

# Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2021

## Happenings!

Due to COVID 19 the church building remains closed for most activities except for Sundays mornings for worship and activities approved by the Church Council. We encourage everyone to connect with us virtually via Facebook, Twitter and our YouTube channel.

Sunday, January 3—Worship

Sunday, January 10—Worship with Joyful Noise Offering

Friday, January 15—Volunteers for Food Pantry Meet at Our Savior's

Sunday, January 17—Worship

Sunday, January 24—Worship, Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31—Worship

**Mission Statement:**  
Forgiven  
by Grace,  
Serving by  
Faith

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



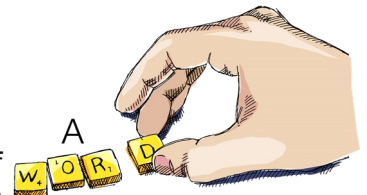
Bags filled with items were delivered in December to Lutheran Family Services by the Wider Ministries Committee. They have done this for many years for kids in the LFS programs at Christmas time.

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# Ponderings From Your Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



If Hindsight is 2020, what will 21 be? I'm sure many of you can join with me in relief that this year is finally over. I predict 2021 to be a year of transition from life as we knew it before and with COVID, and life after. I encourage all of you as it becomes available to get the COVID vaccine. But even once we're vaccinated the CDC is still encouraging keeping to our same guidelines and precautions for a time yet. While we be coming to the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch, this game is far from over. Your leadership here at Emanuel will continue to guide our community and I ask you for prayers for wisdom and discernment.

Coming up this month in January we will be having our first ever hybrid annual meeting Sunday Jan. 24. We will be offering people to gather in person after worship, as well as online through Zoom. For those who are not connected digitally you also can arrange with the office or myself to join the annual meeting by conference call. We're hoping to make the annual meeting booklets available for people to pick up from the church office as well as after Sunday worship services. We also will have three council members no longer eligible for reelection. I ask if you would prayerfully consider if this is a ministry you would be willing to consider. Members of the council and myself will be approaching members who think might serve our council well.

I believe 2021 will be a new beginning for all of us at Emmanuel in lots of ways. As your pastor I ask for your feedback: is there something you've been wanting to see happen at Emanuel? A project you'd like to see us undertake? A topic you'd like to study? Please let me know. As restrictions lift I plan to continue to venture out into the wider faith community here at Council Bluffs and beyond. I've already started making connections in the community through the weekly clergy text study as well as with other individuals I've been privileged to meet. I'm always listening for where our neighbor is in need and how are we at Emanuel uniquely gifted and equipped to help.

Also, I plan to continue listening to our community here at Emanuel. One suggestion I'm looking forward to trying out is beginning in January offering our weekly Bible study in person and on Zoom. So Thursdays at 9:30 am if you'd like to participate in our weekly study and don't feel comfortable coming in person, let me know and I'll send you a Zoom invitation. If you need a Zoom tutorial I can help with that as well. Since March I've had opportunity to become very conversant and comfortable with Zoom.

I know we're feeling tired and ready to have this pandemic over and done with; but hang in there, we'll be there soon. This is also a time to be excited as we've all been given an opportunity to try out new things and new ways of being church together for the sake of the world. I believe there is an untapped mission in our digital realm of folks disillusioned, disconnected, and hurting that we can reach out to with hands to love and serve.

Let's continue together as little Christ's in the world. One of my favorite quotes from seminary: "God doesn't need our love, but our neighbor does."

Happy New Year, let's make 2021 a great one!

In Christ's Service,  
Pr. Cara Knutson



We have had five members of Emanuel who have passed and are now at peace with our Father in heaven. Despite that reassurance, we will miss them being here with us.

Cheryl Ellis—December 14  
Irv Mass—December 17  
Jim Fowler—December 20  
Phyllis Fowler—December 24  
Ruth Pearson—December 26

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.



The Annual Meeting will be January 24<sup>th</sup> after the worship service.



## ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be a bit different this year. For those who would like to attend in person, masks will be required and social distancing practiced.

We will also have the option for people to join via Zoom. You can do this from any computer, tablet or smartphone. You can also call into the meeting and join. This information is listed below and will also be emailed out the week before the meeting, so please make sure we have your correct email address on file.

