

# Garden of Reading



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

January 2017

## Happenings!

**Wednesday, January 4**—Removal of the Greens

**Sunday, January 8** —Name Tag Sunday! Confirmation Large Group

**Wednesday, January 11**—Bingo at Bethany Lutheran Home

**Friday, January 13**— Food Pantry Volunteers meet at Our Savior's Lutheran

**Sunday, January 15**—Children's Ministry Swimming Outing

**Saturday, January 21**—Family Movie Night "Luther". An additional movie will play in the Cry Room for younger children.

**Sunday, January 22** — Annual Meeting, movie for youth during meeting, lunch served afterwards by the Children & Youth Committee.

Mission  
Statement:  
Forgiven  
by Grace,  
Serving by  
Faith

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



Program participants sing during the Christmas program on December 11th. The Christmas story was told by Martin Luther and his family.

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# Periodic Pastoral Ponderings

(From a guy who likes alliteration a lot)

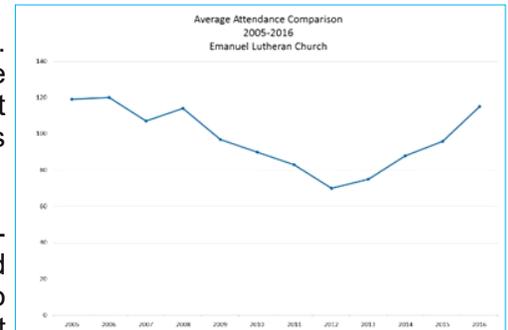
BY PASTOR LOWELL HENNIGS

Dear friends in Christ,

I am reading *American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant*, by Ronald C. White (hurrah, once again, for the Council Bluffs Public Library!). I am struck by Grant's approach to warfare and to life. For Grant there was either "attack" or "retreat." There were moments for regrouping, refitting and re-forming his armies. But those moments were temporary and strategic. Other generals spent too much time allowing preparation to serve as a cover for uncertainty and indecision. As Lincoln said of Grant, "I can't spare this man; he fights."

Either forward or backward, growth or decline—this is the way of life. This is the case in the church as well. Please look at the chart on the right. This is a comparison of average weekly attendance for the past twelve years at Emanuel Lutheran Church. This information indicates several things.

From 2005 through 2013, this congregation was experiencing significant decline. Since 2013 this congregation has reversed that trend and entered a time of numerical growth. Emanuel has returned almost to the attendance of 2005-2006. So we have interrupted a trend that would have led at some point to the closure of Emanuel Lutheran Church.



We can rest content at this point. If we do that, we will perhaps experience a few more years of growth due to inertia. Then the decline will resume. Or we can continue to press forward in our mission and service here at Emanuel. I believe that is our vocation at this time—Forward! And that is my intention as pastor here.

I believe that continued numerical growth is directly related to our willingness to reach our neighborhood and larger community through loving service in Jesus' name. We are called to embody the name of this congregation: "Emanuel" (God with us). We are called to be the "with us" people for our neighborhood, community and synod.

I believe this means that we should go forward with our Daycare mission project. The Feasibility Study group has charted a path forward that will work. The Church Council has placed this matter on the agenda of our annual meeting with a positive endorsement. I hope you will attend that meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and support this new direction in mission and service.

I believe this means that we must continue to expand and strengthen our midweek meal, worship service and programming. Much of the attendance growth in the past year is due to that service and programming.

I believe this means that we must respond to the changing needs and realities of our immediate neighborhood. We will soon have three dozen new neighbors in the former Gunn School building. Many of them will need transportation to worship and other activities. The need for a church bus or van has not dissipated. It has increased.

I believe that we must find ways to build our youth activities and programming. We are blessed with a wonderful bunch of middle schoolers and high schoolers. Will we be with them as they grow in faith, hope and love (especially as they travel to Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering)?

And I believe that we must continue to support the growth in both numbers and energy of our Sunday morning worship service. We have wonderful worship leadership, music and fellowship. How many people will you invite this year to check us out?

