

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
308 4th Ave., PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

Church Office: 641-748-2736

Email: emanluthch@wctatel.net

Fax: 641-748-2989

Website: emmanuelgraffton.org

Facebook: Emmanuel Lutheran Church



For Emergency Pastoral Care, contact the church office at 641-748-2736 or call 641-425-7775 and Sharon will direct your calls as Pastor Weeg will be unavailable from Sept 1st-22nd.

SEPTEMBER 2021

SPONSORED BY:

Mavis Ashland

*in memory of her mother Marcella Braun- and
in thanks to Pastor Z for making sure she
received a newsletter*

FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE/CHURCH COUNCIL

What's next for Emmanuel?



The call committee has received two pastoral profiles for interested candidates. They met on Wednesday, August 26th to review the profiles and are setting up interviews with these candidates for the week of August 29th. If they think a candidate will be a good fit for Emmanuel, references will be contacted and a weekend visit will be set up in order to meet the pastor in person before Emmanuel proceeds further in the process. We are blessed to have candidates interested already, but we need to be mindful that this process is like a marriage, and the right candidate for Emmanuel might be beyond these first few interested parties. Please continue to patiently pray for God's guidance through the process.

-Brittany Bartz, Call Committee Secretary

In the meantime, Pastor Paul Weeg of Northwood has committed to being our Part-time Interim until October 31st. He has agreed to teach

Confirmation class, beginning in September. Pastor Paul or Pastor Weeg, however you wish to address him, will also offer a new member class, if there is enough interest. We are thankful that Pastor Weeg has served as our Emergency Pastoral Contact since the time of Pastor Z's departure. He will be on vacation from September 3rd-12th and unavailable as Emergency Contact until September 22nd, but Pastor Barbara Wills from Northwood and Pastor Robert Porisch from St. Ansgar will be serving in that capacity. God has blessed Emmanuel with the leadership within and resources outside to help us through this transition. And while the Call Committee continues with the call process, we continue to pray and remember what Emmanuel means: "God With Us". He has surely been in our past, our present, and will lead us into our future.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



Pastoral Acts



Constance "Connie" Bruesewitz died on August 3rd. A private family service was conducted by Rev. W. Paul Weeg on August 11th.

A funeral service for **Orland Bartz**, who passed away on August 16th, was conducted by Rev. W. Paul Weeg on August 19th.

May God comfort all who mourn!

Joys and Sorrows



Congratulations... To Tiffany and Brent Allen on the birth of a son, Markus Christopher, on August 11th. Proud first-time grandparents are Chris and Teresa Braun.

... and also to Curt and Julie Schaub, who became grandparents again on August 12th. Granddaughter, Amelia joins a family with two older brothers to watch over her. Please keep the family in your prayers as she was born four weeks early and has Down Syndrome. She is currently at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines.



We extend our sympathy... to the family of JoAnn White, who passed away on August 6th at the Good Samaritan nursing home in St. Ansgar.

...and to Sharon (Macken) Ebaugh, on the death of her sister, Judy Macken, on August 9th at Good Shepherd in Mason City.

Thank you, Emmanuel

We cannot begin to express our gratitude for the many gifts of love shown to our family through memorials, cards, flowers, and comforting words from so many upon Dad's death. Thank you to Pastor Weeg for the wonderful funeral service. To the hard working ladies of our church, thank you for helping with luncheon arrangements. We shall always remember the many kindnesses that were bestowed from our church family. Thank you again and God Bless. -The Family of Orland Bartz

Dear Friends,

We deeply appreciate the kindness, support, and many expressions of sympathy you have shown us during this difficult time. It will always be remembered. -The Family of Connie Bruesewitz

Thank you to all who supported us and our upcoming baby at our shower. The gifts will help us to care for and love our new child. Your presence showed us the great care our church community in Grafton still has for us.

-Jeremy & Krissy Hulshizer

Thank You Stewards

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

...to our Share Shoppe volunteer, Donna Schilling. ...to our August counters: Lisa Bartz, Michael Cole, and Connie Rosenberg. And to Phil Hackbart, for filling in as needed, and volunteering to replace Orland Bartz as counter.

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Janice Nelson.

... to Tammy Borchardt, our Altar Guild steward; and all those who gave flowers to beautify our sanctuary.

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

...to our August Ushers: Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Ken Kroneman, Calvin Thompson, & Troy Tourtellott; and Dick Neeley and Rusty Rustad for filling in as needed.

