

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2022

Happenings!

- Saturday, April 2—Craft Inn
- Wednesday, April 6—Last Lenten Dinner
- Saturday, April 9—First Communion Class
- Sunday, April 10—Palm Sunday
- Tuesday, April 12—ROMEO's (and Friends) Meet
- Thursday, April 14—Maundy Thursday, Middle & High School Lock-In
- Friday, April 15—Good Friday
- Sunday, April 17—Easter Worship, Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt
- Wednesday, April 20—Newsletter Articles Due
- Friday April 22—Saturday, April 23—Synod Assembly
- Sunday, April 24—Holy Humor Sunday, Plant Exchange

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



Our confirmation class: Mason Lewis, Grace Nixt, Gabe VanSickle and Alex Vansickle did a team building activity at the Cryptic Room. They weren't quite able to solve everything to escape the room, but they all assured us they were "really close."

In This Issue...

A Post from the Pastor	2
First Communion	2
Tea for Two	2
Joyful Noise.....	3
Table Grace Service.....	3
Holy Humor Sunday	3
LiveStream Help.....	3
Lock-In	3
Lutheran Services in Iowa	4
Kitchen Shower	4
Decor from Sunday School	4
Ping Pong Tournament	5
Worship Assistants.....	6
Ways to Serve	6
Church Directory	6
ELC Event Calendar.....	7
Bethany Health Services	8
Mardi Gras Celebration	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Angel Tree Camp	11
Patio Volunteers	11
Easter Donations.....	11
Offering & Attendance	11
Finance Team Update.....	11



A Post from the Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



Hello Dear Friends! By the time you read this we'll be coming to the end of Lent and anticipating the celebration of Easter. We have cleared a space within ourselves, our days, and our environment for God to fill with new life. We also find ourselves coming to a place of new life within our church. While I don't believe we'll ever be able to return to things as they were two years ago; I believe we continue to create and experience new normal.

I'm happy to share that starting Easter Sunday we will have more options for receiving communion. Pre filled communion sets will still be available and with the ushers as you come into church. We will also offer communion at the communion rail and you may stand or kneel as you feel comfortable. If you cannot physically come to the rail you may alert your usher that you would desire communion or you may use a prefilled set.

This means we'll need folks to volunteer as communion assistants and our ushers will also be passing the collection plate at the offering. I also want to encourage folks if you have any prayers you'd like to share with the congregation to write them on the back of your attendance slip. If you have a need or concern that you'd like to share with me privately you can indicate that on your slip as well. I will then follow up with you individually as appropriate.

We'll be adding to our liturgy with more singing, and Scripture readings. At the passing of the peace you may share the peace in whatever ways feels most comfortable for you—a handshake, a hug, or exchanging a peace sign, whatever feels natural for you.

As we move forward into the future, if another variant emerges that calls for more precautions we will adjust our service and our gathering together accordingly.

But for now I'm so happy to celebrate all of Emanuel's Easter traditions with you! We'll have an early service, Easter breakfast between services, an Easter egg hunt for the kids, and we will all join in a hearty Alleluia!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Cara

First Communion

BY MICHAELA LEWIS



We will be having a first communion class on Saturday, April 9th. This class is for young people who are ready to prepare for regular participation in Holy Communion and their parents (usually about 2nd or 3rd grade, but parents should decide when their child is ready).

We have not been able to hold this class for a few years due to COVID, so we have several students who have patiently waited to complete this step in their faith journey. If you and your child/children want to participate in this class, contact Pastor Cara at pastor@emanuelcb.org.

First Communion students will attend the Maundy Thursday service where they will have their feet washed, as Jesus did with his disciples at the last supper. They will then receive their first communion at that service as well.



Save the Date
for our "Tea for Two" event
on Saturday, May 14!

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

We will have a lite luncheon,
entertainment and conversation.

