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 pm Music with Lori Lynn at Library 	**20** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**21** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room 6 pm Dinner Church 	**22** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**23** *Office Closed* 7 pm Mason Playing with Band at Football Game	**24**
25 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 	**26** 10 am Tai Chi	**27** 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	**28** 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am–3 pm Bobbin Chasers (Community Sewing Group) in community room	**29** 9:30 am Adult Bible Study in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	**30** *Office Closed*	**31**

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

SPONSORED BY: BETHANY Lutheran Health Services · Assisted Living Locators · Care Initiatives Hospice

RESOURCES . SUPPORT . COMMUNITY

Join us for the County Senior Resource Fair! Explore valuable resources, services, and programs designed to support older adults, caregivers, and families. Meet local providers, gather information, ask questions, and discover tools to help you age well and stay connected in our community.

9:00am - 12:00pm
3rd September, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church
633 Willow St. Council Bluffs, IA

Contact us for more information
712-256-7802 or mkt@blhs.care

FREE ENTRY!

Benefit :

- Connect with Local Experts
- Discover Available Experts
- Get Your Questions Answered
- Plan for the Future
- Build Community Connections

Vendor Cost: $20 all proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Association

Notes of thanks from Sunday School students to the AL Baseball players who helped move tables and bring out items that had been dropped off for the garage sale. There were also students from the AL Tennis team that came by after the sale to help take tables down and get the community room bac to its normal state.

Make sure we have your current address, email and phone number.

If you have something going on where others can help support you, please let us know and we will add it to the calendar.

Follow us on Facebook & YouTube!

Attendance & OFFERINGS

Services	*In-Person Attendance:*	*Online Views:*	*Total Attendance:*	*Weekly Offerings:*
Sunday, July 05, 2026	40	11	51	$2,255.00
Sunday, July 12, 2026	28	20	48	$2,365.00
Sunday, July 19, 2026	42	9	51	$4,467.00
Sunday, July 26, 2028	45	8	59	$3,821.00
Wednesday, July 29, 2028	6	NA		

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

July Income: $12,856.60
July Expense: ..... (-$16,961.24)
July Balance ..... (-$4,104.64)

YTD Income: $95,528.88
YTD Expense: ..... (-$111,635.64)
YTD Balance..... (-$16,106.76)
Plus Carryover ..... (-$5,564.00)
General Budget Fund..... (-$21,670.81)

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Office Hours: Monday –Friday 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

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.

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, Lori Lynn Ahrends *(youth@emanuelcb.org)*
Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed
Treasurer, Connie Solon *(finance@emanuelcb.org)*