

# EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
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*Pastor Weeg will be gone on vacation from  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> - December 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*For Pastoral Care, please  
contact the church office at 641-748-2736  
or Sharon Hulshizer at 641-425-7775.*

**DECEMBER 2021**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**Ardis Hanson**

## *O Come, O Come Emmanuel...*

As we enter into the season of Advent, I think of this hymn as one of my favorites for this time of preparation. Advent is the beginning of the church year and includes the four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of reflection and preparation for the birth of the Christ Child and ultimately, for His return. This year, Advent begins on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

According to The One Year Book of Hymns, this hymn is ancient, not only in its text, but in its music. While the tune used today was not finalized until the 1800s, it is based on plainsong, which was used in the church in medieval times. The lack of strict rhythmic measures gives the tune a free-flowing style. You can almost imagine the simple intervals echoing through a stone cathedral.

The text developed without the chorus as a series of liturgical phrases used during Advent.



Each stanza concentrates on a different biblical name for Christ, making this hymn a rich source for Christian meditation. Jesus is ***Emmanuel***—"God with Us"; ***Wisdom*** from on high; ***Desire of nations***; ***Lord of might***; ***Rod of Jesse***; ***Dayspring***; and ***Key of David***.

As we approach Christmas, let us take some time to think about the nature of the Christ whose coming we celebrate.



Join us as we light the candles on our Advent wreath on each of the Sundays before Christmas and celebrate with us-- *the coming of our Lord!*



*The following was written by the executive director of the Lutheran Core, Dennis Nelson, in December of 2019,*

*but his message is still relevant to us today as we prepare for the birth of Christ and reflect on all that will take place.*

Joseph must have been a wonderful man. I would like to have known Joseph and to have had him as a friend. Matthew 1: 18-25 – the Gospel reading... has this to say about Joseph. “Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.” (verse 19) But then, after the angel appeared to him, it says, “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” (verse 24)

If Joseph were with us today to tell his story, I could imagine his saying something like this – “I am a righteous man. I try to live according to the Holy Scriptures. I had a reputation to maintain in our community. As soon as people found out that Mary was pregnant, they would assume that I was the father. My reputation would be ruined. I was furious. I was going to make it public. I was going to go before the elders at the town gate and sever this relationship, after explaining to them that I was not responsible. “But as I thought about it I realized that I could not do that, because I loved Mary. Even though she had broken my heart and had shattered my trust, and I knew I could not marry her, still I did not want to expose her to public shame. So I decided that I would just call the whole thing off quietly and make up some sort of a story.”

After the angel appeared to him, I can imagine his saying something like this – “I was elated. I had received a message from heaven. I knew for sure that Mary had told me the truth. I was filled with joy. I apologized to Mary for doubting her.”

Regarding the circumstances of the birth of Jesus, I can imagine his saying something like this – “I lit a fire

to keep us warm. When the baby came, I did the best I could to be a midwife. But remember, I am a carpenter. I severed the cord, cleaned the child as best I could, and then wrapped him in strips of cloth. I laid him in a manger, because that was the only place where I could put him where he would be off of the filth of the floor.

“I had all kinds of questions, like: If Mary is supposed to be highly favored of God (as the angel had told her), and if this is something that God had been planning on doing for a long time, then how do you explain the cave? How do you explain the dirt and the cattle? How do you explain the loneliness? For no one came to celebrate the birth of our son except some lowly shepherds. They came smelling like sheep. They said they had heard an angel choir. They came looking for our baby boy. Except for them, we were totally alone.”

Looking back on the whole Christmas experience, I can imagine Joseph saying something like this – “When I was young, I figured that if even once in my life I were to see an angel, I would never doubt. I would always believe. Well, I saw an angel. But still there have been times when I have doubted. “Maybe you have a strong faith like Mary’s. If you do, then you are a special person, chosen by God. But maybe you are more like me – a more practical person. You like things you can touch, feel, and measure. You find it hard to believe.

