

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

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SEPTEMBER 2020

**SPONSORED BY
Alan & Mavis Stevens**

FROM THE PASTOR

WE ARE AS IS -

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:5-6)

Since I do not watch TV during the daytime, I don't even know if the "Judge Judy" show is still being broadcast. However, there was a time when I would tune into the program because (at least then!) the judge was a no-nonsense person who always cut to the chase when someone was trying to blow smoke in her eyes or make ridiculous requests in hopes to get much more than they had coming.



One could just about always predict the verdict when a person wanted their money back after buying a used car (most often in a private party interaction) which turned out to be 'a lemon'. First of all, usually the buyer did not have a mechanic inspect the vehicle before the purchase. Their first mistake! Their second mistake was not realizing that when you buy a used car it is an "as is" sale (unless there are agreed upon circumstances, often via a dealer, that indicate otherwise, of course!). End result: the buyer did not get his or her money back – and usually received the extra blessing of a stern lecture from Judge Judy.

Of course, it is not only a used car that we sometimes wish to get rid of. In one of my previous parishes a neighbor/parishioner adopted two young girls after having had them in foster care for a good long time. It certainly seemed like the perfect solution for everyone involved. Unfortunately, a few years later it became clear that the older of the two and the mom just could not get along. Matters went from bad to horrible in quick progression. Michael and I would volunteer to have the girl stay at our house for a weekend just so a complete collapse of the mother-daughter relationship could be avoided in hopes that cooler heads would prevail on Monday mornings.



Eventually, however, the mom went back to the judge who had presided over the adoption proceedings and asked to have the adoption reversed. By that time she feared for her physical wellbeing and the daughter had moved in and out of the house in hopes to finish High School without being constantly caught in shouting matches. It was not good! The judge recognized such - but his answer was not what both, mom and daughter expected. Rather than signing off on a pretty hopeless situation, giving everyone a break and a chance at a better, albeit separate, tomorrow, the judge made it very clear to the mother that an adoption 'is it'. There are no returns at the customer service counter when you take in a child to be your own. Adoption comes with an 'as is' sticker. In that spirit the judge allowed for a number of adjustments in their living arrangements and placed certain expectations on mother and child but the adoption was not going to be reversed. 'This is your daughter and nothing can change that', was his final word before he gaveled the case closed.



We all come with an 'as is' sticker when it comes to our relationship with God, don't we now? We have our issues, we are far from perfect. I am sure sometimes God might be tempted to want His money back or have the adoption procedure reversed. After all, in our Baptism we DID become adopted sons and daughters of our heavenly Father. God chose us then and still chooses us. God picked us! He took us as we were and are: sinful, rebellious, filled with false pride and a good dose of self-righteous egotism.



The good news is that God loves us despite our faults. God has taken us into His family just the way we are. He will not try to give us back. Rather, God loves us so much that he gave His only Son to die for our sins and through him gives us the promise of eternal life. God took us 'as is' and continues to work on us, with us and through us. There was a time when adopted children learned a very important mantra: I am chosen. I am wanted. I am loved. I am adopted. It is a good mantra. Sometimes I wish it had been in vogue when I was adopted – at a time when people kept adoptions a secret as if there was shame involved. We have been adopted, in our Baptism, by a God who wanted us even with the sign 'as is' dangling around our necks. This God loves us with unconditional love that is frankly strange to humans. God does not love us because we are worthy. Rather, we are worthy because God loves us. And yes, God strives toward our 'improvement' each and every day as we wake up and are given a new beginning so we may live out more fully the great gift we all have received in our adoption as children of God, make no mistake about it. We are a work in progress, as the bumper sticker says. And yet, no matter how and where we end up in our striving and struggling: God takes us, loves us, forgives us and saves us 'as is'.

Just another one of God's "lemons" – PZ+



Sunday, September 13th – Rally Sunday

Our Worship on September 13th, which is our traditional Sunday School Rally Day, will take place at 9:30 am at the Grafton Park. Due to Corona Virus restrictions we will not be able to engage in group games or a luncheon as we have in the past. However, we still will be able to worship God, install our Sunday School teachers, give our students a chance to gather with their new teacher and receive a goodie-bag and simply enjoy our time with each other. The Service will be led by a small band. Please feel free to invite your friends. *Please bring along a chair and remember to wear a mask unless you can truly distance yourself from those not in your 'social bubble'.*

Pastoral Acts

Landyn Lynn Tesch, daughter of Sam and Alissa



Tesch, was baptized on Saturday, July 25th.