Emanuel Annual Meeting

Time: Jan 24, 2021 10:15 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86517106326>

Meeting ID: 865 1710 6326

To join via phone, dial 1-312-626-6799  
US (Chicago)

## Audio Video Help

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Since March 22, we have had a version of worship available each Sunday. It has been a learning process with some trial and error, and I'm still working on the best solution for Sunday mornings and determining equipment needed. Hopefully we will have a dedicated set-up soon that will give us better quality video, sound and will be easier for anyone to operate.



There are some Sundays coming up that I will not be able to be in church to run the equipment. We will need to have a few people who are trained on how to use the equipment in order for it to be viewed remotely. If you would be interested in helping with this Sunday mornings or if you have any expertise in a livestreaming set-up, please let me know. Thank you!



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 for our packing of cookies to deployed troops since 2007.

With our Operation Holiday Cheer November packing, pictured below, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have now sent **over 1,400,000** cookies to our deployed military personnel.

In addition, while we had to suspend shipping to the troops in the spring and summer due to the pandemic, our bakers wanted to recognize our local first responders. We used Emanuel's parking lot where our bakers dropped off over 500 dozen cookies. Cookies were then packed off site in containers and delivered to the Council Bluffs, Carter Lake, Glenwood and Missouri Valley Police and Fire Departments, the Pottawattamie Sherriff Department and Iowa Highway Patrol (which serves Adair, Adams, Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, Pate, Pottawattamie & Taylor Counties).

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](http://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. At one time there were over 34 crumb groups across the United States – now there are only three active groups. While we do not know the reason(s) other groups dissolved, we do know ours has succeeded due to the outstanding support of the metro and surrounding communities and having Emanuel as a place to pack the cookies.

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







Paul Heath  
Bob Vergamini

Daralene Smith  
Deloris Christensen

Robert Hesseltine  
Norma Mass

Esther Bender

# JANUARY



## BIRTHDAYS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Jan. 02</b> Bob Bender<br>Annalise-Marie Davis              | <b>Jan. 15</b> Alice Croson                       |
| <b>Jan. 06</b> Christian Hansen                                | <b>Jan. 19</b> Gerald Ebsen                       |
| <b>Jan. 07</b> Tara McSorley<br>Daniel Solon                   | <b>Jan. 20</b> Chris Reed                         |
| <b>Jan. 09</b> Noah Conley<br>Noah Smith                       | <b>Jan. 21</b> Ann Goldapp                        |
| <b>Jan. 10</b> Clayton Juhl<br>Ron Reiff                       | <b>Jan. 22</b> Ava Jarrell                        |
| <b>Jan. 12</b> Cole Holcombe<br>Linda Martens                  | <b>Jan. 24</b> Denny Clark                        |
| <b>Jan. 13</b> Spencer Lewis<br>Brennan Plummer<br>Alice Smith | <b>Jan. 25</b> Elizabeth Melani                   |
| <b>Jan. 14</b> Bill Holding                                    | <b>Jan. 27</b> Hanna Ferguson<br>Stephanie Hansen |
|  | <b>Jan. 29</b> Amari Johnson                      |
|  | <b>Jan. 30</b> Madison Nickels                    |
|  | <b>Jan. 31</b> Patty Maxwell                      |

### January 2021 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion	28 11 am Tai Chi	29 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	30	31 9:30 am Bible Study in Conference Room 11 am Tai Chi	1 	2
3 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion	4 11 am Tai Chi	5 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	6	7 9:30 am Bible Study in Conference Room 11 am Tai Chi	8	9
10 <b>Joyful Noise</b> 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion	11 11 am Tai Chi	12 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	13	14 9:30 am Bible Study in Conference Room 11 am Tai Chi	15 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's 	16
17 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion	18 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	19 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	20	21 9:30 am Bible Study in Conference Room 11 am Tai Chi	22	23
24 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:15am Annual Meeting 	25 11 am Tai Chi	26 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Youth Center	27	28 9:30 am Bible Study in Conference Room 11 am Tai Chi	29	30

# JANUARY



Jan. 22 Ron & Alice Smith

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*

## Update from Bethany Auxiliary

To all of our family and friends from Bethany Lutheran Health Services' marketing manager, Christine Gochenour: WOW! 2020 was quiet the year! Everyone has felt the ramifications of this pandemic and Bethany has not been exempt. We have new floor names such as "Skyline Yellow and Red", our community members and residents have not physically touched their families for 300 days, and our staff are tired, but fearless.

