

Garden of Reading'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2017

Happenings!

Sunday, December 3—Youth Gathering Meeting, Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, December 8—Help at Our Savior's Food Pantry

Sunday, December 10—Confirmation, Cookie Walk

Friday, December 15—Potluck & Movie Night

Monday, December 18—Parents Night Out

Sunday, December 17—Angel Tree Party, Piano Recital

Wednesday, December 20—Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 24—Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 25—Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 31—Family Fun Night

Mission Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



We had a full house and lots of activities at the fall lock-in for middle school and high school students! What a great time!

In This Issue...

Periodic Pastoral Ponderings ..	2
Member Notes	2
New Members	3
Cookie Walk	3
Poinsettia Orders.....	3
Christmas Tree	3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Worship Assistants	5
Calendar.....	6
Youth Ministries.....	7
Treat the Troops.....	8
Parents Night Out.....	8
Christmas Program	
Needs & Rehearsals	9
Helping Others	9
Bethany Lutheran Home	10
Lutheran Services in Iowa	11
Helping the Homeless	11
Angel Tree.....	11
Thanksgiving Baskets	12
Online Giving.....	12
Finance Team Update.....	12
Music Ministry	13



Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Friends in Christ,

This year's Christmas program will be *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. I'm not bragging. That's the title of Barbara Robinson's wonderful book on which the program is based. The stars of the show are the Herdmans. "We figured they were headed straight for hell by way of the state penitentiary," the narrator confides, "until they got themselves mixed up with the church...and our Christmas pageant." These characters provide new meaning and wonder to the Christmas gospel for everyone in the story and everyone who watches. I hope you'll be with us on December seventeenth for a great experience.

Robinson's book is a wonderful description of the Gospel's power to include the excluded. As the Herdmans arrived for the Christmas pageant, they presented quite a sight. "They looked like the people you see on the six o'clock news," she wrote, refugees, sent to wait in some strange, ugly place, with all their boxes and sacks around them." In fact, they looked much like the Holy Family looked for much of their life—not the kind of folks that might get an immediate invitation to Christmas.

We are talking about hospitality here at Emanuel Lutheran Church. Hospitality includes inviting, welcoming and including. We have enjoyed singing "All Are Welcome" at our worship. And we long to make that true in our life and mission together. But it's worth talking among ourselves about this. Are *all* welcome? We'd like to think so, but then someone different from us shows up. And we have to make our welcome wider.

If you look on the ELCA website under "About" tab, you find this paragraph in our churchwide "Mission and Vision".

"As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community."

I shared that paragraph in my sermon a few weeks ago. It's been a topic of conversation here at Emanuel since then. That paragraph pushes our boundaries in healthy ways. It's not some exercise in political correctness. It is, in fact, the Gospel's call to us. "Welcome one another, therefore," Paul writes in Romans fifteen, verse seven, "just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." That's our calling, our privilege, and our opportunity.

Thanks for your partnership in our ministry of hospitality.

Yours in Christ,

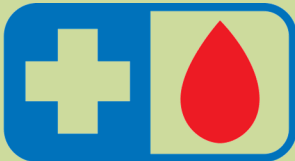
Pastor Lowell



We lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy for Cindy Richards and family at the death of her father.

We would also like to lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy to Angel McGee at the death of her father, David Larson.

Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers.



GIVE
Blood

Sunday, December 3rd
8 a.m.—1 p.m.
Make an appointment at
www.redcrossblood.org
Walk-ins also welcome!

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Upper Parking Lot

Our Emanuel Family is Growing

November has been a busy month at Emanuel, as we have welcomed 17 new members to our congregation! Please continue to make them feel welcome.

- Abbie Ashcraft
- Gary Ashcraft
- Garrett Ashcraft
- Grant Ashcraft
- Amanda Dalton
- Bettiemae Dalton
- Amy Garreans
- Michael Garreans
- Mason Garreans
- Christina Holcombe
- Trevor Holcombe
- Hailey Holcombe
- Kade Holcombe
- Cole Holcombe
- Lucas Holcombe
- Erin Sizemore
- Maximus Sizemore



Cookie Walk

BY JUDY HEITHOFF

Come one, come all and fill a box with a dozen cookies. The youth and their families are baking away, so you can enjoy some sweet treats for the holidays. If you need a gift for your mail an, neighbor, dog walker or special friend fill a box for them. Each box will hold a variety of 12 cookies you choose. Our kids are working hard to earn their way to Houston for the Youth gathering. They are ready to help you get your boxes full of those special Christmas cookies. Each box is only \$5.00. You can't bake them for that!



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



Kylie & Lauren Hansen went Sunday, November 26th to pick out a Christmas tree for the Narthex from Dappen Tree Farm. Thank you also to Brett, Kim & Kaitlyn Egner who helped transport it back to Church! Hanging of the Greens will be Wednesday, November 26th starting at 6 p.m. with dinner, then decorating!

Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to order a poinsettia to be displayed on Christmas Eve, please contact the office at (712) 323-9665 or at emanuelluther-ancbia@msn.com.

There are also ordering envelopes at the usher station and in the pews on Sunday morning.

The cost is \$6 each and you have your choice between red and white. If you would like it to be listed in memory of or in honor of someone, please indicate that with your order.

The deadline for ordering will be Sunday, December 3rd. We get these from Sherbondy's Garden Center here in Council Bluffs and they are beautiful each year.

Plants may be picked up Christmas Eve after the 7 p.m. service.





Daphne Miller
Harvey Coble
Melvin Bird

Glen Fahrenkrug
Mildred Rogers
John Smith II

Lucille Weatherill
Dana Blessum
Glenda Smith

Dwight Rogers
Clair Ossian
Paul Heath

Andrea Britton
Kaye Bird



Dec. 01 Mason Garreans

Dec. 03 Iris Fahrenkrug

Dec. 04 Connie Eyberg
Zach Winter

Dec. 05 Judy Dillon

Dec. 06 Wesley Bradshaw
Noel Thielen
Mike Winter

Dec. 08 Andrew Borwick
Jamie Hansen

Dec. 09 Bob Juhl

Dec. 10 Tina Larson

Dec. 12 Richard Borwick
Cael Hansen

Dec. 13 Mary Hansen
Karen McPartland

Dec. 16 Ben Foutch
Adam Tanner
Susan Wilson

Dec. 17 Carrie Hansen

Dec. 18 Madeline Lewis
Emily True

Dec. 19 Lowell Hennigs
Allen Martens

Dec. 20 Kobie Ferguson
Taryn McSorley
Jade Wohlers

Dec. 21 Kaitlyn Egner
Gabe Sullivan

Dec. 22 Sam Heithoff
Jan Husmann

Dec. 25 Elaine Sasso

Dec. 26 Emily Longnecker

Dec. 27 Sid Dillon
Tristan Steensland

Dec. 28 Brett Egner
Chuck Fous
Luke Hansen
Jon McGreevy

Dec. 29 Judy Wilson

Dec. 30 Debra Buley
Shae Nickels

Dec. 31 Dan Stinson



Dec. 2 Larry & Sharon Hansen

Dec. 17 Elaine & Ron Sasso

Dec. 31 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 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, December 3	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Carly Sorensen
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Cael Hansen & Owen Hansen
Lector	Elaine Sasso
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sunday, December 10	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Andrew Borwick & Alexxia Richards
Lector	Danette Hein-Snider
Communion Assistants	Lauren Hansen, Kylie Hansen, Bob Vergamini
Communion Set-Up	Carol Fahrenkrug
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sunday, December 17	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Kylie Hansen & Lauren Hansen
Wednesday, December 20	7 p.m. Service (Blue Christmas)
Ushers	
Acolytes	Emma Richards & Mia Richards
Lector	
Visual Tech	
Sunday, December 24	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Andrew Borwick & Austin Borwick
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistants	Peggy Jarrell, Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Set-Up	CharLes Kemmish
Visual Tech	
Sunday, December 24	4:30 p.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Kylie Hansen & Shae Nickels
Lector	
Communion Assistants	Lauren Hansen
Communion Set-Up	Amy Steensland & Linda Steensland
Visual Tech	
Sunday, December 24	7 p.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Andrew Borwick & Aaralynn Conley
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistants	Rosie Spangenberg, Oscar Over
Communion Set-Up	Connie & Matt Solon
Visual Tech	
Sunday, December 31	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolytes	Tyler Steensland & Amari Johnson
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Visual Tech	Elaine Sasso



