

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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Pastor- Solveig A.H. Zamzow

Office: 641-748-2736
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FEBRUARY 2020
SPONSORED BY
LAURIE NACK BUBLITZ

FROM THE PASTOR

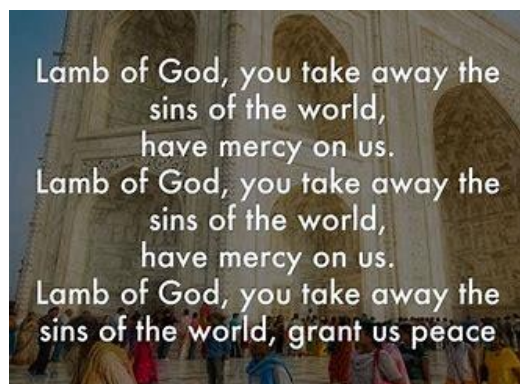
COME AND SEE

What are YOU looking for? Why do YOU find yourself in a church pew on Sundays? There are plenty of reasons and excuses to stay home, correct? For one: the weather! Plus, there are plenty of personal reasons and excuses we can point to. Some reasons and excuses why people stay away from worship have to do with the institutional church. And, yes, there are the reasons and excuses why folks do not want to worship at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton. So, we could look at long lists, couldn't we?

Surely, it is true: there is a deep hunger in the human heart and soul and every kind of spirituality is trying hard to fill in the gaps for us – there are crystals, herbs, Native American rituals, Zen meditations, you name it.

It is good to know that we are not alone in our search. See this passage from the Gospel of St. John: *The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me."...The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi, where are you*

staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.



What are you looking for, Jesus asks of John the Baptist's followers who were sort of hanging out around Jesus. When we are directly approached with a question like this, we often shrug our shoulders and say: oh, nothing, just killing time; not looking for anything specific; just hanging out. True, sometimes we have no clue what we are really looking for, right?! We think we know what we want... but then again, maybe we don't. Likewise, sometimes we are too afraid to say what we want.

A number of years ago we took our granddaughter to Mason City and ended up at the Mall. When we were ready to leave, Victoria threw herself on the bench in front of the shoe store we had just walked through and started crying. It took

us many unsettling minutes of comforting, scolding, hugging, shaking fingers, and asking over and over again: what is wrong, what happened, what do you want, what are you looking for? Finally, amid deep sobs, she admitted that she wanted the pair of pink high-top shoes she had seen in the store. We ended up buying the shoes and, to our surprise but gratefulness,

Victoria wore them until they basically fell apart.



What are you looking for, Jesus asked. Well, the answer was peculiar: Where are you staying? the two men want to know from Jesus. Since you and I know the entire story – with John the Baptist having identified Jesus as the Lamb of God after baptizing him (not to mention the peculiarities around John's own birth and his Call to be the one to prepare the way of the Lord) – we rightfully wonder if it would not have been easier and more honest of John's students to say: *Hey, we hear you are the answer to all our prayers...we are looking for salvation....your cousin told us about you....are you really the Lamb of God who takes away sins or is that an empty phrase and, besides, what does that mean anyway: the Lamb of God ... are you for real....we are curious and want to check you out....*

Don't we have many questions about one another? Can I trust you? Will you pay attention to me? Is this a safe place to tell you what is really on my heart? Am I welcome here? What will you do if I turn out not to be the person you think I am? But, when we are asked what it is we want, it is so much easier to couch all of these questions in a dismissive, "I am just killing time." Or perhaps in throwing a temper tantrum in front of a shoe store®. Or, as our biblical friends would say, "So, which hotel are you staying at, Jesus?"



Of course, people have always looked for different things in Jesus and we still do:

Those with ailments were looking for healing – yes, we still pray for healing, cures and miracles this very moment. Those who questioned his legitimacy often were simply looking for a fight – perhaps that is the genesis of all these church fights within and

among denominations? Who or what is legitimate about Jesus and us? Just asking... Those excited by his miraculous abilities often yearned for entertainment – and entertainment today still promises to draw people to worship. Yet, then as now, the emptiness of entertainment becomes eventually evident. Those who were disillusioned with their faith wanted Jesus to give them a new spark – today we do that by church shopping...only to feel empty a few years later and start the search all over. Those who had deep economic needs looked for Jesus to be their personal food pantry (remember what happened to those who were fed with a few fish and loaves – they came back for more immediately and Jesus scolded them).