“After I met the angel, there were times I thought I would never doubt again. But there were also times when the whole thing did not make sense to me. It all seemed like such a strange way to save the world. “Well, God used me. I, Joseph, put my thumbprint on Jesus. I taught him how to be a carpenter. And he was such a good carpenter. He could make oxen yoke that were so easy. They would fit just perfectly.



In fact, the folks in our village called him 'the carpenter.' I felt so proud whenever I heard him being called that, because I was the one who had taught him how to be a carpenter. I put my thumbprint on him.

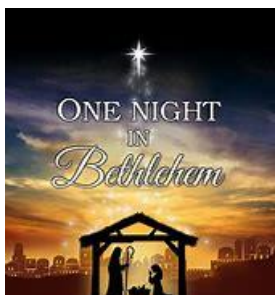
"But then he also put his thumbprint on me, for he is the Savior of the world. It was not easy. But still – every time whenever I thought that I knew what God wanted me to do – I would do it. I had faith enough to do it. "When God sent his Son to earth, he put him in my care. A carpenter, who sometimes believed his doubts and sometimes doubted his beliefs. But who tried with all his heart to remain faithful throughout."

Joseph is not the main character of the story. But the Gospel reading...is primarily about Joseph. As we once again celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us also remember Joseph. When God wanted someone to take care of his Son, he chose Joseph. May we strive to be like Joseph, who was both righteous and compassionate. Who believed, obeyed, and did the best that he could. Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas!

The Logos Legos youth are looking to spread holiday cheer by helping put up Christmas lights or Christmas trees for those in the congregation who may want or need assistance this holiday season. We plan on doing this on December 5th after the church service. There is a sign up sheet on the round table in the church entrance or you may contact Amy Edwards if you are interested.



## The Sunday School Christmas Program



Will take place during worship service on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

It is called *One Night in Bethlehem*. Please join us as the youth of our congregation share the story of Jesus' birth.

## Schedule for December at Emmanuel:

November 28<sup>th</sup>: *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
Led by Lay Minister, Marjean Gordon

December 5<sup>th</sup>: *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
Led by Lay Ministers, Rusty Rustad & David Bublitz

December 12<sup>th</sup>: *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
**Children's SS Christmas Program**  
Service led by the Children/Youth of Emmanuel

December 19<sup>th</sup>: *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
Led by Pastor Weeg- Holy Communion  
Noisy Offering collected

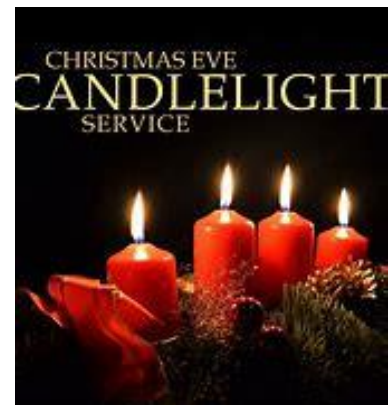
December 26<sup>th</sup>: *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas*  
Led by Pastor Weeg



**\*\*Please note...This year, the first \$1500 of our Christmas offering will go to Benevolence.**

## Christmas Eve (Candlelight Service)

will be on Friday,  
December 24<sup>th</sup> at  
6:30 p.m.



There will be NO Christmas Day service this year. Enjoy this time with your family and loved ones!  
**Merry Christmas!**







be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin and plants can be taken home after the December 26<sup>th</sup> service.

If you would like to order one or more poinsettias in memory of, or in honor of, loved ones, please come to the office to fill out an order form or call the office to order by phone. Plants this year are \$15 each. These will

Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Math. 6:21

### My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_

New offering envelopes for 2022 will be available to pick up after the Christmas Eve Service.

