

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2022

Happenings!

Saturday, January 1—Craft Inn

Tuesday, January 11—ROMEO's Meet

Sunday, January 16—Confirmation

Wednesday, January 19—Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, January 23—Emanuel Annual Meeting

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



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A Post from the Pastor

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON



Good morning church!

Joy to the world the Lord is come! While I'm sitting here in my office writing this we're still in the time of Advent, waiting with anticipation for the coming of our Lord's birth. But for some that's just church talk. What does it really mean? I believe as Christians we're convicted and called to pattern our lives and follow the example of Jesus Christ. I remember an old movie called, *Something about Mary*. I don't remember much about the movie except Uma Thurman in a short red dress. In the church we're all about *There's Something about Jesus*. There's something about this man that's irresistible and that when he says come and follow, you drop everything and follow. Jesus has this way of getting under your skin, seeping into your whole self until you can't do anything else but to become a Follower of the Way—which is what the earliest of Jesus' followers were called.

There's something about Jesus that moves within us telling us now is the time to speak up, speak out, sharing whatever is on our heart. There's something about Jesus that when we hear of people's loneliness, pain, heartache, or loss something within us compels us to help. There's something about Jesus that makes it impossible for us to do anything else but to follow the path God has laid before us regardless of the difficulties, obstacles or challenges. There's something about Jesus that both draws people to him and sends people out to look for the lost and hurting among us and ask what can we do?

During Advent Michaela and I looked at all things, mailing routes, to send out to our neighbors an invitation to come and join us during the holidays for our various worship services and special events. We discovered there are around 3600 households within a proximity of Emanuel Lutheran. Surely among those 3600 are people hurting, sensing a lack, hungry for the good news of salvation—even if they may not know it. The question is how do we best share with our neighbors who we are and what we have to offer? And who is missing from around the table and how do we best convey that we miss them among us—that they're needed and wanted?

This is the question I passionately believe we're called to pursue in our lives as Christians. It takes courage, curiosity, commitment and compassion. It takes listening to where the Spirit tugs, compels us towards, and paying attention to the opportunities that come to us.

There's something about Jesus, who is unlike any other. There's something irresistible, compelling and so satisfying that turns our world upside down.

There's something about Jesus.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Cara

CHANGE OF PLANS

Due to low attendance we will discontinue the Wednesday Night Recharge for the time being. We can try again some other time if interest increases.

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.

If there is a cancellation of services or activities, this will be posted on our Facebook page as well as be relayed to the local news stations.

Inclement Weather Policy



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

Lutheran Family Service Children's Bags

BY JAN HUSMANN

Thanks to everyone who helped fill the bags for the children ages 0-5 years. They were filled to overflowing with health products.

What a joy it was to deliver them.

Thank you from the wider ministries committee.



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 23rd

10:30 a.m.

Join us for Emanuel's annual meeting. We will review the annual report, vote on new Council members and vote on the proposed 2022 budget.

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggling without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives in the U.S.



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

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 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. Save the date for March 10, 2022, and join us for Lutheran Day on the Hill, a day of advocacy and education at the Iowa State Capitol. 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.

Entrepreneurship, Food, and Welcoming

In 2006, Ali and her family traveled from Kenya and resettled in the U.S. They found themselves in an unfamiliar place: Iowa. But today, they still call Iowa home, thanks to the community they built and the support they received while resettling in the U.S. LSI Refugee and Immigrant Services helped the family become comfortable and confident living in their new community.

"They taught us to shop, register for school – all the basic needs. Even winter shopping for the Iowa weather," Ali says. "They taught us how to get by. It was nice to help us get settled in."

After some time in Iowa, Ali and her husband, Salah, decided they wanted to open a restaurant as suc-

cessful as the one they had in Kenya. They soon realized how challenging this would be – the biggest obstacle being the financial burden of opening a restaurant in the Des Moines area. After 15 years of never giving up on their goals, they were able to open Gursha Ethiopian Grill.

Opening during a pandemic, when other restaurants in the industry struggled to remain open, has come with its share of obstacles. But thanks to community support, the restaurant is a popular destination in the area.

Ali dreams of one day franchising to other locations. With their continuously growing clientele and delicious food, this goal is not far away.

