# Garden of Readin'



#### **Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter**

December 2022

### Happenings!

Saturday.	December	03-	-Craft	Inn
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**Tuesday, December 13**—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet, Volunteers for Food Pantry Meet at Our Saviors

Saturday, December 10—Cookies & Cocoa with Santa

Sunday, December 11—Blood Pressure Checks During Coffee Hour

Wednesday, December 14—Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, December 18—Christmas Program during worship

Monday, December 19—Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 21—Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, November 25—Christmas Day

Monday, December 26—Tuesday, December 27—Office Closed

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



Crafts at Hanging of the Greens! You can see all the ornaments the kids made on the tree on the north side of the worship center.

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### A Post from the Pastor

By Pastor Cara Knutson

Good morning! By the time you read this in the December newsletter we will be in the season of Advent—a time when we wait in hope for Christ to be born among us in a new way. Our world is so bitterly divided and it feels like each of us carry much more tension and stress than we ever have in the past. Advent gives us an opportunity to clear some space within our hearts, and minds, and spirits, to quietly listen to where God is being revealed anew. My prayer and hope for all of

us is that we as individuals and a community choose hope over the darkness that surrounds us.

Each Sunday of Advent we will be singing first one then two, then three, and finally all four verses of Marty Haugen's hymn Choose to Hope. Marty Haugen is incredibly gifted in giving to the world beautiful music that stirs the heart, and yet is very easy to understand and sing. In Choose to Hope Marty challenges each of us to reach outside ourselves with hope and love to combat the hate and prejudice that surrounds us. I hope you come to love this song as much as I have throughout our Advent season.

See page 10 for the lyrics of the song.

See you in church!

Pastor Cara

WITH SYMPATHY: We lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy for the family of Alex Skovgaard, who passed away November 26. Alex had



been a member of Emanuel since 2018 and had played with DaBand and served on Church Council before moving to Colorado a few years ago. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



We have advent calendars in the community room for both adults and kids!

# The National Lutheran Choir's Christmas Festival

### Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today, Forever

In the two thousand years since Jesus' birth, humans in every era have considered what this birth meant for them. Even now, this meaning continues to evolve in our lives. This year's Christmas Festival will draw literature and poetry from the past 20 years of David Cherwien's Christmas programming and its musical embodiment of the Incarnation. Numerous carols, choir music of the season, and a thundering organ will present some of our most beloved selections. As we evolve, one thing has remained the same and will go on forever: Jesus Christ was born and God is with us. Always and forever.

Join us this December 9th or 10th for the 37th annual Christmas Festival!

#### In-Person Concerts

Friday, Dec. 9th - 4:30pm and 8:00pm @ The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Saturday, Dec. 10th - 8:00pm @ The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

Adults and seniors: \$33 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

#### Livestream

Friday, Dec. 9th - 8:00pm (central time) Free to all | Visit NLCA.com to watch!

For tickets and more information, visit <u>NLCA.com</u> or call 612-722-2301.

# Pledge Update

We want to keep the congregation updated on Emanuel's stewardship progress since PLEDGE SUNDAY. To date, we have a total of 32 pledges, including four new pledges for 2023. Some of you



BY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

may not have had an opportunity to complete your talent commitment yet. If not, we encourage you to turn this in as soon as possible. Talent commitments and your pledge may be put in any Sunday offering or sent directly to the church, attention Stewardship Committee.

We thank you for your enthusiastic support to date. Pledges as of November 20<sup>th</sup> amounted to \$96,392. As you will recall, our 2022 budget was approximately \$175,000. And unlike past years, there will be no carry over in income from our 2022

budget.

Our first budget meeting will be held mid-December. We look forward to hearing from those who were unable to participate on November 20<sup>th</sup> Pledge Sunday.

### Bethany Home & Bethany Heights

To commemorate **Veterans Day** at the Home they held a Veterans Party and played jingo. The discussion session at the Heights on the 11<sup>th</sup> was about Veterans Day. Cece Mickells, spiritual advisor, led a **Thanksgiving Worship Service** the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at the Home and the Heights.