### Call committee update

Unfortunately, there is not much to update everyone on from the call committee. We have not had any more interested candidates yet, but as soon as we have an interested party, we will start the process over with reviewing their submissions and interviewing candidates. Please continue to be patient and prayerful throughout this process. - Call Committee Secretary, Brittany Bartz

### Joys and Sorrows

**Our condolences...** to Betty Rosenberg and family, on the death of her brother, Dale Bork, on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Dale was born and raised in the Grafton area. He died just three days short of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.



*May God comfort all who mourn.*



**Congratulations...** to Taylor (Rustad) and Brian Huinker, on the birth of a daughter, Lucy Rae, on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Lucy is welcomed by a big brother, Wyatt.

*May God bless their family!*

### Pastoral Acts

We welcomed the **Hillman family** and **Josh Steinberg** into our church family on Sunday,



November 21<sup>st</sup>. The Hillman's come from First Lutheran in St. Ansgar and Josh transferred from Immanuel Lutheran in March.



We also acknowledged our custodian, **Jeff Miller**, who has been an employee of Emmanuel since April of 2020. We welcome them all into our family as workers with us in the body of Christ.



A reception was held after worship to get to know them better.



The next recorded service will be Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Paul Weeg will lead our worship. There will be Holy Communion that day.

**"Noisy Offering"** will be collected on **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please bring your coins/special offering to church for the children to collect during the normal offertory time. The money goes towards camperships for our young people.



### **Thank You Stewards**

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling for their faithful service and to Charlotte and Donna for their Piano/organ duets.  
 ...to our November counters: Dan Nack, Jason Hackbart, and Marlin Rosenberg  
 ...to our Lay Ministry steward, Emi Kuntz.  
 ...to Emi Kuntz and Val Bork, our Altar Guild stewards.  
 ...to our PA operators: Dan Nack and Josh Rosenberg  
 ...to our November Ushers: Paul Hackbart, Garry Backhaus, Duaine Dierks, Alex Hackbart, and Marlin Rosenberg.  
 ...to Renae Kroneman who manages our website.  
 ...to the November Hospitality Team V: Teresa Sorenson, Katie Bass, Kayla Pappas, Debby & David Bublitz, Marlin Rosenberg, Clarice Venechuk, Sam/Shelly/Nicole Venechuk, Katie Vandewalker, Kara & Joe Walk, Larry Diedrich, Jon & Kim Badker, and Calvin & Sandy Thompson.  
 ...to Pastor Paul Weeg, and Marjean Gordon for serving as Pulpit Supply for Emmanuel during the month of November.  
 ...to Linda Koschmeder for unlocking and locking the church building in Sharon's absence.



*Thank you to Carol and Linda Koschmeder for their beautiful Thanksgiving display and decorations around the church*

### **After much consideration...**

I have chosen to no longer be head of Altar Guild, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>. I wish to thank all those that have served and I have worked with over the years.



- Doris Ralph

*We thank Doris for her years of serving as Altar Guild chairperson and are looking for a person or persons that might be willing to fill that position. If you are able to help, please contact Doris or the church office.*



The Mission Festival Hunger Banquet held on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, was attended by 40 people, who experienced and learned about the food inequalities that exist in our



world today. \$390 was raised and will be used for Food For the Hungry and local

Foodbanks. All food was donated.



Thank you to the

Stewardship Board and Logos Legos for the work involved in putting this together and opening our eyes to those who experience such inequality.

The following are questions that participants were asked before the banquet, to see what they knew about hunger and food inequality issues. The answers were hung in the sanctuary and are shared here:

**1. True or false? Hunger is caused by overpopulation.** *False.*

The world today produces enough grain alone to provide every human being on the planet with 3500 calories a day — enough to make most of us fat! The real problems are unexpected ones: politics, economics, transportation, access, distribution, food security, war, drought, spoilage, contamination, and, above all, poverty. With your help, we can alleviate poverty and reduce the number of people who go to bed hungry.

**2. True or false? When people are malnourished, their deepest need is their physical need for food.** *False.*

Often, we have found that the most immediate need is not a person's deepest need.