Altar Flowers

December 3

December 10

December 17
Vansickle Family

December 24
Poinsettias

December 31

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



December 3
Joel & Christi Hauschild

December 10
Fresh Start Team

December 17
Children & Youth

December 24

December 31

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

December 2017 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 12 pm—3 pm Birthday Open House for Ruth Sullivan	27 11 am Tai Chi 6 pm Kaneshville Symphony in Youth Center 6:30 pm FAITH Team Meeting	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	29 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Hanging of the Greens	30 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	1 Office Closed	2 11 am Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall
3 8 am—1 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 pm Christmas Program Practice Meeting	4 11 am Communion at Midlands 11 am Tai Chi	5 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Daycare Feasibility Group 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	6 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Christmas Program Practice 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	7 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	8 Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's	9
10 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 pm Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 10:45 am Wider Ministries Meeting 11 am—2 pm Confirmation	11 11 am Tai Chi 6 pm Kaneshville Symphony in Youth Center	12 8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship hall 6:30 pm Children & Youth Meeting 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	13 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Christmas Program Practice 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	14 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	15 Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch 6 pm Movie Night Potluck 6:30 pm Movie: A Muppet Christmas Carol	16 
17 9:30am Worship with Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 11 am Caroling at Midlands Living Center 2 pm Angel Tree Party Upstairs 3 pm Piano Recital 	18 11 am Tai Chi 5 pm-9 pm Parents Night Out 7 pm Church Council Meeting 	19 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	20 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 7 pm Blue Christmas Service	21 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	22 Office Closed 6 pm Girl Scouts	23
24 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 4:30 pm Family Style Worship 7 pm Worship with Festival Candles	25 Christmas Office Closed 	26 Office Closed 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	27 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Adult Study & Kidz Kamp 7:30 pm Worship in Fellowship Hall	28 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm DaBand Rehearsal	29 Office Closed	30
31 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 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

Whew – Another Busy Fall!

BY DEANN OVER

ELCA Youth Gathering

Youth and adult leaders planning to attend the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston are busy preparing spiritually and financially:

- On October 30th, Panera fund raiser - Emanuel will be receiving a percentage of receipts of those who dined that evening – should have the results soon. Thanks to all who supported!
- On November 12th, following large group confirmation, youth along with their families, hosted Emanuel's annual Stewardship Dinner. Free will donations of over \$1,300 were raised!
- Custom desk calendars with photos of Emanuel's stained glass windows are available for \$7 each. A perfect size to display on table or desk (8" x 4").
- On November 18th (even though they were up until midnite at the lock-in!) youth assisted in Emanuel's Craft & Vendor Fair! Concessions and bake sales totaled over \$350 – vendor table reservations along with concession and bake sales raised ?????

Lock-In

The Middle & High School lock-in was held on November 17th. Twenty-seven students (our largest yet! and eight adults) enjoyed an evening of lighted gaga pit, carpet ball and basketball, and indoors nerf fun, karaoke, hide & seek, four square and plenty of food. Their service project for the evening was filling bags for the homeless (pick up one in the Narthex for your car!).

Christmas Tee

Youth will again be selecting a live Christmas tree for the Narthex and filling care packages for our college students.

Special thanks to:

- Judy Heithoff for organizing the Stewardship Dinner and preparing the pork loin. Jan Husmann for the tablescapes; Jamie & Sharon Hansen - Judy's sous chefs for the afternoon. Tyler Hansen, Mike Nickels, Heather Linsenmeyer, Chastity Christie, Jolene Hansen, Alan Ellis, Angel McGee and John Spilde helping in the kitchen. Youth wait staff, Kylie, Lauren and Owen Hansen, Maddie and Shea Nickels, Lexia and Xander Richards, AJ and Austin Borwick, Drew and Josh Hubbard, Brendan and Alexis Ellis.
- Jan Husmann for the photos used to create the desk calendars.
- Julie Borwick for organizing reservations of vendor tables and Jamie Hansen for organizing the concessions and bake sale for the craft fair. Concessions staffers and helpers: Austin & AJ Borwick, Lauren & Kylie Hansen, Shae Nickels, Carly Sorensen, Jolene & Owen Hansen.
- Tyler Hansen, Josh Hauschild, Amy Garreans, Cyndi & Jessica Borwick, Pastor Lowell and Brenda for their help in the lock-in. And Pastor Lowell for installing lights on the gaga pit!



GATHERING MEETING!

December 3rd
10:45 am—1:30 p.m.

All youth who are signed up to attend the gathering should plan on attending this important “getting ready” session.



Available Now!

Images of Emanuel
2018 Desk Calendar
\$7 each

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



Images of Emanuel Lutheran
Council Bluffs, Iowa



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 facilities for our monthly packing of cookies to deployed troops since 2007. In addition, the support from Emanuel's members has been phenomenal!

With our November packing, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have sent **over 1,146,000** cookies to deployed service personnel in harms' way.

In addition, on November 6th we sent 235 holiday themed boxes of comfort items filled with decorations, Christmas stockings, games, blank holiday cards/stationery, calendars, hygiene products and hand knitted helmet liners and scarves.

The following week, on November 14th, Pastor Lowell blessed 241 boxes containing 33,930 cookies and took the photo below. Micheala Lewis then captured the live action and posted on Emanuel's facebook page!

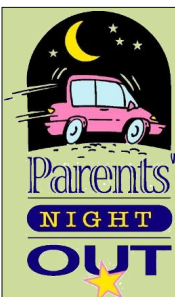
The Iowa Cookie Crumbs was formed by Abbie Crawford and is part of a network of volunteers with the national Treat the Troops organization (www.treatthetroops.org) begun in the 1990's by Jeanette Cram. Our first shipment of 80 dozen cookies and letters of support and thanks were packed in Abbie's kitchen in January, 2007. However, as more and more people heard about the project and wanted to help, it was apparent we could not continue packing in a home.

The Iowa Cookie Crumbs, the only Treat the Troops group in Iowa and Nebraska, has three teams with approximately 180 dedicated bakers, a third of which bake every third month. At one time there were over 34 crumb groups across the USA – now there are only 5 active. We not only are the youngest of Jeanette's crumb groups – we have sent the most cookies – and we are currently the only group that sends boxes monthly. Three of the remaining groups send cookies once every two months and the other every three. While we don't know the reason(s) other groups have dissolved, we do know ours has succeeded due to the outstanding support of the metro and surrounding communities.

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

Sincerely,

Deann Over
and the Iowa Cookie Crumbs



Parents' Night Out

Monday, December 18th

5 p.m.—9 p.m.

Suggested donation of \$5 a hour, food and drinks provided.

Parent's Night Out earnings will go towards the youth gathering in Houston.


The Houston group and their parents will babysit children for parents who wish to go out that night for Christmas shopping, dinner or any other activities without the kids.

Needed Items for Christmas Program

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

We are still on the search for a few things for this year's Christmas Program. If you would like to let us borrow or donate any of these items, please contact Michaela at sewwhatmichaela@gmail.com or (402) 669-6769.