RSVP to Chris Reed by May 8
creed1907@aol.com
or (712)435-9461



Esther Bender	Deloris Christensen	Owen Hansen	Larry Hansen
Robert Hesseltine	Sawyer Lorenz	Norma Mass	David Perault
Tommy Schlott	Ruth Sullivan	Bob Vergamini	

February Joyful Noise

BY ANGEL MCGEE AND CHRIS REED,
CO-CHAIRS OF WIDER MINISTRIES

On February 6, we had Ron Hernandez speak to us about his organization "Moving Veterans Forward". They are dedicated to helping homeless Veterans in Nebraska and Iowa get placed in homes. They have helped more than 1,400 homeless veterans move. How you can help? Moving Veterans Forward gladly accepts new or gently used donations of: furniture, mattresses and bedding, dressers, televisions, electronics, housewares, etc.



Our congregation family have big hearts! Thank you to those who donated to the Moving Veterans Forward mission, we collected \$1,210.83

. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again!

Holy Humor Sunday

The Sunday after Easter has been known as "Holy Humor Sunday" for several years at Emanuel. It is based on the idea that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead on Easter.

Join us for this fun quirky service of laughter and fun. This year our theme will be gardening, so feel free to come in your overalls or favorite gardening attire! Bring some jokes to share during the service as well!

After the service we will have a plant exchange on the patio, so if you have some extra flowers, veggies or seeds you would like to share, bring them along!



Table Grace

BY CHRIS REED

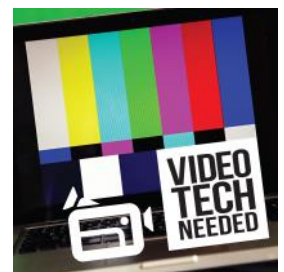
In memory of Gene Jeppesen, we will be hosting Table Grace on Sunday, May 1. Join us as Table Grace Ministries will be performing the church service and music from 9:30am. Following the service, Table Grace Café will be serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars and make sure to grab a good seat for this amazing Table Grace performance.

We will also collect donations for Table Grace for May's Joyful Noise.



Livestreaming Help

We are in need of someone to help fill in and run the livestreaming equipment now and then. This would include getting the livestream started at the computer in Cindy's office and controlling the cameras. We especially need someone to fill in on Palm Sunday. Please let Michaela know if you would be willing to help!



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, April 14th

Middle School &
High School Lock-In



National Child Abuse Prevention Month



According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 10,539 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2021, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 of these in-home visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood Residential Treatment Center serves many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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 LSIowa.org and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

Creating Bright Futures

When Makenzey found out she was pregnant, she felt nervous and overwhelmed at the thought of being a first-time mom. She didn't know what to expect, but she wanted to create the best life for her child. While she was pregnant, Makenzey enrolled in a local service that provides free housing to expecting moms. Through the organization, she learned about LSI Early Childhood Services. With support and guidance from her LSI Parent Educator, Hannah, Makenzey prepared for a healthy birth and transition into motherhood.

"Being a new mom was really scary for me. I had no idea what I was doing," Makenzey says. "I needed to learn the basics."

Since Makenzey welcomed her daughter, Maleigha, she has since found a job she loves and saved enough money to find a home for her new family. Through it all, Hannah provided check-ins with Makenzey, introducing her to important resources, educational materials, and age-appropriate toys and activities to ensure Maleigha hit all her developmental milestones.

"Especially when you're a first-time mom, you'll have a lot of questions. I don't have a ton of support right now, but Hannah helped me and answered every question I had about being a mom," Makenzey says. "LSI has been a really helpful service."

Kitchen Shower

BY ANGEL MCGEE

Let's have an April "shower" for our kitchen. Stock up the kitchen pantry with paper products, such as, napkins, cups, plates, bowls and paper towels. Ziplock bags, aluminum, and plastic wrap are also welcome.



Sunday school students painting crosses that are currently decorating tables in the community room.