Through all of this; everyone associated with Bethany has been AMAZING. Our residents have been understanding and resilient in the face of change, our staff have turned into superheroes and YOU...you all have answered the call of need, help, and prayer more times than we can count. We are so blessed and humbled by all the support. Our resi-

dents and community members are doing well, despite the current climate.



We have found new ways to engage the residents in new activities. We have danced our way through some of the months and also have said THANK YOU for voting us #1 all the way around. We have used our closed circuit television channel to broadcast church, singing and of course all of our activities. We are very hopeful for the upcoming vaccine and are so anxious to get back to normal.

Please remember to wear your masks, wash your hands, and social distance yourselves for just a little bit longer. Thank you for everything this last year. We truly appreciate it.

## Raising Our Voice for Iowa Children & Families

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



These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

This legislative session may look different from past years. But now more than ever, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society.

You can join us in this important work. Visit [LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://LSIowa.org/advocacy) and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

# Emanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

## December 21, 2020

RECORDED BY ROSIE SPANGENBERG, EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Members present: Pastor Cara Knutson, Mike Winter, Rosie Spangenberg, Char Les Kemmish, Matt Solon, John Spilde, Greg Steensland, Mike Loos

Members absent: Joel Hauschild, Jane Anderson, Stephen Lewis, Nick Rickard, Alan Ellis

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Mike Winter. John Spilde gave devotions.

Secretary's minutes from the November meeting: Motion to approve by Greg Steensland, seconded by Char Les Kemmish. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary report: Motion to approve by John Spilde, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Motion to approve by Char Les Kemmish, seconded by John Spilde. Motion carried.

Capital Fund report: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Greg Steensland. Motion carried.

Memorial Fund report: Motion to approve by Matt Solon, seconded by Mike Loos. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

- Matt Solon reported from the Stewardship Committee. They are working on the 2021 budget which will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting in January. To date, \$137,000 has been pledged, with an anticipated carryover of \$19,000.
- Pastor Cara gave her monthly written report. She highlighted the recent Confirmation of 12 young people. A worship staff meeting will be held quarterly, with members of Pastor, Cindy Richards, and Michaela and Stephen Lewis.

Old Business:

- Last month Jane Anderson had submitted her thoughts to the Council that a portion of the funds received from Elizabeth Miller should be used for some kind of music purchase, since this was an area Elizabeth was deeply interested in. Purchasing a set of bells for the bell choir was one idea discussed. Char Les Kemmish revisited this. We are currently renting the bells we are using. The rental fee could be put toward a future purchase. The Council asked if we could continue renting the bells until a decision is made on how to use the Miller funds. \*Note: After the meeting, Rosie Spangenberg checked with Cindy Richards. Continuing to rent the bells is not an option provided by the bell company. They only do that for a one time three month period.
- Mike Winter gave an update on the technology purchases needed for the continued online streaming. Funding for these purchases using Memorial Funds was approved at a previous meeting. Pastor Cara will work with Michaela Lewis to finalize all the equipment needed and will report back to the Council.
- Last month Rosie Spangenberg brought up the need to set plans in motion for the Annual Meeting to be held on January 24, 2021, and how the meeting may look different than in past years. This was an action item at the December Council meeting.

◇ New Council members will be needed to replace Rosie Spangenberg, Stephen Lewis, and John Spilde, who cannot be on the Council for another term, according to the bylaws.

◇ Council members whose terms are up but have agreed to serve another term and are eligible to do so include Nick Rickard, Alan Ellis, and Mike Winter.

◇ Any Emanuel member who is willing to serve on the Council for a two year term should contact President Mike Winter.

◇ December update:

\*Greg Steensland will continue to serve during 2021, completing the two year term of Alex Skovgaard.