The deepest need is often spiritual. That's why Food for the Hungry ministers to both the physical and spiritual hunger in those we are called to serve. We are called to nurture the whole person — heart and soul, mind and body — for both this life and the kingdom to come. In nurturing the whole person, we most effectively bear witness of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**3. True or false? Hunger affects the young and old, men and women, boys and girls equally.**

*False.*

Not all of those affected by hunger suffer equally. The vast majority of the 24,000 people who die every day because of hunger or diseases related to hunger are boys and girls under age five, the elderly, and women. Women will often give the food to the men and children first, feeding themselves only after everyone else in their family has eaten. One way to prevent hunger-related death is by introducing improved farming techniques such as higher-yielding crop varieties, improved cultivation and storage methods, and water availability. Preventative health care is also an important intervention.

**4. True or false? The poor are the hungry and the hungry are the poor.** *True.*

The poor are the hungry. But the poor are more than just hungry. Poverty is a multidimensional problem.

- Poverty is lack of shelter.
- Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor.
- Poverty is not being able to go to school, not knowing how to read.
- Poverty is not having a job.
- Poverty is fear for the future, living one day at a time.
- Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water.
- Poverty is the condition of not having a voice— not realizing one's rights, and not knowing how to ask for what is needed.
- Poverty often brings a lack of hope that anything could ever be better, or that God could have created us to live in anything other than extreme poverty.

More than anything, poverty is a situation people want to escape. Therefore, poverty is a call to put Christian compassion and faith into action — a call to change the world so that more and more people may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities. That's why for over 40 years Food for the Hungry has been partnering with caring individuals, like you, to help communities escape extreme poverty forever.

**5. True or false? The surest sign of starvation is emaciated, thin bodies. False.**

Starving people's bodies often swell, so they look surprisingly healthy. But it is an illusion; the ballooning effect is a buildup of water, not tissue. Death comes stalking these hunger victims on tiptoe. As it approaches, they turn listless, apathetic, and even resigned. The end is quiet, usually silent. The brain and other organs, drained of energy, just give up or give way to disease. Each year, nearly 12 million children under the age of five die from starvation.

**6. True or false? We should be more concerned for those who are starving than for those who are merely malnourished. False.**

Hunger doesn't just kill; it can cripple. As bad as actual starvation is, the halfway stage called malnutrition is perhaps more insidious. Malnutrition has been called "death within life," in which the body gets food, but not enough — or, more often, not enough of the right nutrients — to keep functioning properly. This entirely preventable evil comes in different forms. A basic diet may have too little fat or carbohydrates to provide a reasonable amount of energy. It may have too little protein to create muscle, brain cells, or blood cells. Minerals such as iron, iodine and zinc can be missing. Vitamins may be in too short a supply for the body to properly rebuild its worn or damaged parts. Malnourished children often suffer the loss of precious mental capacities. They fall ill more often. If they survive, they usually grow up with lasting mental and physical deficiencies. Families suffer. The entire community suffers. It is a waste of potential beyond measure.

**7. True or false? Droughts, floods and other catastrophic disasters beyond human control cause famine. False.**

Consider that droughts, floods, earthquakes, etc. devastate regions of North America every year. Yet, we never see widespread famine here. As mentioned previously, the real problems are: politics, economics, transportation, access, distribution, food security, war, spoilage, contamination, and, above all, poverty. When any of these problems accompany a natural disaster, such as a state of political unrest during a particularly dry season, the poorest of the poor are the most vulnerable and suffer the most. A single negative event such as famine, flooding, earthquake, war or pestilence, added to their current plight, can render the poor absolutely destitute.

**8. True or false? A child who eats enough to satisfy immediate hunger may still be severely malnourished. True.**

It's not a simple matter of whether a child can satisfy his or her appetite. It's about getting the right quantities and combinations of nutrients. Three quarters of the children who die worldwide of causes related to malnutrition are what nutritionists describe as "mildly to moderately malnourished" and portray no outward signs of problems to a casual observer. A diet that merely satisfies a hungry child's appetite may have too little of the necessary ingredients to sustain a thriving life.

