

# EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
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**MARCH 2021**

**SPONSORED BY**

**Dan Nack**

## FROM THE PASTOR

### **Those whom God has joined together – God will separate**

*Martin Luther lovingly called his wife "Kitty, my rib" and declared marriage "a school for character." - "There is a lot to get used to in the first year of marriage," Luther wrote. "One wakes up in the morning and finds a pair of pigtails on the pillow which were not there before."*



*Dr. Martin and Katie Luther*

Ruby and Jeff are the names of the first couple at whose marriage ceremony I presided in the spring of 1992. Since that day I have officiated at well over 200 weddings. That is most likely a much higher number of wedding ceremonies than most pastors can record. I do not

know if Ruby and Jeff 'made it' or if their marriage became a divorce statistic. I do know though that a few of these 200 plus marriages ended in despair and anger. In some cases I am unfortunately not surprised, in others I am dumbfounded and for all marriage dissolutions I am deeply saddened. Surely, nobody rejoices over a broken marriage, even if it is the 'best of two evils' for all involved. Yet, I also know that many, if not most, of the marriages I pronounced are still strong, blessed with unfailing commitment even in the midst of grave life-altering events and circumstances. That certainly makes my heart sing! It is beautiful, exciting, and deeply gratifying to see how a young love matures and grows and becomes a blessing to the surrounding world. Yet, I know one thing for sure: all of these marriages, good, bad and in between, as well as my own marriage, will eventually end. 100 percent of all marriages will come to an end and none of us will be able to beat those odds.

Many couples who are ready to make a life-long commitment to each other fear that something, anything, will interfere not only with

their happiness and love, but cause them to lose their partner. It is a fear we all can confirm: you will lose each other. Not necessarily by choice but by death. Even if the blessing of the Lord rests upon a relationship for 50, 60, 75 or more years – eventually one of the partners will have to lay the other into the arms of God...and that day can be a day of endless sadness and sorrow.

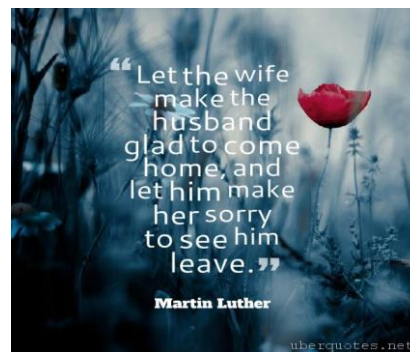
Some people assume that a funeral for old partners is not as difficult as when a younger person is called into the Church Triumphant. Yes, there indeed is a huge difference between great-grandparents bidding each other farewell and a young couple whose hopes and dreams are cut short by untimely death. Still, the better and/or longer a marriage, the harder the end can be, indeed. Having had 'a good run' does not make sorrow easier – how does one survive without the person who has been with you for a lifetime of joys and sorrows, pain and delight?

“There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage.”

- Martin Luther

I once read the advice of a seasoned pastor who seriously admonishes couples at the time of a wedding to give one another back to God already; back to the Creator who made them and sustained them; getting the grieving over with before it can become unbearable. “Let God hold the other. That way, each new day when you find your partner next to you, you can rejoice in the temporary gift you still have with you.” Yeah, I am not so sure that we all linger too much and too long on the “until death parts us” phrase during the speaking of the vows. We know it, but then...

Living in the real world, we all recognize that it can be hard to think of our spouses as gifts from God who are on temporary loan from Him. Yes, there are even days when we have a tough time thinking of our children as such. But, you see, this ought to be our encouragement - toward our own marriage and toward the marriages that touch our lives in our circle of relatives and friends.



Sometimes, truth be told, unmarried people can be very helpful in keeping a clear eye on what marriage is to be because they are not burdened by the nitty-gritty, big and small adjustments, compromises and sacrifices married people have to make on a daily basis. The concerns of single persons are equally important yet different. We all watch marriages, we all are influenced by marriages, most of us are here because of marriages – there is not a person who does not know something about married life, theoretically or practically or both.

After 45 years of marriage I know so much ‘practical stuff’ that I need to be mindful not to forget the ‘theoretical’ – as in: what is the purpose of marriage, what was God’s intent, what must and can the church say about the union of two people God brings together?



Of course, we all know that not every marriage will be lived in gladness and delight – and still: I pronounce the words *“Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder,”* with particular sincerity and emphasis, making sure my voice can be heard loud and clear and strong (yep, I do, even if you don’t remember it that way!!) ...for God’s intent for our commitment to be life-long is loud and clear and strong...” *The Lord God in His goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come...*” The community of God’s people still needs to be able to say that – while we acknowledge the reality of brokenness and stand ready to pick up and support those whose commitments falter. *“Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.”*

It has been a great joy for me to officiate at weddings. Unlike many of my colleagues, I do not dread weddings (only once did I have to shake my finger at a mother of the bride). We are witnesses to something grand when we come to watch the beginning of a marriage: two people making a commitment and God granting His blessing; a man leaving his father and mother and joining his wife. In the midst of the joy it is a good idea to keep in mind that this will be a temporary endeavor – a gift for now but not forever. When we join that union, we automatically agree to give our spouse back to the One from whom they came: God. Whether death comes early or late, expected or like a thief in the night: in the end, it is all part of the mystery of life only God can explain and solve. When we say “I do” we agree to treasure the fleeting gift not only for better or worse, but also for longer or shorter.

May all marriages bless the God who ordained them and may we support all who have made that commitment to each other...until we all finally sit at the marriage feast of the Lamb of God that has no end. Love in Christ – PZ+

## Pastoral Acts

**Eva Pearl Vandewalker**, daughter of Ryan and Katie (Venechuk) Vandewalker, was baptized on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Eva was born July 14, 2020. Her sponsors are Robin Winfield and Cory Winfield. May Eva grow into the faith God bestows upon her and be a blessing to all those around her.



## Joys and Sorrows

**Condolences...**to Bonnie and Viri Deal, on the death of Bonnie’s brother-in-law, Russ Hickman.



...to Linda Kroneman and family, on the death of her father, Ed Jordan.

**Our deepest sympathy...** to the family of Becky Dalluge, who passed away in Rochester, Mn.

**May God comfort all who mourn.**

**We remember...** the loved ones of all Covid-19 victims. May God comfort and strengthen all sad hearts and may the promise of the Resurrection shine brightly into the lives of all mourners near and far.

## Thank You Stewards

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole, Donna Schilling and Marena Henkle for their faithful service and special music.

...to our Share Shoppe volunteer, Charlotte Cole.

...to our February counters: Jason Hackbart, Dan Nack, and Marlin Rosenberg

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Emi Kuntz.

...to Emi Kuntz and Linda Schotanus, our Altar Guild stewards.

...to our PA operators, Mark Fredrickson and Gregg Urbatsch

...to our Ushers: Michael Cole, Dave Feldt, Candi Feldt, Corrie Kuntz, and JC Dawald.

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

[www.emmanuelgraffton.org](http://www.emmanuelgraffton.org)

... to the members of the Property Committee and to Darren Marsh for faithfully clearing our sidewalks around the church and parsonage of ice and snow. It is very much appreciated! Thanks for keeping us safe.



## Thank you Logos Legos...

For the Valentines Day goodies and other Random Acts of Kindness for Emmanuel's members. Your actions have not gone unnoticed and are appreciated by many!

Continue His work and the sharing of God's Good News!



## REMINDER:



**Daylight Savings time begins on  
Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

# HOLY WEEK

**Please take note of the following Worship  
Opportunities for  
Holy Week and Easter Sunday:**

**Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) 9:30 a.m. –  
Worship with Holy Communion**  
**Maundy Thursday (April 1<sup>st</sup>) 7:00 p.m. –  
Worship with Holy Communion**  
**Good Friday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) 7:00 p.m. – Worship**



## Easter Sunday:

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

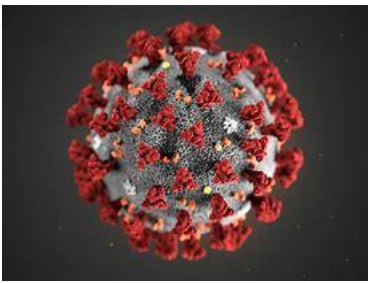
**7:00 a.m. Worship with  
Holy Communion**  
**9:30 a.m.- Worship with  
Holy Communion**

**Easter Lilies** will be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday- you are invited to order one or more to be placed *"In memory of"*, *"In honor of"* loved ones, or *"To the glory of God"*. Lilies may be ordered from the church office via phone, or you may fill out a form that can be found in the bulletin for the next few Sundays, or forms located in the narthex or office. The cost is \$13 per plant. You are also welcome to bring in your own.



Even during the Season of Lent, each Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. We thank the Band members for sharing their gifts and talents with us. Thank you to Will Bartz for organizing the contemporary services.





## Covid-19 Vaccination

- For those of you who can use this information: there is a MercyOne vaccine interest list. You can call the Mercy Family

Health Line at 641-428-7777 and ask a nurse to fill out a form for you. While we all are still encouraged to contact Public Health in our individual counties, this is another opportunity to get closer to that shot in the arm. Please share this with those who could benefit from this information. Thank you.

## DID YOU KNOW

...that while 27 percent of Americans identify as spiritual but not religious, a quarter of those surveyed in April of 2020 said the pandemic has increased their religious faith? Some report a greater awareness of God.

...that only one member of the current Congress self-identifies as 'religiously unaffiliated'?

...that the percentage of Americans who rate their own mental health as excellent took a hit during Covid? It is now worse than in the last two decades.

...that a British archeologist thinks he has



discovered the childhood home of Jesus? Carved out of stone the home lies beneath a fifth-century convent in Nazareth. Such claims about the

place had been made before but then had been rejected. After 14 years of research, the archeologist believes that the home speaks to the expertise of Joseph, a carpenter.

...that more than 1,600 people signed a petition protesting the Washington National Cathedral's decision to host evangelical megachurch pastor Max Lucado as a guest preacher in early February, saying the move contradicted the Episcopal Church's stance supporting LGBTQ inclusion? The petition reasoned that Lucado had written unfavorably about homosexuality and gay marriage. Cathedral Dean Randy Hollerith defended the decision to let Lucado speak, saying the church's commitment to its LGBTQ members remained "unshakable and unchanged," but "when we only engage with those with whom we agree on every issue, we find ourselves in a dangerous (and lonely) place." "My hope is that all churches and faith communities will find ways to open their doors to perspectives different from their own," he said. Cathedral spokesman Kevin Eckstrom emphasized that Lucado, a

popular author and teaching minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, was not asked to preach on LGBTQ issues. The Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson, retired Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire and the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican communion, presided over the service where Lucado preached.



...that during President Biden's Inauguration Gospel singer Yolanda Adams performed Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" as part of a memorial to those



who perished due to Covid-19? This prompted many in the Jewish community to wonder if event planners had ever really listened to the overtly sexual lyrics of the song which is inspired by King David's adulterous escapade with Bathsheba. Adams used

slightly adjusted lyrics to make the song more appropriate for the occasion. An unauthorized version of the musical piece had been used at the Republican National Convention.





Plans are under way for our 2021 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL the first week in August. Parents, please fill out the

survey which you received from Brittany Bartz so we can make the most opportune decisions for the majority of those who are interested in participating. Thank you!

## STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

I don't know about you, but one of our goals as parents was to raise children who would be generous. I am not even sure that we were particularly good examples in the matter, but I think we can say that (factually) our sons are very generous with their time, talents and possessions – even if in spite of their more miserly parents! Surely, raising generous children is even more difficult today than it was some 40 plus years ago. We live in a society in which 'wants' are much higher on the totem pole of life than 'needs'. But: to their credit, when I speak with young students about the difference between those two, wants and needs, they clearly do know what is at stake! Of course, children learn by example and mimic what they see as much if not much more than what they hear. My father-in-law's favorite cheeky saying was: do as I say not as I do. Well, good luck!



Because we know better than that, we also know that we need to demonstrate

faithful Stewardship to children. If children never see mom and dad make donations toward charitable causes, how would they be encouraged to do so themselves? Likewise, if parents bemoan openly the fact that they need to put money in the offering plate or decide to tell kids that a quarter is as good as a dollar when it comes to generosity – well, the result will speak for itself. I myself remember days when I clearly impressed upon my sons that writing that weekly check to our congregation was a hardship – and I did not mean it as sacrificial giving from the bottom of my heart!

Of course, we all tell younger generations that money does not buy happiness – and it indeed does not. We all know wealthy people who are miserable. Contentment however, is aided by remembering from whom all blessings flow and that we have what it takes to make a difference in the life and world of others. We can put our children on the path where what they do matters!