Landyn was born on June 11th. Her sponsors are Will & Ashley Morrow. May Landyn grow into

the faith God bestows upon her and be a blessing to the world.

A Memorial service was held at Emmanuel on Saturday, August 1st for Ken Fredrickson.



A Memorial Service was held for Lowell Walk on Saturday, August 15th at Emmanuel.

May God comfort all those who mourn...



Hello Sunday School Families

We are so excited to get back to Sunday School this year and share God's love with our kids. As with everything this year, it will look a little different than in past years. We will be following the lead of the public schools and taking precautions within our classes.

First, we will be holding the singing portion and whole group meeting within the Sanctuary so we can social distance with the large group.

Next, we will be asking all students to wear masks while in Sunday School. We will also be purchasing supplies for every student so each student will have his or her own supplies.

Due to teaching availability, there will only be 3 Sunday School classes this year. They will be grouped as follows:

Preschool-PreK

K-3rd

4th-6th

If any class has over 5 students on a Sunday, we will be moving into the Library room to better allow for social distancing. Teachers will wipe down the room after Sunday School is over so as to keep the environment free of germs for the next week.

In addition, Emmanuel's custodian will also clean each room thoroughly once per week.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Brittany Bartz at brittany.jolani.bartz@gmail.com.

-Thanks, The Education Committee

**Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it-
Proverbs 22:6**

July 10, 2020

Friends,

As you know, the reading of the Bible on the Courthouse grounds was organized differently this year, as we read on the honor system and chose our chapters.

I read Chronicles I and II (King James Version) at the Courthouse. I found it entertaining and chose it because of the Plains of Sharon and the Sharonites-plus the history. It took me 5 hours 15 minutes and I read for Emmanuel Lutheran, Grafton. It is always a wonderful experience,

-Sharon Walk



Joys & Sorrows

Chrystal Braun will celebrate her 93rd birthday on Sunday, September 27th. In lieu of a visit or phone call, we know she would most appreciate receiving cards from her friends at

Emmanuel. If interested in helping her celebrate, you may send cards to Chrystal Braun, 2077 400th St. Grafton, IA 50440.

-Thank you and God Bless - Chrystal Braun Family



Congratulations to Cierra Dalluge and Aaron Peterson on the birth of their daughter, Korbyn Jo, on August 5th. Blessings to all who love her best.

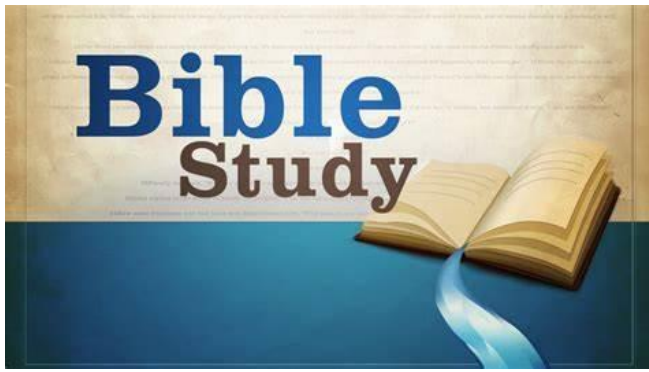


We continue to pray for all who suffered through the derecho that went through Central Iowa and for all who are helping with the dangerous clean-up. Likewise, we do not want to forget the people of Colorado and California who are struggling with horrific wild fires and all who have been impacted by the tropical storms and Hurricane Laura along the Gulf coast of our nation.



We know you have missed it! The Church Council has decided that we will slowly but surely offer our coffee hour again, starting September 20th, for those who feel comfortable. However, in order to do this, we need to follow some good and needed guidelines so everyone who joins in can be comfortable and, most of all, safe. The round tables will seat only four (4) people. Please do not add chairs!!! In the past we have had up to ten people gather around a little table – that will not work for now. Take a close look at how all the chairs are arranged in the room and know that they are meant to remain this way. If you want to join a group of folks who are not in your family/social bubble, please ask before you sit down. Do your best to wear a mask when you are not eating. We will ask the Hospitality Teams to offer only one item – prepacked and/or pre-plated aside from coffee and tea.

Is this ideal? Nope. Is it a good alternative vs. no fellowship hour at all? Yep. We certainly understand that many of our members will not be comfortable yet to come and join in coffee and conversation and we want to assure everyone that whatever choice you make is absolutely respected and accepted. As with all other plans: everything is subject to change and/or cancellation based on health developments in our immediate area. Thank you for understanding.



Our Thursday morning Bible Study will resume (for those who are comfortable) on Thursday, September 10th at 9:30 am. We will meet in the Library and will be able to social distance fairly well as long as we do not have more than 10 to 12 people in the room, depending on spouses, etc. in attendance. Please plan on wearing a face mask. Sanitizer will be provided. As always, there will be coffee and juice but please refrain from bringing 'goodies' to share.

We will study an ever exciting and controversial theme via three short video sessions: the rapture. The title of our reflection is The Rapture Racket and was a well-known response to the famous Left Behind series a number of years ago. Professor Barbara Rossing, a Lutheran, argues vigorously that the rapture is not biblical and not a valid Christian teaching. You can see how we will have a spirited discussion!!! A Zoom study is certainly a good possibility - if you wish that we look at that option, let Pastor know.

Looking for Epistle sponsors for upcoming newsletters...

If you should like to sponsor a monthly newsletter, make a check to Emmanuel for \$90 and list Epistle sponsorship in the check memo line. Thank you to those who have already sponsored for the year and to those who will in the future. We like being able to bring you the news in color!

Thank You Stewards

...to Charlotte Cole and Myra Dierks for serving on Altar Guild for the month of July and to Tammy Borchardt for serving in August.

...to our Counting Teams for July and August: Duaine & Myra Dierks, Marlin Rosenberg, Lisa Bartz, Connie Rosenberg, and Michael Cole.

...to our July and August ushers: Paul Hackbart, Garry Backhaus, Duaine Dierks, Marlin Rosenberg and Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Ken Kroneman, and Calvin Thompson.

...to Michael Cole and Corrie Kuntz for operating the P.A. System in July and Mark Fredrickson and Gregg Urbatsch in August.

...to Lisa Bartz for serving on Lay Ministry in July and Janice Nelson for the month of August.

...to Donna Schilling and Linda Koschmeyer for representing us at the Share Shoppe in Northwood

...to Marena Henkle and Will Bartz who continue to work several hours each Sunday to make sure we can broadcast our worship service via Facebook and the Emmanuel website. Thanks also to Renae Kroneman for posting it on the webpage. Please remember: if there is a delay in the 6:00 pm streaming on Facebook the issue lies not with us but Facebook and we always try our very best to reconcile the glitch as soon and as much as we are able. Nothing is going to be perfect this side of the Resurrection ☺ A huge thanks to Will, Renae and Marena!!!

...to Mike and Mari Momberg who organized a workday at the Bill and Tammy Borchardt farm. Thanks to all who came and helped or supported the effort in any way. What a very generous undertaking! Thank you, Mike and Mari!!!

...to Donna Schilling for serving as our delegate to the virtual Convocation of the NALC - which means she (and Pastor Z as well) listened to 10 hours of presentations, reports and voting procedures. This was a labor of love!!

...to all who have sponsored our Epistle newsletters in our past.

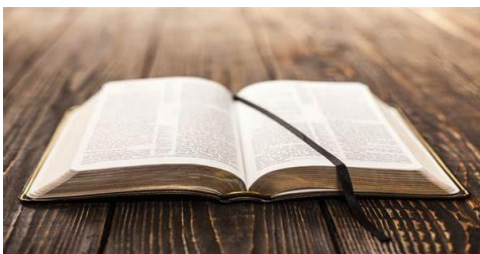
...to Alan and Mavis Stevens for sponsoring this edition, in honor of their Anniversary month.

... to Natalie Gregerson for the October sponsorship.



Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, who is the most Faithful of them all?