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, January 2	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolyte	
Lector	
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, January 9	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolyte	
Lector	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	Connie Edson & Patty Maxwell
Sunday, January 16	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolyte	Alex & Gabe VanSickle
Lector	
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	Angel McGee & John Spilde
Sunday, January 23	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolyte	Cole Holcombe
Lector	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	
Coffee Hour	
Sunday, January 30	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Ken & CharLes Kemmish
Acolyte	
Lector	
Visual Tech	
LiveStream Tech	
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
26 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 10:30 am Coffee Hour	27 10 am Tai Chi	28 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	29 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	30 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	31 6 pm Family Fun Night	1 10 am Craft Inn 
2 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 10:30 am Coffee Hour	3 10 am Tai Chi	4 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	5 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	6 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	7	8
9 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 am Taking Down the Greens	10 9 am Cookie Crumbs Sorting 10 am Tai Chi 	11 8:30 am ROMEO's meet at Villiage Inn East 9 am Cookie Crumbs Packing 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	12 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	13 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	14	15
16 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Coffee Hour 11 pm Confirmatoin	17 10 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	18 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	19 7 pm Bell Choir Practice 	20 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	21	22
23 9:30 am Service in Worship Center 9:30 am Sunday School in classrooms 10:30 am Annual Meeting 	24 10 am Tai Chi	25 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	26 7 pm Bell Choir Practice	27 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Tai Chi	28	29
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THIS MONTH'S
*
birthdays

Jan. 02

**Bob Bender
Annalise-Marie Davis**

Jan. 07

**Tara McSorley
Daniel Solon**

Jan. 09

**Noah Conley
Noah Smith**

Jan. 10

**Clayton Juhl
Ron Reiff**

Jan. 12

**Cole Holcombe
Linda Martens**

Jan. 13

**Spencer Lewis
Brennan Plummer
Alice Smith**

Jan. 14

Bill Holding

Jan. 19

Gerald Ebsen

Jan. 20

Chris Reed

Jan. 21

Ann Goldapp

Jan. 22

Ava Jarrell

Jan. 24

Denny Clark

Jan. 25

Elizabeth Melani

Jan. 27

**Hanna Ferguson
Stephanie Hansen**

Jan. 29

Amari Johnson

Jan. 30

Madison Nickels

Jan. 31

Patty Maxwell



THIS MONTH'S
*
anniversaries

January 22

Ron & Alice Smith

January 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



Students from 1 year old through confirmation participated in the Christmas program on December 19th. Thank you so much to Stephen Lewis and Lori Lynn Ahrens for working with the kids for the program and leading Sunday school each week. Thank you also to Linda Steensland for making treat bags for the kids.



BY MICHAELA LEWIS

As you may have noticed, we have upgraded our audio system and online streaming capabilities in the past month or so. This has come with some growing pains and hasn't been as smooth as we would like some weeks.

Please bear with us as we get the system working at its optimal performance level. If you are viewing online, please let us know if there are issues with sound by commenting during the broadcast. We can see those comments in real time and try to make adjustments as best we can. If we aren't able to fix it at that time, at least we are aware of it so we can have a technician come take a look at it.

If you are interested in helping to run the soundboard or streaming equipment, please let us know. We can always use more help!



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."

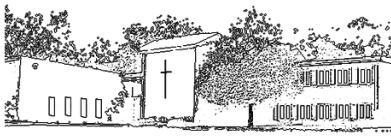
Week of:	In-Person Attendance:	Online Attendance:	Total Attendance:	Offerings:
Dec. 5	45	24	69	\$2,623.00
Dec. 12	50	N/A	50	\$3,582.50
Dec. 19	167	74	241	\$3,850.00
Dec. 26	18	15	33	N/A

Finance Team Update

Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

November Income:	\$6,547.00
November Expense:	\$12,444.13
November Balance	-\$5,897.13

YTD Income:	\$138,010.85
YTD Expense:	\$143,585.82
YTD Balance	-\$4,980.97
Plus Carryover	\$20,408.34
General Budget Fund	\$15,427.37



Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Family Fun Night

**Friday, December 31st
6 pm—9 pm**

Craft Inn

**Saturday, January 1st
10:00 a.m.**

Taking down the Greens

**Sunday, January 9th
10:30 a.m.**

Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 23rd
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/emanuellutherancbia

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. Facemasks are required for those who have not been vaccinated and strongly encouraged for those who have. 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)