\*After reviewing our current constitution and by-laws plus information put out by the Synod regarding holding remote Council and Congregation Meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided to again hold the Emanuel Congregation meeting on the 4th Sunday in January, January 24, 2021. A quorum of 40 eligible members is needed to conduct any business needing a majority vote. Members will have the option of attending in person with guidelines of wearing masks and social distancing in place and will sign in by recording their names as in the past. Council discussed having the meeting livestreamed using Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter in the same way weekly services are currently being shared. Members attending this way would have their attendance documented and will count toward the 40 member quorum needed to conduct business. These members would have the opportunity to vote on items needing approval by majority vote. This information will be put out to Emanuel members through announcements during church services and through the Emanuel January 2021 newsletter. \*Note: After checking with Michaela, livestreaming the meeting on three platforms and trying to determine who is attending virtually and also counting votes would be extremely difficult. It would also make the meeting public and not limited to just Emanuel members. However, Zoom would allow the meeting to be private, attendance would be easier to take, and there is a voting feature available on the platform. Details will be published in the January newsletter and announced during church.

New Business:

- John Spilde wanted it noted to thank those that helped decorate for the Christmas holiday.
- Other items listed as "New Business" on the December agenda have been recorded as updates under "Old Business."
- Next meeting is January 18, devotions by Char Les Kemmish.
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Solon, seconded by John Spilde. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Mike Winter at 8:00 p.m.

# Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



We are now in the Time after Epiphany-if you are reading this after Epiphany on January 6. All the readings for these Sundays are about how Jesus reveals himself. The Gospels are full of these stories. Sometimes, in our dark times, we think of these as ancient stories, not relevant to today and our problems. How can we see Jesus, God, revealed today?

TV gives us the bad news. That is what makes the headlines. And sometimes the good news, which gives us hope. But often we look at that all as outside news. It does not affecting us directly. Things that affect us directly are staying home, not hugging, not seeing smiles.

But there are so many other things that also affect us. For me, naturally, it is music. It has been such a joy to be able to join with our small group at church and start a handbell choir. These dedicated people have

found that camaraderie that we have been missing, on Saturdays for an hour. They have also found arm and shoulder muscles that had not been used for a while! They have laughed again together. They have made music together!! Soon we will purchase a set of bells to make this a permanent addition to the Emanuel music ministry.

We have had soloists play instead of choirs and bands. It has been wonderful to hear and work with them. They have made this music that we may not have been able to hear if it were not for shutdowns and social distancing. To see the joy and passion they have for making music for church has been inspirational for me. This is where I have been seeing and hearing God-in the faces and in the music of our own musicians. Thanks be to God for them!

Thank you for your support, prayers and cards during such a difficult time for our family. We appreciate it so much.  
- Norma Mass & Family

**Join us each Sunday for a Sunday School lesson for kids and those who are young at heart!**

**Emanuel Sunday School videos post to our YouTube channel and the Sunday School Facebook Page each Sunday.**

<https://www.facebook.com/EmanuelCBChildren>

*Attendance & Offering*

Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Views:	Offerings:
Dec. 6	29	22	\$3,807.00
Dec. 13	27	25	\$1,419.00
Dec. 20	157	99	\$2,079.00
Dec. 27	16	n/a	\$3,324.00

MAKE A **Joyful Noise TO THE LORD**

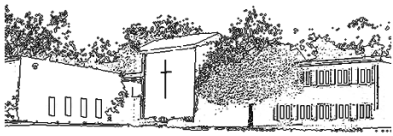
**Joyful Noise for November will be on January 10 for Our Savior's Food & Pet Food Pantry**

## Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

November Income: .....\$11,511.40  
November Expense:.....\$11,492.73  
 November Balance..... \$18.67

YTD Income: ..... \$146,965.87  
YTD Expense:.....\$140,898.97  
 YTD Balance ..... \$6,066.90  
Plus Carryover.....\$16,983.29  
 General Budget Fund ..... \$23,050.19





**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

2444 North Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"  
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD  
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,  
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

JEREMIAH 29:11

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

Worship Services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Virtual services live on YouTube, Facebook & Twitter.

Staff:

Pastor Cara Knutson ([pastor@emanuelcb.org](mailto:pastor@emanuelcb.org))

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards ([music@emanuelcb.org](mailto:music@emanuelcb.org))

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis ([office@emanuelcb.org](mailto:office@emanuelcb.org))

Kidz Kamp/Activities, Stephen Lewis ([youth@emanuelcb.org](mailto:youth@emanuelcb.org))

Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed