

Garden of Reading'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2020

Happenings!

Thursday, January 9—North Broadway Neighborhood Association Meeting

Sunday, January 12—Joyful Noise offering for New Visions Homeless Services, Confirmation

Friday, January 17—Help at Our Savior's Food & Pet Food Pantry

Sunday, January 26—Annual Meeting & Lunch supporting youth

Sunday, February 9—Confirmation

Sunday, February 23—Mardi Gras

Wednesday, February 26—Ash Wednesday

Mission Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



Our entertaining cast for the Christmas Program this year. The program told the Christmas Story from the innkeeper's point of view, with lots of jokes and humor.

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Getting to Know You

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON

This past month has just flown by! A big thank you to all those who came to Early to help Maja, Derek and I get moved, and for the delicious dinner after the big move. We've mostly settled into the parsonage, with just a few boxes left to unpack. I'm happy to say the plumbing issues at the parsonage have been resolved and we're enjoying all of the room!

Derek is enjoying his new school at Hoover and Maja, at this time, is anticipating hearing back from the school system about paraprofessional openings over Christmas break. This congregation has been absolutely amazing! So many of you have welcomed me and my family, and your generosity and hospitality is above and beyond any expectations we ever had.

My first day in the office I had the pleasure of meeting Cindy, our director of music who alerted me to the fact that Elizabeth Miller was declining rapidly. I met Elizabeth later that day, bringing her communion and watched her quickly slip away. We celebrated her life and in seeking out stories about Elizabeth, I got to know several of you better.

I want to give a big thank you to Michaela Lewis for helping me learn about everything from Power Point slides to who is in need of pastoral visitation. She's such a cheerful spirit and a pleasure to work with. I'd also like to thank our director of music, Cindy Richards, for her invaluable input and guidance. She really understands liturgy and the role of music in worship and I look forward to continuing to work together.

This Epiphany we'll have a cantor, Maja Knutson, who will lead us in canting the psalms. Cindy and I have lots of fun and creative ideas for our worship time together in the future, so stay tuned. Also coming up in Jan. the adult Bible study will be meeting Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. We'll be reading and discussing Dr. David Lose's book Making Sense of the Christian Faith. Dr. Lose is the lead pastor at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis MN and was my preaching professor as well. His work influences my preaching and teaching. His writing is very simple and straight forward as well as intellectually sound and engaging.

I have thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the holidays with you good people of Emanuel Lutheran! Did you know that Emanuel comes from the Greek and Immanuel comes from the Hebrew. Both spellings are correct and both mean God with us which is what we celebrate this holiday season. May God bless you richly filling you full to overflowing with joy and grace


Peace,

Pastor Cara Knutson



WITH SYMPATHY: We lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy for the family of Elizabeth Miller who passed away December 9.





Inclement
Weather
Policy

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.

Christmas Program

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas program, and for those who came to watch it.

Stephen Lewis directed the program. Special thanks to Ann Goldapp for assisting with directing. Sandy Kanger helped with altering and creating new costumes. Thank you to Katty VanSickle and Abbie Ashcraft for helping with rehearsals. The script was written by Jeannette Walters in 2013 and we received permission from her to perform it.

Thank you to Cindy Richards for her help and accompaniment with the music for the program. Special thanks to Kylie Hansen & Mason Garreans for their drum duet of "Little Drummer Boy" during the service.

If anyone missed the service on December 22, we do have a video of the program posted on our Facebook page and our website at www.emanuelcb.org.

Below is our talented cast.

Innkeeper:
Alex Vansickle

Innkeeper's Wife:
Shelby Rickard

Mary:
Tori Hansen

Joseph:
Mason Lewis

Other Innkeepers:
Cole Holcombe & Lucas Holcombe

Shepherds:
Grant Ashcraft & Garrett Ashcraft

Angel:
Gabe VanSickle

Three Kings:
Derek Knutson, Cole Holcombe
& Lucas Holcombe



Carolers from Emanuel visit Midlands Living Center on December 22.

20/20 Vision—Looking at Life Through the Lens of Jesus

BY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We want to keep the congregation informed as to our progress of the 2020 stewardship financial campaign.

The re-cap as of December 15, 2019 shows we have received pledges from 40 families. That is about 15% behind last year results for the same time period. Obviously, with fewer pledges than last year, the giving to date is also below last year. We will be sending out letters with pledge cards in late December to those who have not had the opportunity to respond with a pledge yet.

We expect approximately 105 giving families in 2020. As you can imagine, coming up with a balanced budget for 2020 with only about 50% pledges and estimating the remainder of giving, makes the task difficult.

20/20 Vision
Looking
at Life Through
the Lens of Jesus

Thanks to you who have responded with your 2020 financial commitment, and we look forward to hearing from others in December and early January.



Glen Fahrenkrug
Paul Heath
Phyllis Fowler

Daralene Smith
Deloris Christensen

Robert Hesseltine
Esther Bender

Kaye Bird
Jim Fowler

JANUARY Birthdays

Jan. 02	Bob Bender Annalise-Marie Davis	Jan. 12	Cole Holcombe Linda Martens	Jan. 21	Ann Goldapp
Jan. 06	Christian Hansen	Jan. 13	Brennan Plummer Alice Smith	Jan. 22	Ava Jarrell
Jan. 07	Tara McSorley Daniel Solon	Jan. 14	Bill Holding	Jan. 24	Denny Clark
Jan. 09	Noah Conley Noah Smith	Jan. 15	Alce Croson	Jan. 25	Elizabeth Britton
Jan. 10	Clayton Juhl Ron Reiff	Jan. 19	Gerald Ebsen	Jan. 27	Hanna Ferguson Stephanie Hansen
		Jan. 20	Chris Reed	Jan. 30	Madison Nickels
				Jan. 31	Patty Maxwell

JANUARY Anniversaries

- Jan. 10** Irvin & Norma Mass
Jan. 22 Ron & Alice Smith 70 years
Jan. 27 Les & Suzane Merit

***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 substitute and notify the church office of the change)



Sunday, January 5	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	
Ushers	Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Acolyte	Kyle Sorensen
Lector	Maja Knutson
Communion Assistants	Kyle Sorensen, Amy Garreans, Mike Winter
Communion Set-Up	Char Les Kemmish
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sunday, January 12	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Rosie Spangenberg
Ushers	Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Acolyte	Angelina Maxwell & Reegan Haats
Lector	Elaine Sasso
Communion Assistants	Elaine Sasso, Rosie Spangenberg, Amy Garreans
Communion Set-Up	Deb Ebsen & Carol Fahrenkrug
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sunday, January 19	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Maja Knutson
Ushers	Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Acolyte	Amari Johnson
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Children's Message	Elaine Sasso
Communion Assistants	Amari Johnson, Peggy Jarrell
Communion Set-Up	Linda Steensland
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
Sunday, January 26	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	
Ushers	Char Les & Ken Kemmish
Acolyte	Grace Hansen & Nikki Rickard
Lector	Alan Ellis
Children's Message	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistants	
Communion Set-Up	Al & Linda Martens
Visual Tech	Elaine Sasso

January 5
Marc & Katty
VanSickle

January 12
Confirmation
Students

January 19
Girl Scouts

January 26
Children & Youth

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



January 5

January 12

January 19

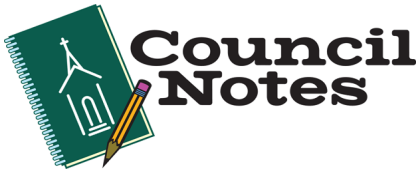
January 26

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

If you are interested in helping with worship, please contact the church office, (712) 323-9665, emanuellutherancbia@msn.com or sign-up on our website at: www.emanuelcb.org

January 2020 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 11 am Elementary Lock-In 4 pm Middle & High School Lock-In	30 11 am Tai Chi	31 New Year's Eve 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6 pm—9 pm Family Fun Night, Potluck & Games	1 New Year's Day Office Closed 	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Choir Practice 10:45 am Kidz Kamp 11:30 Mental Health Advocacy & Support	6 11 am Tai Chi	7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	8 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 7:15 pm Band Practice	9 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm NBNA Meeting 	10 Office Closed	11 4 pm Fellowship Hall In-Use
12 Joyful Noise 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Kidz Kamp 10:45 am Harmonica Practice 10:45 am Wider Ministries Meeting 11 am Confirmation	13 11 am Tai Chi	14 8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room 6:30 pm Children & Youth Committee Meeting	15 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 7:15 pm Band Practice	16 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi	17 Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's 	18
19 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion & Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Kidz Kamp 10:45 am Choir Practice 10:45 am Worship & Music Meeting	20 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	22 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 7:15 pm Band Practice	23 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Annual Meeting (movie for kids during meeting) 12 pm Annual Lunch 	27 11 am Tai Chi	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	29 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 7:15 pm Band Practice	30 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 11 am Tai Chi	31 Office Closed	1



Council Notes

Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes for 12/16/2019

RECORDED BY STEPHEN LEWIS

Present: Rosie Spangenberg, Elaine Sasso, Stephen Lewis, Nick Rickard, Judi Malloy, Joel Hauschild, Connie Solon, Alan Ellis, John Spilde, Pastor Cara Knutson

Absent: Peggy Jarrell, Amy Garreans, Megan Sorensen

The meeting was called to order at by President Rosie Spangenberg at 7:06p

Welcome Pastor Cara Knutson

Devotions: Rosie Spangenberg

Getting Acquainted Exercise: A little bit about yourself

Council Agenda:

- John Spilde made a motion to accept the Secretariat Minutes. 2nd by Judi Malloy. Motion passed.
- Judi Malloy made a motion to accept the Consolidated Funds report. 2nd by Nick Rickard. Motion passed.
- Elaine Sasso made a motion to accept the corrected October Treasurers report. 2nd by Alan Ellis. Motion passed.
- Alan Ellis made a motion to accept the November Treasurers report. 2nd by Judi Malloy. Motion passed.
- Connie Solon made a motion to accept the Capital report. 2nd by John Spilde. Motion passed.
- Elaine Sasso made a motion to accept the Memorial Fund report. 2nd by Connie Solon. Motion passed.
- Pastor Cara presented the Pastors report.
- Connie Solon presented the Stewardship and Finance report.
- Still working on 2020 budget.
- Stephen Lewis presented the Children and Youth report.
- Joel Hauschild presented the Property Committee report.
- New carpet has been installed in the nursery.
- The skid loader has been repaired and is ready to go.
- The new handicap ramp installation will take place in the spring.
- Connie presented the Wider Ministries report.
- 60 bags were filled for Lutheran Family Services.
- January Joyful Noise will be Mohm's Place.
- Rosie presented the Worship and Music report.
- December 18- Blue Christmas Service.
- December 22- Children's Christmas Program and Angel Tree party.
- December 24- Christmas Eve service at 430p and 7p.
- December 31- Family Fun Night 6-9p.
- January 26- Annual Meeting.
- Nick Rickard and Amy Garreans are still working on the personnel policies and constitution updating.
- The new internet and WiFi is up and running.
- Stephen Lewis is still developing the Safety Team.
- New Emergency Contact Phone Number-
• Pastor Cara- 651-328-0638
- New Business: Member transfer approval.
- Joel Hauschild made a motion to accept the transfer of Pastor Cara, Maja and Derek to Emanuel Lutheran Church. 2nd by John Spilde. Motion passed.
- Boy Scouts are now official and will begin meeting in January.
- Next Council Meeting is January 20, 2020.
- Devotions- Elaine Sasso
- Elaine Sasso made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Judi Malloy. Motion passed.
- Rosie Spangenberg adjourned the meeting at 830p.

Lutheran Family Service Bags

BY JAN HUSMANN, WIDER MINISTRIES

With the help of people who gave money, bought items, sorted and packed the bags and delivered them we got the job done. We had over 50 bags.

The gals that work there are always so appreciative as are the families that receive the bags.



We had lots of helpers at the Angel Tree Party on December 22. In addition to Santa Steve and Elf Mason, Garrett & Grant Ashcraft helped hand out gifts and candy canes to children who attended. There were 25 kids that members of Emanuel provided gifts for this Christmas through the Angel tree program. Special thanks to Deanne Skovgaard for taking charge and organizing the Angel Tree project this year.

Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees striving to build new lives.



These are all issues faced by Iowans. Join us to make sure they are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Tuesday, February 25. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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.

Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

November Income:	\$8,970.40	YTD Income:	\$142,531.88
November Expense:.....	\$8,666.22	YTD Expense:	\$134,229.99
November Balance.....	\$304.18	YTD Balance	\$8,301.89
		Plus Carryover	\$9,272.00
		General Budget Fund	\$17,573.89

Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



One of the favorite songs of Emanuel, based on Isaiah 6:8, is Here Am I, Lord, #574 in the ELW. The first half of this hymn by Daniel L. Schutte, is God's words. The refrain, shown here, is our words.

**Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?**

I have heard you calling in the night.

**I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people
in my heart.**

We sing these words but they always come with a running commentary in my head.

Here I am, Lord.
(As long as you don't ask too much.)

Is it I, Lord?
(Are you sure you want me? There are so many others more qualified.)

I have heard you calling in the night.
(Maybe it was what I ate or drank last night. Surely those thoughts in my head are not really you. Wouldn't you speak in a nice plain voice that I could understand?)