John Husmann Memorial Ping Pong Tournament

For many years, John Husmann helped organize a ping pong tournament at Emanuel. This year a tournament was held on what would have been John's 90th birthday. We had over 30 players who entered the tournament this year. Due to number of players and time, we did not have a doubles matchup. Below are our winners.



Men's Singles
1st place:
Ken Kemmish

2nd Place:
Kevin Epperson



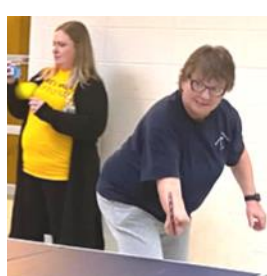
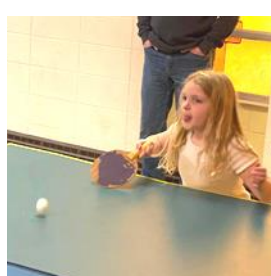
Women's Singles
1st place:
Maja Knutson

2nd Place:
Chris Reed



Youth Singles
1st place:
Lucas Holcombe

2nd Place:
Grace Nixt



Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, April 3	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Alan Ellis & Mark Ellis
Acolyte	Grace Nixt
Lector	
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	Connie Edson
Sunday, April 10	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Alan Ellis & Mark Ellis
Acolyte	Gabe & Alex VanSickle
Lector	Deann Over
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
LiveStream Tech	
Thursday, April 14	7:00 p.m. Service
Ushers	Sherri & Gary Stinson
Acolyte	Mason Lewis
Lector	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Friday, April 15	7:00 p.m. Service
Ushers	Jan & Rick Stone
Lector	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Sunday, April 17	7:00 a.m. Service
Ushers	Ken & Char Les Kemmish
Acolyte	Mason Lewis
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Easter Breakfast	Children & Youth
Sunday, April 17	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Alan Ellis & Mark Ellis
Acolyte	Grace Nixt
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	
Sunday, April 24	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Alan Ellis & Mark Ellis
Acolyte	Gabe & Alex VanSickle
Lector	
Altar Guild	
Communion Assistant	
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
LiveStream Tech	Michaela Lewis
Coffee Hour	

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



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.



Ways you can SERVE

We need YOUR help!

We would love to have 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

This Month's
ACTIVITIES
 At Emanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Ping Pong Tournament	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 Community Sewing Group 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Lenten Worship	31 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	1	2 10 am Craft Inn 
3 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour	4 10 am Tai Chi 11 am Communion at Midlands	5 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	6 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Lenten Worship	7 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	8	9 10 am First Communion Class 
10 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour	11 10 am Tai Chi	12 8:30 am ROMEO's (& Friends) meet at Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	13 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group	14 Maundy Thursday 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi 12 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 8 pm—Midnight Middle & High School Lock-In	15 Good Friday 12 pm Good Friday Worship 7 pm Good Friday Worship	16
17 Easter 7 am Sunrise Easter Service 7:45 am—8:45 am Easter Breakfast hosted by Youth 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 am Service in Worship Center	18 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	19 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	20 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group 	21 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	22 Earth Day Synod Assembly in Sioux City 	23 Synod Assembly in Sioux City 
24 Holy Humor 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Plant Exchange 	25 10 am Tai Chi	26 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	27 8:30 am Mission Action Quilters Upstairs 9:30 am—3 pm Community Sewing Group	28 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	29	30

Bethany Lutheran Health Services

At the Heights Michael Thomas shared this news on March 23rd: It's business as usual. We attended our first ballet earlier in March. We braved a snow storm, it wasn't bad. We went to Henry's Diner. We've just recently began eating in restaurants, which our residents really enjoy. It's nice to get out and about. We're having dine-in Christy Crème this Friday (25rd) and we're going to have lunch and bowling at Thunder Bowl on the 29th. We haven't been bowling in many years. Fingers crossed everything goes well. Next month we have a busy schedule. We're going to attempt to go out seven times next month, including the shopping trips. We'll continue our regular socials, crafts, music performances, religious activities, etc.. Morale is pretty high. We're doing well.