- Tiered Risers (like choral risers)
- Two portable rolling clothing racks
- Angel wings (6-8)
- Small smoke machine
- Volunteers (adults to help with direction during the program)



After the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17th, we will go next door to Midlands Living Center at 11 a.m. to share some Christmas music with them. Children should plan on wearing the costumes from the program over there. Everyone is invited to go along!

Movie Night

December 15th
6 p.m. Potluck
7 p.m. Movie



WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS ATTIRE!

A Muppet Christmas Carol

The Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale of an old and bitter miser's redemption on Christmas Eve. In addition to your favorite Muppet characters, Michael Caine stars as Ebenezer Scrooge.

Helping Others



Thank you to the youth who helped rake leaves at Ron & Alice Smith's home November 20th. Many hands made the work go quickly and the Smiths are extremely grateful!



Sunday, December 3rd

Read Through/Practice

10:45 a.m. in Youth Center (upstairs)

Wednesday, December 6th

Read Through/Practice

6 p.m. Dinner, 6:45 p.m. Kidz Kamp, 7:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, December 10th

Dress Rehearsal

10:45 a.m. In Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 13th

Rehearsal

6:45 p.m. In Sanctuary

Sunday, December 17th

Christmas Program

Please arrive by 9 a.m. to prepare and get costumes on

Sunday, December 31st

Family Fun Night

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Potluck & Games

We are also working on booking a magician to add some fun to the evening!

Bethany News

SUBMITTED BY DIANE CARLON



Decorating for Christmas

The residents and Activities Department at Bethany Lutheran Home will be decorating for Christmas on **Tuesday, December 1st starting at 9:00 a.m.** We would love to have volunteers be a part of the activity. We will be decorating most of the day, so feel free to stop by and help us get in the holiday spirit. If you are able to attend, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500, ext. 230.

Bethany Christmas Store Update

We are still accepting items for the Christmas Store. The items must be new. Items for all ages are welcome. Gift bags, tags and tissue paper are also appreciated. **The Christmas Store will be held on December 4th and 5th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and on December 6th from 6:00 -7:30 p.m.** The store is a place where residents can select gifts for their loved ones at no charge. Many will reminisce about days gone by and the joy of giving at Christmas. Volunteers are needed to help residents select items for their loved ones as well as wrap or gift bag the items. **The Activities Department would also appreciate help in setting up the Christmas Store beginning December 1st.** If you are able to help out, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500. Thank you.

Attention Christmas Carolers

We love to have you and want to encourage you to visit us with your music over the holidays. We know it brings great joy to our residents and tenants as well as an opportunity to connect with members of your congregation. *We are asking however that you schedule your visit ahead of time with Sarah McCormack at Bethany Heights (712-328-8228, ext. 208) and/or Kaily Stanley at Bethany Lutheran Home (712-328-9500, ext. 230). We love to have you come, but we want to make sure we are available to greet and assist you.* The residents and tenants love the music and the visits and we like to spread them out if possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to hearing your music in the coming weeks.

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 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.***

A Thought

Fifteen dedicated congregations and individuals founded Bethany in the early 1970's through hard work, fundraising, volunteer and family support. We celebrate our 45th anniversary with the continued support of our sponsoring congregations and individuals. **THIS IS YOUR HOME!** Bethany has grown over the years to meet the needs of area seniors, but all of this could not be done without YOU. As you celebrate the holidays and the New Year, we would invite you to consider a gift to Bethany or designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Gifts to Bethany are tax deductible to the extent of the law and help continue to provide support and services for our residents and tenants.

Did you also know that Bethany Heights has a scholarship program available to assist individuals living at Bethany Heights whose financial resources have become limited? The scholarship program provides the needed support for an individual to remain at Bethany Heights, the place they call home.

If you are looking for a way to make an impact in the lives of others, we invite you to prayerfully consider Bethany in your year-end giving.

Bethany Heights Apartments Available

Bethany Heights Senior Living Community has several apartments available for seniors. 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.



Merry Christmas from LSI

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

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no 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 the foster care system, who fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI’s work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion, and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction, and loneliness. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.



Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Merry Christmas! *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.*

Helping The Homeless



At the middle and high school lock-in, everyone pitched in to help will bags for the homeless. If you would like to, take a bag from the Narthex to keep in your car. You can hand it out next time you see someone in need.

Helping at Christmas

BY BRENDA HENNIGS



Once again, Emanuel is participating in Prison Fellowship Ministries "Angel Tree" program. If you are unfamiliar with this ministry you can check out their website - <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/>

Prison Fellowship provides, to participating churches, a list of prisoners who have signed up for the program. This list includes information on their children and gift ideas for each child. Contact is made from ELC to the caregiver to ensure that they want to participate in receiving gifts from ELC on behalf of the incarcerated parent. We then place the "angel" gift tag ornament on the door to the Fellowship Hall. These gift tags have a message from their parent and some information about the child and their gift needs. ELC givers will take an ornament (don't forget to record it on the note pad near the ornaments!) and purchase the gift, wrap it and return it by the due date that is listed on the tag/ornament.

This year the Wider Ministries Team has decided to change things up a bit!!! Rather than deliver the gifts, we will be hosting a Christmas PARTY!! Sunday December 17th at 2pm (upstairs in the youth center) we will be hosting a Christmas party for the recipients of the gifts and their caretakers/parents/grandparents. The plan is to have some holiday treats, play a few games and MAYBE an early visit from Santa!!!

If you are interested in helping with this party, see Brenda Hennigs as soon as possible!

Several of our youth attended an Angel Tree Camp last year on a mission trip and found the experience to be fulfilling and heart moving! The ELC Angel Tree camp youth are encouraged to attend the ELC party and help too!

If you have more questions, Brenda Hennigs, or any Wider Ministries team member will be happy to help!

Thanksgiving Baskets

BY LINDA STEENSLAND

Emanuel blessed 20 families and 184 individuals this year with Thanksgiving baskets!

Thanks for your care and support of this project through monetary donations, food donations, time in planning, shopping, organizing, packing and distributing these meals!



A New Way to Give

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

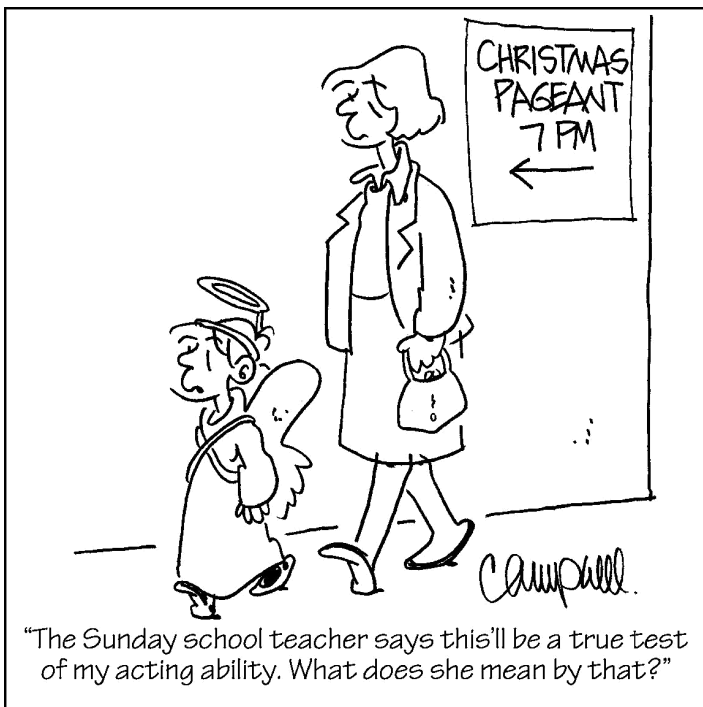
In November we were able to get an online processing service set-up so people can make their gifts if they prefer online rather than with a check or cash. This may be done with a bank account or with a debit/credit card. This is a six-month trial to see if this is useful to members.