Today some preachers still try to get you to think that faith in Christ automatically provides you with "the good life". No, it doesn't. Those who loved the covenant Israel had with God and who had a good understanding of what it meant to be the Chosen People were looking to find a military leader in Jesus who would make Israel great again. Christians dealing with other world religions today must be mindful not to confuse defending the faith with fighting political battles and wars. Within our own faith tribe, we would be smart to recall that Jesus does not deal in party platforms. Those who sought forgiveness and hope looked for a Savior then and still look and need one today! Jesus' answer to the two men who covered their interest in him with a question about hotel accommodations, received the answer the church now has given for 2000 years: Come and See.

Come and See goes beyond Jesus' willingness to show off his sleeping quarters and offer lemonade. Come and See is an invitation to a relationship with Jesus. For sure, Jesus is not a concept, a paradigm, yes, not even a conviction per se ... Jesus is a person who directly and clearly calls out to others, namely

us, to come and see who he is and what he is all about.

Who wants to sign on to a system of thinking, I ask you? When Jesus bids us to come and see that means for us to go and die to all that would distract us from him. When we hear the words 'Come and see' our minds probably supply an additional phrase, something like this: don't take my word for it – get up and check it out for yourself!



Remember the Samaritan woman at the well who told her whole village to come and see – you won't believe this guy until you meet him!? The angel at the empty tomb shouted: Come and see - he is not here for he is Risen! Come and see is a two-fold invitation. The first part says: let us go on a journey, let us embark on an adventure, let us take a pilgrimage, let us make a leap of faith. When Jesus issues that invitation and we follow it, we are not throwing ourselves into a dark hole, hoping that the bottom may be layered with pillows. This is different from playing the lottery or buying raffle tickets. Jesus' request to 'Come' means that he has a plan and a destination in mind for us. He knows what is going on, he knows what will happen to us and he is committed to being by our side as a steadfast companion. When Jesus says 'See', he gives us the opportunity to experience ourselves what he holds in store for us. Salvation does not happen by proxy but directly to you and me. Just like nobody can believe FOR you. Really, you have to believe yourself.



to point to Jesus in the marketplace, the school, the office or the home and shout as John did: Behold, look, here is Jesus, the Lamb of God. And then we add the very words of Jesus: Come and see.

ENALCW

Soup/Pie & Dessert Supper Sunday, February 9th



4-7:00p.m.

Chicken & Dumpling, Chili, and
California Medley soups

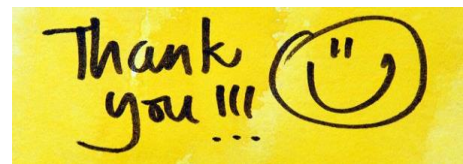
Door Prizes, Bake & White Elephant Sale



Free Will Offering

Come one and all for food and
fellowship!!

(Snow date: February 16th)



Thank you, Property Committee! Once again we thank you for shoveling and cleaning off the driveways around the parsonage. Please know that we are extremely grateful for that help! We also appreciate your always prompt and kind response to any concern in and around the parsonage. We enjoy our home and it is our firm commitment to treat the parsonage in a manner that it will serve Emmanuel and its future pastors for many years to come.

-The Zamzows

Stewardship Musings:

Many, if not most, months when I write these Stewardship Musings, I do not mention money. I have written about time, talents and issues like homelessness, plastic straws (years before most people paid attention to the matter!) and have shared Bible quotes and inspirational sayings. I have explained the difference between being owners and managers of what we have. Today I am not going to skirt around the issue but get to the core: Stewardship is indeed frankly and foremost about how we deal with our money. Of course, having been occupied for several weeks with our 2019 as well as the 2020 budget for Emmanuel, I should not be surprised that such comes to my weary mind.



I am certainly very pleased that we are carrying an overage into 2020 and it is obvious that we have been good stewards of what has been shared with us here at Emmanuel. Thank you to all who made that possible. Still, when I look at the division of the giving units that are shown in our Annual Report booklet, I am not exactly ready to get out my confetti and start a parade. While 'it all came out in the wash', there are plenty of giving categories that are decreased from last year. Yes, some of us have stepped up but lots of us have stepped down or not stepped anywhere.



Let me show you what it is I am speaking of: by way of example, the giving units that contribute between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per year have shrunk by 7 households from 17 to 10 households. If we assume (and it is truly only a mathematical assumption) that the average giver in that category

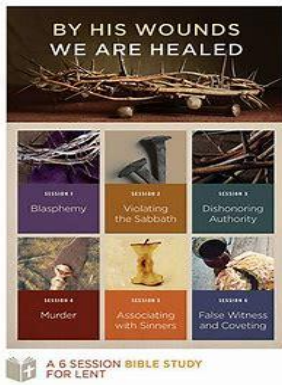
gave \$3,000 (exactly in the middle of the level), we took in \$51,000 from that group in 2018 and only \$30,000 in 2019. The drop of seven households in that giving range decreased our income by \$21,000. As you will agree, that is nothing to sneeze at, as they say. My point? We need to be mindful not to think that a cut-back in our personal contribution level does not matter. It does! You know how it goes: it's a penny here and a dollar there and pretty soon you are talking real money! ☺☺

One of the Bishops in my former life used to tell the story of his father, a blue-collar worker from central Iowa. His theory was that he had to give three offerings: one for himself, one for the person who would love to give more but was truly unable to do so, and the third time for the person who refused to contribute. Therefore, based on his theory, he gave \$15 when he wanted to give \$5 and \$30 when he thought he needed to give \$10.



I heard the story about twenty-five years ago and it has stuck with me the entire time. Seldom have I encountered more Stewardship wisdom from all the learned folks who have spent decades to research the matter for congregations. The Bishop's father understood what it means to be a member of the household of God and of a specific faith family with various blessings, needs and behaviors - and he did his utmost best to play his part.

Looking at Emmanuel's financial future, I think I am suggesting just that: for you and I to do our utmost best. To keep in mind our own need and commitment 'to give' and the reality of the world around us....those who can't contribute at a level they desire due to circumstances beyond their control and those who simply won't contribute at a level that is right, honorable and God-pleasing. Come to think of it: even when we talk about money it is always about God and our neighbor, isn't it?



Our 2020 Lenten Season begins on February 26th, Ash Wednesday. On that day and every Wednesday until the beginning of Holy Week, we will gather under this theme:

BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED.

While Jesus had no sins of his own for which he deserved to die, yet his enemies falsely accused him of violating every commandment of God. In each service we will see that it was our sin, our disobedience that Jesus bore in his body on the cross. The Lord laid on him the “iniquity of us all”. Jesus suffered the penalty of death in our place, and indeed, by his wounds we are healed. Come and let us contemplate the Wounds of Blasphemy, the Wounds of Violating the Sabbath, the Wounds of Dishonoring Authority, the Wounds of Murder, the Wounds of Adultery and the Wounds of Stealing.

Each service, except Ash Wednesday, will be preceded by a Simple Supper provided by the members of our standing committees. You are asked for a free-will offering. This will provide you with the opportunity to be at worship without worrying about a meal for your family. Please see the calendar for times.



Lent is the season of the Christian liturgical calendar beginning on Ash Wednesday and leading up to Easter. Lent lasts approximately 6 weeks. The season is 40 days long, but it is celebrated over 46 days. This is because each Sunday of Lent is considered a 'mini Easter' and is not counted as part of the 40 day Lent observance. Many people think of Lent as a

particularly Roman Catholic practice, but Christians have observed the tradition of Lent since the early days of Christianity. Writings about the observance of Lent date back to the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. And today, many Christian traditions and denominations – including, but not limited to the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, Lutherans, Anglicans, Methodist, and some Reformed traditions – regularly observe Lent.

Lent is meant to be a time of spiritual preparation. The purpose of the 40 day length is to recall and parallel the 40 days of temptation that Jesus endured in preparation for his public ministry: *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.* [Matthew 4:1-2](#)



Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the desert while spiritually preparing for his ministry, so too Christians are to spend Lent spiritually preparing for Easter. During this time, Christians are meant to focus on spiritual self-examination, renewal, and growth. In many traditions, Lent is a time of fasting and abstinence. This is where the common "I'm giving up meat or chocolate for Lent" idea comes from. But, in addition to self-denial, Lent is also a time of active practices like alms-giving and acts of mercy, forgiveness, repentance and prayer. Many Christians 'give up' something during Lent in order to spend more time, money, or attention on these mentioned practices. These Lenten practices are a means to work in unison to prepare the heart to experience anew the power of Christ's suffering, death, and ultimately, his glorious Resurrection.

A LOOK AHEAD...



The month of March will bring two special Sunday events to Emmanuel. On the 22nd Chris Dahl, the new Riverside Bible Camp Director, will be here and share about their ministry. You should be expecting a few camp songs that day. Logos Legos will participate in the worship as well – in other words, it will be a YOUTH SUNDAY at our church. The kids are also planning a pancake breakfast – watch for specific information in the weeks to come.



The following Sunday, March 29th, the Ringtones Hand Bell Group will be joining us for worship. This Bell Choir plays in the greater North Iowa area (recently at the KCMR Christmas Concert) and loves to share their music in communities like ours. It should be a treat hearing the sound of bells as we praise God with our music.

You're invited...

Pancake Brunch on Sunday, February 9th from 11:30 a.m.- 1p.m. at Bethel United Church in Bolan. All you can eat pancakes, sausages, bananas, oj, milk and coffee. Free will donation for VBS expenses for the June 22-26 VBS program.

68th Annual Fish Fry on Thursday, February 13th from 3-7 p.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Toeterville. Adults: \$12/ K-6 \$5, under 5 Free. All you can eat! Dine in or Carry out!

A New Bible Study for Women



Pew Sisters is a Bible study for women that reports on the real-life stories of real women. From alcoholism over post-partum depression to cancer, women generously share the story of God's faithfulness in their lives. Each session includes the real-life story of a woman and some questions to reflect on what a given situation means for us as believers in Christ. We all have a story to share and in the community of a sisterhood we will be able to do that with and through this study. If you want to participate, you will need to purchase the book for \$10.00. Please talk to Sharon or Charlotte for further information. We will study six of the twelve sessions and will meet once during the morning hours and again in the evening of the same day. Also, we are distributing the lessons over a period of about eight weeks and the days of our gatherings will not be identical on purpose to give more of you opportunity to participate. Here are the days we will study together: **Monday, April 13th, Monday, April 27th, Wednesday, May 6th, Tuesday, May 19th, and Wednesday, June 3rd**. We are looking forward to YOU being part of our discussion!

-TWC (The Women's Council)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church,

I am enclosing four checks as a memorial in honor of Luella Pagel. Emmanuel Lutheran Church was important to Mother and our entire family, and we greatly appreciate the love and care shown to our mother throughout her life.

Sincerely,

Larry Pagel

THANK YOU

...to Tammy Borchardt who folds our weekly bulletins and places them in our mailboxes and likewise helps us fold our monthly newsletter. This is a big time commitment and we thank you, Tammy!!

...to Renae Kroneman who manages our website. Be sure to invite friends to take a look at www.emmanuelgrifton.org

...to those who have served on Committees and/or the Council for the last four years and are now required to 'take a break': Kim Badker, Merlin Bartz, Amy Edwards, Val Bork, Calvin Thompson, Philip Hackbart, Nicole Cole and Sharon Hulshizer. Likewise, we thank Janis Hackenmiller and Julie Schaub for serving a term on the Evangelism and Stewardship Committee respectively. Thank you to all of you for your time, effort, commitment and love toward your tasks. Your service made a significant difference in the life of our congregation. Thank you for four years!!!

...to those who have agreed to serve a new two-year term on various committees: Brooke Stiles, Megan Rustad, Will Bartz, Jamie Trenhaile, Candi Feldt, Gloria Hackbart, Lisa Bartz, Emi Kuntz, Janice Nelson, Marena Henkle, Patti Rustad, Yvonne Tourtellott, Michael Cole, Jacob Dalluge and Ramie Kuntz.

...to those who are continuing their work on our standing committees: Brittany Bartz, Kim Hicken, Katie Bass, Jody Hackbart, Sara Kuntz, Myra Dierks, Linda Schotanus, Sandy Thompson, Doris Ralph, Duane Rustad, Marsha Wilde, Paul Hackbart, Jason Hackbart and Daniel Nack.

...to our returning Council officers, Darren Marsh (President) and Mark Fredrickson (Vice-President).

...to our 2019 Nominating Committee of Curt Schaub, Donna Schilling, Gary Schotanus as well as Kim Badker and Nicole Cole who fulfilled the Council requirement on this Committee and to those who will do the work in 2020: Liz Backhaus, Ardis Hanson, Albert Ralph and Teri Sorenson.

...to Mavis Stevens for representing us on the LHR Auxiliary; to Clarice Bartz and Donna Schilling for their agreement to be delegates to the IA Mission District Convocation; to Richard Neeley for serving on the Grafton Housing Board as our representative.

Thank You Stewards

...to the January Hospitality Team: Lori & Darren Marsh, Steve/Kristi/Zane Arzberger, Vanessa & Levi Hanson, Liz Backhaus, Chris & Teresa Braun, Joy & Jerry Buechele, Mark Fredrickson, Elaine Huebner, Sally & Bryce Mayer, Tammy Schuttler, Callie & Jason Athey, and Abbie & Josh Steinberg.

...to Val & Brianna Bork for serving on Altar Guild.

...to our Counting Team: Myra & Duane Dierks, Laurie Nack Bublitz, and Michael Cole.

...to our ushers: Keven Bruesewitz, John Bork, Phil Hackbart, Sawyer Dalluge, Val Bork, Jason Hackbart, and Brianna Bork.

...to Michael Cole and Corrie Kuntz for operating the P.A. System.

...to Val Bork for serving on Lay Ministry for the month of January.

THANK YOU EMMANUEL

A Big THANK You to St Ansgar and the surrounding communities for your generous donations made to the rescue unit at our pancake breakfast and also throughout the year. Your support keeps us going!!!! Thank you -St Ansgar Rescue

We are deeply grateful for your support of Orchard Place and thank you for your gift of \$1,445. You are making a difference and it really means A Lot! We truly appreciate your generosity and support-thanks so much! -Wendy Ingham, VP of Development.

Your gift to Water Mission is making a significant difference in the lives of people who lack access to safe water. Thank you for blessing us and those we serve with this life-changing gift! Faithfully yours, Ken

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Mitchell County Food Bank, we wish to "THANK YOU" for your donation of \$1,445, Those who are served by the Food Bank also greatly appreciate you continued support. Sincerely, Leo Chisholm & Yvonne Tourtellot.

Thank you for your 2019 year-end gift of \$1,445 to Lutheran Services in Iowa. Thank you for wrapping care and compassion around so many Iowa families. Have a blessed New Year! Jason Lee, VP of Philanthropy and Church Relations.

To the congregation goes a big thank you for the generous gift to the Share Shoppe to continue our work. God Bless you all. -Mona Pierce, Mgr.

Thank you, Friends, for your gift of \$50 to the ministry of KCIY. God Bless you Emmanuel! May the Lord use your gracious gift to bring His Word and hope to many people. In His Service, Matt Dorfner.

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous donation of \$200 to [Crisis Intervention Service](#). In addition to the practicality of your gift, it is encouraging for us to know that concerned individuals within the community are aware of the needs we meet and are willing to assist us in our mission. In Peace, Mary J. Ingham, director.

Thank you for your contribution to [Manna of Worth County](#). Your help has allowed us to serve an average of 149 people per month for the last quarter of 2019. We are grateful for your partnership so no one in Worth County will be hungry. With sincere appreciation-Bobbie Bendickson, Coordinator.

On behalf of [LMVFM](#) I would like to thank you for your donation of \$200 to our ministry. Your support allows us to continue our work with veterans, military contractors, and their families. Together in His service, CH Leslie Haines, Executive Director.

Dear friends at Emmanuel- Greetings from [Riverside!](#) Thank you for your generous gift towards the Lord's continued work at [His](#) camp! We're gearing up and excited for another full year of Christ centered ministry here and thankful for your partnership in making it happen. God Bless you, Chris Dahl, Director.

On behalf of the people we serve at the [Community Kitchen](#), accept our sincere appreciation for your donation of \$250. We could not serve the numbers we do without the support and assistance of people like you. Sincerely, Amanda Ragan

On behalf of [MercyOne North Iowa Hospice](#), thank you for your generous donation of \$300. Your gift allows us to provide quality end-of-life care in both the patient's home setting and in our inpatient unit, allowing patients to live out their remaining days with peace, dignity and comfort. Sincerely, Katie Schuessler, Director.

Thanks so much for your contribution to support our mission of supporting individual life choices by providing services that lead to greater purpose and independence. Sincerely, Michael Mahaffey, [One Vision](#) Chief Development Officer.

Your Church's alliance with [Food for the Poor](#) has helped to transform the lives of poor families by lifting them out of poverty and empowering their futures! Your support has helped provide safe shelter, education, clean water, food, and so much more. Blessings, Ed.

Thank you so much for your generous gift to [Caring Pregnancy Center](#). May God bless you! Sincerely, Jo Hafermann, Executive Director.



TWC (The Women's Council)

January 14, 2020

Emi shared devotions based on Psalms 91:1-2, titled "Safe and Home". We learned that the Lord is the perfect dwelling place and our "home". TWC opened with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes from December were approved as read. Treasurer records show \$7,705.80 in savings and \$2,156.79 in checking. Clarice and Charlotte each had bills to be paid. Correspondence was Thank you's from Pastor Z, CIS, ELC Choir, WNALC, Share Shoppe, One Vision, and Francis Lauer.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: End of January-possible quilting days. Sheets have been sewn together. March 22nd will be Soap/blanket Sunday. 2) Soup Supper: Sam Venechuk will cook the chicken; groceries have been reserved at the Jmart. Sharon has applied for Thrivent funds and will do advertising. Clarice will call for pies and desserts. Suzanne Walk will take charge of the California Medley soup. We will have a bake and white elephant sale. 3) Yearbooks: Sharon will work on them after she returns from her vacation.

New Business: 1) Replacement of chairs in Fellowship Hall: we would like to initiate a fund for purchasing new chairs, this fund would need council approval to establish it as a church fund. Sharon will bring up at the next council meeting. 2) Kitchen Remodeling Project: Charlotte has contacted Ron from Wilson Supply about dishwasher information. 3) Annual audit of books: our books will be done when church ones are done. 4) Hospitality Team reorganization: we need to go through the teams and discuss with leaders how things are going. We will need to do some rearranging in the near future. 5) New Bible Study: Is called [Pew Sisters](#) and will be led by Pastor Z, beginning in April to June, offering 5 sessions. Books will be purchased by participants to use for the study.

Upcoming dates: Soup Supper on February 9th. Next TWC on February 18th at 9 a.m. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

THE TREASURER'S REPORT



<u>General Fund</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Carry Over Balance	\$ 10,476.50	\$ 10,476.50	\$ 14,577.77
Revenues:			
General Offerings	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 144,370.17	\$ 140,000
Petznick Estate	\$ -	\$ 821.78	\$ 1,020
Other Revenues:			
Dividends	\$ 110.00	\$ 58.26	\$ -
Land Rent	\$ 4,275.00	\$ -	\$ -
Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ 497.73	\$ -
Facility Rental	\$ 300.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 300
Monthly Interest	\$ 40.00	\$ 60.93	\$ 40
Wedding Fees	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Total Revenues	\$ 139,725.00	\$ 146,108.87	\$ 141,360.00
Total Available	\$ 150,201.50	\$ 156,585.37	\$ 155,937.77
Total Expenditures	\$ 148,191.00	\$ 142,007.60	\$ 151,042.00

Benevolence Balance **\$190.09**

Revenues:

Sunday offering	\$6,249
Mission Fest	\$754
Water Mission	\$250
Flood Relief	\$675
Thanksgiving Offering	\$1,510
Total Revenues	\$9,438.00

Expenditures: From Special Collections

NALC-Petznick Estate	\$156.55
Dayspring Children's Mission	\$754.0
Water Mission	\$250.00
Flood Relief	\$675.00

Expenditures: From 2019 Benevolence Budget

North American Lutheran Church (NALC)	\$2,000
Iowa Mission District of NALC	\$400
Bremwood Lutheran Children's Home	\$1445
Share Shoppe	\$1445
Mitchell County Food Bank	\$1445
Manna of Worth County	\$1445
Orchard Place	\$1445
Total Expenditures	\$9,625

Benevolence Balance December 31, 2019 3.09

Building Fund

Balance January 1, 2019 \$16,649.84

Revenues

Offering	\$1,971.00
Petznick Estate	\$410.89
WCDA Grant	\$42,847.54
Total Revenue	\$45,229.43

Expenditures

Church Maint. & Repairs, Supplies	\$50,572.64
Parsonage Maint. & Repairs	\$844.65
Total Expenditures	\$51,417.29
Building Fund - December 31, 2019	\$10,461.98

Undesignated Gifts and Memorial Fund

Balance January 1, 2019 \$7,449.74

Revenue:

Offering	\$458.00
Thrivent- Banner Money	\$9,273.12
Total Revenue	\$9,731.12

Expenditures

Christian Banners	\$6,912.84
Copy Machine Down Payment	\$1,000.00
Baby Changing Station	\$203.29
Omega Audio Equipment	\$1,546.15
Gift of Giving- Bishop/Pastor	\$467.23
Interwoven - banner consultation	\$125.00
Transfer-out, banner & food bank	\$1,199.62
Total Expenditures	\$11,454.13
Undesignated G&M Fund - Dec. 31, 2019	\$5,726.73



Electronic Giving Online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history.

Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.emmanuelgraffton.org,
- 2) Click on the [Give Now] button,
- 3) Click on the Create Profile button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.

-OR-



Apps make life easier. With Give Plus Church, you can use your smartphone to give anytime, anywhere!

Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Download the free app on your Apple or Android
- 2) Search for Emmanuel Lutheran by zip code - **50440**
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to log in or donate as a guest to make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit card or checking/savings account.



Congregational Council Minutes

December 16, 2019

Meeting called to order by: Darren Marsh-
President

Attended: Pastor Zamzow, Mark Fredrickson-V
President, Kim Badker-Education, Merlin Bartz-
Evangelism, Nicole Cole-Youth, Marena Henkle-
Stewardship, Paul Hackbart-Property, Sharon
Hulshizer-Lay Ministry, Christa Larson-Treasurer

Devotions: Mark Fredrickson

Education Segment: None

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

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

Proposed Budget 2020- Nicole and Mark needed to
leave early. Discussion on the proposed budget
for 2020. Christa needs to do some adjusting with
the new software to create the look to the report
that is most beneficial for council to use in the
future. Duly noted is the savings to health
insurance with Pastor Z being on Medicare.
Council will meet again to check end of the year
figures for income and carry over.

Pastor's Report: 1) Joe Fiala will be getting Pastor's
computer on the 30th and upgrading that, while
returning the Secretary's computer. 2) Pastor Z
will be taking vacation on Dec. 30th & 31st, Jan.
2nd & 3rd, back in the office by the 4th

Board Highlights:

Property- Two items have been updated, per
insurance requests: GFCIs in bathrooms and a sturdy
tv stand replacement. New tile in Education Unit will
be laid when the installation people are available.

Evangelism- No report.

Lay Ministry- No report.

Stewardship- No report.

Youth- No report.

Education- Christmas program on December 15th
went well.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as received. Short
discussion on the newsletter being done in color: it
does increase the cost about \$90/month- a suggestion
was made to ask for sponsorship to help offset this
cost.

Membership review: none

Unfinished business:

- a) **PA System:** Has been received. There
are some issues with it to work out.

New Business: none

Next meeting date and time is Tuesday, January 7th at
7:30 p.m. for a budget workshop

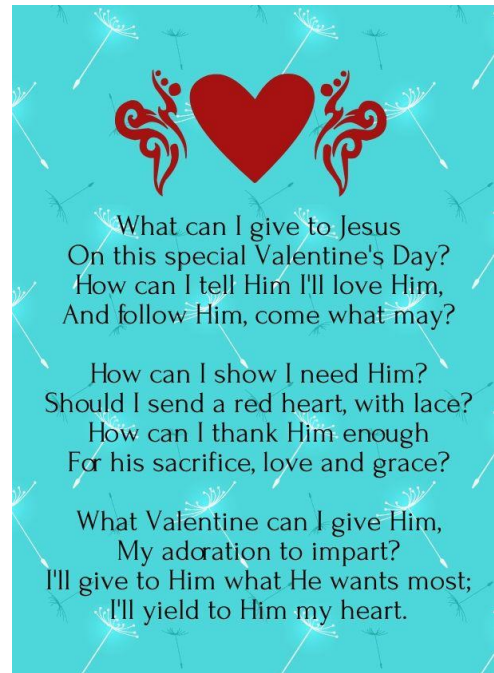
General meeting: Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Darren Marsh

M/S/C- Meeting adjourned with the Lord's

Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer





(This is a letter from our
Compassion International
child, Lawrence -age 12)

Dear Sponsor,

Receive much greeting from me. I am happy to write
to you believing you are doing well as we do with my
family especially my mum, she sends her greeting to you.
She says "Happy New Year". I received your letter and I
was very happy to hear from you. I hope you enjoyed
your Christmas as I did. It was wonderful to celebrate the
birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. I and my family together
with friends went to the church then back home and had a
meal together- you know what? It was a chicken slathered
by my mum with ugali (corn bread)! We also ate chapati
and rice. Otherwise I wish you a happy New Year as I
request you to pray for me and my family. Pray for my
studies and health. Thanks. -Yours, Lawrence Emojong

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	3	4	5 <u>4:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Choir	6 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Bible Study	7	8
9th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship (Choir) 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School 4-7 p.m. ENALCW Soup/Pie & Dessert Supper	10	11 <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Church Council	12 <u>4:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Choir	13 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Bible Study	14  Valentine's Day	15
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship- <u>Noisy Offering</u> 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	17 Presidents' Day	18	19 <u>4:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Choir	20 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Bible Study	21	22
23 Transfiguration of our Lord 9:30 Worship (Choir) 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	24	25	26 <u>4:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion <u>8 p.m.</u> Choir	27 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Bible Study	28	29 

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February 2020

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

308 4th Avenue
PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

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<u>February</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, February 2 Holy Communion	Brooklyn Hackbart & Gracie Urbatsch	Greg & Shal Zillgitt	Marena Henkle
Sunday, February 9	Gus Walk	Crystal Wilde	Marena Henkle
Sunday, February 16	Kenzie Sorenson	Marsha Wilde	Donna Schilling
Sunday, February 23	Camden Trenhaile	Jay & Jeannie White	Charlotte Cole
Wednesday, February 26 (Ash Wednesday-HC)	Madison Edwards & Sophie Urbatsch		Charlotte Cole

Hospitality Team IX **Leader: Clarice Bartz**

Virl & Bonnie Deal
Garry & Angela Backhaus
Val & John Bork
Greg & Shal Zillgitt
Sara Buechele
JC & Sandy Dawald
Candi & Dave Feldt

Sharon Hulshizer
Corrie Kuntz
Ramon & Sara Kuntz
John & Sandy Duval
Will & Brittany Bartz

Ushers:

Michael Cole
Dave Feldt
Candi Feldt
Cole Feldt
Corrie Kuntz
JC Dawald

Altar Guild

Emi Kuntz & Linda Schotanus

Counters:

Dan Nack
Jason Hackbart
Marlin Rosenberg

PA System: Mark Fredrickson & Gregg Urbatsch

Lay Ministry: Emi Kuntz **Share Shoppe:** Linda Koschmeder