As you heard in our stewardship appeal, we are "on the verge"—ready for the next generation of mission and service. The direction is "Forward!"—with the Holy Spirit's guidance, energy and courage.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Lowell

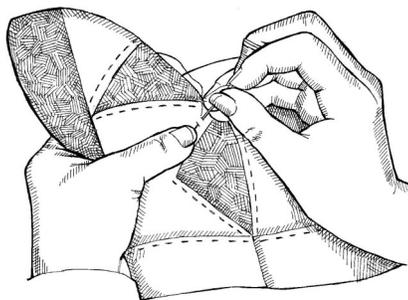
# Covers of Comfort

MISSION ACTION GROUP (QUILTERS)

The Women of Emanuel made 122 quilts in 2016. 71 were sent by Brown Transfer to Lutheran World Relief. 41 were given to local charities.

Last year's quilts were shipped to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thanks for the support of over \$400 to ship the quilts.



QUILTING GROUP

# Christmas Bags

BY JAN HUSMANN

54 bags filled with personal hygiene items, art supplies, clothing, and books were given to Lutheran Family Services. There were given to families that have children under the age of 5. **THANK YOU** to all who helped by donating items, money and your time to fill the bags. We also had money to give a donation to help buy clothes and diapers.

Thank you from the Wider Ministries Committee.

# CSN to Offer Trips to Tanzania & Chile

**Trips to the Southern Diocese in the summer & to Chile in late fall are in the works**

The Companion Synod Network will offer two opportunities in 2017 for travel to visit the Western Iowa Synod's companion churches.

The first trip, scheduled for the summer of 2017, will head for the Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. In the fall, another group will be able to visit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH). "These trips are great opportunities for personal growth, for deepening companion congregation and companion synod relationships and for each individual to have what can be a life-changing

experience," says Companion Synod Network chair, Arlyn Norris. "I have taken five of these trips and have been blessed richly each time."

If you have never been to one of our companion synods, this will be a great time to go. Interested persons are encouraged to pray and to consider whether God is calling them to make such a trip. Applications and other information about this trips can be found on the WIS website. Is God calling you to such an adventure?

# Preparing for Mardi Gras!

Yes, that's right—Mardi Gras is just around the corner. So now is the time to begin preparing for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual event. It will be held Sunday, February 26. Once again we will have a silent auction as part of Mardi Gras. So, all you crafty and builder type folks, it's time to start preparing something to put on the auction.



evening out at a nice restaurant or...well, let your imagination be your guide. Proceeds from the event will go to support our youth in their mission trips, camping adventures, and local events. Thanks for all your support. And let the good times roll!

If you aren't one of those types, then you might consider putting together a gift basket or offering an

Oh, and invite your friends, neighbors, family, co-workers, and even that old grump down the road (if you happen to know one)!

We lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy for Mike Hipnar and his family at the death of his Sister, Debra Hipnar. There will be a celebration of life on Tuesday, January 3 at 2 p.m. at Lifegate Church in Omaha.



Thanks so much for the wonderful birthday party, cards, gifts and singing. Special thanks to Brenda for planning such a wonderful celebration! And...Go Cubs Go!  
- Pastor Lowell



We sincerely thank everyone for the cards, gifts and attending our 50th wedding anniversary celebration. God Bless You!  
- Larry & Sharon Hansen



Thank you for the many prayers, good wishes, cards, messages and gifts for Christmas. You bless us with so much kindness and love!  
-Pastor Lowell & Brenda



Ray Kanger  
Betty Ebsen

Daphne Miller  
Viola Anderson

Glen Fahrenkrug  
Dwight Rogers

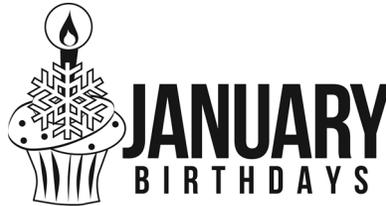
Lucille Weatherill  
Andrea Britton

Helen Stinson  
Jeff Smith

Congratulations to Lisa and Drew  
Connell for the birth of a baby girl  
Kennedy Taylor Connell on November 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Grandparents are Brad & Penny Dahlke.



