

### **Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter**

January 2024

## Happenings at Emanuel!

Monday, January 1 & Tuesday, January 2—Office Closed

Saturday, January 06—Craft Inn

Tuesday, January 09—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet

Monday, January 15—Newsletter Articles Due

Monday, January 15—Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 21— Blood Pressure Checks & Confirmation

Sunday, January 28—Annual Meeting

Mission
Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by

Faith

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

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



This year the Sunday school students shared the story of "Itsy Bitsy Christmas" by Max Lucado along with original music by Lori Lynn Ahrends. This was during the December 17th service if you would like to view the video on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter.

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## A Post from the Pastor

By Pastor Cara Knutson

Isaiah 43:19

For behold I am doing a new thing, can you not perceive it?



Good morning and Happy New Year! We've done some new things the past

year at Emanuel. We started the Ale and the Almighty group that meets with good food and drink to read, reflect, and share about how the Scriptures and current issues meet. With a small confirmation class we trained junior acolytes so when it came



time for them to start confirmation they could already feel comfortable with assisting at worship. Our Thursday morning Bible study went on two field trips: one to the MICAH house to serve a meal to homeless folks in our community and the other to have coffee at Council Bluffs CARES and think about how our community might partner with them in the future. This year we also had an Advent daily devotional online.

What new things might 2024 bring for Emanuel? I've had some people express interest in an adult Bible study on Sunday mornings before worship. If we can get a 10 or more people who would commit to coming we'll start a class. Catch me at church or you can call, email, or text if you're interested. I'll be sharing more information about ways we can support Council Bluffs CARES. What would you be interested in seeing happen at Emanuel in 2024? Let's talk!

### Pastor Cara

# Special Thanks SUBMITTED BY JAN STONE

Thank you so much to Sandy Kanger, Darlene Reed, Darlene Jeppesen and Connie Solon for making 26 dignity bags for residents at Bethany. These are very much appreciated and we thank you for sharing your sewing talent for this project.

## Daily Devotions

Just a reminder that we have daily devotions through the start of Epiphany. A new devotion is posted on YouTube and Facebook each morning at 6 a.m. (it is available anytime after that if you aren't an early riser). We have been given permission to use the book "Come, Emmanuel: Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2023-2024". If you would like to follow along, or prefer to have a printed copy, it is





## Around the Office

### SUBMITTED BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Since the new restroom has been completed, the mailboxes have been relocated to the hallway near the double doors.

Any forms or paperwork can be found in the organizer just outside my office door. This includes copies of the church directory, as well as instructions on how to access the directory on your mobile device.

We will be working on having photos taken to update the directory on the first Sunday in February and March. We will also have information forms available so you can make sure the information we have on file is correct.

If you have a committee report for the annual report, please email it to me as soon as possible. We are hoping to have the reports ready for review the week before the annual meeting.

## New

## Traditions

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN LEWIS

In past years there was a tradition that the confirmation students would help pick a live tree for



Our confirmation students, Garrett & Grant Ashcraft and Tayah Nixt, along with Stephen Lewis, Cara Knutson and Santa in the Old Market.

the narthex and set it up. Last year it was decided that instead, the children and youth committee would purchase a nice artificial tree that could be used for several years to come. Out of this, a new tradition started. Each confirmation student would get to pick an ornament to add to the tree, and it would have their name added to it. This way, as they get older and have families of their own, these ornaments will become a lasting legacy of the students who have been confirmed at Emanuel. So if you get a chance, take a closer look at the tree in the narthex and the ornaments that the students have picked to represent themselves.

## Giving Tree Thanks

MICHAELA "MICKEY" HARRINGTON, SHARE MY SMILE PROGRAM SPECIAL-IST

On behalf of all of us associated with Share My Smile, I want to thank you and your congregants for assisting foster and adoptive families with Christmas gifts this year. We served 288 children in total and we could not have done it without your support. A lot of children will have genuine smiles on their faces this

Christmas when they open their gifts. And I'm sure it will mean a lot to them knowing there are people in this world who care about them and their well be-





## Sunday, December 31st

9:30 :a.m.

