

Garden of Readin'



Emanuel Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2019

Happenings!

Sunday, December 1—Start of Advent

Wednesday, December 4—Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 8—Confirmation

Wednesday, December 18—Blue Christmas Dinner & Service

Friday, December 20—Help at Our Savior's Food & Pet Food Pantry

Sunday, December 22—Christmas Program during Worship, Angel Tree Party

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, December 25—Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, December 31—Family Fun Night

Mission Statement:
Forgiven
by Grace,
Serving by
Faith

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



For several years Emanuel has helped with the city-wide thanksgiving dinner. Members sign-up to spend some time baking huge pans of green bean casseroles the morning of Thanksgiving and then deliver them to Community of Christ Church late morning. This year 13 casseroles were baked for this meal.

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Getting to Know You

BY PASTOR CARA KNUTSON

First off the picture: This was taken the morning of Derek's adoption Nov. 26, 2018. Derek came into our lives at 22 months of age as a foster child and never left. This was a happy, happy day!

I write this on my last day as a chaplain, saying goodbye to people I've grown to love dearly, and excited to begin a new adventure and meet and get to know the people of Emanuel. I am very excited and looking forward to being your pastor. Once I've gotten to the church and have a chance to get settled in I'll be figuring out when I'll be where, but in the meantime feel free to call my cellphone 651-328-0638 or email pastor@emanuelcb.org. My first day in the office will be Dec. 2 and my first Sunday in church Dec. 8.

My wife Maja will be looking for work. She has experience in teaching English as a second language to adults as well as paraprofessional work in the public



school system. If you know of any leads please feel free to pass them along. Our son's name is Derek who is 5 and he will be in kindergarten. Please especially keep him in your prayers as he makes some big transitions in his little life—new city, new house, new school, new friends...

I thought for fun I'd share with you something you wouldn't know about me

each time I communicate with the church. I'm 44 and I've noticed the first signs of aging—grey hairs, larger pores, fine wrinkles and decided I need to take better care of my skin. I've really gotten into Korean skin-care and the 10-step routine. I find taking the time at the start and the end of my day to do something to take care of myself feels really good and is very relaxing. I'm realizing more and more how vital good self-care is for everyone, especially a busy pastor, wife and mom like me.

WITH SYMPATHY: We lift up in prayer and express our Christian sympathy for the family of Jim Hamilton who passed away November 1 and David Appel who passed away November 2. Both were longtime members at Emanuel.



FROM THE APPEL FAMILY: Our heartfelt thanks to all members of Emanuel Lutheran Church who extended their



Thankful
FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Christian friendship to David Appel through his 70+ years of membership. We also appreciate all the prayers, kind words, cards and visits during his last year. He is at

peace now with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ along with all of his loved ones who passed before him.

—Rod, Dianne, Steve and families

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 18th

6 pm—Dinner
7 pm—Worship

The Holiday season can be hard for those who's hearts are hurting. You are not alone.

Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.

Wider Ministries

BY LINDA STEENSLAND

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Joyful Noise offerings this year! Since we have requested many donations this month for Thanksgiving baskets, Lutheran Family bags, and Our Savior's Food Pantry, we will not have a Joyful Noise in December. If you still want to contribute to one of them in December, you are encouraged to do so.




Packing 25 Thanksgiving boxes to give to families in the community to help them during the holiday season.

THANK YOU: I wanted to thank those who came to my Birthday party or sent me cards. It was very much appreciated.
—Darlene Reed



THANK YOU: I appreciate everyone who has stepped up to help out while I am on maternity leave and especially Amy Garreans who has organize and line up people for different tasks. Thank you also to everyone who came to Spencer's baby shower or sent cards. We are very thankful for our church family.
—Michaela & Stephen Lewis





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.

Sunday, December 31st



**6 pm—9 pm
In the Emanuel
Community
Room**

**Potluck,
games and
fun!**

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

BY STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Sunday, November 17, was pledge Sunday at Emanuel Lutheran Church. We want to keep the congregation updated on the status of our 2020 campaign. As of November 18, 2019 we received 29 pledges totaling \$81,536. That's a 6% increase over dollars received for the same time period last year.

Thanks to all of you who have responded to our Stewardship event. Obviously, we have a long way to go before we complete this journey.

We hope to receive between 65-70 pledges for our 2020 campaign.

Those of you still needing to fill out a pledge card for 2020, may do it in two ways. You may place it in any Sunday's offering or mail it to the church office, attention Stewardship committee. If you need a pledge card, they are available at the usher station or in the church office. Our budget process becomes much easier if we are able to arrive at anticipated income from submitted pledges for 2020.

Again, thank you to those who have responded. If you haven't

had the opportunity to fill out your pledge card for 2020, we look forward to hearing from you.

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



December 1
Church Council

December 8
Ruth Sullivan &
Sharon Hansen

December 15
John Spilde,
Angel McGee
& Judy Pleas

December 22
Children & Youth

December 29

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



December 1

December 8

December 15

December 22
Poinsettias

December 29

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

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Sunday, December 1	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Rosie Spangenberg
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Grace Hansen
Advent Reading	Mike Winter
Lector	Alan Ellis
Communion Assistants	Elaine Sasso, Rosie Spangenberg, Grace Hansen
Communion Set-Up	Jeanine Schademann
Visual Tech	Cheryl Rowe
Sunday, December 8	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Amy Garreans
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Reegan Haats & Nikki Rickard
Advent Reading	Rosie Spangenberg
Lector	Elaine Sasso
Communion Assistants	Amy Garreans, Angel McGee
Communion Set-Up	Carol Fahrenkrug & Deb Ebsen
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sunday, December 15	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Mike Winter
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Amari Johnson
Advent Reading	Elaine Sasso
Lector	Rosie Spangenberg
Communion Assistants	Angel McGee, Amari Johnson
Communion Set-Up	Char Les Kemmish
Visual Tech	Darlene Jeppesen
Sunday, December 22	9:30 a.m. Service
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Kyle Sorensen
Advent Reading	Amy Garreans
Lector	Deann Over
Visual Tech	Michaela Lewis

*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*

Worship Assistant Schedule

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

Tuesday, December 24	4:30 p.m. Service
Assisting Minister	
Ushers	
Acolyte	Kade & Cole Homcombe
Lector	Mike Loos
Communion Assistants	Kade Holcombe, Cole Holcombe
Communion Set-Up	Michaela Lewis
Visual Tech	Mason Lewis
Tuesday, December 24	7 p.m. Service
Assisting Minister	
Ushers	
Acolyte	Hanna Ferguson & Angelina Maxwell
Lector	Alan Ellis
Communion Assistants	Hanna Ferguson, Angelina Maxwell
Communion Set-Up	Connie & Matt Solon
Visual Tech	Peggy Jarrell
Sunday, December 29	9:30 a.m. Service
Assisting Minister	Amy Garreans
Ushers	Larry & Sharon Hansen
Acolyte	Hailey Holcombe
Lector	John Husmann
Communion Assistants	Hailey Holcombe
Communion Set-Up	Pat Hiller
Visual Tech	Elaine Sasso

Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by ordering a poinsettia.
Please indicate how many you would like along with any notes below.
Return form to church by December 8.

Your Name: _____

Number of plants: _____ (\$6.00 each) All are red poinsettias this year

☐ In honor ☐ memory of ☐ other/as listed below

Total Enclosed: _____

Plants may be taken home following the 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.



December 2019 – Emanuel Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Kidz Kamp (Program Practice) 10:45 am Harmonica Practice	2 11 am Tai Chi	3 Office Closed 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	4 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 6 pm Dinner & Hanging of the Greens 	5 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day	6 Office Closed	7
8 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Choir Practice 10:45 am Kidz Kamp (Program Practice) 10:45 am Wider Ministries Meeting 11 am Confirmation	9 11 am Tai Chi	10 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	11 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 11:30 am Adult Fellowship at Pizza Ranch	12 11 am Tai Chi	13 Office Closed	14
15 9:30am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Kidz Kamp (Program Practice) 10:45 am Harmonica Practice 10:45 am Worship & Music Meeting 3 pm Winter Piano Recital	16 11 am Tai Chi 7 pm Church Council Meeting	17 9 am Cookie Crumbs Packing 5:30 pm Girl Scouts in Community Room	18 9:30 am Mission Action (Quilters) 7:15 pm Band Practice	19 11 am Tai Chi	20 Office Closed 4:30 pm Volunteers for Food Pantry meet at Our Savior's 	21 12 pm Girl Scouts
22 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion & Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship & Coffee Hour 10:45 am Choir Practice 2 pm Angel Tree Party 	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Family Friendly Christmas Service 7 pm Worship with Festival Candle 	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship & Coffee Hour	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 Office Closed 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Game Day	3 Office Closed	4



Elizabeth Miller
Paul Heath
Jim Fowler

Glen Fahrenkrug
Deloris Christensen
Phyllis Fowler

Daralene Smith
Esther Bender

Robert Hesseltine
Kaye Bird



Dec. 01 Mason Garreans
Sarge Schuchard

Dec. 04 Connie Eyberg
Zach Winter

Dec. 05 Judy Dillon
Shirley Schuchard

Dec. 06 Wesley Bradshaw
Shelby Rickard
Mike Winter

Dec. 08 Andrew Borwick
Jamie Hansen

Dec. 09 Bob Juhl

Dec. 10 Tina Larson

Dec. 12 Richard Borwick
Cael Hansen

Dec. 13 Karen McPartland

Dec. 16 Susan Wilson

Dec. 17 Carrie Hansen

Dec. 18 Emily True

Dec. 19 Allen Martens

Dec. 20 Kobie Ferguson
Taryn McSorley
Jade Wohlers

Dec. 21 Kaitlyn Egner

Dec. 22 Sam Heithoff
Jan Husmann

Dec. 23 Clarissa Haats

Dec. 25 Elaine Sasso

Dec. 26 Emily Longnecker

Dec. 27 Sid Dillon
Tristan Steensland

Dec. 28 Brett Egner
Luke Hansen
Jon McGreevy

Dec. 29 Judy Wilson

Dec. 30 Shae Nickels

Dec. 31 Danny Britson



Dec. 02 Larry & Sharon Hansen

Dec. 10 Cara & Maja Knutson

Dec. 17 Ron & Elaine Sasso

Dec. 31 Dan & Judy Heithoff

***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***



Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes for 11/18/2019

RECORDED BY STEPHEN LEWIS

Present: Rosie Spangenberg, Elaine Sasso, Connie Solon, Amy Garreans, Stephen Lewis, Pastor Stephany, Nick Rickard, Judi Malloy, Peggy Jarrell, Joel Hauschild, Megan Sorensen, Alan Ellis, John Spilde

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 6:59p by President Rosie Spangenberg.

Devotions: Peggy Jarrell

Getting Acquainted Exercise: NA

Council Agenda:

- Elaine Sasso made a motion to approve Oct. secretary minutes. 2nd by Joel Hauschild. Motion approved.
- Alan Ellis made a motion to approve the 11/13 special council meeting minutes. 2nd by Amy Garreans. Motion approved.
- Judi Malloy made a motion to approve consolidated fund report. 2nd by John Spilde. Motion approved.
- Alan Ellis made a motion to approve the treasurer report. 2nd by Nick Rickard. Motion approved.
- John Spilde made a motion to approve the capital fund report. 2nd by Connie Solon. Motion approved.
- Connie Solon made a motion to approve the memorial fund report. 2nd by Alan Ellis. Motion approved.
- Connie Solon presented the Stewardship/ Finance Team report.
- They continue to work on the upcoming 2020 budget.
- Stephen Lewis presented the Children and Youth report.
- Joel Hauschild presented the Property Committee report.
- Ring doorbell has been purchased and is awaiting installation.
- They ask for council approval to purchase new tires for the skid loader. Estimated cost is \$700. This is to be taken out of Properties budget. Council approves.
- Damaged drain pipes on parsonage have been replaced.
- Peggy Jarrell presented the Wider Ministries report.
- Thanksgiving baskets to be packed on Nov. 20 and distributed on Nov. 24.
- Rosie Spangenberg presented the Worship and Music report.
- Hanging of the Greens- Dec. 4th
- Blue Christmas Service- Dec. 18th. St. Paul's Episcopal to be invited.
- Family Fun Night- Dec. 31st.
- FAITH Team= Future, Action, Innovation, Trust, Hope
- Pastor Cara dates.
- Move in- Nov. 30th
- First day in office- Dec. 2nd
- First Sunday- Dec. 8th
- Amy Garreans is working to cover Michaela's job duties while she is out on maternity leave.
- Special needs fund had a deposit of \$860. New balance is \$1,843.21.
- Stephen Lewis gave an update on the church safety report. This will be an ongoing project.
- Reminder that all committee reports and 2020 budget requests are due.
- The Tai Chi group would like to show their appreciation to the church for use of the building.
- Cleaning and removal of furniture from parsonage to be scheduled before Pastor Cara's arrival.
- A Mutual Ministry committee is to be formed.
- Elaine Sasso made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Connie Solon. Motion approved.
- Rosie Spangenberg adjourned the meeting at 8:57p.
- Next meeting is Dec. 16th.
- Devotions- Rosie Spangenberg.



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 facilities for our packing of cookies to deployed troops since 2007. In addition, the support from Emanuel's members has been phenomenal!

With our November packing, the Iowa Cookie Crumbs have sent **over 1,350,000** cookies to deployed service personnel in harms' way.

In addition, on November 4th we sent 249 holiday themed boxes of comfort items filled with decorations, Christmas stockings, games, blank holiday cards/stationery, calendars, hygiene products and hand knitted helmet liners and scarves.

The following week, volunteers pictured below packed 32,016 cookies in 266 boxes.

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) 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 USA – now there are only 4 active. Due to a decrease in requests, all of the crumb groups now only send every other month. While we don't know the reason(s) other groups dissolved, we do know ours has succeeded due to the outstanding support of the metro and surrounding communities.

Again, thank you for allowing the Iowa Cookie Crumbs to use the church facilities and members – a huge thank you for your wonderful support!

Sincerely,

Deann Over and the Iowa Cookie Crumbs





If you would like to purchase a gift for a child in need this holiday season, angels are being added to a tree in the community room. More are added as names/gifts are confirmed with families, so check back weekly! Please bring gifts to church wrapped with the angel part of the tag attached by December 15th. For more details, contact Deanne Skovgaard.

Thank you

BY DEANN OVER

Approximately 60 attended the Stewardship Dinner on Wednesday, November 11. Special thanks to Judy Heithoff and Linda Steensland for preparing the pork loin and Jan Husmann and Barb Burns for the table decorations. Assisting in set up, serving and cleanup were: Amy, Shelby & Nikki Rickard; Tyler & Tristen Steensland, Mason, Amy & Mike Garreans; Hailey, Kade, Lucas & Cristina Holcombe, Reagan Haats; Tori, Kylie & Lauren Hansen; Greg Steensland and Steve Lewis. And special thanks to Pastor Stephanie for the message.

Life Transitions with Bethany Lutheran Health Services

Join us EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH for an ongoing series on life's transitions.

Bethany Heights Community Room
6:30pm-7:30pm
Starting Thursday November 21st

TOPIC: Grieving During the Holidays

Questions please call CeCe or Wendy at 712-328-9500

Merry Christmas From LSI

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5



As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Whether you have lifted up our organization through a financial or in-kind gift, volunteered your time to our programming, or supported us as a ministry partner this year, you have helped bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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

October Income: \$9,078.35
October Expense: \$5,799.21
October Balance \$3,279.14

YTD Income: \$133,561.48
YTD Expense: \$122,057.00
YTD Balance \$11,504.48
Plus Carryover \$9,272.00
General Budget Fund \$20,776.48

Ramblings from the Back Corner

BY CINDY RICHARDS



Close to the middle of our ELW hymnal is where the hymns actually begin. Page 239 to be exact. These hymns start with Advent, the beginning of the church year. Twenty-eight hymns are in that section. Many of them talk about waiting. Either what we are to do while waiting or what will come after our waiting.

Waiting is such a mental thing. You aren't doing anything physical. Just thinking. Sometimes, for me, that's hard. (Ok. I hear that snickering!) I want to do something. It's hard to just sit and think. My mind tends to wander around to everything but where it's supposed to be. It's a matter of focus. A meditative kind of focus.

So during Advent, where is my focus while I'm waiting? For me, it is on hymn texts.

One of my favorite Advent hymns is "Awake! Awake! and Greet the New Morn" by Marty Haugen. He wrote it as a "non-material" gift for an aunt whose name he had drawn for the gift exchange in 1982. (What a wonderful idea. Non-material gift!!) What is your favorite Advent hymn?

1 Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll
to shatter all hate and injustice.



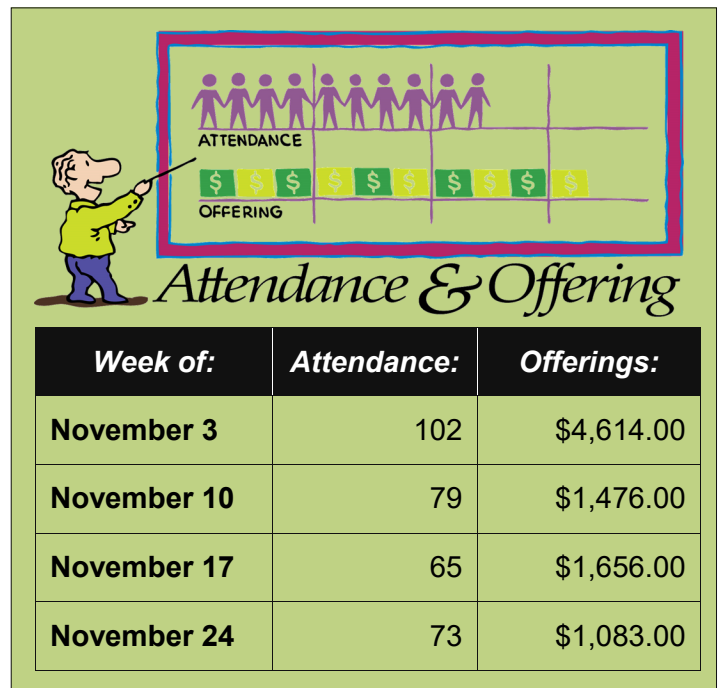
3 In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory

- ELW #242



"Because they didn't have e-mail then.
That's why God sent an angel
to proclaim the baby's birth."





Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 North Broadway
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Game Day

Thursday, December 5th
1 p.m.

Emanuel Community Room

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

(Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Tuesday, December 10th
8:30 am

Village Inn East

Adult Fellowship

Wednesday, December 11th
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

Emanuel Lutheran Church

2444 N. Broadway

Council Bluffs, IA 51503-0499

(712) 323-9665 Emergencies: (712) 796-7887

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