#### Items needed for their General Store:

- hair brushes
- shaving razors
- Aftershave
- •vitamin E cream
- •men's and women's body wash/lotion/
- matching shampoo/conditioner
- medium size note pads
- •gloves/hats/scarves
- •slipper socks size: Med/ Lrg/XL
- nail polish
- cans of soda
- coin purses
- •tumbler cups with lids
- colored pencils
- Markers
- coloring books/word search books

All Items need to be not opened and new please.

#### Items needed for the Christmas Store:

- knick knacks
- Jewelry
- sweat pants
- Shirts
- pot holders/dish towels
- Wallets
- Clocks
- Mugs
- kid gift items
- throw blankets
- any items to give family/friends for Christmas

Volunteer Opportunities at Bethany—Now that the Home & the Heights can have visitors they are asking for more volunteers in these areas: outdoor activities with plants & planters, musical programs, playing piano at worship services at Chapel (in the Home) & the Heights, crafts or games with the residents, help with the General Store, be on the prayer ministry team (will be notified by phone/email or prayer requests), pray or read devotions to residents at the Home and community members at the Heights, and visit residents and community members.

A special event at the Heights "The Polar Express" is planned on Thursday, December 15, to celebrate community members and their families. It will take 10-20 volunteers to help with this event. Contact Cece Mickells (712-328-9500 or Mickells@blhs.care) if you can help. As always remember to keep the community members, residents, and staff in your prayers.



<u>Dec. 01</u>

Mason Garreans

Sarge Schuchard

<u>Dec. 02</u> **Tayah Nixt** 

Dec. 04
Connie Eyberg
Zach Winter

<u>Dec. 05</u> Judy Dillon Shirley Schuchard

Dec. 06

Wesley Bradshaw Shelby Rickard Mike Winter

Dec. 08

Andrew Borwick Jamie Hansen

> Dec. 09 Bob Juhl

<u>Dec. 10</u> **Tina Larson**  Dec. 12
Richard Borwick
Cael Hansen

<u>Dec. 13</u> Karen McPartland

> <u>Dec. 16</u> Susan Wilson

<u>Dec. 17</u> Carrie Hansen

> Dec. 18 Emily True

Dec. 19
Allen Martens

Dec. 20
Kobie Ferguson
Taryn McSorley
Jade Wohlers

<u>Dec. 21</u> **Kaitlyn Egner**  <u>Dec. 22</u> Sam Heithoff Jan Husmann

<u>Dec. 23</u> **Clarissa Haats** 

<u>Dec. 25</u> **Elaine Sasso** 

<u>Dec. 26</u> Emily Longnecker

<u>Dec. 27</u> Sid Dillon Tristan Steensland

Dec. 28
Brett Egner
Luke Hansen
Jon McGreevy

<u>Dec. 29</u> **Judy Wilson** 

Dec. 30 Shae Nickels

<u>Dec. 31</u> **Danny Britson** 



<u>December 02</u> Larry & Sharon Hansen

<u>December 15</u> Cara & Maja Knutson <u>December 17</u>

Ron & Elaine Sasso

<u>December 31</u>

Dan & Judy Heithoff

If we've missed a birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please let the church office know! Contact Michaela at (712) 323–9665 or office@emanuelcb.org

### Worship Assistant Schedule

(if unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange a

Sunday, December 04	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	, anger me dead of dermi epinale
Lector	Elaine Sasso
Altar Guild	Elamo dado
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppsesen
LiveStream Tech	Mike Hipnar
Sunday, December 11	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	Grace & Tayah Nixt
Lector	Grace & rayan Nixt
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
LiveStream Tech	reggy Janen
	9:30 a.m. Service
Sunday, December 18 Ushers	
	Angel McGee & John Spilde Alex & Gabe VanSickle
Acolyte Lector	Alex & Gabe vansickie
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	D
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
LiveStream Tech	
Wednesday, December 21	7:00 p.m. Service
Ushers	
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	4 00
Saturday, December 24	4:30 p.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde  Mason Lewis
Acolyte	Mason Lewis
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	7 0
Saturday, December 24	7 p.m. Service
Ushers	Corrett 9 Crent Asharoft
Acolyte	Garrett & Grant Ashcraft
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	0.00
Sunday, December 25	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Acolyte	
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	



Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church*Directory and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.