On our website there is a button at the bottom that says "Donate Now." This will take you to a page where you can select your donation amount and various funds. The general fund is where pledges should be made, but there are also others, however, not all options have been added to the site yet. This also allows you to make one gift and have it split between various funds.

One great part about this, is you can create an account and login anytime to be able to see your electronic giving history. You can do this as a one time gift or even set-up reoccurring gifts.

This can also be done on your mobile divide by downloading "Give +" from iTunes or Google Play. Once downloaded you can create your account or login and you have all the same options you do online.



Sunday, December 31st
6 pm—9 pm
Potluck, games and fun!

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY FOR FAMILIES

Week of:	Attendance:	Offerings:
November 5	165	\$4,611.07
November 12	142	\$2,578.00
November 19	171	\$1,595.00
November 26	99+	\$1,650.00

Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

October Income: \$12,785.50
October Expense: \$12,756.46
October Balance:..... \$29.04

YTD Income: \$112,153.16
 YTD Expense: \$131,038.23
 YTD Balance-\$18,885.07
 Plus Carryover \$9,506.26
 General Budget Fund\$-9,378.81

Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



All are Welcome. This is not only a saying we use a lot here at Emanuel, it is the title of a Marty Haugen song that we often sing. Marty says the text for this hymn was “an attempt to write a text that reflects the welcome to table fellowship that Jesus offered unconditionally to everyone.” I love that he brought out the “unconditionally” part. We aren’t the ones to decide who is welcome. God is. Not society. Not people interpreting the Bible. God is. No one else. Shouldn’t that decrease our stress level? We don’t even have to think about sooo many things because God takes care of it. Not us. Wow. This is quite a gift.

During Advent we will be using another hymn, “He Comes to Us as One Unknown” written by Timothy Dudley-Smith while on vacation with his family on a beach at Cornwall. Timothy was made bishop of Thedford, England in 1981 and is still writing hymns today, even in retirement.

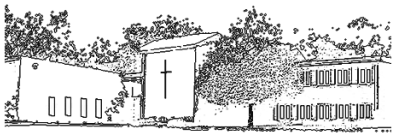
He Comes to Us as One Unknown

- 1 He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred,
a pulse of being stirred.
- 2 He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart,
of night within the heart.
- 3 He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean’s fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home,
a voice to call us home.
- 4 He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving name,
for ev’ry child of earth,
for ev’ry child of earth.
- 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord,
our Savior and our Lord.

The Hymnal Companion to ELW says: “The opening line of this hymn is part of a longer sentence from the closing pages of Albert Schweitzer’s, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (London, 1919), which says of Christ: ‘He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those first men who knew Him Not.’ The hymn moves in the first two stanzas from a ‘sense of the divine’ which is part of human experience to an increasingly Christian confession. The third stanza makes allusions to Revelation 1:15 (his voice like the sound of many waters), 1 Kings 19 (the still small voice), and 1 Chronicles 14:15 (the sound in the tops of trees a signal from God). By the fourth stanza ‘the text is explicitly Christian in its reference both to incarnation and to atonement.’ With stanza 5 ‘there is the personal response of faith to the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament,’ with allusions to Luke 24: 27 (where Jesus on the Emmaus road interprets things about himself in the scriptures) and 1 Peter 1:8 (even though you do not see him you believe in him).”



He comes to us in love and truth. He comes to us. Not upon our invitation or call. Despite our sinfulness. He comes to Us. He is present here at Emanuel. He welcomes us as we welcome others. He comes to us. What a beautiful contemplation hymn for Advent.



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Game Day

Thursday, December 7th, 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Tuesday, December 12th, 8:30 am
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, December 12th
11:30 am
Pizza Ranch

Blessings & Brunch

Friday, December 15th, 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

Emanuel Lutheran Church
2444 N. Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499
(712) 323-9665

emanuellutherancbia@msn.com

Like us on facebook: [facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia](https://www.facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia)

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