Lutherans are ‘people of the Book’ – we treasure the Bible, God’s Word to us, as the norm for all of life. It is a confession we have made for 503 years now and I doubt it will change anytime soon. When it comes to the Bible as a book per se, pastors get one question and one comment that come up over and over again. The question: Which Bible translation should I use? The comment: The King James Bible is the only true Bible.



Let’s start with the question. Which Bible? Well, it depends. Our readings in worship are from the *NRSV*, the *New Revised Standard Version*. It is a widely used translation in most mainline churches these days. It was produced by a committee in the 1980s with the goal to be ‘as literal as possible and as free as necessary’. This means that you can be fairly certain that it follows the original languages of Hebrew and Greek closely. I think it is a good translation, easy to read and understand. As its name indicates, there also was a *Revised Standard Version* before this one. The *RSV* was the first one to come out in what we would deem ‘modern English’. There are certain passages that are so familiar to us in *RSV* language, that one probably is well advised to use it for public reading. I have a copy of Psalm 23 from that translation in my funeral folder because Psalm 23 just is not the 23rd Psalm unless we hear the *RSV* translation! The *RSV* itself was a revision of the *American Standard Version* of 1901 – which in turn was based on the *King James Version*. Thus, the *NRSV* is in direct relation to the beloved *KJV* which was used for more than three centuries. So, which one then?

Aside from many wonderful Story Bibles for smaller children I would, and do, recommend the *NRSV* for most purposes and people. I certainly would not give a *King James Bible* to a teenager, the language barrier is simply too high for most young people. As a person for whom English is not her

mother-tongue, while I understand the language of the *KJV*, I find it cumbersome. However, for those who grew up with the *KJV* and love its language: wonderful, more power to you! Continue to dwell in God’s Word with this version that brings you comfort and joy! Just be kind and don’t ask everyone to appreciate it as much as you do, and remain mindful not to assume that it is the only ‘true version’. Choosing a Bible version is a bit like discussing cars: I love Ford, you love GM, and they love Toyota.

Then there is the *English Standard Version*, the *ESV*, which is closer to the *RSV* than other translations but the language is a bit more ‘updated’. For a good number of years, every clergy person bought a *NIV*, *New International Version*, because it is more ‘readable’.



Finally, there are versions that are more properly considered to be *Paraphrases* of the original texts. You will find the language rather modern and if you are looking at familiar texts you may be surprised that the wording is totally other than what you are used to. The *Good News Bible* and *The Message* fall into that category. I generally do not recommend these Bibles for personal study or devotion but I always welcome them in a public Bible Study! Looking at versions all the way from *King James* to a very loosely translated script can aid a discussion very much. However, these ‘modern’ translations are not necessarily closely tied to the original text and therefore increase the danger of shaping the Word of God in our own image. Of course, there are also Study Bibles, Journaling Bibles and Reader’s Bibles (written more like a novel).

No matter which version you like, use or find most helpful in your devotion or search for understanding, read the Bible regularly and often. God’s Word sustains and aids our faith and brings us comfort, challenge and courage for the days ahead. PZ+

2020 NALC CONVOCTION REPORT (Virtual)

Friday Session of NALC Convention on August 7, 2020

Convocation:

Convocation was started with Bishop Selbo's homily on Ephesians 3:14-24. Paul used the phrase "For this reason" many times throughout his writing of Ephesians, emphasizing that faith is rooted in the history, life and death of Jesus Christ. "For this reason," we remember to be filled with the goodness of God. Are we taking enough time asking God's blessings on our life? Do we pray for the right things: faith and fullness of God in our lives? How wide, deep and high is the love of God in our lives? Don't miss what this convention is all about. NALC has grown in the ten years that it has been in existence. NALC was formed exactly in August of 2010, and grew to today as a denomination of more than 440 congregations in just ten years. However, we have much work to do.