Congratulations to Tom and Suzanne  
Tucker on the birth of their daughter  
Willa Sarah Tucker, born December 9<sup>th</sup>. Willa  
is the granddaughter of Phil & Jane Meyer.



**Jan. 02** Bob Bender  
Annalise-Marie Davis

**Jan. 12** Linda Martens  
Debbie Miller

**Jan. 24** Mike Andersen  
Denny Clark

**Jan. 03** Joel Husmann

**Jan. 13** Brennan Plummer  
David Porter  
Alice Smith

**Jan. 25** Elizabeth Britton

**Jan. 04** Jamie Combs  
Eric Fietz

**Jan. 14** Bill Holding  
John Schweer, Jr

**Jan. 26** Andrew Fietz

**Jan. 06** Chris Hansen  
Christian Hansen

**Jan. 15** Alce Croson

**Jan. 27** Kathy Ellis  
Hanna Ferguson  
Leon Gehrig Jr  
Stephanie Hansen

**Jan. 07** Tara McSorley  
Daniel Solon

**Jan. 19** Gerald Ebsen  
Brenda Hennigs

**Jan. 29** Amari Johnson

**Jan. 08** April Reedy

**Jan. 20** Jeff Husmann  
Chris Reed

**Jan. 30** Madison Nickels

**Jan. 09** Noah Conley

**Jan. 21** Ann Goldapp  
Kara Nickels

**Jan. 31** Patricia Maxwell  
Teena Mosel  
Tyler Weelborg

**Jan. 10** Clayton Juhl  
Ron Reiff

**Jan. 11** Suzane Merit

**Jan. 22** Ava Jarrell



**January 10** Irv & Norma Mass

**January 22** Ron & Alice Smith

**January 27** Suzane & Les Merit

*If we've missed a birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please let the church office know!  
Contact Michaela at (712) 323-9665 or emanuellutheranbia@msn.com*

## Worship Assistant Schedule

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

<b>Sunday, January 1</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & Char Les Kemmish
<b>Acolytes</b>	Dakota Hopkinson & Amari Johnson
<b>Lector</b>	Elaine Sasso
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Patty Maxwell, Elaine Sasso & Mike Winter
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Connie & Matt Solon
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Darlene Jeppesen
<b>Sunday, January 8</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & Char Les Kemmish
<b>Acolytes</b>	Xander Richards & Alexxia Richards
<b>Lector</b>	Alan Ellis
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Oscar Over, Bob Vergamini & Elaine Sasso
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Carol Fahrenkrug
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Peggy Jarrell
<b>Sunday, January 15</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & Char Les Kemmish
<b>Acolytes</b>	Lauren Hansen & Grace Hansen
<b>Lector</b>	Darlene Jeppesen
<b>Children's Message</b>	Rosie Spangenberg
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Kevin Epperson, Bob Vergamini & Deann Over
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Phil & Jane Meyer
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Sunday, January 22</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & Char Les Kemmish
<b>Acolytes</b>	Hansen & Aaralynn Conley
<b>Lector</b>	Loren Carrier
<b>Children's Message</b>	Elaine Sasso
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Oscar Over, Jolene Hansen & Peggy Jarrell
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Amy & Linda Steensland
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Brenda Hennigs
<b>Sunday, January 29</b>	<b>9:30 a.m. Service</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Ken & Char Les Kemmish
<b>Acolytes</b>	Tyler Steensland & Amari Johnson
<b>Lector</b>	Jane Meyer
<b>Children's Message</b>	Linda Steensland
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Mike Winter, Suzanne Winter
<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Linda & Al Martens
<b>Visual Tech</b>	Elaine Sasso



### Altar Flowers

**January 1**

**January 8**

**January 15**

**January 22**

**January 29**

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



**January 1**

Richard & Darlene Reed

**January 8**

**January 15**

**January 22**

**January 29**

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

*If you are interested in helping with worship, please contact the church office, (712) 323-9665, emanuellutheranbia@msn.com or sign-up on our website at: <http://emanuellutheranbi.wix.com/emanuel>*