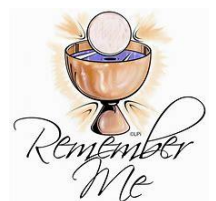
...to Renae Kroneman who manages our website. ...to all who have stepped up to help in any way as we wait for new leadership.

...to the members of our Call Committee, who continue to serve faithfully in searching for our new pastor.

...to Pastor Paul Weeg, Mark Borchardt, and Pastor Robert Porisch for serving as Pulpit Supply for Emmanuel during the month of August.

...to all those who responded to the need for help with the cleanup of water in the church Fellowship Hall/parsonage basement. We are truly blessed!

ATTENTION: We will NOT record worship services except Holy Communion services until further notice. The next one will be **Sunday, September 5th**. Pastor Jack Miller of Millville, Mn will be our Supply Pastor that day.



Emmanuel Lutheran VBS 2021



We had a wonderful time exploring the rainforest and finding treasure at this year's VBS. We learned about God's love for us and that he gave us the ultimate treasure in Jesus! We had 24 students enrolled and 9 adult helpers. We were excited to invite the community around

The students participated in a meal, songs, games, crafts, and bible storytelling each night. A huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this VBS a success and we look forward to continuing to grow our VBS next year.



Emmanuel this year and had 8 students from outside our Sunday School roster join us.

(Submitted by Brittany Bartz)





Alert... School items are now on sale. If you would like to purchase items for the LWR School kits, here are a list of items we use: 70-

sheet 8"x10 ½" notebooks of wide or college-rule paper (no loose-leaf paper); 30-centimeter ruler, or one with both centimeters and inches; pencil sharpener; blunt scissors; unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); box of crayons (16-24 count); 2 ½" eraser. Please drop off items in the basket under the front coat rack or bring to the office. If you wish to donate financially, please give money to Clarice Bartz.

Attention Kids of all Ages...

On **September 12th** we will be having our annual **Rally Sunday** to welcome students to a new year of Sunday School and kick it off with some fun.

We will be having a **Contemporary Worship Service** in the park with our Praise Band. Please bring lawn chairs and blankets to use during worship. The Sunday School will be having a Noah's Ark scavenger hunt for the kids in the park immediately following worship.

Wilder Concessions will be joining us at the park to make food available for purchase, so please stay for some fellowship and lunch after service. They will be selling fair-style foods such as corn dogs, funnel cakes, and shaved ice.

Please Join us!!



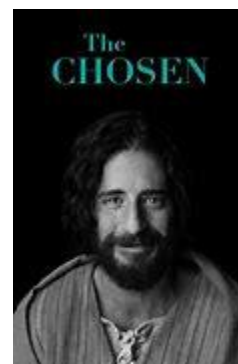
Our connection groups will also start the week of the 12th, so make sure you sign up and talk with the group leader you have chosen for the time and place of the meeting!



Connection Groups:

The format of the connection groups is pretty simple. Either once a week or once every other week the group will get together to share a meal and complete the Bible study. We will be centering our study around *The Chosen*, the first multi-season show about the life of Jesus, through the eyes of his chosen followers. We will be watching the show as well as working through its companion group bible study.

If you are interested and not signed up, contact Will or Brittany Bartz or the church office for any questions and get ready to make connections and learn more about Jesus as well.



Do you have a prayer request? Our

prayer chain can be activated by a simple phone call to the church office 641-748-2736 or to Laurie Nack Bublitz 641-748-2966. Let us pray for you/others in need!

Are you, or anyone you know, interested in becoming a member of Emmanuel? If so, please contact the church office. Pastor Weeg is planning to offer a new member class for those interested,

beginning in September. We'd love to have you become a part of our Congregation!



Choir practice will resume on **Wednesday, September 8th**. Practices are Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the church library. Come and make music with us!



"Let's Get Together!" *A Celebration of Christian Fellowship with Music of the Harp, Piano, Voice, and Organ.* Presented by "Celestial Strings" (Bill Reister, harp and vocal, Susan Reister, pianist).



Thursday, September 9th @ 7 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St Ansgar. A Free-will offering will be received. (See the poster on the bulletin board across from the church office for more information.)



Homecoming Luncheon...

Friday, Sept. 10th

St. Ansgar United Methodist Church
510 W Fourth St.

Lunch 11a.m.-1 p.m.

Menu: Barbecue Hamburger Sandwich, Au Gratin Potatoes, Calico Beans, Potato Salad, Pie, Coffee and other beverages.

DINE-IN, DELIVERIES, DRIVE-THRU, & CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE!

Call 641-713-4300.