Bishop Selbo's Report: Why is a "2020 Vision" Important? Ten MEASURABLE goals are listed here. 1. We hope to grow in discipleship and mission in the future to follow Jesus. This is our TOP PRIORITY. We are given the Great Commission to go into the world and make disciples

of every nation. "For this reason," we are asking each Mission district to add a new congregation by 2023. 2. We hope to have emphasis on outreach for missions and we hope to have 45 new mission starts by 2022. 3. Starting congregations need support, so by the end of 2021 we hope to use retired pastors who are able and willing to work on this support for new missions. 4. We must have continuing education for lay people who are leaders. Members need to provide opportunities for pastors and other leaders to carve out time in their day for education. 5. We need a strategy for our growth component. 6. We wish to provide a good seminary to recruit and train the next generation of Pastors, and hope to have 300 new Pastors in the next decade. 7. We need a communication strategy to identify and unite congregations electronically. 8. We need to

evaluate our end goals. 9. We need finances to reflect a balanced budget. 10. We need a strategic committee to revise and rewrite our shared goals as stated above. A motion was made and seconded to accept these ten goals. We will vote on this during the Saturday session.

Sat. Session of NALC Convention via Go-to-Meeting August 8, 2020 at 12:30

Opening Pr. Buba from Atlanta. Ephesians, Chapter 3: 20 and 21 says all glory, all praise from generation to generation is the work of the Holy Spirit. This work is continuous, and in every way it is immeasurable. It's hard to understand and grows in the power of Christ at work within our church. Our church needs to ask God for His help and vision. We must ask for the right things, however—to proclaim the glory of Christ Jesus!

Executive Council asks for constitutional amendments to articles 6.5 regarding changes in 3 categories presented by Pr. Chavez:

1. Decide upon **the name of regional groups.** Motion made and seconded to postpone to Change to "Mission District" until next year in Corpus Christi, TX, Passed.

2. **Apportionment of lay delegates** to be in accordance with number of and within congregations. Much discussion. Motion carried.

3. **Bi-annual convocation shift** because of affordability for time, energy and resources of finances. After a lot of discussion, Pr. Cathy Braasch: Can amendment be divided into two parts? Purpose of dividing it is that part can be acted upon as follows: 10.0.5L to read duties and functions of Executive Council would be to report all actions **quarterly** to congregations and clergy. Passed. Final motion to delay decision on bi-annual Convocation failed by one vote.

Meanwhile, the **report of the Nominating Committee** was presented. Executive Council members elected: Rev. Carl Rasmussen (IA), Court of Adjudication elected Sam Duncomb (IA), Board of Regents elected Rev. Dr. Eric Waters (TX), Dr. Paul Krueger (ND), Dr. James Lehmann (IL)

Motion to accept 10 point **"2020 Mission Vision"** by Bishop Selbo to move forward. Passed



The following reports were presented: 1. **Youth Ministry report by Gary and Lori.** 2. Verlyn and Luke Hahn, CFP, **Healthcare for NALC and Financial Group Report.** 3. **Life-to-Life Discipleship report.** Given by The Rev. Gagnon, webinars may be available in fall of 2020 or in 2021 for congregational use. 4. **Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries, Congregational Anniversaries, Military Chaplains, Personnel & Families, Chaplains Serving in other Contexts , & Seminarians by Bishop Selbo.** 5. **North American Lutheran Seminary Report.** 40 students reported by Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen, new President. 6. **Recognition of Newly ordained Pastors.** 8 new pastors.

Report of Treasurer by Ryan Schwarz. Ryan will step down after serving 10 years, NALC has surplus of \$369,303 in 2020. Four categories of funds are: Operating Budget (\$1,814,915 in 2020, Theological Education (deficit of \$189,223 in 2020), Disaster Response (deficit of \$111,775 in 2020) and Dedicated funds (\$1,320,559 with surplus of \$252,675) Accepted

Presentation of Proposed 2021 Budget. Theological Education (deficit expected of \$245,397), Great Commission Fund (deficit expected of \$95,500), Disaster Response Fund (surplus of \$26,500 expected for 2021) and Total proposed Operating Budget for 2021 \$2,066,450, Approved

Other reports followed: **Living & Giving Stewardship Team, NALS Life Ministries.** by Ms. Rebecka Frontz, Chair, **Report of Women of the NALC** by Ms. Jacqui El Toro, Chair, **Report of the Disaster Response Team** by Ms. Mary Bates, Coordinator, **Report on Missions** by Rev. Dr. Buba with video and musical report.

Reminder of 2021 Events Feb 2-4, Pastors' Conference in San Antonio, Apr. 13-16 Canadian Rockies Theological Conference, Lutheran Week, August 2-6 in Corpus Christi

Closing Devotion We are in battle, remember Christ is with us. Remember we are centered in Him! **Close of Mission Convocation** at 7:52 PM CDT



Respectfully submitted, Donna Schilling

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



In addition to the devastating loss of life, injuries and widespread damage caused by the powerful explosion in Beirut on August 4th, three containers with 47,000 quilts and kits of LWR were destroyed. These items were at the port of Beirut to be distributed to families hit hard by the increasing economic situation in Lebanon, including families who fled conflict in Syria. LWR will seek to replace the lost items eventually but it will be a difficult task. If you are concerned about this effort, you can donate by going to the LWR website or by sending your contribution to LWR, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Derecho Relief

The NALC is making significant efforts to support those in Central Iowa who have suffered greatly with the recent derecho. The NALC Disaster Response has brought in a trailer with supplies and will be continuing to assist in the recovery. Donations may be given to help in this work by sending gifts payable to: North American Lutheran Church, 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220 New Brighton, MN 55112-2202 (“Disaster Response Fund – Iowa Derecho Relief” in the memo)



Also, NALC Disaster Response is working on coordinating 2 Saturday workdays in September for any volunteers who wish to come and help. We will pass along the details on this as we receive them. Our Dean, Pastor Hahn, is encouraging the sending of gift cards as well. If you want to participate in this effort you can drop off your gift cards at Emmanuel's office and we will forward them to those who will distribute them in a proper manner. They are looking for gift cards to Walmart, Target, Fareway, etc. If you wish to bring in a gift card, please do so between now and September 15th.

There also may be some volunteer opportunities in the future and we will let you know as that information becomes evident. Please keep all the people who have been affected by this tragedy in your prayers. Especially with the extent of the damage and the sheer volume of the debris, the safety of those who are cleaning up and repairing power lines, buildings and property continues as a prime concern.



**This month's
“Musings” are
coming to you
in form of a
Devotion from the Stewardship Task
Force of the NALC.**

Based on Matthew 14:13-21

The most challenging time for congregations financially is often the end of summer. June, July and August usually find parishioners away from Sunday

worship — away from the gathered community, which unfortunately means a drop in offerings. And what about this year, when in most places the gathered worshipping communities have not been “gathered —” at least, not gathered in the church nave for worship? And for those congregations who have been able to gather for worship for a few weeks, it generally means not passing the offering plates. It remains to be seen whether COVID-19, the summer months, social distancing and the lack of normal worship services causes congregational offerings to drop more than usual as the summer draws to a close. Some have been predicting a potential 20% drop in congregational giving since the pandemic began. Some have suggested giving to the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) will reflect a similar downturn. Some have taken measures to address fears of a serious loss of income from giving.

What are we hearing from our congregations in this regard? Surprisingly, and one might say miraculously, what we are hearing is that congregational offerings in some places seem to be up by 20%! How can this be?

As with the disciples gathered with Jesus and more than 5,000 people on the seashore, it seems that some of our members are responding to the need created by the pandemic by placing their resources in the Lord's hands, that mission and ministry may continue and, indeed, be multiplied. This is the great miracle and message of the feeding of more than 5,000. In the Lord's hands, as He takes our humble loaves and fish and blesses them, they satisfy human need yet still provide sufficient remains for the Church — a hint, manifested by the 12 baskets full left over — 12 being the number of the Church, founded upon the 12 apostles. What an encouraging message for us as disciples and followers of Jesus, for our congregations and the NALC!

By all indicators, we are not yet through the COVID-19 pandemic and there may indeed be financial stresses and strains within congregations and the NALC as a whole. And yet, let us be faithful stewards, as we are able, in this season of trial, uncertainty and challenge. In a time of great need and stress, the disciples of Jesus respond generously and sacrificially. Thanks be to God!

*Written by Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel, Assistant to the
Bishop for Ministry & Ecumenism.*



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
June 9, 2020**

Meeting called to order by: Darren Marsh-
President

Attended: Pastor Zamzow, Mark Fredrickson-V
President, Sandy Thompson-Evangelism, Marena
Henkle-Stewardship, Michael Cole-Property, Emi
Kuntz-Lay Ministry, Brittany Bartz-Christian
Education, Will Bartz-Youth, Sharon Hulshizer,
Secretary/Treasurer.