*Luke 12:48 From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*



Years ago parents were told to teach children that all funds they receive should be divided into three sections – spending, saving, and sharing. I think the spending comes naturally☺ Some kids are very good at saving at a young age. The sharing piece of this puzzle is not always self-understood. That is where parents, grandparents and friends come in. By talking. By demonstrating. By explaining. By encouraging. Children can learn early on that being generous is satisfying as well as God-pleasing. Working with you on setting a good example. PZ+



**Congregational Council Minutes  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Meeting called to order by:** Darren Marsh- President

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

**Absent:** none

**Devotions:** Darren Marsh

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

**Review Printed Minutes:** M/S/C to approve minutes from December as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report accepted.

**Pastor's Report:** 1) There is another round of PPP loans being offered. Recommendation to not pursue at this time. 2) Need to find a solution to the squirrel damage to the parsonage lawn before it gets any worse. 3) Christmas Nativity set is aging and issues that go along with that, possibly time for a replacement? 4) Discussion on resuming the live band, contemporary service. Contemporary services will be held in Feb, March, and April and reevaluated after that time. 5) Announcement of Pastor's resignation due to retirement- effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. June 13<sup>th</sup> will be PZ's last Sunday. Discussion of the next steps and the call process were discussed.

**Board Highlights:**

**Stewardship-** Written report submitted. Committee met on 12-14 and discussed end of the year Benevolence, Food Bank, and Estate Interest distributions. 2020 Benevolence distributions were reviewed and 2021 budget was set. Next meeting will be at the Annual meeting on January 31.

**Lay Ministry-** none.

**Evangelism-** none

**Y&E:** none.

**Property-** Kitchen cabinets and countertop have been removed from the kitchen. Wall repair is to begin this week.

**Membership review:** M/S/C to remove Raechel (Bruesewitz) Fossey from membership per personal request.

**Unfinished business:**

- a) Coronavirus/Worship decisions:
  - 1) Fellowship hour: Discussion on whether to resume fellowship.
  - 2) Lent/Simple Supper: Lent services will be in person. Ash Wednesday is on February 17<sup>th</sup> this year. Council recommends no simple suppers or fellowship hour after church at this time.
- b) Nominations Committee: Most positions are filled. Vice President remains open. Discussion on filling the position.
- c) 2021 Proposed budget: was completed.  
**M/S/C to approve proposed budget.**

**New Business:**

- a) Grant application for kitchen remodeling: **M/S/C to approve application of grant for kitchen remodeling.**
- b) Setting of Annual Meeting Agenda:
  - 1) NALC ratification of two amendments to be voted on. Council agreed on using two separate written ballots.
  - 2) PZ will announce/discuss resignation.
  - 3) Location of Annual Meeting will be in the sanctuary.  
**M/S/C to approve the agenda for the Annual Meeting.**
- c) Annual audit: Persons to do the audit will be contacted and the audit will be scheduled when Sharon is ready.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Mark Fredrickson

Next meeting date and time is Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

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## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Financial Balance Information for January 1-31, 2021 General Fund**

**Beginning Balance: \$35,392.10**

Interest: \$7.37

Offering Revenues: \$7,194.00

(Excludes 1-31 offering -deposited in February)

E-giving Revenues: \$1,127.03

**Total Revenues: \$8,328.40**

**Total revenues + Beginning balance:  
\$43,720.50**

**Expenses: \$19,529.36**

**End of month Balance: \$24,191.14**

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**Encouraged:**  
**Sponsors for future Epistle newsletters.**  
**\$90/month-Thank you!**

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**Women's  
Ministry**

TWC (The Women's Council)  
February 16, 2021

Sharon opened with devotions titled, "A Truck Driver's Hands", based on Romans 12:3-8. We were reminded that each of us has a gift that God has given us to use. TWC began with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes were read from January and accepted as amended: "Secretary minutes from December were approved as read." Treasurer reports \$2,609.72 in the checking account. There are no outstanding bills.

Correspondence was shared from Food for the Poor, One Vision, Salvation Army, NALC, ELC Rochester, and the VA Clinic.

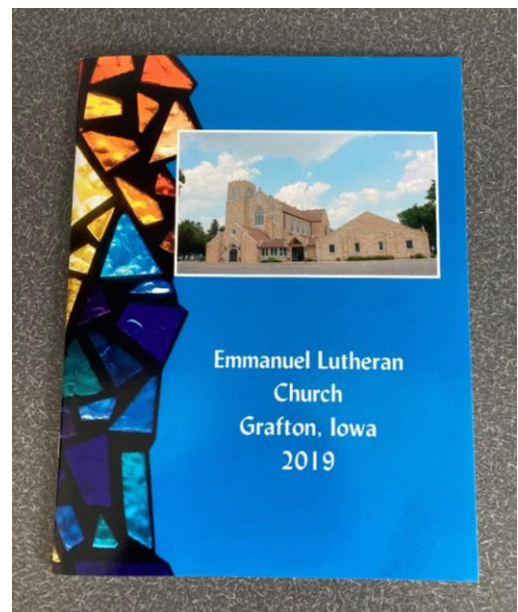
Old business: 1) LWR Projects: Sewing days were held in January with some women helping at church and others taking quilts to finish at home. More are planned for March and April. 42 quilts have been completed. One will be given to a victim of a house fire that is a friend of a congregation member. **M/S/C** to give a quilt and a \$100 Jmart gift card to Marsha Wilde. 2) Kitchen remodeling project: Not all of the grant was submitted, but a partial one was made. We will wait to see if approved and move forward from there. 3) Annual audit of books: will be done in early March.

New Business: Confirmation/Graduation Reception: for family members is being planned for April. There will be seven confirmands and three graduates this year.

Upcoming dates: March TWC will be March 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.















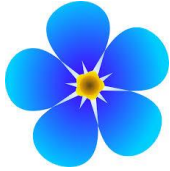



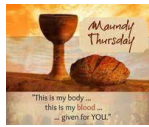

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



**2019 Pictorial Directories are  
available for purchase  
If you are interested, please  
contact the office.  
They are \$10 each.**



# March 2021 (All events subject to COVID 19 Restrictions)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 	3 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.  <b>Lenten Service</b> 7:00 p.m.	4 <u>Bible Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	5 	6 
<b>7 Third Sunday of Lent</b>  <b>9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion</b> <b>10:40 Sunday School</b>	8 	9 Y & E Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.  <b>Lenten Service</b> 7:00 p.m.	11 <u>Bible Study</u> 9:30 a.m.  Church Council 7:00 p.m.	12 	13 
<b>14 (Turn clocks ahead)</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>  <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>10:40 Sunday School</b>	15 	16 TWC (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b>  <u>No Confirmation</u>  <b>Lenten Service</b> 7:00 p.m.	18 <u>Bible Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	19 	20 
<b>21 Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>  <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>10:40 Sunday School</b>	22 	23 	24 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.  <b>Lenten Service</b> 7:00 p.m.	25 <u>Bible Study</u> 9:30 a.m.	26 	27 
<b>28 Palm Sunday</b>   <b>9:30 Worship</b> <b>10:40 Sunday School</b>	29 Holy Week 	30 	31 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m.	April 1st <b>Maundy Thursday</b> (First communion)  7:00 p.m.	April 2nd <b>Good Friday</b> 7:00 p.m. 	<b>Easter is Sun., April 4th</b> Services will be at 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

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# March 2021

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

308 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
PO Box 282  
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Address Service Requested

<u>March</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
<b>Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <i>Lenten Service</i>	Ryan Hackbart	*****	Marena Henkle
<b>Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup></b> <i>With Holy Communion</i>	Kaelee Hicken	Phil & Gloria Hackbart	Donna Schilling
<b>Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Lenten Service</i>	Zach Badker	*****	Marena Henkle
<b>Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	Gus Walk	Janis Hackenmiller	Marena Henkle
<b>Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Lenten Service</i>	Aundraya Paulson	*****	Marena Henkle
<b>Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup></b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	Brooklyn Hackbart	Vanessa Hanson	Marena Henkle
<b>Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Lenten service</i>	Gracie Urbatsch	*****	Marena Henkle
<b>Sunday, March 28<sup>h</sup></b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Jaxon Edwards	Marena & Cody Henkle	Donna Schilling

**No Fellowship after worship until further notice!**

**Ushers:** Curt Schaub, Jon Badker, Zach Badker, Neil Hackbart, Darren Marsh, and Cody Marsh,

**PA Operators:** Randy Hulshizer & Gary Schotanus

**Lay Ministry:** Lori Marsh

**Counters:** Kim Badker, Lisa Bartz, Darren & Lori Marsh

**Altar Guild:** Lisa Bartz

**Share Shoppe Volunteer:** Linda Koschmeder