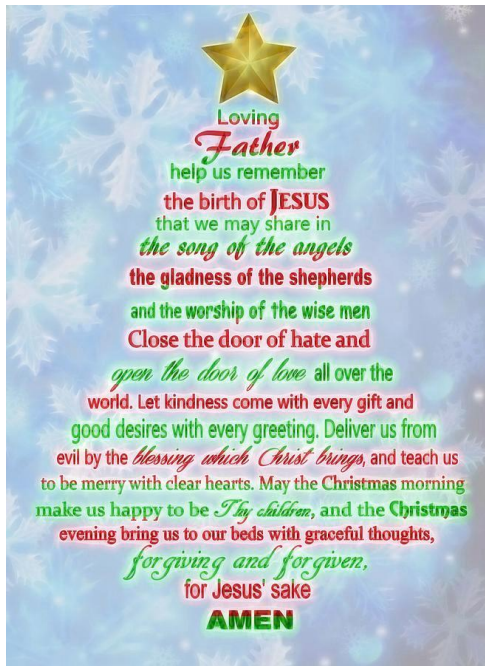




## Annual Collection for the Grafton Cemetery:



was on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. \$1,358 was given in total to the cemetery for expenses and upkeep. Thank you to all who gave.



During the worship service on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, a blessing was given for the shoeboxes collected for Operation Christmas Child.

Twenty boxes were delivered to the drop off site at the St.

Ansgar Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who gave money for items or postage and to all who shopped and packed boxes for those who will be most appreciative of their gifts. Amy Edwards and Brittany Bartz are our Youth leaders and we appreciate the time they spent organizing this event. Also a thank you to Jody and Jason Hackbart for delivering the boxes to St, Ansgar. It truly *"takes a village"*



Some of the Logos Legos kids, after shopping and packing boxes: Weston Paulson, Jaxon Edwards, Aundraya Paulson, and Camden Trenhaile.  
(Picture submitted by Amy Edwards)



"Blessed" and ready to be a blessing...

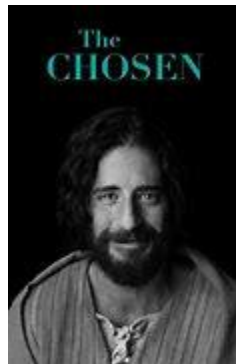


Loaded and ready for delivery  
(picture submitted by Jody Hackbart)





*Our Connection Groups continue to meet for fellowship and Bible Study. There are currently two groups meeting. One, led by Abbie and Josh Steinberg, meets every other Sunday for a meal and Bible study, watching "The Chosen" on their own in between meetings. The second, led by Charlotte Cole and Sharon Hulshizer, meets on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Church library. We have refreshments while watching "The Chosen" and do our Bible Study and discussion before and after. Season One will be wrapping up and Season Two will be beginning after the new year. Each group will keep you updated on their plans so you may join, if you so choose. We are excited to expand our minds and knowledge in our understanding of Christ and to grow in our relationships with one another.*



### **THANK YOU, EMMANUEL**

For all the support and encouragement during this time of transition, I want to say "Thank You" to all who have helped me along the way. It doesn't seem like enough to say, but it has been a bit of a challenge at times and thanks to your understanding and cooperation, things are continuing for Emmanuel in a "new" way. Sometimes we get used to doing things or having things done in a certain way, but I have seen the flexibility and the willingness of people to step up and do things that aren't expected, but to fill the needs that are presented. I am moved by the people of Emmanuel and can see the potential we have as a congregation to offer to the next pastor. Continue to pray for a new leader, for those in leadership roles within the church, and those who have needs among us that we are not aware of. *God bless you and keep you in His tender care,*  
-Sharon Hulshizer 😊

This Thanksgiving and always, your Food for the Poor family is grateful for you and the friendship we share. Thank you for all you do for those in need. May God bless your congregation.