Tell us how many lunches and what time you need them. (See poster on Bulletin board)

We will be resuming our **"Noisy Offering"** on the third Sunday of each month.



Please bring your coins/special offering to church for the children to collect during the normal offertory time. **September 19th** will be our first collection. Money goes into the Campership Fund to help with the cost of attending summer Bible Camp.

Wanted... Beanie Babies, to use as Bingo prizes for the LRH residents. Since the nursing home continues to be on lock down and is doing things internally, our church women will not be helping through the month of September with Bingo and the monthly Birthday party. However, the residents have been requesting Beanie babies. If you have some to give, please bring them to the church office or contact Charlotte Cole.



Did You Know...



That there are 37 congregations in the Iowa Mission District?

...The 2021 annual Convocation of the Iowa Mission District will take place at Emmons Lutheran Church, Emmons, MN on Saturday, September 11? The theme is "Christ Alone" and Bishop Dan Selbo will serve as the keynote speaker. Pastor Christopher Staley, Dean of the Iowa Mission District, has issued a Flood Bucket Challenge for that day as well. For more information, visit the website at www.iowamissiondistrict.com and read the August newsletter.

...That Dennis Nelson, Executive Director of the Lutheran Core (Lutheran Coalition for Renewal) reported the following highlight from the NALC Convocation in August, *"The concern and passion of the NALC to raise up a whole new generation of pastors. Realizing how many NALC pastors will be retiring in the next ten years, I was encouraged to hear the goal of raising up three hundred new pastors, the challenge to every congregation to raise up a new pastor, the challenge to retired and soon-to-retire pastors to continue to serve a congregation, and the variety of ways that have been laid out to prepare future leaders for the church."*

...Israeli archaeologists working for the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) have discovered a Byzantine-era gold coin depicting Jesus' Crucifixion? The rare gold coin was believed to have been minted in 638 or 639 AD by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius.

Dear Partner,

It is with a heavy and prayerful heart that I write to you today to ask for your help for the vulnerable people of Haiti.



On August 14th, a deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the southern peninsula of Haiti. This heartbreaking earthquake comes in the wake of COVID surges, the assassination of the country's President, and turbulent unrest. Tragically, there has been immense loss of life and destruction of property. As images and stories of this horrific disaster's impact begin to surface, and the feelings of helplessness arise, please know there is much you and your congregation can do.

We, who are on safer, solid ground are called to support the desperate by acting **now**. Food For The Poor is acknowledged for our quick response in times of crisis across Latin America and the Caribbean. In the past, your church has also responded generously in times of crisis and we are grateful for the ways you have addressed the urgent needs of those living in poverty and helped restore communities. By coming alongside us again to help the victims of this tragic event, your congregation has the opportunity to provide both immediate and urgent aid, as well as being a part of a long-term vision for necessary rebuilding in Haiti.

Food For The Poor is mobilizing with essential food and disaster relief supplies that were prepositioned in country. We will share more details about our efforts in the coming days.

Please visit www.foodforthepoor.org/haitiemergency to make a secure contribution today. If you prefer to mail your contribution, please send your gift with Source Code 147933 included on the check.

Please join us in prayerful action for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. While our hearts break as rocks crumble, it is on Christ our solid rock we stand. Our hope, and the hope we must now share with Haiti, is built on nothing less. May God bless you.

Natalie Angel, Project Development



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Our neighbors in Haiti urgently need our congregation's love...

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck our neighbors in Haiti on August 14 – a brutal blow to this impoverished country still recovering from the disastrous 2010 quake and fighting a surge of coronavirus infections. Within days, Tropical Storm Grace battered children, women, men and seniors struggling to survive outside or in flimsy, makeshift shelters. The death toll has climbed to over 2,100 people with more than 12,000 injured. Tens of thousands of families are homeless. Churches, schools, health care clinics and hospitals have collapsed. The risk of cholera

and other illnesses spreading quickly due to contaminated water is extremely high, as is the spread of COVID-19 with people cramped so closely together.

Our partners from Lutheran World Relief are on the ground in Haiti right now assessing needs and sharing the love of U.S. Lutherans. Your congregation can help. Your emergency gift will provide neighbors in Haiti with emergency food, clean water and lifesaving medical care. You'll also help distribute urgently needed medical supplies, hygiene kits, tarps for emergency shelters, and other vital disaster relief provisions.

Please give now at www.lwr.org/GiveHaiti

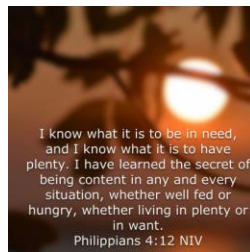


ATTENTION

In light of the Haiti crisis and responses/requests from Food For the Poor and Lutheran World Relief, the Stewardship Board has made the decision to split the loose offering for the month of September between the two organizations.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

The following is a devotion from the Guideposts devotional- Mornings with Jesus:



Getting ready to move next week has me rethinking my home décor. One of my passions is decorating. I could spend hours poring over design magazines, soaking up ideas. But often when I look through magazines, I start to want things I can't afford. I

have big dreams and a small pocketbook. I covet things. The problem with coveting is that it is a three-for-one kind of sin. Wanting something that isn't yours often leads to stealing, and then you lie about what you stole. Don't get me wrong. I don't steal things outright. That would be wrong. I just put them on a credit card. Which steals from my future.

Maybe you don't care about furniture, but you covet a different job or a nicer car or a better marriage. Coveting is all about being dissatisfied with what we have. We look at the life that Jesus has given us and say, "It isn't enough. I guess I will have to go out and get the life that I want for myself." This rarely pans out. The remedy for covetousness is gratitude. Jesus is the ultimate provider. In this moment, He is giving us all that we need. Mostly, what we need is Him. The other stuff is a bonus. Think of all He has provided us with: air to breathe, His love, His grace, salvation. Gratitude begets contentment, setting us up for a life of joy and fulfillment.

-SUSANNA FOTH AUGHTMON

FAITH STEP: Take stock of your life. Take time to thank Jesus for giving you everything that you need.





**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
July 6th, 2021**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Fredrickson - President

Attended: JC Dawald- V President, Marena Henkle - Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt-Evangelism, Emi Kuntz-Lay Ministry, Abbie Steinberg-Christian Education, Will Bartz-Youth, Michael Cole-Property, and Sharon Hulshizer, Secretary/Treasurer.

Devotions: Michael Cole

Agenda review: M/S/C to approve agenda as amended: change next month's meeting to August 10th; add under Unfinished business d)1a.) Pay rate and g) Kitchen remodel funding.

Review Printed Minutes: Electronic Meeting Protocol was discussed. M/S/C to approve June meeting and Congregational Workshop minutes.
Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report received.

Board Highlights:

Stewardship- none

Lay Ministry- Schedules for unlocking/locking church on Sundays are set through Labor Day.

Evangelism- none

Y&E: Education: none Youth-VBS will be August 3-5th, approximately 20 kids have signed up so far.

Property- none

Membership review: none.

Unfinished business:

- a) Call Committee: will be meeting to work on the Congregational profile.
- b) Interim Pastor- Mark will contact Pastor Wendel for information.
- c) PA system: a taskforce will be formed to look into the PA system and carillon. M/S/C to form a

PA taskforce of five members to begin on July 7th.

d) Administrative decisions

1. Emergency Pastoral Care: Pastor Paul Weeg has agreed to do this until September 1st.
 - a) Pay rate: M/S/C to compensate Pastor Weeg \$25/hour + \$.56/mile as Emergency Pastoral contact.
2. Treasurer substitute: Still need to contact potential candidate.
3. Parsonage phone: has been transferred to the church and will remain so until a new Pastor is found. The phone number remains the same. Abbie Steinberg will be added to the list of authorized users for WCTA and Pastor Z will be removed.
4. Elevator Phone: A list of local contacts has been hung inside the elevator, to be used in case of an emergency, as the telephone in the elevator can only be used to make local calls.
5. Extra Keys: to the parsonage and PZ office have been turned in.

e) New Banners: have been ordered, for a total of five banners: 2 red for Holy Spirit, 2 green for Pentecost, and 1 neutral for the entrance that can be used year-round. Money will be taken from the Jane Buechele Thrivent account to pay for them.

f) Book repair/binding: The Altar Service Book and the Organ Hymn Book have been mailed to a repair place in Wisconsin. Marena will contact them about the process of fixing the organ hymn book so that it is still easy to use if the coils are removed.

g) Kitchen Remodeling funding: New bids have been received for plumbing and electrical. Even with taking some funds from the Building Fund and some from the ENALCW, there may still be a shortfall. Discussion of options to cover that.

New Business:

- a) Parsonage: will need to have a small group walk through the parsonage to determine what needs to be done before the next pastor arrives. Sharon will coordinate the date and time.
- b) Funeral Procedures: Discussion of existing funeral procedures.
- c) Annual review of employees: a date and time need to be set up in August or September for employee reviews.

d) Pastor Staley 25th ordination: discussion of sending a gift from Emmanuel for Pastor Staley's ordination. **M/S/C to buy a plant for Pastor Staley's ordination.**

Next meeting devotion's preparer: JC Dawald
Next meeting date and time is Tuesday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information

for July 1-31, 2021

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$30,951.33

Interest: \$7.61

Offering Revenues: \$6,128.08

E-giving Revenues: \$270.00

Total Revenues: \$6,405.69

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$37,357.02

Expenses: \$ 6,322.45

End of month Balance: \$31,034.57

Church Council-Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Special Meeting Minutes

August 1st, 2021

Meeting called to order by: Mark Fredrickson - President

Attended: Pastor Paul Weeg, JC Dawald- V President, Marena Henkle - Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt-Evangelism, Will Bartz-Youth, and Sharon Hulshizer, Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent: Emi Kuntz-Lay Ministry, Abbie Steinberg-Christian Education, and Michael Cole- Property

The purpose of this special meeting was to visit with Pastor Paul Weeg regarding a possible Interim position after September 1st. Also discussed were a potential Baptism in August and Visitation/Communion for our nursing home/home-bound members. Pastor Weeg would consider a Part-time commitment with Emmanuel as an Interim Pastor. He will be gone from September 3-12th. We will need to arrange for

Emergency Pastoral Care during that time. Pastor Weeg has agreed to lead Confirmation classes and will meet with students and parents for an orientation session on Wednesday, September 22nd at 4:30 p.m. He will also preach a few Sundays a month, of his choosing, the other Sundays to be filled in by Supply Pastors/Lay Ministers. Visitation and Communion for the Nursing home and home-bound can be discussed, possibly having the visiting done by our own members.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

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



Kitchen Remodeling

Update

In case "inquiring minds" would like to know, here's a little information on our kitchen remodeling progress: As most of you may know, we did get a grant from the WCDA, however, it was not a full grant. It will cover the new kitchen cupboards, island, and countertop, labor, and new appliances (2 new electric stoves and a refrigerator), which have been ordered from McCloskey's in Mason City. Arne Luckason is building the cabinets and will install the pre-made countertop. Arne built the cabinets in our serving room and will match the wood closely and the countertop will be made by the same company and should match as well.

What the grant did not cover is the plumbing supplies and labor, electrical labor, and new flooring. The Council approved the following plan: to order the supplies from Nick's Plumbing now, to be paid for from the Building Fund, and to apply for a grant through the Worth County Community Foundation to cover all labor and flooring for the kitchen/serving room. The deadline for the grant is Sept 30th, applicants notified of results by mid-December. The ladies have been busy looking at flooring, with the plan of doing the kitchen/serving area now and replacing the carpet in the Fellowship Hall later. We thank all those who have supported this project so far and will keep you updated on our progress. **-TWC**

September 2021 (All events subject to COVID 19 restrictions)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2	3 Pastor Weeg on Vacation until 12 th .	4 
5 Worship 9:30 <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>w/ Pastor Jack</i> <i>Miller</i> Fellowship 10:30	6 Office Closed 	7 TWC (The Women's Council) 9 a.m.	8 <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	9 	10	11 
12 SS Rally Sunday 9:30 Contemporary Worship at the City Park/ Concessions after	13 	14 Church Council 7 p.m.	15 <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	16 	17	18 
19 Worship 9:30 a.m. <i>Pastor Paul Weeg</i> Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:40	20	21 	22 Confirmation 4:30 p.m. (orientation class for students & parents) <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	23 	24	25 
26 Worship 9:30 a.m. <i>Pastor Paul Weeg</i> <i>Choir Sings</i> Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:40	27 	28 	29 <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	30 		



September 2021

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

308 4th Avenue
PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

641-748-2736
Address Service Requested

<u>September</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, September 5 th	Kenzie Sorenson	Josh & Anna Rosenberg	Donna Schilling
Sunday, September 12 th	Rally Sunday	At the City Park	Praise Band
Sunday, September 19 th	Madison Edwards	Connie Rosenberg	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, September 26 th	Camden Trenhaile	Marlin Rosenberg	Marena Henkle

Hospitality Team III: Yvonne & Troy Tourtellott

Ushers: Keven Bruesewitz, John & Val Bork, Phil Hackbart, and Jason Hackbart

Lay Ministry: Duane Rustad

Counters: Teresa Braun and Phil & Gloria Hackbart

Altar Guild: Mavis Stevens

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Ardis Hansen

PA Operator: Garry Backhaus