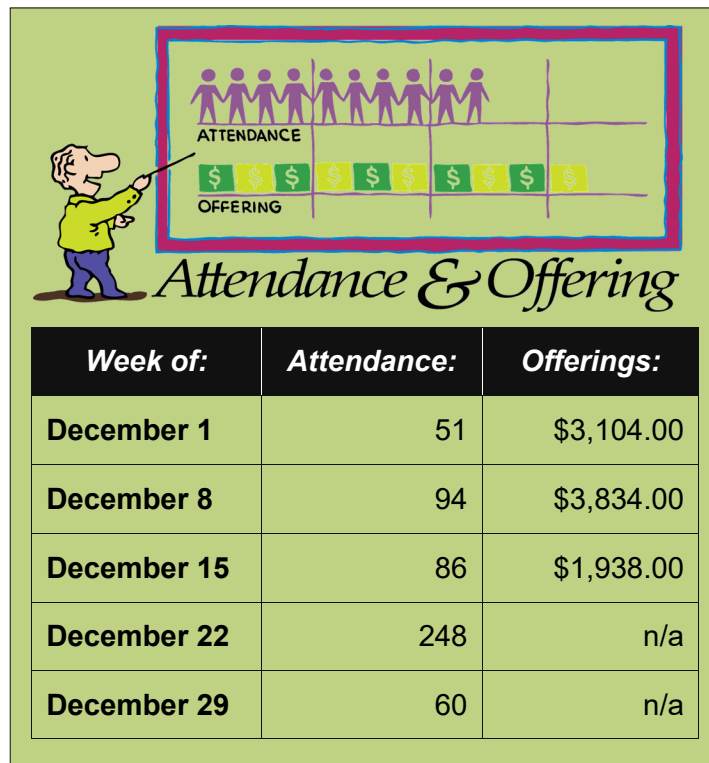
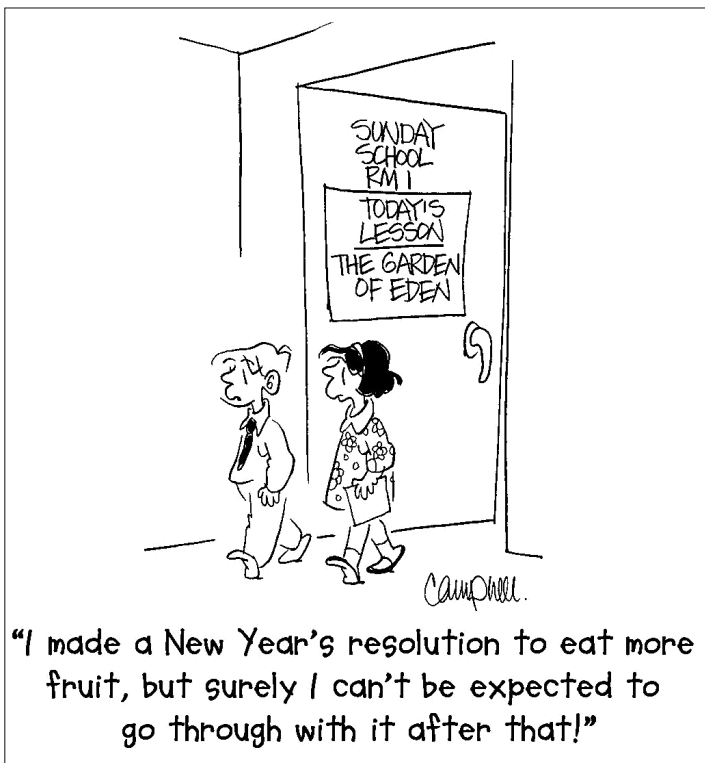
I will go, Lord,
(Maybe you'll forget I said this and go on to the next person on your list.)

If you lead me
(How will I know it's you? I've been known to fall for a line before.)

I will hold your people in my heart.
(Your people. How do I know who they are?)

This year, during January and February, (the time after Epiphany) I'm going to quiet my mind to listen better, quit doubting what God is doing and asking of me, and make that refrain my mantra. I'm not even sure yet how to do this other than consistent prayer. But it's got to start somewhere! Join me?

**I will go, Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**





Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Game Day

Thursday, January 9th
1 p.m.
Emanuel Community Room

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)
Tuesday, January 14^h
8:30 am
Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, January 8th
11:30 am
Pizza Ranch

Mission Action Committee

(Quilters)
Wednesdays
9:30 am
Community Room

Mission Statement: Forgiven by Grace, Serving by Faith

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

Contact Us

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2444 N. Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499
(712) 323-9665 Emergencies: (651) 328-0638
office@emanuelcb.org
Like us on facebook: facebook.com/emanuellutherancbia
Visit us on the web at: www.emanuelcb.org

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m., followed by fellowship and coffee in the community room
Kidz Kamp Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Staff:

Pastor Kara 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