-Carmita Joaquin and Natalie Angel



The **Annual Meeting** for Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, snow date January 30<sup>th</sup>. All chair and financial reports will be due via e-mail or in person to the office by January 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank You!

### **Attention: Vanco Mobile App users...**



Vanco, our e-Giving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile to replace GivePlus Mobile.

You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

Members will not be able to make gifts using the GivePlus Mobile app after January 31, 2022.

Vanco Mobile is free and includes many significant upgrades for users.

Members' log-in credentials in Vanco Mobile are the same as they are in GivePlus Mobile.

If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please stop by the church office or call 641-748-2736.

## **STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS**

From Our Daily Bread, November 2021

*Proverbs 11:25 A generous person will prosper;  
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*



### **Rainy Days**

When small businesses in Tennessee were abruptly shuttered in an attempt to stop the spread of COVID-19, shop owners worried about how to care for their employees, how to pay their rent, and how to simply survive the crisis. In response to their concerns, the pastor of a church near Nashville started an initiative to supply cash to struggling business owners.

“We don’t feel like we can sit on a rainy-day fund when somebody else is going through a rainy day,” the pastor explained, as he encouraged other churches in the area to join the effort.

A rainy-day fund is money that’s put aside in case normal income is decreased for a time while regular operations need to continue. While it’s natural for us to look out for ourselves first, Scripture encourages us to always look beyond our own needs, to find ways to serve others, and to practice generosity. Proverbs 11 reminds us, “One person gives freely yet gains even more,” “a generous person will prosper,” and “whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” (vv24-25).

Is the sun shining extra bright in your life today? Look around to see if there’s torrential rain in someone else’s world. The blessings God has graciously given you are multiplied when you freely share them with others and to remind hurting people that God loves them.

- Cindy Hess Kasper

When has someone been open-handed with their time or resources with you? How could you do the same for someone in need today?

*Gracious God, help me to be tenderhearted toward the needs of others and show me how I can share Your love and generosity with them. Amen.*



This beautiful Christmas cactus is over 25 years old and was left by Pastor Z. It is a bright spot in an empty office!

### **A Blue Christmas**

[Buildingfaith.org](http://Buildingfaith.org)



The holidays can be difficult times for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt.

*God of mercy, hear our prayer this Advent season for ourselves and for our families who live with painful thoughts and memories of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of you Christ who shares our life in joy and sorrow. Death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.*

**In you, dear Jesus, we see the eternal love of your Father’s heart, and the eternal glory of his Kingdom. We thank you for drawing into that loving heart and glorious Kingdom, all those who died trusting in your goodness. Wipe away the tears from everyone whose grief runs deep. Bestow on all of us your blessed comfort, your holy and precious forgiveness, and your ever-faithful guidance. Fit us for your Kingdom; and lead us into the bright courts of heaven, and into the endless Day, where with your Father and the Holy Spirit, you reign in undisturbed joy and blessedness, now and forever. Lord, in your mercy, please hear our prayer...**

Adapted from a prayer by Dennis Nelson  
[iutherancore.website](http://iutherancore.website)



## Did You Know...

...that the "12 days of Christmas" isn't just a popular Christmas song, but is actually the 12-day period from Christmas Day to January 6<sup>th</sup>, which is Epiphany, known as the day of the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child?



EPIPHANY

...That some believed the song was a coded hymn during a time of repressed public worship? While this theory has been disproved, it is an interesting way to look at the song and the following is what was thought to be a religious interpretation of the twelve days: **A Partridge in a Pear Tree** - Jesus Christ.



**Two Turtle Doves** - The Old and New Testaments.

**Three French Hens** - The three virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. **Four Calling/Collie Birds** - Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. **Five Golden Rings** - First five books of the Old Testament.

**Six Geese-a-Laying** - Six days of creation before God's rest on the seventh day. **Seven Swans-a-Swimming** - Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. **Eight Maids-a-Milking** - Eight Beatitudes. **Nine Ladies Dancing** - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. **Ten Lords-a-Leaping** - Ten Commandments. **Eleven Pipers Piping** - Eleven faithful disciples. **Twelve Drummers Drumming** - Twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

...there will be a "March for Life" trip to Washington D.C. in January, organized by Pastor Marshall Hahn in Iowa? The following is a letter received from him on November 8<sup>th</sup>:



Dear Friends,  
At our 2021 Iowa Mission District Convocation the Iowa Mission District voted to provide \$3,000 to support a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the 2022 March for Life. The November Iowa Mission District newsletter included an article by Pastor Scott Licht describing what to expect at this march.

Pastor Licht has attended several of these events with Lutherans for Life over the years and will be attending again this year. The purpose of the March is to bear witness to the God-given sanctity of life and provide an opportunity to advocate for the protection of natal life in the womb. It is my conviction that this year is a crucial one for the cause of life in our country. On the one hand, the present administration is proving to be the most radical pro-abortion we have ever had in office. On the other hand, there is a growing recognition of the importance of caring for the very least among us, particularly those in the womb. The North American Lutheran Church, in recognizing the importance of defending this most vulnerable stage of life, in 2012 adopted as one of our earliest statements of counsel, the document, "Word of Counsel to the Church on the Sanctity of Nascent Life". As this statement declares: "The witness of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church is clear: There is no life that is beyond God's care, beginning at the moment of conception... each nascent life is the handiwork of God. 'For it was you who formed my inmost parts; you knit them together in my mother's womb.' (Psalm 139:15)"

I have been working with Pastor Licht in putting together a group to attend the March this January. As the article in the newsletter describes, we are hoping to fill a 54 - passenger bus which would leave on Wednesday, January 19, and return on Saturday, January 22. The plan would be to stay overnight on the way out, and drive straight through on the way home. We have already made some savings on the bus so that the cost would be about \$150 per person for the bus, plus approximately \$150 per room per night for 3 nights lodging. But we need to know soon how many people would be interested in making the trip.

Please pass along this information to the people of your congregation, especially those you think may be interested to join us. If anyone is interested in being part of this trip, have them contact me at: [stolafparish@neitel.net](mailto:stolafparish@neitel.net) or by cell phone at (563) 880-9714.

I am personally committed to going at any rate, and would be willing to find a way for anyone else who is interested in doing so. In addition to the March, we would have an opportunity to meet up with NALC Lutherans from across the church, and to join voices in defense of the defenseless.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Yours in Christ,  
Marshall Hahn

Pastor, St. Olaf Lutheran Parish  
Norway Lutheran Church, St. Olaf  
Marion Lutheran Church, Gunder (rural Elgin)



## Congregational Council Minutes Emmanuel Lutheran Church

No meeting was held in October, due to harvest  
and a lack of quorum in attendance.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

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## Treasurer's Report Financial Balance Information for October 1-31, 2021

### General Fund

**Beginning Balance: \$43,308.74**

Interest: \$9.77

Offering Revenues: \$6,384.31

Reimbursement: \$30.00

E-giving Revenues: \$370.00

**Total Revenues: \$6,794.08**

**Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$50,102.82**

**Expenses: \$8,820.38**

**End of month Balance: \$41,282.44**

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The last day to make a financial contribution to  
Emmanuel and have it  
recorded on your 2021  
financial statement will be  
Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at  
noon. Any funds received  
after that will be recorded  
on your 2022 statement.  
Thank you!



\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*



TWC (The Women's  
Council)

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Clarice opened with devotions based on 2  
Corinthians 8:1-12 called, "What we have." It reminds  
us to give what we have and that the motivation to give  
is what makes the gift acceptable. TWC opened with  
the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes from  
October were read and accepted as amended: "18 quilts  
and 37 school kits were delivered to Southport in  
Mason City for LWR pickup." Treasurer report's  
\$2,872.89 in checking and \$7,991.57 in savings.  
Correspondence was shared from Amy Edwards and  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rochester.