Join us during the worship service for a Hymn Sing service!

During the service, we will ask for song suggestions.

So pick your favorite hymns from the back of the worship book.

Our guest leader that day will be Pastor Stephany Sanborn.

## Last week of Advent

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

T'was the last week of advent, And all through the church, The staff were stressed, With still much more work.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas There is quite a bit to be done, To prepare for the celebration, Of God's only son.

First deck the halls, Then light the candles, Daily devotions, And searching through hymnals.

Pageant rehearsals, With costumes to boot, Even cookies and cocoa, With a man in red suit.

There are extra services, And extra cleaning, Drafts to be made, While reflecting on true meaning.

We are thankful for all Who walk through the doors, Help with the service Or vacuum the floors.

Those who serve on committees, send out the newsletter, Or complete odd jobs, You make Emanuel better!

On this Christmas Eve, After the last song is sung, The piano is covered Last bell has rung.

Sound system is covered, The lights will go dim, We all head home, And give thanks for him.

We wish you peace,
And have a short rest.
Then we start the next chapter
Around the corner is lent!

# Itsy Bitsy Thanks Submitted by Michaela Lewis

Thank you to everyone who participated in or helped with the Christmas program!



For the program, Tayah Nixt was our narrator. The book used was *Itsy Bitsy Christmas* by Max Lucado. Copyright © 2013 by Max Lucado. Used by permission of HarperCollins Christian Publishing.

Two of our recently confirmed students, Grace Nixt and Mason Lewis, helped with the younger students and were cast as the camel and donkey in the program.

The rest of our cast included Leah Clark, Shelby Clark, Derek Knutson, Spencer Lewis, Katrina Nixt, Novalee Rowe Van Dyke, Vivienne Rowe Van Dyke and Noah Smith. They all did a wonderful job and we are so thankful that they were a part of the program this year.

Lori Lynn Ahrends wrote a new song that the kids performed and they also sang "Happy Birthday Jesus," also an original song from Lori that was a favorite of theirs from last year. You can listen to her music on facebook and youtube by searching "Sunday School Buddies" or "Overall Buddies." We are so grateful for her musical talent and sharing this with the students each week in Sunday school.

Thank you also to Mr. Steve for directing the program and working with our students throughout the year in Sunday school as well. It is quite the time commitment and you truly have a passion for working with kids and sharing Jesus' lessons with them.

The fleece costumes for the program were made by Michaela Lewis, with the sheep costume and a few others that weren't used this year donated by Sandy Kanger.

Thank you to Linda Steensland for preparing the bags that students received as a gift after the program. Along with these, each family received a copy of "Itsy Bitsy Christmas" prior to the program so that families could read it and the kids could be familiar with the story.

We are blessed to have some incredible baking talent as well. Jan Husmann made a variety of delicious breads to have during coffee hour that day, and the Lewis crew brought in homemade cookies as well.

The Christmas program is a great way to start the last week of advent each year. Seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child and hearing story of Christmas from a new perspective, is such a treat each year. The story this year reminded us that a Jesus came for everyone, no matter how big or how small, and what a great inspiration when told by some of the smallest members of our congregation.

If you missed the program or would like an encore, it was during the service on December 17<sup>th</sup> and you can find the video on facebook, youtube or twitter.