# January 2017 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45am-11:30am Adult Study	<b>2</b> Office Closed	<b>3</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	<b>9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies &amp; Activities</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Practice 	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Joyful Noise 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45am-11:30am Adult Study	<b>9</b> 11 am Tai Chi	<b>10</b> 8:30 am R.O.M.E.O.S. @ Village Inn East 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center 7 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch 2:30 pm Bingo at Bethany 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies &amp; Activities</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm North Broadway Neighborhood Association Meeting	<b>13</b> Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's 	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45am-11:30am Adult Study 12 pm Pool Outing 	<b>16</b> 9 am Cookie Crumbs Sorting 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm MS Support Group 	<b>17</b> 9 am Cookie Crumbs Packing 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center 6:45 pm Worship & Music Meeting 7 pm Children & Youth Ministry Meeting	<b>9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies &amp; Activities</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>20</b> Office Closed 9:30 am Blessings & Brunch 	<b>21</b> 7 pm Family Movie Night (Luther) 
<b>22</b> 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Annual Meeting 12 pm Lunch by C&YM 	<b>23</b> 11 am Communion at Midlands 11 am Tai Chi	<b>24</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center 7 pm Wider Ministries Meeting	<b>9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies &amp; Activities</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45am-11:30am Adult Study	<b>30</b> 11 am Tai Chi	<b>31</b> 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Boy Scouts in Youth Center	<b>9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6:00 pm Dinner 6:45 pm Worship 7:15 pm Bible Studies &amp; Activities</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30 am Adult Study 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day 6:30 pm Choir Practice 	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b>

# Wider Ministries

BY JUDI MALLOY

Our Joyful Noise Offering for January will be for Emanuel's special needs fund on January 8. This fund is available only to our church members. There are guidelines in place for its use and is managed by the pastor and the president of the church council.

We will continue collecting coats so feel free to bring them to church any time. If you have gloves, mittens, hats or scarves they can also be placed in the coat

box. There is always a need for coats of all sizes for children and adults. They are distributed to several different places, MOHM's Place, Micah House, Phoenix House, Lutheran Family Services, etc.

As always, thank you for your generosity and caring throughout 2016 and may God bless you throughout the new year.

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## Giving Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill



Families living in poverty. Iowa children who go hungry. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

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 21. Visit [www.LSIowa.org/advocacy](http://www.LSIowa.org/advocacy) next month for event details, online registration and an online toolkit for your congregation, including how to participate in this year's congregational letter-writing campaign.

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. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators.

*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](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## A New Harmony

Zach has always had a love of the outdoors. In his free time, he can usually be found in his back yard, mowing the lawn or making sure his snow blower is working properly before the first snow.

But when Zach began working with his hourly support staff, Shane, he found a new love: music.

Shane is an hourly support staff with LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. Each week, the duo works together to help Zach stay active in the community, practice his coping skills, and achieve his personal goals. Music therapy has become a major part of their time together.

"We play guitar quite a bit," Shane says. "I think music therapy is very important. It just helps calm the soul down."

During each session, Shane teaches Zach a few new chords or strumming patterns that Zach can practice on his own.

"I know when I've had a long, bad day at work, I get kind of angry rather quickly," Zach says. "If I can, I go to my room and grab my guitar and start strumming some chords. I'm not much of a singer, but I've started putting some words with some of the jamming out I do."

Seeing Zach's new appreciation for guitar is just one way Shane is constantly inspired to come to work.

"A lot of motivation for hourly work is you only have a short amount of time with the individual, and it has to change their life," he says. "When we can use our time to utilize music like Zach has, it can be a great coping skill, and it's working for him."



Caroling at Midlands Living Center.



The Luther Family: Martin Luther (Stephen Lewis), Paul Luther (Amari Johnson), Margaret Luther (Kylie Hansen), Martin Luther Jr. (Tyler Steensland), Hans Luther (Brennan Plummer) and Katie Luther (Brenda Hennigs).

# Children's Ministries

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

It has been a very busy month for the children & youth committee. Hanging of the greens went wonderful. Thank you to Deann Over for planning dinner that night. Thank you also to everyone who came and helped decorate the church

Our ornaments that the kids made were mirrors with their handprints. On the back was a sticker that read "God's Work, Our Hands: Reflecting God's Love to the World."

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the Christmas program this year. Special thanks to Pastor Lowell who wrote the script which told the story of Martin Luther and his family on Christmas Eve talking about the Christmas Story. Thank you to Brenda Hennigs and Brennan Plummer for taking on a few of our adult roles and to Stephen Lewis for stepping up to play Martin Luther the day of the program, as Pastor was under the weather that day. Thank you also to parents and family who brought the kids to practice and for helping them with any lines and songs at home. Thank you also to our readers: Lauren Hansen, Dakota Hopkinson, Aaralynn Conley and Alexxia Richards.

Thank you to Erin Miller and everyone else who helped with the kids treat bags after the program.

We also had the opportunity to visit Midlands Living Center after the program to do some caroling. Special thanks to Cindy Richards for caroling booklets and for her direction in this. Thank you to everyone who participated in this. It was great fun and brought smiles and Christmas joy to the residents over there.

For our January outing we are looking at celebrating Jesus' baptism with an outing to the pool! Tentative plans for this are for Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> with an early lunch at Church and then swimming at the Kirn pool.

The next Family Movie night will be January 21<sup>st</sup>. We are looking at having a movie about Martin Luther for adults and a kid-friendly movie in the cry room. Feel free to bring snacks to share and your own drink.



Shepards (Alex VanSickle, Tori Hansen & Mason Lewis) visit Mary (Angie Maxwell) and Joseph (Kyle Sorensen) and baby Jesus.



The three wisemen (Mia Richards, Kamryn Maxwell and Josh Hubbard) visit the manger.

I didn't get a good picture of our angels, but they did a wonderful job in the program and also collected the joyful noise offering, which went towards the Angel Tree. The Angels were: Emma Richards, Luella Fahrenkrug, Hanna Ferguson, Hanna Huff and Gabe VanSickle.

# Care Packages

One of the activities at the Hanging of the Greens was creating hand made Christmas Cards to enclose with "care packages" full of goodies for Emanuel's college students and in the military. We received several "thank you" through Facebook, email and cards that we would like to share.

Thanks so much for the care package that you sent to my fellow college Emanuel members and I. It means so much to know that we are thought of in such stressful times, that being finals week. I also thank the youth for creating the cards for us as well, they were great! I'm looking forward to finishing the treats that are in the box and having some time to relax with family and friends during the three weeks that Creighton has off for break. Thanks So Much and God Bless.

**- Will Schademann**  
Creighton University Sophomore

Thank you for the tasty surprise! This really made my day. A special thanks to Emanuel Lutheran Church and Emma for their lovely cards. They made me smile. Merry Christmas! You blessed me!

**- Sara Aguilar**



I just got it! Thank you so much! I love all the yummy snacks! I love the sweet cards, they made my day!!!

**- Baylee Snyder**

I got it! Thank you so much!

**- Brett Egner**

I just saw it! Thank you so much! Merry Christmas!

**- John Scheffler**

Thank you!

**-Alyson Sorensen**

Awe thank you so much!! I definitely will be studying a lot Merry Christmas as well!

**- Jessica Hipnar**



Thanks to Alexia Richards, Lauren, Kylie and Tyler Hansen and Pastor Lowell, for selecting tree this beautiful tree for the Narthex!

## Lutheran Lakeside Pledge

BY DEANN OVER

Lutheran Lakeside Capital Fund Drive (All Are Welcome Campaign) had asked each church to consider a \$500 gift per year for three years beginning in 2015. The \$550,000 campaign will renovate facilities and strengthen on-going support for the ministry of Lakeside Camp. Thanks to Emanuel's members, and via youth fund raisers, our Children's & Youth Ministries 2015 and 2016 commitment has been met.



**Saturday, January 21**  
7 p.m.

*Emanuel Lutheran Church*  
We will provide popcorn.  
Weather will determine if we have the movie outside or inside.



# Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Council Minutes for 12/13/2016

RECORDED BY MIKE WINTERS

Present: Kevin Epperson, CharLes Kemmish, Oscar Over, Connie Solon, Bob Vergamini, Mike Winter, Suzanne Winter, Pastor Hennigs

Absent: Jolene Hansen, John Husmann, Peggy Jarrell, Judi Malloy, Patty Maxwell

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Kevin Epperson.

Devotions: Suzanne Winter

### Council Agenda:

- Motion by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Oscar Over, to approve the secretary minutes after amending the spelling of the name Kim Over that should have been Kim Egner. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Bob Vergamini to approve the Financial Secretary report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Bob Vergamini to approve the Treasurer's Report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by Bob Vergamini, to approve the Capital Fund Report. Approved.
- Motion by Oscar Over, seconded by CharLes Kemmish, to approve the Memorial Fund Report. Approved.
- Pastor Hennigs gave his report which consisted of 12 items. He reminded us that the Fresh Start Team met on November 28 and that Dwight Rogers has now returned to the community and met with the team on December 6. The Anniversary Team presented a check for \$7,704.23 as Emanuel's anniversary gift for the Igumbilo Girls' School. Our story will be featured in the next Companion Synod Network newsletter. Cheryl Coble was received as a new member of Emanuel by affirmation of faith on December 4 and Judy, Richard, Cyndi and AJ Borwick, along with Ashley and Jessica Borwick, were received as new members by letter of transfer from Faith Lutheran Church. Pastor indicated that he officiated at the funeral of Anna Ellingsen and that Bruce Ellingsen was very appreciative. Pastor Luke Kuenzli and his wife gave birth to a little girl. Pastor Luke did a wonderful job at our stewardship banquet in November. Emanuel shared a Thanksgiving Eve service with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and 45 people from Emanuel attended the supper and service. A church member asked for some emer-

gency support from the Special Needs Fund and \$300 was approved for that purpose. We received a letter from Bethany Lutheran Home indicating that their annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017. Dan and Judy Heithoff plan to attend that meeting and Dan will be nominated and he has agreed to serve on the board. There will be a Blue Christmas service on December 21 for families that have suffered a loss during the past year.

- Motion made by Suzanne Winter, seconded by Bob Vergamini to approve the new members. Approved.
- The Stewardship committee report indicated that there are still outstanding pledges.
- The Youth and Children's Ministries report was received. Emanuel has been making a \$500 annual commitment to the Lutheran Lakeside Campaign. Emanuel is able to make this contribution each year from the coffee hour free will donations. This commitment is for three years through the year 2017. The North Broadway Neighborhood Association met at Emanuel on December 5. More than 40 people attended. They are working on new playground equipment for Kimball Park and other improvements that may cost anywhere from \$800,000-\$1,000,000. That money will be provided by the city, through grants and donations.
- The Property Committee reported that the flashing has been installed, but the fire pit and benches have been put off until spring as an eagle project for Ian Waldon.
- Wider Ministries reported that the angel tree ornaments have all been taken and accounted for.
- The Worship and Music Committee reported that the new CD player has been updated and purchased. We also have received the new chalice and paten (plate).
- The Evangelism Committee report by Pastor Hennigs indicated that 1,700 mailboxes have received mailings of future activities at Emanuel distributed throughout the neighborhood at a cost of \$130.
- There was no report from the Mutual Ministries Committee.

- Discussion was held concerning the daycare feasibility study. A presentation was made on December 4 and it is estimated that there will be a cost of \$40,000 start up and a total cost of approximately \$340,000. This money could be raised by a capital fund drive or a grant application which must be made by June. Grants do not have to be paid back. It is the hope that the daycare will be ready to open sometime in the year 2018. It is possible that the Mission Investment Fund of ELCA is possible as a funding source for some of the cost. This would be a loan that must be repaid.
- Motion by Suzanne Winter, seconded by Bob Vergamini to place daycare vote on the agenda for the congregational meeting on January 22,

2017 with the endorsement of the church council. Approved. If approved by the congregation, the church will need to have a Capital Fund Committee and a Construction Committee to oversee the money used for the project and to oversee the construction and hire contractors.

- Year End Committee reports are due as soon as possible, but no later than January 1, 2017.
- A discussion was held by the church council concerning replacing outgoing members with new council members.
- Motion by Bob Vergamini, seconded by Suzanne Winter to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Approved.