Devotions: Will Bartz

Education Segment: Council member shared in
the reading of the NALC Bishop Dan Selbo's
response to the current racial turmoil, titled, "First
Steps in Addressing Racial Tension."

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

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer shared a few
reports generated from ICON-CMO as examples of
reports available for use. There are some issues yet
to be resolved in numbers reported. Updates to the
PPP program was discussed: it has been extended
from 8 weeks to 24 weeks, along with other minor
adjustments that may not affect us at ELC. Reports
accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report: 1) ELC has received money for
the Scholarship Fund, as well as money to be used
for Sunday School materials. 2) Pastor will begin
home visits this week for those comfortable in
doing so. 3) NALC Convocation-still uncertain
whether it will be held in August or not. 4) July
vacation: Pastor Weeg will be filling in while Pastor
Z is gone. 5) Chart of concerns: Discussion
regarding future COVID regulations and
openings/changes for worship and other church
events. There was unanimous consent to purchase
some disposable masks and to maintain all safety
measures with the adjustment of decreasing the
space between pews by one line of pews on the
north side only!

Board Highlights:

Stewardship- none

Lay Ministry- none

Evangelism- none

Y& E: 1) Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp has been
cancelled this summer. Campership money was
refunded, it was determined to send 25% of that
refund back to them. 2) VBS has been canceled-
materials will be saved for use next year. 3) Only
14 children have signed up for SS this fall, along
with a few teachers. Will continue reaching out to
get kids and teachers lined up for when SS
resumes.

Property- 1) Tuckpointing has been completed. 2)
LP Contract has been signed for the upcoming year.

Membership review: none

Unfinished business:

a) Social Media- Will has not started a
promotional campaign as he is looking into the
best content to use.

New Business:

a) Pastor Z computer bill- has been received and
paid. After discussion of the many hours that was
spent in upgrading the computer, **M/S/C to write
an additional check (\$81.05) to Joe Fiala for the
difference of what was originally paid and
\$600.**

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Michael Cole
Next meeting date and time is Tuesday, July 7th at
7:00 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Financial Balance Information for June 1-30, 2020

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$1,489.94

Interest: \$6.39

Offering Revenues: \$10,218.00

E-giving Revenues: \$1,054.42

Total Revenues: \$11,278.81

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$12,768.75

Expenses: \$10,079.39

End of month Balance: \$2,689.36



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
July 7th, 2020**

Meeting called to order by: Darren Marsh-
President

Attended: Pastor Zamzow, Marena Henkle-
Stewardship, Michael Cole-Property, Emi Kuntz-
Lay Ministry, Brittany Bartz-Christian Education,
Will Bartz-Youth, Sharon Hulshizer,
Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent: Mark Fredrickson-V President and Sandy
Thompson-Evangelism.

Devotions: Michael Cole

Education Segment: none

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

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

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer shared a few
reports generated from ICON-CMO-the annual
budget percentage is accurate, with information
having been updated. The funds report needs
some clarification yet. Reports accepted.

Pastor's Report: 1) NALC convocation will be vir-
tual. Pastor and Donna Schilling will be representa-
tives. There will be a three-hour session on Friday
night and a four-hour session on Saturday. 2) PZ
will be on vacation from the 9th to 17th, back on Fri-
day as a travel day is not needed since she is not
going out of state. 3) Dates have been chosen for
Memorial services. 4) Our Record books are in
need of repairing, along with the service book on
the altar. M/S/C to document record books for
historical archive and send in for restoration.

Board Highlights:

Stewardship- none

Lay Ministry- none

Evangelism- none

Y& E: none

Property- 1) Parsonage bathroom- to be com-
pleted when all schedules are lined up.

2) Flooring in ed unit will be repaired by the com-
pany that installed it. 3) Kitchen wall repair- still
looking into getting a contractor.

Membership review: none

Unfinished business:

a) Social Media- Still in progress.

b) Coronavirus/Worship decisions

1) Hymnals: will continue printing liturgy
and hymns in the bulletin. 2) Pew distance: will re-
main as is. 3) Recording of services will con-
tinue.