#### 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

Dear Emanuel members and friends,

On behalf of the Treat the Troops Project and Iowa Cookie Crumbs, I want to thank Emanuel for allowing us to use the church to pack cookies to deployed troops since 2007. With our Operation Holiday Cheer November 8th packing, pictured, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have now sent **over 1,560,000** cookies to our deployed military personnel.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs was formed by Abbie Crawford and is part of a network of volunteers with the national Treat the Troops organization (<a href="www.treatthetroops.org">www.treatthetroops.org</a>) begun in the 1990's by Jeanette Cram. Our first shipment of 80 dozen cookies and letters of support and thanks were packed in Abbie's kitchen in January 2007. As more volunteers wanted to bake, we moved to Emanuel to pack and store our supplies. The Iowa Cookie Crumbs, the only Treat the Troops group in Iowa and Nebraska, has three teams with approximately 150 dedicated bakers.

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

Sincerely, Deann Over and the Iowa Cookie Crumbs



Above: Packers filling 207 boxes on November 8th with 22 packages (11 dozen) cookies, letters/notes of support, candy, jerky, snacks, knitted scarves and helmet liners. Large red bags contained more candy to pack in the boxes – why use shred when you have candy!

Right: The Cookie Crumbs group of dedicated packers in November.





Thank you to everyone who brought in items for our food collection challenge in November! The final count was 453 items from Our Saviors and 336 from Emanuel.













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.

> <u>December 4-11</u> Christmas Program Practice

<u>December 18</u> Christmas Program During Worship



### Upcoming Events

Dates & times are tentative

December 10—2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Cookies with Santa

<u>December 11—11 a.m.—2 p.m.</u> Confirmation Class

<u>December 11—2 p.m.</u> Confirmation Outing to Tannenbaum's

> December 18—9:30 a.m. Christmas Program

<u>December 19-January 2</u> Christmas break, no Sunday School



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	<b>28</b> 10 am Tai Chi	29 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Com- munity Room	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group 6 pm Hanging of the Greens	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	2	3 Craft Inn
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour	<b>5</b> 10 am Tai Chi	5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Com- munity Room 6 pm SCA Meeting Upstairs	7 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group 7 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 8 pm Band	8 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	9	10 2 pm—4 pm Cookies & Cocoa with Santa
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday School 10:30 am Coffee Hour & Blood Pressure Checks with Crystal  11 am—2 pm Confirmation 2 pm Confirmation Outing  Confirmation	<b>12</b> 10 am Tai Chi	13 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 Community Sewing Group	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	16 Girl Scout Pajama Party	17
9:30 am—10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Christmas Program 10:30 am Coffee Hour 3 pm Piano Recital	19 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	20 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 Community Sewing Group 7 pm Blue Christmas Worship  Blue Christmas	22	23	4:30 pm Worship with Safety Candles 7 pm Worship with Traditional Festival Candles
9:30 am—10:30 am "Come As You Are" Worship	<b>26</b> Office Closed 10 am Tai Chi	27 Office Closed 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Com- munity Room	8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group 7 pm Bell Choir 7:30 pm Choir 8 pm Band	9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	30	31

### Why "Created to Be?"

By Deacon Tammy Jones West, Director of the ELCA Youth Gathering

I have been a part of many theme discernment spaces for synodical events, but this was my first time bringing together young people from around this church to discern a theme for an event that is two plus years away. What might be relevant at that time? How might the theme speak to the young people attending the event?



In the room were four youth, four young adults, and two adults. It was a diverse group, and it was pure joy to watch them wrestle with the task at hand. We started in prayer followed by conversations about past themes and time delving into the texts from our host synod, the Gulf Coast Synod, around their core values: Following Jesus, Walking Together, Making Disciples, Speaking the Truth in Love, Maturing Theologically, Growing Passionate Leadership, Welcoming Everyone, and Accompanying the Poor.

We also spent time telling our truths.

- •God, I don't understand \_\_\_\_\_.
- •God, please fix
- •God, I trust you with my future even if
- •God, I will praise you even when ...

(Taken from The Innovative Church by the Rev. Dr. Scott Cormode)

The group spent time together generating ideas and then in prayer time alone. They spent time with the question – what do we want youth to leave the city of New Orleans knowing about themselves and God?