## Worship Assistant Schedule

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

1	
Sunday, January 07	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Acolyte	Garrett & Grant Ashcraft
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Garrett & Grant Ashcraft
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, January 14	9:30 a.m. Service
Sunday, January 14 Ushers	9:30 a.m. Service Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Ushers	
Ushers Acolyte	
Ushers Acolyte Lector	
Ushers Acolyte Lector Altar Guild	
Ushers Acolyte Lector Altar Guild Communion Assistants	
Ushers Acolyte Lector Altar Guild Communion Assistants Visual Tech	Char Les & Ken Kemmish

Sunday, January 21	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Acolyte	Tayah Nixt
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistants	Tayah Nixt
Visual Tech	
Sound Tech	Mike Hipnar
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, January 28	9:30 a.m. Service
Sunday, January 28 Ushers	9:30 a.m. Service Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Ushers	
Ushers Acolyte	
Ushers Acolyte Lector	
Ushers Acolyte Lector Altar Guild	
Ushers Acolyte Lector Altar Guild Communion Assistants	
Ushers Acolyte Lector Altar Guild Communion Assistants Visual Tech	Char Les & Ken Kemmish

# We need YOUR help!

We would love to have you help with worship!
Please contact the church office at (712) 323-9665 or office@emanuelcb.org

You can also sign-up on our website at: www.emanuelcb.org





<u>January O2</u> **Bob Bender Annalise-Marie Davis** 

<u>January 03</u> **Dreux Smith** 

January 07
Tara McSorley
Daniel Solon

<u>January 09</u> Noah Conley Noah Smith January 10 Clayton Juhl Ron Reiff

January 12
Cole Holcombe
Linda Martens

<u>January 13</u>
Spencer Lewis
Brennan Plummer
Alice Smith

<u>January 14</u> Bill Holding <u>January 19</u> Gerald Ebsen

January 20 Chris Reed

<u>January 21</u> Ann Goldapp

<u>January 22</u> Ava Jarrell

<u>January 24</u> Denny Clark <u>January 25</u> Elizabeth Melani

<u>January 27</u> Hanna Ferguson Stephanie Hansen

<u>January 29</u> Amari Johnson

<u>January 30</u> Madison Nickels

<u>January 31</u> Patty Maxwell



January 22
Ron & Alice Smith

January 27
Suzane & Les Merit



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	1 Office Closed	<b>2</b> Office Closed	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 at Village Inn East 10 am Tai Chi	5	6 10 am Craft Inn
7 9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	8 10 am Tai Chi	9 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 in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	Ning Jr. day 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting  NOUR ARTICLES  MEE ING	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 in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi		
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal 11 am Confirmation 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	<b>22</b> 10 am Tai Chi	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 in Conference Room 10 am Tai Chi	26	27
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School 10:30 am Annual Meeting 2 pm SCA meet upstairs	<b>29</b> 10 am Tai Chi	30 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	31 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 at Village Inn East 10 am Tai Chi	2	3 10 am Craft Inn

# Council Council Minutes for December 18, 2023

RECORDED BY MICHAEL WINTER

Members Present: Greg Steensland, Mike Winter, Mike Hipnar, Richard Reed, Char Les Kemmish, Matt Perrone, Connie Edson, Pastor Cara Knutson and Mike Loos

Members Absent: Brittney Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by President Greg Steensland

**Devotions: Richard Reed** 

### Council Agenda:

- Alan Ellis gave a report regarding repairs to the parsonage by A Raymond Plumbing. A new tub has been installed and wall and floor tile work is still incomplete. Alan reported that the church will buy some of the materials rather than having the contractor purchase the materials and add on 10%. The mold still needs to be removed. Alan reported that apparently the leaking had been going on for a very long time. He gave a rough estimate of \$4,000 for this project. He also will be obtaining a bid from Olson Brothers soon concerning the church bathrooms.
- Motion by Matt Perrone, seconded by Mike Hipnar to pay A Raymond Plumbing the amount of their bid that was made on November 2, 2023 in the amount of \$8,559 to be paid from the dividends received from the certificates of deposit in February. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Hipnar, seconded by Richard Reed to approve the Treasurer's report. Approved.