New Business:

a) Employee Reviews

Sharon and Jeff are both due for review. Will
be scheduled in August.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Brittany Bartz

Next meeting date and time is Tuesday, August 11th
at 7:00 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Financial Balance Information for July 1-31, 2020

General Fund:

Beginning Balance: \$2,689.36

Interest: \$6.70

Offering Revenues: \$ 6,454.50

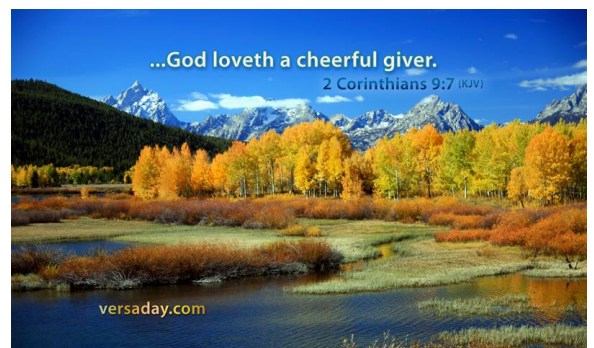
E-giving Revenues: \$ 1,160.74

Total Revenues: \$7,621.94

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$10,311.30

Expenses: \$11,018.99

End of month Balance: -707.69



Women's Ministry

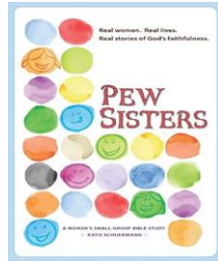
No TWC Meetings were held in July or August. Pew Sisters Bible Study began on August 31st.

Please join us Other activities will be limited according to COVID regulations, but we will keep women informed of any upcoming events.

The next TWC meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th at 9 a.m.

It's not too late...

Pew Sisters is a Bible study for women that reports on the real-life stories of real women. We will be able to 'social distance' in our library but recommend that you purchase your own copy of the book rather than one copy among friends. The dates for our gatherings are: (10:00 am and 7:00 p.m.)



Monday – August 31st

Tuesday – September 15th

Monday – September 28th

Tuesday – October 13th

Monday – October 26th

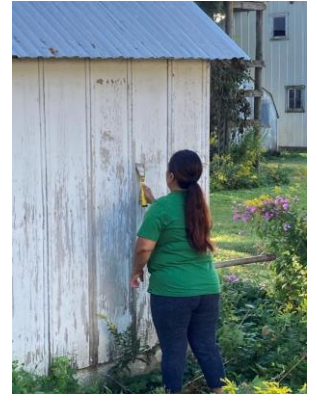
Tuesday – November 10th

Monday – November 23rd

ENALCW will be assembling School kits and Personal Care Kits for LWR this fall. If you would like donate any items, these are the items we are still in need of:

- 30-centimeter ruler, or one with both centimeter and inches
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens, no gel ink
- Box of crayons (16 or 24 count)
- 2 ½ "eraser
- Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)
- Sturdy comb

**Monetary donations are welcome as well-
Thank you!**



Bill and Tammy Borchardt Work-a -thon!



Thank you, Volunteers!



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September 2020

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

308 4th Avenue
PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Address Service Requested

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, September 6 th	Ryan Cole	Debby Bublitz	Marena Henkle
Sunday, September 13 th (Service at the Grafton Park)	<i>SS RALLY DAY</i>	*****	Donna Schilling
Sunday, September 20 th	Ryan Hackbart	Keven & Sandy Bruesewitz	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, September 27 th	Kaelee Hicken	Laurie Nack Bublitz	Marena Henkle

Hospitality Team IX (*Fellowship will resume on Sept 20th, with adaptations for COVID 19.*)

Team Leader: Charlotte Cole

Altar Guild: Mavis Stevens

Share Shoppe: Linda Koschmeder

PA Operators: Orland Bartz and Garry Backhaus

Lay Ministry: Duane Rustad

September Ushers:

Keven Bruesewitz,
John Bork, Phil Hackbart,
Sawyer Dalluge, Val Bork,
Jason Hackbart, Brianna Bork

September Counters:

Orland Bartz
Teresa Braun
Gloria Hackbart