Old Business: 1.) LWR Projects: Myra has  
delivered quilts to several local charities. Clarice has  
purchased sheets to use as backing. Sewing days will be  
announced as they are set up. 2.) Kitchen Remodeling  
Project: a counter depth refrigerator has been ordered  
as the new one that had been ordered was too deep.  
Arne has been working steadily to finish the cabinets  
and countertop on the south wall. The plumbing and  
electrical work will be next to prepare for the new  
island. 3.) The Connection Group: Our group meets on  
Wednesday afternoons and has really enjoyed watching  
and discussing "The Chosen". We will wrap up Season  
One in December and look forward to continuing with  
Season 2 after the new year. 4.) Thankoffering: will be  
collected throughout November. 5.) New coffee carafes:  
we cannot purchase the same ones we have, so will be  
checking with Martin Brothers and Wilson Supply to  
see what they have.

New Business: 1) New member reception: will  
be on Sunday, November 21st. We will be welcoming  
the Hillman family and Josh Steinberg. We will also  
recognize Jeff Miller, our custodian. Charlotte will order  
a cake and Belinda will pick it up. 2) Fellowship: we  
need to make sure items get used up by the end of the  
month/beginning of next month, if they are left over.  
There will be no fellowship on December 26th. 3)  
Osage Women's Connection Group: will be having an  
event in December that our women may be interested  
in attending. Sharon will put it into the bulletin and  
women can RSVP to Sharon or Belinda if they'd like to  
go and we will arrange carpooling if enough interest is  
shown. Upcoming dates: Next TWC meeting will be  
December 14th at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer,  
-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>No Confirmation</u>  <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> 
<b>5</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Worship w/David Bublitz and Rusty Rustad Choir sings 10:30 Fellowship 10:40 Sunday School	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> <u>Connection Group 1pm</u> <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>SS Program practice: 6 p.m.</u> <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	<b>9</b> <u>Church Council</u> 6:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 
<b>12</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Worship <i>SS Christmas Program</i> 10:30 Fellowship No Sunday School	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b> <u>TWC</u> The Women's Council 9:00 a.m.	<b>15</b> <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> 	
<b>19</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Worship w/Pastor Weeg <i>Holy Communion,</i> <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:30 Fellowship No Sunday School	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> No Connection Group <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>(Candlelight)</u> 6:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> <u>Christmas</u> 
<b>26</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:30 Worship w/Pastor Weeg 10:30 Fellowship No Sunday School	<b>27</b> church office/building closed 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> No Connection Group No Confirmation No Choir	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b> 	



# December 2021

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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50472  
PERMIT NO. 11

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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

641-748-2736  
Address Service Requested

<u>December</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, December 5 <sup>th</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Kaelee Hicken	Julie Schulz	Marena Henkle
Sunday, December 12 <sup>th</sup> SS Children's Program 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Aundraya Paulson	Jason & Nicole Schuttler	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, December 19 <sup>th</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	Gus Walk	Tammy Schuttler	Donna Schilling
Friday, December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve (Candlelight) 6:30	Jaxon Edwards	****	Marena Henkle
Sunday, December 26 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas	Jaxon Edwards	Suzanne Seleskie	Marena Henkle

**Hospitality Team VI:** Jane Dalluge & Julie Schulz

**Ushers:** Michael Cole, Dave & Candi Feldt, Corrie Kuntz, and JC Dawald

**Lay Ministry:** Lisa Bartz

**Counters:** Belinda Borchardt, Michael Cole, and Connie Rosenberg

**Altar Guild:** Candi Feldt

**Share Shoppe Volunteer:** Nicole Cole

**PA Operators:** Darren Marsh