- Motion by Richard Reed, seconded by Connie Edson to approve the Consolidated Fund report. Approved. It should be noted that the General Fund had a negative balance of \$17,582.08, but the checking account was not overdrawn and \$10,000 was moved from dividends received on certificates of deposit to the General Fund with more dividends to be transferred in December.
- Motion by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by Mike Hipnar to approve the Capitol and Building Fund report. Approved.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Char Les Kemmish to approve the Memorial Fund report. Approved. It should be noted that the Memorial Fund has \$18,037 in certificates of deposit.
- President Steensland appointed Mike Loos, Mike Winter and Char Les Kemmish to the nominating committee.
- Mike Hipnar reported that he is working on the sound system for those that watch online. He is getting a bid from Midwest Sound for potentially installing room microphones.
- Pastor Cara will do devotions for the January meeting.
- Motion by Mike Loos, seconded by Mike Hipnar to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Approved.

Note: Next meeting will be January 15, 2024 at 7 p.m.



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 or activities, this
will be posted on our
Facebook page as well
as be relayed to the
local news stations.

## High School Retreat

JANUARY 19-21, 2024

GRADES 9-12 CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP

Theme: (un)Equal "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the



last, the beginning and the end."

—Revelation 22:31

Come and join us as we dive into this past summer's theme, "UnEqual" This retreat will serve as a good reminder to campers who attended camp about the things they learned during their time there and how they can continue to implement those lessons into their lives. For campers who may not have been able to attend camp, this retreat will serve as a way for them to experience camp and what we learned this summer in a condensed and meaningful way.

Along with the lessons we will learn about God's love, we will also be experiencing some favorite camp activities, God's creation, and of course, fellowship! See the tentative schedule below for some examples of activities that your camper will get to participate in.

Register at:

https://www.cjhcenter.org/hs-retreat

## Cookies & Cocoa with Santa



Mason Lewis, Spencer Lewis, Shelby Clark, Santa Steve, Katrina Nixt and Leah Clark at our Cookie & Cocoa with Santa event on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We had about 50 visitors to the event. Thank you to Deann Over for manning the kitchen, Michaela & Steve Lewis, Sandy Kanger and Linda Steensland for making treats for the event and Mike Loos for greeting and chatting with all our visitors.



## Worship at Bethany

January is Emanuel's month to lead worship at Bethany on Sunday afternoons. If you would like to help with this, please contact Pastor Cara at (712) 323 -9665 or pastor@emanuelcb.org.

## Sending of Communion

Now that we have the option of joining worship online several members have commented they can see and hear better than worshiping in person. However, those members are not able to receive communion. Pastor Cara is for volunteers to



bring communion to members not able to easily come to church or are able to better see and hear worship online. If you would be interested in helping with this important ministry please contact Pr. Cara at pastor@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9667. Thank you!

Just a reminder to keep us updated if your address, phone or email changes. Also, if we don't have your birthday or anniversary on file, please let us know!

You can contact the office at: office@emanuelcb.org or (712) 323-9665.

# Ramblings from the Back

SUBMITTED BY CINDY RICHARDS

During Epiphany this year we will be singing In This Feast of Love ACS 962. "Both text and tune are by Jarkko Maukonen (b. August 9, 1971). The text is translated, and the music arranged from three parts to four by Mark Sedio (b. November 16, 1954). The text is built on the Agnus Dei ('Lamb of God').

Mark Sedio says, 'I encountered this song when attending a Sunday evening Tuomasmessu (Thomas Mass) at Mikael Agricola Church in Helsinki. The song is included in the worship supplement titled *Uusi messulauluja* (New Mass Songs) published by the Finnish Lutheran publisher Kirjapaja for use at Tuomasmessu celebrations.

Jarkko Maukonen explains that Tuomasmessu (the Thomas Mass) is a Lutheran worship service that originated in Finland, influenced by ancient liturgical traditions of the church and ecumenism. It is named after the apostle Thomas, 'who seemed to have more questions than answers in his faith.' It's popularity is based on a large preparation team, love for those who feel sinful, music that is diverse and contemporary, the strong presence of prayer throughout the Mass, experimentation and renewal, integration of modern spirituality and ancient tradition, and diverse people coming together. It takes a team of fifty to seventy people to prepare one mass. Many people in various leadership roles as ordained and lay are needed. The first Thomas Mass was held in the Mikael Agricola Church at Helsinki in 1988. Since then, the Thomas Mass has spread all over Finland and to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Germany.

Mark Sedio was born in Minneapolis and is the cantor at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. A fine organist, improvisor, and leader of the church's song, he had similar positions at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa. He studied at Augsburg University (BA, music education [organ, conducting], 1976, the University of Iowa (MA, conducting, 1979), the MDiv program at Luther Seminary, and the liturgical studies program at St. John's University. He has held teaching, conducting, and organ positions at Augsburg University, Gustavus Adolphus College, and Luther Seminary. His capacity for foreign languages coupled with his musical skills and interests in folk and global music have helped him give us a spectrum of choral and instrumental compositions. A founder of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, he was its first director of ecclesiastical concerns.

Jarkko Maukonen is a Finnish songwriter, solo singer, and leader of instrumental and vocal ensembles who is anchored in the long Finnish musical tradition and who employs many contemporary styles. He graduated from high school (Finnish Matriculation Exam, 1990) and the Sibelius Academy, Kuopio (MM, 1998). He has been a youth cantor and a student cantor at the Kuopio Evangelical Lutheran Parish Union, a summer cantor in several parishes, and a gospel music and music education teacher at the Sibelius Academy. He tours as a troubadour."

From Assembly Song Companion to All Creation Sings



## Online Giving

Did you know that we have the option of online giving? You can download the Vanco Faith app on your mobile device through the Apple Store or Google Play, or you visit our website at <a href="https://www.emanuelcb.org/">https://www.emanuelcb.org/</a> There are customizable giving options, including giving to different funds with one donation and you also have the option of setting up reoccurring payments. You are also able to view your electronic giving history through the app.





Jeanne Andrews

Al Martens

Julie Powell

Deloris Christensen

Norma Mass Melody Schott Jane Meyer

Paul Schott

Owen Hansen

Sharon Hansen Patty Maxwell

Norma Heath Jim ONeill

Tommy Schott Ruth Sullivan

## Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

SUBMITTED BY JOYCE WILLIAMS

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by lowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on Monday, February 19, 2024.

In partnership with the three lowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues lowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads

to the Iowa State Capi- LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA tol to talk directly with legislators.

For more information and to register for this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit LSIowa.org/LDH.

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, orientations. sexual at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.







Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
December 03	48	30	78	\$4,374.00
December 10	54	32	86	\$1,441.00
December 17	88	36	124	\$4,112.00
December 24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Finance Team Update

### **Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD**

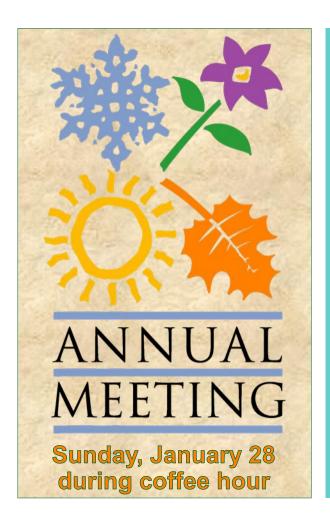
November Income: ......\$6,224.00 November Expense: ..... -\$12,981.44 November Balance ......(\$6,757.44)

YTD Income:	\$144,399.58
YTD Expense:	\$165,227.48
YTD Balance	(\$20,827.90)
Plus Carryover	
General Budget Fund	(\$17,582.08)



**Emanuel Lutheran Church** 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

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

Office Hours: Monday 9 a.m.—1 p.m., Tuesday -Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

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