# Making a life

JORDAN  
ELCA.org/disaster



In the last year, a record number of people have fled unimaginable conflict and war in Syria. Many Syrians have found refuge in one of the largest refugee camps in the world, the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. Among them is Louie, 19, and his family. While the majority of his family wants to go back to Syria, Louie has other ideas. "I think it'd be very difficult to go back to Syria," Louie says. "I just want to go somewhere that is safe, where I can make a life for myself."

Louie and a business partner have a barbershop in the Za'atari camp. Having already had some experience working in a salon, he eagerly accepted when given the opportunity to participate in the barber classes offered through a life-skills training program. This program is made possible

in part through gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response in partnership with The Lutheran World Federation.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are providing life skills to people like Louie but are also providing protection, shelter, education, basic relief, water and sanitation to thousands of refugees living in the Za'atari camp.

For Louie, your gifts have helped him provide for his family and have given him a chance to make a life for himself when he's somewhere safe, wherever that may be.

Because of you, Lutheran Disaster Response continues to bring God's hope and healing to Louie and others like him.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help the church respond to the needs of people after a disaster strikes. Working in collaboration with other disaster response organizations and church entities, this enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response.

### Will you help with your gift today?

**YES!** I would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response (DDG0060)

- I have enclosed my gift of \$100
- I have enclosed my gift of \$250
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**Mail** Make your check payable to "Lutheran Disaster Response" or to a specific disaster you would like to direct your gift toward. Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:  
ELCA  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

**Online** ELCA.org/disaster/donate

**Phone** 800-638-3522

WHF16



**6 p.m.-Dinner**  
**6:45 p.m.-Worship**  
**7:15 p.m.-Adult Bible Discussion & Children's Activities**

**January 4**  
Maid Rites  
Macaroni & Cheese

**January 11**  
Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans

**January 18**  
Tacos  
Spanish Rice

**January 25**  
Goulash  
Salad



# Record Updates

BY MICHAELA LEWIS

Although I try to keep the computer records updated, I have found that there is some information that is out of date. If you move, change your phone or email, have a change in marital status or your name, celebrate an anniversary or birthday that isn't listed in the newsletter, please send me an email at [emanuellutheranrbia@msn.com](mailto:emanuellutheranrbia@msn.com) or call (712) 323-9665.



I am grateful to those who have noticed some errors and brought these to my attention so they could be brought up to date. So please let me know if there is something that needs changed.

## Bethany News

BY LAUREN BURKE



### Bethany Lutheran Home Annual Meeting January 8th

The Annual Meeting of Bethany Lutheran Home will be held on **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2017. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brenda Hennigs 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.***

### Bethany Auxiliary Meeting

The Quarterly meeting of the Bethany Auxiliary will be held on **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** The meeting will include the installation of officers as well as discussion of upcoming projects. For more information, please contact your church key lady or Diane Carlon at 712-329-5451.

### Bethany Christmas Store Thank You

The 6th Annual Bethany Christmas Store was a huge success thanks to many donated items and the support of our congregations and Bethany Auxiliary. The residents enjoyed many days of shopping for family members and a chance to reminisce about days gone by. The Christmas Store was a meaningful highlight for residents and staff and an opportunity to remember the reason for this season. Many individuals love to shop the "After Christmas Sales" and plan for next year. Christmas Store items and gift bags are accepted all year long. If you would like to donate items after Christmas, please contact Kaily Stanley at 712-328-9500, ext. 230 to make arrangements. Thank you for your generosity in making this event a time to remember each year.

### Bethany Heights Apartments Available

Bethany Heights currently has multiple apartments available for seniors. The selection of apartments ranges from studio to two bedroom/two bathroom. Our promotional move-in special rate includes 25% off the first month of rent now through March 1. Come experience the companionship and devoted care Bethany has to offer! Please contact Paula Fandry for inquiries or to schedule a tour at 712-328-8228.

# Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



During this 500 Anniversary of the Reformation year we will be looking at hymns that continue on that reformation in hymnody. “ In his beginnings of liturgical reform, Martin Luther sometimes suggested using hymn paraphrases for parts of the liturgy such as the Creed hymn (ELW 411) and the ‘Holy, Holy, Holy’ hymn (ELW 868). ‘O Lord, now let your servant’ continues this tradition, offering a paraphrase of Simeon’s song (Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace) in a text by an American writer paired with a Finnish folk tune”. Reformation 500 Sourcebook

Ryden contributed greatly to hymnody. When he was in St. Paul he had a weekly radio program on the hymns of the church. He wrote and translated hymns, was one of The Hymnal (Rock Island, 1925) and the Junior Hymnal (Rock Island, 1928) of the Augustana Synod, was the secretary of the commission that prepared the Service Book and Hymnal (1958), and wrote The Story of Our Hymns (1930) and The Story of Christian Hymnody (1959).

The first stanza of this hymn is a metrical paraphrase of the Nunc dimittis, Simeon’s song when he saw Jesus, as recorded in Luke 2:29-32. The second stanza moves to our response and the gathering before Christ the daystar when faith turns to sight. This hymn was written by Ernest E. Ryden (September 12, 1886-January 1, 1981) in 1924 and included in The Hymnal (Rock Island, 1925) of the Augustana Synod. There it had three stanzas. Evangelical Lutheran Worship, like Lutheran Book of Worship (1978), printed the first and last.

## KOURTANE

This melody has sometimes been named for Nyland, a province in Finland, but it probably comes from the province of Kuortane, which explains Lutheran Book of Worship’s (1978) choice of a name (carried forward here). The tune first entered a Finnish hymnal in the appendix to Suomen Evankelis Luterilaisen Kirken Koraalikirja (Helsinki, 1909) and English hymnody in The Revised Church Hymnary (Edinburgh, 1927). Armin Haeussler made valiant efforts to trace its origins, but came up empty. At first glance it appears to be in bar form, but it is actually a satisfying melodic journey of AA’BA””, which does not engender confusion in spite of the small changes it includes and which congregations delight in singing.

Ernest Edwin Ryden was born in Kansas City, Missouri, into a Swedish family. He went to manual training school there, worked for the newspaper of the Kansas City Railway, and then was a telegraph editor for a newspaper in Moline, Illinois. He graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island, in 1910 (from which he also received a DD in 1930), went to Augustana Seminary, and was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod in 1914, the same year he married Agnes E. Johnson, who was a church organist and also a graduate of Augustana College. They had a son and three daughters. He served churches in New York, Chicago, Minnesota, and Connecticut, among them the large and influential Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Editor, president of church boards, and instrumental in building orphanages, he was a delegate to the Lutheran World Federation in Paris in 1935 and a representative to the World Council of Churches in Copenhagen in 1948.

*Attendance & Offering*

<b>December 4</b>	158	\$4,322.00
<b>December 11</b>	153	\$2,241.00
<b>December 18</b>	265	n/a
<b>December 25</b>	36+	n/a

## Finance Team Update Income & Expenses Monthly and YTD

November Income: .....\$17,483.61  
 November Expense: .....\$9,890.40  
 November Balance .....\$7,593.21

YTD Income: ..... \$129,636.77  
 YTD Expense: ..... \$140,928.63  
 YTD Balance ..... \$-11,291.86  
 Plus Carryover..... \$13,968.78  
 General Budget Fund ..... \$2,676.92



**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

2444 North Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Game Day**

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm  
*Fellowship Hall*

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)  
Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am  
*Village Inn East*

**Adult Fellowship**

Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am  
*Pizza Ranch*

**Blessings & Brunch**

Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 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

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Visit us on the web at: www.emanuellutherancbi.wix.com/emanuel

**Worship Services:**

Sunday at 9:30 am, followed by fellowship

Wednesday at 6:45 pm, preceded by a meal at 6:00 pm ,  
and followed by adult Bible discussion in the fellowship hall  
and Kidz Kamp in the youth center.

**Staff:**

Pastor Lowell Hennigs

Director of Music Ministries, Cindy Richards

Parish Assistant, Michaela Lewis

Financial Secretary, Darlene Reed