We talked a lot about a tapestry of gifts, hurts, harm, grace, and love.

This theme just felt right. We loved the ability to pick daily themes around ways we are created— brave, authentic, free, disruptive, and disciples. Our hope is that every person that engages with this ministry will be able to walk away knowing that they were created by the Holy One to be themselves.

We can't wait to explore this theme deeper in resources and stories over the next year and a half. We invite you to join us!



## Merry Christmas

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

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Because of your generosity LSI has continued to offer hope and healing to lowans of all ages. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI we see veterans getting help, children overcoming fear, moms and dads parenting with renewed joy and confidence, new neighbors from foreign lands becoming established and active in their communities, the pride of independence for those experiencing challenges in everyday life. We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, allows us to stand together and celebrate this Christmas season.

LSI's annual matching gift campaign gives opportunities to double new and increased gifts through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support lowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI! 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 <a href="https://www.LSI.owa.ng">www.LSI.owa.ng</a> and <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa">www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa</a>.



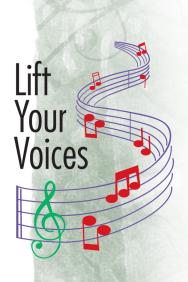
### From the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS

During the Advent season we will be singing a special song, Choose to Hope, during the lighting of the Advent candle. It was written in 2016 for the Mayflower United Church of Christ in Minneapolis by Marty Haugen, one of our favorite composers for church.

He said "it was written in response to a very specific request" from the church. "Like many Americans-indeed, like many people in Europe and around the world-our community had been troubled by a sense of growing isolationism in our culture, a sense that we were abandoning trust in God and in one another, that we were being driven by fear to build walls of hate and prejudice. The Mayflower staff decided that they wanted a song for Advent that expressed our determination that we would choose to hope and trust in God's faithful presence in our lives; they asked if I could write a song for the assembly that might reflect that vision"

This feeling of distrust is even stronger today than when the song was written. So as we sing this song, and throughout the coming weeks, let us choose to hope.





### Choose to Hope

Hope is born when we choose to believe
That love is stronger than hatred.
Love is born when our hearts learn to see
That every person is sacred.
In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know that God is near.

Hope will grow when we choose to believe that we are sisters and brothers.

Love will grow when our hearts learn to see The life we share with each other.

In the times of darkness, in times of fear, Choose to hope, choose to love,

And know that God is near.

Hope will shine when we choose to believe
A little child will lead us.

Love will shine when our hearts learn to see
That God is dwelling within us.
In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know that God is near.

Sing out hope through the violence and fear,
For God is present beside us.
Prince of Peace, make your home with us here;
You love and wisdom will guide us.
In the times of darkness, in times of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love,
And know Emmanuel is near.

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Deloris Christensen

Norma Heath

Jane Meyer

Rita Epperson
Robert Hesseltine
Tommy Schott

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



Grace Hansen and Mason Lewis decorating the tree in the narthex.



"I decided to give everyone on my list a 3-D printer and let them make their own gifts."







Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:	
Oct. 30	64	21	85	\$2,301.00	
Nov. 06	60	17	77	\$5,320.35	
Nov. 13	53	29	82	\$990.38	
Nov. 20	67	36	131	N/A	
Nov. 23	28	N/A	101	14/7 (	
Nov. 27	41	20	61	N/A	

### Finance Team Update

### Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

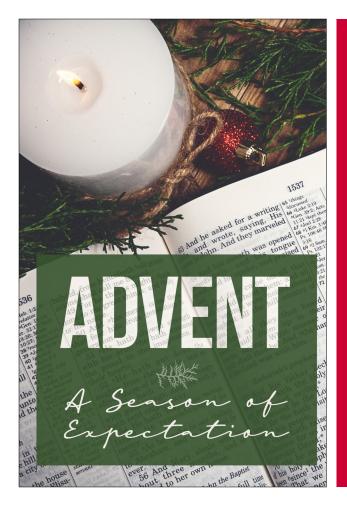
October Income:	\$9,935.00
October Expense:	\$14,853.40
October Balance	\$4,918.40

YTD Income:	\$122,963.83
YTD Expense:	\$134,290.72
YTD Balance	\$11,326.89



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

#### Contact Us

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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