At the Home McKenna Huntoon reports for Amanda that the residents are enjoying their sing-a-longs. This week they are making Easter crafts and next week they will be making Easter décor for their rooms.

The General Store is still in need of items that are listed below. Deadline for this drive is April 15th.

Cece Mickells, BLHS's spiritual advisor, says as of now pastors from our churches will resume Sunday services at the Home by the end of March. A number of special Lenten and Holy Week services will be held at both locations. Bible study is held every other week at the Home while the others weeks a rosary service. At the Heights they have Bible study every week.

On Monday, April 11 the BLHS Auxiliary will have a quarterly meeting at 2PM in the community room at the Heights. All members of the supporting churches are welcome to attend.



Items needed for Bethany General Store:

- | | |
|---|--|
| •Toothpaste | Brand |
| •Mouthwash | •Puzzles of any size (no bigger than 1000) |
| •Lotion-With and some without Alcohol | •Blankets |
| •Body Sprays-Men and Women | •Fingernail files |
| •Grip Socks –Mostly for men but also need for women | •Sunglasses that fit over glasses and also Regular |
| •Snack foods | •Hats –Baseball, Sun, Etc. |
| •Diet Soda | |
| •Shampoo/Conditioner | |
| •Body Wash | |
| •Request for Old Spice | |





Emanuel's 8th Mardi Gras Celebration!

BY DEANN OVER, YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Over 85 attended* and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon filled with music, food, fun and fellowship at our 8th annual celebration on Sunday, February 27! (*The number of attendees is still being debated!) Together we raise over \$1,500 for children & youth activities!

We wish to especially thank Thrivent. As an approved Thrivent Action Team Project, we received \$250 as seed money to apply toward food for the event. This allowed Emanuel's cost to be only \$121.40.

Emanuel's Mardi Gras celebration could not be accomplished without the help of so many volunteers! Our special thanks to:

- Da Band – regulars and guest musicians - for sharing their musical talents (Cindy Richards, Kevin Epperson, Mike Hipnar, Tim Johnson and Grace Nixt)
- Queen Marjorie Powell-McIntosh and King Mike Loos, Emanuel's 2022 royalty
- Pastor Cara for welcoming our guests
- Linda Steensland and Sous Chef Nikki Rickard who prepared the delicious "Taste of Cajun" specialties
- All who donated such a variety of wonderful silent auction items!
- CharLes Kemmish who organized the silent auction, along with money counters Ken, and daughters Nancy and Laura.
- Michaela Lewis – our photographer who captured the memories, posted on Facebook and made a delicious King Cake!
- Those who decorated the Community Room: Kevin Epperson, Linda & Greg Steensland, Connie Solon, Angel McGee, Sandy Kanger, CharLes & Ken Kemmish, the Nixt family, the Lewis family, Jan Husmann and mystery guests?
- Angel McGee for the loan of her tower vases for our centerpieces and mascot "Mardi"
- Pat Hiller who loaned her mannequin who greeted guests in the community room
- The kitchen team who prepped and served: Pat Hiller, Lori Lynn Ahrends, Nikki Rickard, Pastor Cara, Maja Knutson, Connie Edson, Kathy Schneckloth, Karen Smith, Judy Heithoff, Barb Burns, Connie Beckman, Linda Steensland, and Nikki Rickard
- And finally, Sunday's set up & clean-up crew: Chris Reed, Kevin Epperson, Angel McGee, Connie & Matt Solon, Carla & Mike Hipnar, John Spilde, Jan and Rick Stone, Suzanne and Mike Winter, Mike Loos, Greg Steensland, and my apologies, I know there were others who pitched in and helped! Decorations were put away and the community room and kitchen cleaned in record time – no one would know we had a party!

We've saved all the decorations – if you run across any throughout the year and are willing to donate – we can store them!

Thanks again to everyone for making this such a fantastic event!



THIS MONTH'S
*
birthdays

April 01
Barb Burns

April 02
Jenny Jarrell-Smith

April 04
Scott Carrier
Peg Madsen

April 06
Amanda Wilson
Suzanne Winter

April 07
Renee Goss

April 09
Joshua Tiffey

April 12
Chasity Christie
Nathaniel Larson
Rebecca Petersen

April 13
Tes Winter

April 15
Jim Andersen
William Donovan
Sharon Hansen
Jackie Holding

April 16
Amy Epperson
Tom Lewis

April 17
Laura Kai
Jack Loos
Alexander Skovgaard

April 19
Christian Chatterton
Deanne Skovgaard

April 20
Lucas Holcombe
Heather Wilson

April 21
Glenda Smith

April 22
Cara Knutson

April 23
Brayden Fager
Linda Steensland

April 24
Priscilla McGee

April 26
Cynthia Borwick

April 27
Kylie Hansen

April 28
Haley Snell

April 30
Allison Goldapp



THIS MONTH'S
*
anniversaries

April 08
Zach & Samantha Winter

April 10
Allen and Linda Martens

April 13
Carl & Judy Wilson

April 14
Richard & Jacqueline Ogg

April 22
Alan & Tedette Ellis

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

Angel Tree Camp

In 2019 we had a group of amazing young people who volunteered for a week at Angel Tree Camp. Some of these young leaders asked if there would be an opportunity to do this again this summer. We have reached out to the camp and we have two options for weeks we can attend.

- Week 1: June 12-17 at Camp Pine in Eldora- Pastor Cara Knutson would chaperone
- Week 2: July 24-29 at Camp Quaker Heights in Eldora- Stephen Lewis would chaperone

Please let us know as soon as possible if you have a teen who is interested in attending either of these weeks so we can get a head count and date to the staff there. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Lewis at youth@emanuelcb.org.



Patio Volunteers Needed

As the weather gets warmer, we are in need of volunteers to help take care of the outside plants. We could especially use a few volunteers who are able to bend over and kneel down to take care of the patio plants. If you can help, please contact Oscar Over.



Easter Donations

On Easter the children and youth groups will be hosting an Easter breakfast as well as an Easter Egg Hunt.

If you would like to help with the breakfast by donating items, please sign-up on the clipboard in the community room or contact Deann Over. Any help with set-up or serving is also greatly appreciated.

If you would like to donate candy for the Easter Egg hunt it may be left in the church office prior to Maundy Thursday.



ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS



Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Sunday School Attendance:	Online Sunday School Views:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
March 6	84	81	6	8	179	\$2,631.00
March 13	77	44	6	11	138	\$1,830.00
March 20	73	41	4	9	127	\$1,537.00
March 27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$940.00

Finance Team Update

February Income:\$10,985.50
 February Expense:\$13,148.89
 February Balance-\$2,163.39

YTD Income:\$55,224.00
 YTD Expense:\$28,334.86
 YTD Balance\$26,889.14
 Plus Carryover.....\$20,408.34
 General Budget Fund\$41,867.66



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule for
Holy Week



Palm Sunday (April 10th)
Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday (April 14th)
Worship at noon & 7 p.m.
First communion students will receive first communion at the evening service.

Good Friday (April 15th)
Worship at noon & 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday (April 17th)
Worship at 7 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
Easter Breakfast 7:45 a.m.—9 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt—9 a.m.

Holy Humor Sunday (April 24th)
Worship at 9:30 a.m.
Plant Exchange 10:30 a.m.

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

Contact Us

Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 N. Broadway

Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

(712) 323-9665 Emergencies: (712) 314-0085

office@emanuelcb.org

Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutheranclbia

Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

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:

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. in the classrooms.

Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson (pastor@emanuelcb.org)

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards (music@emanuelcb.org)

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis (office@emanuelcb.org)

Kidz Kamp/Activities, Stephen Lewis (youth@emanuelcb.org)

Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed