

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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Pastor- Solveig A.H. Zamzow

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DECEMBER 2018

FROM THE PASTOR

Christmas Musings

The outgoing year was not an easy one for many of us. The fact that I drove more miles in eight months than I usually drive in twelve is but one indicator that many of our members struggled with illnesses and unpleasant, even life-altering, situations. Reflecting on my own life, I would have to say that a rather significant portion of the year was not overly 'smooth sailing'. Of course, each and every year brings a mix of joys and sorrows but looking back today: this passing year does not register as a glorious exception.

It certainly was not an easy 2018 for our country.

Between numerous horrible floods and fires, policy hiccups with wide-ranging consequences and very harsh domestic political disagreements that spilled over into intimate relationships, as well as seemingly one act of violence after another, the psyche of our nation has been taxed. And here we are: together venturing once again into another Christmas Season! Again we will hear that God's Word became flesh in

the person of Jesus Christ. Once more we will stand and join in carols, hear familiar biblical passages and wish each other a "Merry Christmas" as the glow of the Candlelight Service hangs on for at least a few hours.

That is good. It shall be so. I would not want it any other way and I pray fervently that we all will experience Christmas as an oasis of true peace and

calm from the troubles of our everyday life.

Of course, nobody is naïve enough to think that we will spend 2019 singing "Kumbaya".



Surely, my poor kidney function will not suddenly improve, your sense of loneliness will not magically disappear and Washington will most likely not make all decisions in a bi-partisan manner. Nor shall we be foolish enough to think that natural disasters will be kept at bay and violence will cease.

But: Christmas comes and brings us a new – yet old – promise. That promise says very clearly that

we are not alone; that the world as we know it is indeed not all there will be; that suffering will someday come to an end and that we all are beloved children of our heavenly Father. The Prince of Peace is stepping onto the scene of those disasters we ourselves have created as well as those over which we have no control. The Alpha and Omega of all things temporal and divine is still having his hand in the game of life! That indeed calls for some time of reflection, for gratitude and for giving praise.



In his sermon to the German-speaking congregation in Havana, Cuba on December 21st, 1930, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pastor, teacher and leader of the Confessing Church during the Third Reich, recognized the mixed emotions and various circumstances with which God's people approach Christmas and said this: "...and despite it all, Christmas comes. Whether we wish it or not, whether we are sure or not, we must hear the words once again: Christ the Savior is here! The world that Christ comes to save is our fallen and lost world. None other."



Indeed, Christ the Savior is here. Let us receive Him into our hearts and homes with gladness and humility and trust Him when he says that He comes to make all things new.

Michael and I wish a very Merry Christmas and a blessed, peaceful, healthy, happy and successful 2019 to all members and friends of Emmanuel. It has been my joy and privilege to share another year of ministry with and through you. Thank you for every kindness you showed to me and my dear ones. I am looking forward to the adventures, joys and challenges God will set before us in the days to come. Be well, be blessed.

Your Pastor

LAST-DAY-OF-CHRISTMAS LADIES TEA



**Pastor Zamzow requests the honor
of your presence on
Saturday, January 5th, 2019
between 2:00 and 5:00 pm at her home!**

Invited are all girls and women of any age, members and friends of Emmanuel. Bring your daughter, your neighbor, your cousin... and let us celebrate the very last day of the 2018 Christmas Season in Christian fellowship.

Bring nothing but a festive spirit!



GOD IS IN THE MANGER

"There are only two places where the powerful and great in this world lose their courage, tremble in the depths of their souls, and become truly afraid. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ."

"No priest, no theologian stood at the cradle of Bethlehem. And yet, all Christian theology finds its beginnings in the miracle of miracles, that God became human."

These sentences are from a book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "God is in the Manger". The small book is a collection of devotions and reflections. Bonhoeffer was a pastor of the Confessing Church in Nazi Germany. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential, and his book *The Cost of Discipleship* has been described as a modern classic. Apart from his theological writings, Bonhoeffer was known for his staunch resistance to Nazi dictatorship, including vocal opposition to Hitler's euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 and imprisoned for one and a half years. Later, he was transferred to a Concentration Camp. After being accused of being associated with the plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler, he was quickly tried, along with other accused plotters, and then executed on April 9th, 1945 shortly before the Americans liberated the Concentration Camp in Flossenbuerg.

Our Advent services will be very plain and short. We will meet three times, on Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19 at 6:30 pm. The homilies will be excerpts from Bonhoeffer's reflections. Bonhoeffer is one of the few scholars/pastors of the last century who can authentically speak to what it means to wait for the mystery of the redemption through the God who meets us in Christ.

JOYS AND SORROWS



We welcome into the family of believers and Emmanuel Lutheran, Amelia Christine, the daughter of Ted and Kayla Pappas. She was baptized on November 25th, in the name of the Triune God. May Amelia grow into the faith God bestows upon her today and be a blessing to the world.



You're invited to order one or more poinsettias in memory of, or in honor of loved ones. The cost is \$13 per plant and you may mail or drop off the order form with your payment at the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS



As you can see in this newsletter, there are various opportunities for each of us to contribute to a variety of very worthy causes. Please look at all these causes carefully and decide which one speaks to your heart. Is it the need of young children? The cry of the hungry? Are you looking at supporting one of the many disaster areas of our nation? Are you already done with your charitable giving for this year? Does the well-being of your church community rank very high on your list? Do you wish to focus on one cause or give a little to all of them?

These are important questions to ask! We understand that we cannot 'do it all'. So, please, take a moment to familiarize yourself with the challenges God has placed in front of our community of faith and after prayerful consideration let us join in partnership and share our blessings where we see needs to which we can and want to respond. I shall do the same.

-Pastor Z+



The last day we will be able to record your donation toward your 2018 statement will be Sunday, December 30th. Please have any last-minute offering at the church office by noon on that day so we may deposit it before the Bank closes deposits on December 31st.

We hope that announcement helps in your planning!



A Word about our Christmas Offering

It is the responsibility of our Committee to recommend the distribution of the Advent/Christmas offering.

After extensive discussion we are asking for those funds to remain at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Thank you to all who are seizing the opportunity to share an extra blessing with our faith community.

-The Stewardship Committee



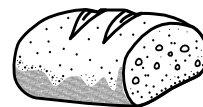
Help us feed the hungry this Advent! The Church Council accepted the invitation of Manna of Worth County and is encouraging the households of Emmanuel to contribute one non-perishable food item or paper product per day for the food pantry throughout the Advent Season from December 2nd through Christmas Eve. There will be a large box for your convenience in the lower narthex. If this collection does not work well for you, perhaps you might consider bringing some groceries along as you come for the Christmas Eve Service. Whatever you can and will do: "Thank You" on behalf of those who are hungry.

RISE AND SHINE



Please remember that we are not doing the Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes this year but are encouraging everyone to bring items for the **RISE AND SHINE** campaign to benefit kids and youths at **Orchid Place** in Des Moines. **We will collect toiletries through Sunday, December 9th.**

If you have questions, please call the church office. There is a box in the lower narthex for your convenience.



Manna of Worth County
94 9th St. N Northwood, IA 50459
Phone: 641-324-8588

Dear Church Partners,

Manna of Worth County was established in 1980 by four churches (Emmanuel Lutheran of Grafton, Bethany Lutheran of Kensett, First Lutheran of Northwood, and Northwood United Methodist). It was and is a vital part of services for the hungry and food insecure people of Worth County. Recently, Manna has had a change in management and operations with a new Board of Director's and a new Coordinator. Your church and pastor answered the call to be leaders in feeding the hungry thirty-eight years ago and have recommitted to this mission recently.

We would encourage you to help those in need according to the directive in Matthew 25, whatever you do for the least of these you do for me. We need volunteers, to check in clients, help clients with shopping, unloading truck shipments, stocking shelves, and office tasks. We also need a few people who have a truck or enclosed trailer or both to make a trip to Des Moines to pick up food from the Food Bank of Iowa.

We are accepting donations either cash (we can turn every dollar you donate into 14 pounds of food) or by food donations. We are open every Monday morning from 10-12 and Thursday's from 4:30 to 6:30. Please share these hours with those that might need our services. Thank you for your partnership and we look forward to serving our neighbors so no one in Worth County is hungry.

Sincerely, Bobbi Bendickson, Coordinator

Food Pantry Hours

Monday 10 am. - 12 pm.
Thursday 4:30 am. - 6:30 pm.

Please see the bulletin board across from the offices for details pertaining to volunteers and eligibility!

Cookie Walk

Hello Members and Friends of Emmanuel Lutheran! Have you heard our committee invites you to help us with a **COOKIE-WALK** on **Saturday, December 8th from 9:30 until noon.** The proceeds will be divided among the various causes Emmanuel Lutheran has decided to support this year.

We are hoping that **every household will contribute at least two dozen homemade cookies.** Of course, if you wish to bring more, we will be very grateful. If possible, please bring your cookies to church not later than 7 pm the night before. If needed, we can freeze your cookies should you not be in town on that weekend.

We are looking especially for traditional Christmas cookies but are grateful for all "regular" cookies. If you have not yet signed up but want to provide cookies – just call the office and we will add your name to our list. The mission of the Evangelism Committee is to encourage Christian fellowship and reach out so the community can see that we are here to share the love of Christ. And, who does not like some good cookies for the upcoming festive season?

Thank you one and all.

-The Evangelism Committee

Generosity
changes everything

The Church Council thanks all who made a special effort and helped our faith family catch up on our Current Fund balance. Your generosity was outstanding and we are very glad to enter the last weeks of the year with a positive balance. To assure that we are coming into 2019 with a solid reserve (our insurance bill is due within the first weeks of the year and we can be sure there will be LP bills), we are sending along another special offering envelope for those who cannot be present for worship as well as for those who wish to give above and beyond. If neither of these circumstances relate to you, please disregard the envelope.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

-The Church Council.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"NEW STAR" is the name of this year's Christmas Program which the Sunday School children are preparing for us.

Come and join us to hear the story of the Christ-child on
Sunday, December 16th at 6:30 pm.

Please note that there will be a special practice for
kids in grades 2-6 on Thursday, December 13th from 6:00-7:00 pm.

On the day of the program parents are once again asked to
provide one dozen cookies (please drop them off in the kitchen before
the program) for our little party after the program.

Thank You!



December 2nd, First Sunday in Advent – 9:30 am Worship with Communion

December 5th, Advent Service – 6:30 pm

December 9th, Second Sunday in Advent – 9:30 am Worship

December 12th, Advent Service – 6:30 pm

December 16th, Third Sunday in Advent - 9:30 am Worship

December 19th, Advent Service – 6:30 pm

December 23rd, Fourth Sunday in Advent – 9:30 am Worship

December 24th, Christmas Eve – 6:30 pm Candlelight Service

December 25th, Christmas Day – 9:30 am Worship with Communion

December 30th, First Sunday after Christmas – 9:30 am Worship with Communion

THANK YOU STEWARDS

... to the November Hospitality Team: Debby & David Bublitz, Teresa Sorenson, Rufus Glassel, Katie Bass, Kayla Pappas, Marlin & Connie Rosenberg, Clarice Venechuk, Sam/Shelly/Katie and Niki Venechuk, Kara & Joe Walk, Lowell Walk, Larry Diedrich, Jon & Kim Badker, Calvin & Sandra Thompson.

... to Emi Kuntz and Val Bork for serving on our Altar Guild for the month of November.

... to our November Counting Team: Dan Nack, Jason Hackbart, Lisa Bartz, Darren & Lori Marsh, Teresa Braun, Gloria Hackbart and Kim Badker.

...to our Ushers for the month of November: Paul Hackbart, Garry Backhaus, Duaine Dierks, Alex Hackbart, Marlin Rosenberg.

...to Dan Nack and Josh Rosenberg for operating the P.A. system during November.

...to Kristy Arzberger for serving on our Lay Committee for the month of November.

...to Orland and Will Bartz for pruning the bushes around the church building

...to the members of the Property Committee for their efforts with snow and ice removal on our sidewalks.

...to the members of the Property Committee for clearing snow and ice alongside the church and for helping Michael and Pastor with snow duties around the parsonage

...to all members and friends who supported the collections for the Kroneman family, the Grafton Cemetery and the Mission Fest Sunday. We can be certain that the recipients of your generosity were blessed by your attention to their needs.

...thank you to Johnny Duvall for once again keeping the sputtering parsonage furnace going!!!

...to the Stewardship Committee, Julie Schaub, Marlena Henkle, Marcy Wilde and Yvonne and Haley Tourtellott for preparing our wonderful luncheon following the Mission Fest presentation on November 11th. Thank you likewise to all who brought in dishes to share!

...to Linda and Carol Koschmeder for providing the lovely Thanksgiving decorations in the upper narthex.

Treasurers Report

Financial Balance Information for October 1-31, 2018

Current Fund

Beginning Balance: \$5,082.16

Interest: \$4.23

Deposits: \$13,116 (\$11,280: General Offering,
\$1,836: T-Shirts)

Expenses: \$11,031.49

End of month Balance: \$ 7,170.90

Benevolence Fund

Beginning Balance: \$1,827.35

Deposits: \$ 372.00

Expense: \$0

End of month Balance: \$2,199.35

Building Fund

Beginning Balance: \$1,506.84

Deposits: \$26,938.00

Expense: \$12,225.00

End of month Balance: \$16,219.84

Gifts and Memorials

Beginning Balance: \$29,563.39

Deposit: \$169.25

Expense: \$330.64

End of month Balance: \$29,402

Total of all funds listed above: \$54,992.09





Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Grafton

October 9th, 2018

Meeting called to order by: JC Dawald- President

Attended: Paul Hackbart- Property, Christa Larson- Secretary/Treasurer, Merlin Bartz- Evangelism, Nicole Cole- Youth, Amy Edwards- Christian Ed., Julie Schaub- Stewardship, Darren Marsh- Vice President

Absent: Sharon Hulshizer- Lay Ministry

Devotions: Pastor Zamzow

Education Segment: "Conquering the Cutback Syndrome"

Agenda review: M/S/C to approve agenda as presented.

Minutes: M/S/C to approve as written.

Bills to be paid / Treasurer's Report: M/S/C to accept the Treasurers report as presented.

Pastor's Report: Pastor spoke briefly about Emmanuel's financial investments. Pastor will be working with the Nominating Committee as we approach the Annual Meeting. She continues to work with Manna of Worth County and will be attending a training session in October. Pastor notified the council that a member of the congregation, Travis Kroneman, had lost his home and possessions in a house fire. The council decided to have a "love offering" in October. for the family and to announce it in the bulletin.

Board Highlights:

Evangelism- No meeting but reported that the New Member Reception went well.

Property- Sidewalks are done and gutters are up but with no drop edge. Going to be getting bids for tuck pointing and file for a WCDA Grant.

Lay Ministry- No council action needed.

Stewardship- Mission Sunday is coming up in November.

Youth and Education- No council action needed.

Logos Legos will be doing service projects in the near future such as yard work for an elderly member of the congregation and replenishing the activity bags in the Narthex. Sunday School is going well; the kids will sing in church and have a noisy offering on October 21st.

Membership review: None

Unfinished Business:

- a) **Electronic Meeting Protocol-** M/S/C to accept Electronic Meeting Protocol.
- b) **Update on Brainstorming Financials-** We will wait until December to add an offering envelope into the newsletter. Still plan on introducing E-giving at the Annual Meeting with computers set up to help those who are interested. T-shirt orders will be in the end of October or beginning of November.

New Business:

- a) **Allocate Proceeds from T-Shirt Sales-** M/S/C to order extra shirts, 20 adult and 10 youth, with proceeds to go to the Current Fund.
- b) **Renewal of Farm Rent Contract- Contract** runs continuous until someone terminates or both parties mutually agree to make a change. **Place "Renewal of Farm Rent Contract" on the August agenda for all future council meetings.
- c) **Set date for Annual Meeting-** Jan 27th, 2019
- d) Next meeting date and time is (Tuesday November 13th at 7:00 pm)
- e) Next meeting devotion's preparer: JC Dawald
- f) **M/S/C- Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.**

-Secretary/Treasurer, Christa Larson

Women's Ministry

- 1) TWC on December 18th at 9a.m.
- 2) No Bible study / Women's events for December: Support the church activities and enjoy time with family!
- 3) Watch bulletins/newsletter for activities after the New Year

TWC (The Women's Council) November 20, 2018

Devotions were given by Emi, taken from the Thanksgiving Day devotion in Our Daily Bread. 2 Cor:8 talks about how God loves our willingness to give what we have to give and does not compare it to what others have to give. TWC was opened with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes were read and approved with corrections. Treasurer's report shows \$5,180.92 in checking. Clarice submitted a bill for materials collected throughout the year and will be reimbursed after the first of the year. Jmart bill for November remains to be paid. Correspondence was shared from several organizations asking for donations and Thank you's were read from KCMR for the donation and the Living Waters Cluster for the money given to offset the cost of taking items to LWR headquarters, as we sent activity kits along with their truck. A schedule for next year's Bingo/birthday party at the LRH in Northwood was shared, along with a list of residents to provide Christmas gifts for. Charlotte will check with ladies interested in making the purchases for these residents.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: Sewing and layette kit packing dates will be set for a few days the last week in November, TBA. Soap/blanket Sunday will be changed to March 31st as we have learned that April 15th will be the LWR shipping date and pickup will be in Mason City next year.

2) Kitchen report: a) There is another roaster in the furnace room that needs to be cleaned up and checked out to see if in working condition, then we will determine what to do with the non-working ones. b) Clarice will take one of our small glasses along to the distributor in Cedar Falls to see if we are able to purchase more like it, sometime in December. 3) Two new tan folding tables were purchased on Oct 27th for the church basement and the old ones were given away. 3) Yearbooks: changes have been reviewed with Christa and will be made up for approval before printing. 4) Thankoffering: Will be collected at our Nov Bible study, a short prayer regarding that will be led by Pastor Z before our study.

New Business: 1) Soup Supper: Tentative date for Feb 24th. Some discussion was held in finding new people to be able to help with the organization and heading up the supper as it does get to be a lot of work for some individuals. 2) Painting event: The idea for having a time to gather and paint as a women's event will be tabled until a later date as we do not have enough time to get things organized for December. 3) Christmas event: Ideas were discussed, but with December being a busy time for all, it was decided to not have Bible study or a women's event and enjoy the other church and family activities going on.

Upcoming dates: Bible study for November: Nov 27th at 10 a.m. / 7 p.m. December TWC on Dec 18th at 9a.m. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



HOSPICE OF NORTH IOWA will have a Tree of Life service in Mason City on December 13th. For more information please see the board across from the offices.

December 2018

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Holy Communion</i> 2 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30- Worship 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	3	4	5 <u>6:30pm</u> Advent Service <u>7 pm</u> Choir	6 <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study	7	8 <u>9:30- Noon</u> Cookie Walk 
2nd Sunday of Advent 9 9:30- Worship- Choir  10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	10	11	12 <u>6:30pm</u> Advent Service <u>7 pm</u> Choir	13 <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study <u>6:00 pm</u> S.S. Practice Grades 2-6	14	15
3rd Sunday of Advent 16 9:30- Worship- Noisy Offering 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School 6:30- Sunday School Christmas Program	17	18	19 <u>6:30pm</u> Advent Service <u>7 pm</u> Choir	20 <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study	21	22
4th Sunday of Advent 23 9:30- Worship- Choir  10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	24 <u>6:30 pm</u> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 <u>9:30 am</u> Christmas Day Service- with Communion	26 <u>Offices</u> <u>Closed</u>	27	28	29
<i>Holy Communion- Intinction</i> 30 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30- Worship 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	31					



December 2018

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
ST. ANSGAR, IA
50472
PERMIT NO. 11

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Address Service Requested

--- December ---

December	Greeters	Organist	Acolytes
Sunday, 2 nd	Marena Henkle	Charlotte Cole	Kaelee Hicken
Sunday, 9 th	Cory & Kim Hicken	Charlotte Cole	Gracie Urbatsch
Sunday, 16 th	Sharon Hulshizer	Marena Henkle	Emma Hicken
Sunday, 23 rd	Marcy Hyde	Donna Schilling	Brooklyn Hackbart
Monday, 24 th	X	Marena Henkle	Ryan Cole
Tuesday, 25 th	X	Donna Schilling	Ryan Hackbart
Sunday, 30 th	Linda Koschmeder	Marena Henkle	Lily Walk

Share Shoppe

December 27th – Gloria Hackbart

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Team Leads: Jane Dalluge, Julie Schulz

Dean & Mardine Meyer	Duane & Patty Rustad
Tammy Borchardt	Janis Hackenmiller
Ken & Linda Kroneman	Renae Kroneman
Alan & Mavis Stevens	Sam Walk
Marsha Wilde	Janice Nelson
Larry & Carol Dalluge	Brooke Claussen
Christa Larson	

ALTAR GUILD

Candi Feldt

LAY MINISTRY

Phil Hackbart

COUNTERS

Connie Rosenberg
Marlin Rosenberg
Belinda Borchardt
Mike Cole

USHERS

Mike Cole
Dave Feldt
Candi Feldt
Cole Feldt
Corrie Kuntz
JC Dawald
PA
Darren Marsh