

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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Pastor- Solveig A.H. Zamzow

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FEBRUARY 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

"CHRISTIAN ENOUGH"

If you ever hear the phrase "Christian Enough" at Emmanuel, feel free to lay the blame at my feet! The story is about five years old and happened at a meeting of the Education Committee. I don't recall if we were talking about a song, a story or a program. In any case, a member of the group wanted to know if I was okay with the selection. Looking over the item in question, I must have thought that it was not the 'most Lutheran' I had ever seen and heard but, apparently, I also did not see how any harm could be done by moving forward with it. So, I answered (obviously not very elegantly!): "Well, I think it is Christian enough." The phrase was coined! The laughter hearty and the longevity of the answer assured. Just the other day it was brought up in another meeting. Yep, we surely don't want to do anything here that does not at least meet the "Christian Enough" standard ☺

addresses the questions of "what must I do to inherit eternal life"; "who is my neighbor"the implication always is: how can we get away with the least common denominator, what is it that we absolutely must do so we are not in peril.

It is always refreshing when one meets people who are not interested in getting away with being nominal Christians, who do not want to cover their lives merely with a thin veneer of a religious aura but who want to be 'All In' and who do not shy away from acknowledging that it is pretty hard work to walk the walk of faith.



There is no doubt: living a life that is aligned with Jesus is a very, very difficult task. Whenever we think 'I've got that', we find out that we just fooled ourselves and that we have fallen off of the wagon again. Yep, loving enemies, being generous and



The idea of getting away with as little effort as possible is not restricted to church environment, to our generation or to living in a first-world nation. Just look at some of the biblical stories when Jesus

forgiving can become a drag. Living a Christian-Enough-Life is not particularly glamorous and who really will ever become an even bigger expert on it? When will we ever appropriately appreciate the undeserved grace and mercy God shows us? Will we ever truly master the Good-Samaritan lifestyle that looks out for the neighbor first before we take care of our own real or perceived needs? You have heard people say that they 'practice their faith', have you not? Well, we are practicing for sure and we are practicing without any guarantee that we will come to a point when and where we can say: *well, here we are, the goal has been achieved.* Rather, at least for myself, it is always frustrating to realize that our best attempts are subject to failure.



I recently came across a wonderful quote by Martin Luther: *"This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."*

Perhaps that is a 16th century, and very wise, way of saying: don't give up, you are still 'becoming', you are not there yet, hang in there, the best is yet to come.'

We are an unfinished work. God is not yet done with us. Maybe today we are only "Christian enough" but tomorrow God may lead us onto a path that is ever more faithful and glorious, honoring and praising God's holy name. We want to keep our hearts, minds and lives open to that! PZ+

The following letter and invitation was received from Manna of Worth County:

Greetings from Manna of Worth County! Many of you have supported our ecumenical Mission in many and various ways over the thirty-eight years Manna has served persons with food insecurity in our County. For the last decade Tom and Terri Sculley faithfully, managed Manna until they retired to Northern Wisconsin in 2018. At the time of their departure the Board of Directors was revitalized and in October we welcomed our new manager, Bobbi Bendickson. Since then we have increased the hours of our services and made several noteworthy changes in the administration and execution of our tasks – all, we hope, to the benefit of those who use the services of Manna.

If your congregation has offered volunteers, financial aid or given in kind contributions: we thank you for including Manna of Worth County in your prayers and your budgets!

The Board of Directors wants you to know how we use the gifts you provide and to that end we invite you to attend our Annual Meeting on Thursday, February 28th at 7:00 pm at First Lutheran Church in Northwood. Prior to the meeting, from 6:30 – 7:00 pm you are most welcome to take a 'tour' of our Manna building on 9th Street.

Please feel free to invite and bring as many people from your congregation as you would like. We hope to see you on February 28th.

In Christ and on behalf of the Board of Directors,

*-The Rev. Tom Martin;
The Rev. Solveig A. H. Zamzow, co-chairs*

THANK YOU STEWARDS

... to the January Hospitality Team: Lisa & Merlin Bartz, Ashley & Ryan Trousdale, Marcy Hyde, Betty & Gene Rosenberg, Laurie Nack Bublit, Dick & Ruth Neeley, Donna & Chuck Schilling, Chrystal Braun, Connie Bruesewitz, Brett & Alex Trenhaile.

... to Val & Brianna Bork for serving on our Altar Guild for the month of January.

... to our January Counting Team: Myra Dierks, Duaine Dierks, Laurie Nack Bublit, Michael Cole

...to our Ushers for the month of January: Keven Bruesewitz, John Bork, Phil Hackbart, Sawyer Dalluge, Val Bork, Jason Hackbart, Brianna Bork

...to Mike Cole and Corrie Kuntz for operating the P.A. system during January.

...to Jon Badker for serving on our Lay Committee for the month of January.

...to the Jason and Jody Hackbart family, the Kyle and Amy Edwards family and to Emma and Kaylee Hicken for their willingness to be our Advent litany readers in December.

...to the outgoing Council and Committee members who concluded their terms as of January 27th: JC Dawald (President) Julie Schulz (Education), Kristy Arzberger and Jon Badker (Lay Ministry), Duane Rustad (Property), Candi Feldt and Abbie Steinberg (Youth) as well as our Nominating Committee of Brooke Stiles, Orland Bartz, Laurie Nack Bublit and Clarice Bartz and Judy Trenhaile (LRH Auxiliary).

...thank you to those who agreed and were elected to a first or second term: Mark Fredrickson (Vice-President), Brittany Bartz and Kim Hicken (Education), Myra Dierks, Linda Schotanus and Sandy Thompson (Evangelism), Paul Hackbart, Jason Hackbart and Dan Nack (Property), Marsha Wilde (Stewardship), Katie Bass, Jody Hackbart and Sara Kuntz (Youth), Garry Backhaus, Curt Schaub, Donna Schilling and Gary Schotanus (Nominating Committee), Mavis Stevens (LRH Auxiliary) and Richard Neeley (Grafton Housing), as well as Clarice Bartz (IA-Mission District).

...to the incoming Council Members for their willingness to govern our faith community: Darren Marsh (President), Mark Fredrickson (VP), Nicole Cole (Youth), Kim Badker (Education), Marena Henkle (Stewardship), Sharon Hulshizer (Lay Ministry), Paul Hackbart (Property) and Merlin Bartz (Evangelism).

...to the incoming Committee Chairs for their commitment to roll up their sleeves and do the needed work to keep our mission on a good path: Jody Hackbart (Youth), Brittany Bartz (Education), Marsha Wilde (Stewardship), Jason Hackbart (Property), Philip Hackbart (Lay Ministry) and Merlin Bartz (Evangelism).

THANK YOU EMMANUEL

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Property Committee and Neil Hackbart for shoveling and blowing snow around the parsonage. While I enjoy these activities, they have become increasingly difficult for me. Thank you for making sure your Pastor and I are well taken care of. *-Michael Zamzow*

A big "Thank You" goes out to my family for hosting my 80th Birthday Party. It was so nice, my "Church Family", my grandchildren and great grandchildren (the ones that could make it) came. Thank you for the beautiful cards, notes, hugs and gifts. May God Bless each one of you in 2019.

-Laurie Nack Bublit

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and warm wishes I received after the passing of my step-father. A special thank you to Pastor Zamzow and the church council for being so understanding. A big thank you to Linda Koschmeder for helping in the office while I was gone. *-Christa Larson*

Grafton Church Family, thank you all so very much for all of the donations, prayers, calls and thoughts following our fire! We feel very blessed to be in such a great loving and caring community. Thank you all Again! *-Travis, Megan, baby #3, Peyton, and Caydence Kroneman*

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

Thank you for supporting the North American Lutheran Church. The generous support of our donors and congregations is very encouraging. Please continue to pray for our church body as we will continue to pray for God's abundant blessings for your ministries. *-NALC*

Thanks so much for your generous support to Special Olympics Iowa. Your kindness helps Special Olympic athletes realize their dreams through sports training and competition. *-Thank you, Special Olympics Iowa*

Dear Pastor Z and members of Emmanuel Lutheran, thank you for your kind support of our ministry this past year. We wish you a wonderful new year in 2019! *-In Christ, LSI*

Thanks again, Emmanuel Lutheran friends! May the Lord bless your 2019 ministry journey! *-KJCY Kinship Christian Radio*

Thank you for your generous donation to support our mission and vision. In addition to the practicality of your gift, it's encouraging to know that you are willing to assist us in giving our best efforts to those in need. *-Crisis Intervention Services*

Please allow us to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation. Your commitment in the community is sincerely appreciated. *-Northern Lights Alliance*

We appreciate your generous donation which helps keep KCMR Radio on the air. *-KCMR Radio*

Thank you for your generous donation. Because of you LSI provides support, hope and healing for many Iowans in need. *-Lutheran Services in Iowa*

We wish to Thank You for your donation to the Food Bank. We are very grateful to have the community support working with us to make a difference in the lives of so many. *-Mitchell County Food Bank*

Thank you for your generous donation, it's greatly appreciated and helps our patients and their families make the most of the moments that count. *-Hospice of North Iowa*

Thank you so much for your continued support of food & monetary donations. We so appreciate your partnership in this mission. *-Bobbie Bendickson, Manna of Worth County.*

Inclement Weather Policy:

Please note that the Church Council recently developed and instituted an inclement weather policy:

In case of inclement weather conditions, we may deem it best and safest to cancel a regularly scheduled worship service. In that case, the Pastor and President or Vice President will make that decision and the Pastor will communicate that decision to all the local media on or before 6:00am on the day of that service.

LAST-DAY-OF-CHRISTMAS LADIES TEA

Almost 30 women and young girls gathered for several hours at Pastor's home for a "Tea" to celebrate the last day of the Christmas Season on January 5th. Aside from snacking on various sweet and savory treats and drinking warm beverages, we enjoyed lots of great conversation around the Christmas Tree.



DID YOU KNOW

...that we are planning on taking a 'Emmanuel Family Picture' in our new T-shirts for our upcoming Parish Directory? The day is Sunday, March 17th immediately following the closing of the worship service. On that day we ask that you wear your special blue Emmanuel T-shirt. For those who do not have one or do not wish to wear it, perhaps you can plan on wearing a blue 'something or other' 😊

...that the Evangelism Committee is planning a St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 17th following the taking of our group picture? While the kids are in Sunday School, we will have a short program in the Fellowship Hall which will be followed by a traditional St. Patrick's Dinner at 11:30 am. This time together may very well teach us something about Saint Patrick that is beyond eating corned beef and cabbage and drinking green beer which we Lutherans often associate with March 17th. There will be a sign-up for the dinner as the day comes closer. We hope you can join us!!

...Emmanuel is still looking for a person to represent us at the NALC Convocation in August in Indianapolis? If you are interested, please visit with Pastor Z about the details.

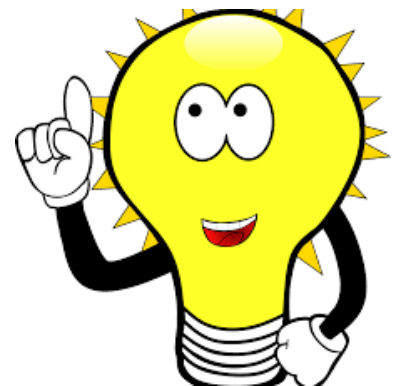
...that we will create a new Church Directory through Life Touch Photography between June 19th and 22nd? The Evangelism Committee will be providing updates and information as we move closer to that time. However, if you have nice pictures of groups, individuals or events at Emmanuel and you think they could be added to the directory on the general church pages, please feel free to submit them to both, Pastor and Christa – in case one of us has a computer glitch – so we may later on forward them to the person who will take charge of the project!

...that a Washington State senator intends to introduce a bill that would make it legal to compost bodies? Called 'recomposition', advocates claim it is the cheapest way to bury human remains and the most environmentally healthy. The shrouded body is placed in a vessel with organic material. Air is drawn into the vessel periodically to accelerate decomposition. The remains become a nutrient rich soil that can be reunited with families for use in gardens.

...that although the current U.S. Congress is slightly more religiously diverse than its predecessor, it is still more religious than the rest of the population? Twenty-three percent of Americans claim no religious affiliation. Only one member of Congress does so. Eighteen members declined to specify an affiliation, up from ten in the previous Congress. Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Lutherans are still well represented.

...that an emotional debate over whether Muslim students may wear hijab in Christian schools took a new turn in January when the Kenyan Supreme Court reversed a lower-court ruling that had allowed female students to wear Muslim headscarves to school? The ruling comes amid a heightened push by Muslim leaders and civic groups for acceptance of head coverings in church-owned schools. Christian educators have been resisting the move, insisting that dress codes and uniforms not only provide discipline and equality but are also part of church and school traditions. Muslim leaders and civic groups counter that the enforcement of uniforms without hijab constitutes a denial of children's right to worship.

Churches own or sponsor many of the schools in this predominantly Christian country and admit children from all religious backgrounds.



COUNCIL MINUTES

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Grafton December 11th, 2018

Meeting called to order by: JC Dawald- President

Attended: Pastor Zamzow, Darren Marsh- Vice President, Christa Larson-Secretary/Treasurer, Sharon Hulshizer- Lay Ministry, Merlin Bartz- Evangelism, Amy Edwards- Christian Ed., Nicole Cole- Youth and Education, Paul Hackbart- Property

Absent: Julie Schaub-Stewardship

Devotions: Merlin Bartz

Agenda review: **M/S/C to accept as amended.**

Minutes: **M/S/C to approve as presented.**

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

Pastor's Report: There was \$658 collected on Mission Fest Sunday and an additional \$300 will be given to LMVF from the Stewardship Estate Interest Fund. The Cookie walk brought in \$586.50. **M/S/C to use \$42 from the Cookie Walk to go to LMVF so we can give them an even \$1,000 total.** After a discussion about the Stewardship Mission Sunday budget **M/S/C to reimburse Lay ministry and Evangelism \$33 each and to reimburse Pastor Zamzow \$34.** There was a discussion regarding the abundance in the Benevolence budget this year. The Stewardship committee will be asked to meet and give a recommendation as to how to distribute the money.

Board Highlights: No Action Needed or Special reports to give

Membership review: None

Unfinished Business:

- Update on Nominating Committee- There will be one member who will be leaving a committee but joining another.
- New Preschool Tables- **M/S/C To purchase 2 table sets and chairs for the preschool room.**
- Floors- Further discussion is needed and the Property Committee will look into possibilities for flooring.

New Business-

- Weather Policy- Will be decided on a case by case basis as the weather unfolds in real time not based off of a predicted weather report. Policy will be presented next month.
- Setting of the 2019 Budget
- Next meeting devotion's preparer: JC Dawald
- Next meeting date and time is (Tuesday February 12 at 7:00 pm)
- M/S/C Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.**

-Secretary/Treasurer, Christa Larson



Women's Ministry

1) Next TWC will be on Tuesday, February 19th at 9am

2) Women's Bible Study on Tuesday, February 26th at 10am and 7pm. Please bring your Love Offering along.

3) ENALCW Soup Supper Sunday, February 24th from 4-7pm.

TWC (The Women's Council)
January 16, 2019

Devotions were given by Clarice, focusing on Jeremiah 8:15 and asking, "Where is peace?" Sin robs us of peace, but God is a God of love and peace and He loves us relentlessly. TWC opened with the reading of the purpose statement. Secretary minutes from December were read and accepted as written. Treasurer's report was given with \$6,072.41 in savings and \$3,792.38 in checking and was accepted with minor corrections. Thank you's were read from Pastor Z, LSI, ELC in Rochester, LMFVM, and CIS.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: There are six quilts to tie and some layettes to be assembled. 2) Kitchen report: still ongoing with the old roaster and new glass glasses. Need a 2019 list of hospitality teams/month served posted in the basement. 3) Yearbooks-will be completed as time allows. M/S/C to print 15 yearbooks. They will be distributed to the officers, Pastor Z, church office, new members, and those requesting to have a copy. 4) Soup Supper: Will be Sunday, February 24th. Charlotte will organize grocery ordering, line up workers. Clarice will call for pies and desserts, touch base with people about

Emmanuel's Epistle

bake sale/white elephant sale. Sharon will apply for Thrivent funds and do the advertising. Friday, the 22nd will be prep day for those able to help.

New Business: Annual audit of books: will be done when church books are done.

Upcoming Dates: Bible study will be Jan 22nd at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; February TWC meeting is February 19th at 9 a.m.; February Bible Study will be February 26th at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

THE TREASURER'S REPORT



Financial Balance Information for December 1-31, 2018

Current Fund

Beginning Balance: \$6,558

Interest: \$5.56

Deposits: \$25,387.02

Expenses: \$15,136.01

End of month Balance: \$ 16,814.57

Benevolence Fund

Beginning Balance: \$9,024.15

Deposits: \$1,074.50

Expense: \$4,567.15

End of month Balance: \$5,531.50

Building Fund

Beginning Balance: \$16,409.84

Deposits: \$240

Expense: \$0

End of month Balance: \$16,649.84

Gifts and Memorials

Beginning Balance: \$29,366.58

Deposit: \$336.30 (Organ Fund and Campership)





Expense: \$185 (Organ Fund)

End of month Balance: \$29,517.88

Total of all funds listed above: \$68,513.79

February, 2019

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 4th Sunday of Epiphany 9:30- Worship -Communion 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	4 <u>7 pm</u> ENALCW Bible Study	5	6 <u>6 pm</u> Lay Ministry Meeting <u>7 pm</u> Choir	7 <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study	8	9
10 5th Sunday of Epiphany 9:30- Worship W/ Choir 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School 	11 <u>6:30 pm</u> Y & E Committee Meeting	12 <u>7 pm</u> Council Meeting	13 <u>7 pm</u> Choir	14  Happy Valentine's Day <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study 	15	16
17 6th Sunday of Epiphany 9:30 Worship -Noisy Offering 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School	18	19	20 <u>7 pm</u> Choir	21 <u>No</u> Bible Study PZ at meeting all day	22	23
24 7th Sunday of Epiphany 9:30- Worship w/ Choir 10:30- Fellowship 10:40- Sunday School 4-7pm Soup Supper	25	26 <u>10 am & 7 pm</u> ENALCW Bible Study	27 <u>7 pm</u> Choir 	28 <u>9:30 am</u> Bible Study <u>6:30 pm</u> Tour & Annual Meeting, Manna of Worth County		



February 2019

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor Solveig A.H. Zamzow
641-748-2736

308 4th Avenue
PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Address Service Requested

February	Greeters	Organist	Acolytes
Sunday – 3 rd	Corrie Kuntz	Marena Henkle	Brooklyn Hackbart
Sunday – 10 th	Sara & Ramon Kuntz	Marena Henkle	Ryan Cole
Sunday – 17 th	Christa Larson	Marena Henkle	Ryan Hackbart
Sunday – 24 th	Rod & Emily Kuntz	Marena Henkle	Lily Walk

Share Shoppe

TBD

HOSPITALITY TEAM

Team Leads: Julie & Kurt Schaub

Jeff Schultz	Jason & Jody Hackbart
Rod & Emi Kuntz	Linda & Gary Schotanus
Nancy Walk	Gregg & Mary Jo Urbatsch
Orland Bartz	Jason & Nicole Schuttler
Dorothy Mensch	Ken Fredrickson
Jay Schuab	

ALTAR GUILD

Emi Kuntz
Linda Schotanus
LAY MINISTRY
Sharon Hulshizer

COUNTERS

Dan Nack
Jason Hackbart
(Substitute)

USHERS

Michael Cole
Dave Feldt
Candi Feldt
Corrie Kuntz
JC Dawald

PA

Mark Fredrickson
Gregg Urbatsch