

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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DECEMBER 2022

DEDICATED TO OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR...OUR HOPE OF THE
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

***For Pastoral Care, contact
Pastor Weeg at 641-381-0675
For all other needs throughout the
month, contact the church office or
Sharon Hulshizer at 641-425-7775.***

Advent: The End and the Beginning

The season of Advent is regarded in the Western Church as the beginning of the liturgical year. But Advent is first of all about the end of time. Because the term itself (adventus) means “coming” or “arrival,” and because it precedes Christmas, many have misunderstood Advent to be entirely a time to get ready to celebrate the coming of a child at Bethlehem. However, perhaps the more primary focus of Advent is on what is popularly called “the second coming.” Thus, Advent concerns the future of the Risen One, who will bring justice and prevail over every evil — it is a season of longing, anticipation, and expectation of what is yet to come in fullness. Advent is the celebration of the promise that Christ will bring an end to all that is contrary to the ways of God in this world — a sign of His destruction of the powers of death. As such, the opening Sundays of Advent bring to sharp focus themes that, in many lectionaries, have been

present for some weeks. For as the lectionary year closes, the Gospel readings, in particular, deal with signs of the end. What may seem to be an abnormality is a very important theological point: the beginning of the liturgical year takes our thinking to the very end of things. For “end” means not only the “end of time,” but the central purpose or goal (telos) of creation. We are not aimlessly wandering in a wilderness, even though we may be tempted to think so. Rather, history is headed somewhere and a light has come and is coming.

It is necessary that the liturgical year begin with this focus in mind — otherwise the story of Jesus, which is about to be rehearsed from conception and birth to death, resurrection, and ascension, may seem less than what it is: the deliberate fulfilling of divine purpose. Only this focus on the great story of God throughout history can keep the account of Jesus from falling into the

superficiality and inconsequence portrayed by modern secular or cultural interpretations. All of this leads to the otherwise puzzling design of the Advent season.

We start the Advent observances with the future: "The reign of God is coming. Prepare!" We end with the past: "Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. Rejoice!" As we proceed across the four Sundays of the season both themes are sounded, but the emphasis on the future declines as the emphasis on the past increases. Apart from coming to terms with this intention, it is impossible to make sense of the fact that the Gospel readings of Advent begin with a mature Jesus teaching about the reign of God, and close with an unborn Jesus, still in Mary's womb. All of this is, however, a reverberation of what has been insisted on above: that the sacred story, to be understood correctly, has to be read backwards. Just as the birth and ministry of Jesus are incomprehensible until we know of the Lord's death and resurrection, so too the whole of the past is muddled unless first we have a grasp on the nature of the future. * *(Be sure to pick up a devotional from the NALC and read more about the advent season by this year's authors)*

The season of Advent is upon us, and it is time, once again, to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus and His eternal reign.

The Rev. Dcn. Andrew S. Ames Fuller,
Editor Director of Communications
North American Lutheran Church

(This article was taken from the foreward of the NALC devotional for 2022)

NALC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

* This year's devotional — entitled *And He Shall Reign* — was written by sixteen members of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) staff and based on words in Revelation 11:15 (although many of us cannot read them without hearing the great "Hallelujah" chorus of Handel's Messiah).

The readings each day are based upon the daily lectionary provided in the NALC *Devoted To Prayer* daily prayer and reading guide, which is also an adapted version of the daily lectionary in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.



You can find copies of the devotional on the small table inside the wooden doors of the church entrance.

Poinsettias are available for purchase again this year. They will cost \$15. You may call the office or pick up an order form from the office. They can be given *in honor of, in memory of, or simply to the Glory of God*. These will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin and you may take your plant home with you after church service on the 25th or the following week.



New Offering envelopes for 2023 will be available for pickup at the Candlelight Service.



December Schedule of Events:

Please note: there will not be midweek Advent services this year.

Sunday, December 4th, the *Second Sunday of Advent* will be Worship with Holy Communion, led by Pastor Weeg.

Sunday, December 11th, the *Third Sunday of Advent*, will be Worship led by Pastor Weeg. This will be **Bible Sunday**, Bibles will be presented to our 2nd Graders and those older, who have not yet received Bibles from Emmanuel.

Sunday, December 18th, the *Fourth Sunday of Advent*, will be Worship led by Pastor Weeg, collection of Noisy offering, and our **SS Children's Program** during the service. (*see more info below.)



Logos Legos (Youth Group) will be having a **Cookie Walk** after worship as well. (Money raised will be given to the Campership Fund)

*This year's Children's Program will be **Miracle in the Manger** and it shows how God's greatest miracle came on Christmas day. Please join us during worship to hear the children's message for us!



Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be on Saturday, December 24th at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for worship in word and song.

Christmas Day service will be on Sunday, December 25th at 9:30 a.m., led by Pastor Weeg.



Offering for Christmas services has been designated as follows: The first \$1500 will go to Benevolence. The remainder to General Fund.

End of the year offering needs to be given by December 30th by noon to be recorded on your financial statements for this year.

Joys and Sorrows

Congratulations



...to first-time parents, Jake and Natalie (Braun) Gregerson, on the birth of a son, Victor Everett Gregerson, on September 24th in Dodgeville, WI.

Victor was born at 5:44 a.m. and was 7 pounds 8 ounces, and 21 inches long. Victor is the grandson of Chris and Teresa Braun and great grandson of Ardis Hanson.

...to Kyle and Ashley Hulshizer of Iowa City, on the birth of a daughter, Lila Bea on November 13th

She weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20.8

inches long. This is their first child. Grandparents are Randy and Sharon Hulshizer.



...to Cody and Marena (Bartz) Henkle, on the birth of a son, Cillian Thatcher Boyd Henkle, November 19th. Cillian was 10 pounds, 4 ounces and joins big brother Flint and big sister, Trixie. Grandparents are Merlin and Lisa Bartz. Great grandmother is Clarice Bartz.

May God bless the new families and their little ones!

MISSION FESTIVAL

Has been postponed until after the beginning of the New Year.

Potential dates are

January 8th or 15th. Kelly Grunhovd from **Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare** in Mason City will be sharing information with us. Money can be given this year and placed in your specially marked Mission Fest envelopes or you may wait and use them in January. Any monies given now or then will be earmarked for Prairie Ridge to help support the services they offer.



Thank You, Stewards

...to Pastor Staley for being our substitute pastoral care contact in Pastor Weeg's absence in November. (*even while expecting his first grandchild*)

...to Lisa Bartz for filling in for Pastor Weeg while he was sick on the 13th and for leading our worship on November 20th and 27th.

...to Merlin Bartz for leading worship on Thanksgiving Eve.

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling for sharing their musical talents

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

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Emi Kuntz

...to our Altar Guild Stewards, Emi Kuntz and Val Bork

...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 our website manager, Renae Kroneman

...to the November Hospitality Team VIII *Julie & Curt Schaub*, Jeff Schultz, Jason & Nicole Schuttler, Jason & Jody Hackbart, Jay Schaub, Linda & Gary Schotanus, Rod & Emi Kuntz, Nancy Walk, Gregg & Mary Jo Urbatsch, and Dorothy Mensch.

...to the Lay Ministry board for opening and closing the church on Sundays.

...to Sophie Urbatsch for doing a great job of mowing the church and parsonage lawns this summer.

...to Jason Hackbart for all his time spent taking care of things around the church and parsonage. And to Gregg Urbatsch for helping make things accessible at the parsonage while Pastor Schafer was here.

...to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child this year. Your generosity will surely brighten the days of those who do not have much.

...to the Brad Dalluge family for putting up and taking down the Christmas tree before and after Christmas. We appreciate your faithfulness in doing this each year.

...to Linda Koschmeder and Kim Mogk for folding and preparing the monthly newsletters for mailing.

...to Linda Koschmeder and Belinda Borchardt for their willingness to help in the office as needed and to Belinda for taking on the job of financial recording secretary for the past year, after the retirement of Clarice Bartz.

...to Teresa Braun and assistants for putting up the lovely Thanksgiving décor in the front of the church.



Did You Know

...Riverside is already planning for Summer Camp 2023?! Registration is open for campers to begin registering!

Remember that Emmanuel will pay 50% of the basic camp rate for those who wish to attend, whether a half

week or full week, and 100% for Confirmation kids. This does not include the special camps, such as Adventure camp or Ranch camp. We have a special registration code that you can use when you register your child for camp. Let the office know before you register your child and Sharon will give you the code to use to get our discount. This will allow you to complete your registration and the church will be billed for the appropriate amount in the month your child attends camp. The website address is www.riversidelbc.org. Call the office if you have any questions.





...that in response to Hurricane Ian in Florida, the NALC Disaster Response delivered six truckloads

of emergency relief supplies (with more on the way) to impacted families. Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church in Jacksonville has served as a staging area for the deliveries. The need is incredible. It's overwhelming for homeowners whose houses are badly damaged and flooded by this fierce storm. So many of the families do not have the resources to recover on their own and have lost hope. We want them to know God loves them and hasn't forgotten them. NALC volunteer teams will begin recovery efforts in November, and we are scheduling into 2023 at this time. Go to **thenalc.org** for disaster updates or to give online. *(information taken from the October NALC newsletter)*

Attention High School Students:

July 16-22, 2023

...The Lutheran church needs a new generation of pastors and leaders who break the mold and lead communities of transformation? The



NEXUS Institute is a week-long theology program on Grand View University's campus for high school students. It is a life-changing experience of theological learning, Christian community, and vocational exploration that exists to raise up church leaders of the future. All applicants must be current high school students (grades 9-12) who want to grow in their faith and understanding. Applicants who are interested in or open to working in ministry someday are given preference. Applicants should want to follow God's leading in their lives and have an interest in better understanding what a difference following Jesus makes in everyday life. For more information contact Kate Faas at 515-263-6104 or kfaas@grandview.edu. You can also check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/nexusinstituteqv> or <https://www.instagram.com/nexusinstituteqv/>

EVERY SAMUEL NEEDS AN ELI

This article was taken from the November newsletter of the Lutheran Core. The Lutheran CORE's mission:

- *A Network for Confessing Lutherans*
- *A Voice for Biblical Truth*

To learn more, you can visit www.lutherancore.website.

This is a good article to think on as we pray for a new pastor:

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" It's a question that youth have been asked since they graduated kindergarten. But in high school, the question becomes a much more pressing issue. In a culture obsessed with both success and control, students are encouraged at earlier and earlier ages to have their futures and career paths completely mapped out. And much of the decision making in this regard revolves around interests, skills, money, and the expectations of others. At the intersection of "*What am I interested in, what am I good at, what will my loved ones approve of, and how much money can I make doing it?*" is the decision to follow one career path over all the others.

What is too often excluded from this *equation is the biblical reality of God's call. We are called into being, called into relationship with the Lord and His Church, called to serve, and called into a yet unknown future by One who knows us better than we know ourselves, and who loves us beyond measure. For Christians, then, the primary question that needs to be answered is not, "What do I want to be when I grow up?" but rather, "What is God's call on my life?"*

Every kid in Sunday School has heard the story of young Samuel (1 Samuel 3), to whom the Lord spoke in the middle of the night. Like many of us, Samuel struggled to recognize the voice of the Lord. In fact, it was Samuel's older and wiser mentor, Eli, who helped Samuel recognize God's voice and call on his life.

Although he failed to recognize God's calling at first, Samuel was open to the Lord's leading. After learning that it was God who was calling, he responded by saying, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." Are you listening for God's call on your life? Are you open to His leading? You might hear God's call during times of study or

silent prayer. You may hear God's call through the proclamation of His Word in a sermon or Bible study, through a petition in the Prayers of the Church, or through the lyrics of a hymn. Or even more likely, you may hear God's call through family, friends, or church members who might say, "You would make a good pastor. Have you ever considered pursuing ordained ministry?"

One of Martin Luther's gifts to the Church was his insistence that all callings are holy. Whether one is gifted and called by God to be a pastor, butcher, baker, or candlestick maker, each calling is equally holy and necessary for human flourishing, and for the building up of the Lord's people. So how does one "hear God's call?"

The first step is to recognize the Holy Spirit's movement in your life. The older and more experienced Eli recognized that the Spirit was speaking to Samuel, and he encouraged Samuel to reply, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Only then could Samuel recognize the Spirit's leading and respond in obedience to the call.

The truth is that most of us need an "Eli" at one time or another in our lives. And most, if not all of us, are also called to be an Eli for others. Being an Eli simply means keeping our eyes open to recognize the gifts of others and staying present to them — listening, talking, praying, and sharing with them. Finding an answer to every question is not always as necessary as just being a companion as they search and discern.

Jesus had compassion on the crowds he encountered because "they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 9:36). Today there is a critical shortage of shepherds in God's Church. Many congregations are without a called and trained pastor to preach His Word and administer the sacraments. How to explain this shortage? Has God gone silent? Is the Lord no longer speaking?

No. In fact, somewhere in our congregations right now is an infant who will be baptized this Sunday, who has a call to ordained ministry. Somewhere in our congregations right now is a fourth grader who has a call to ordained ministry, and who is also the absolute terror of Mrs. So-And-So's Sunday School Class. Somewhere in our congregations right now

is an eighth grader who has a call to ordained ministry. They are about to be confirmed, and they wish their parents would allow them to sleep in on Sundays, because "Church is boring." Somewhere in our congregations right now is a high school sophomore who is preparing to attend the retreat that will change their life and confirm their call to ordained ministry. And somewhere in our congregations is a college student or career person who is running from God's call to ordained ministry or has postponed it to pursue an alternative career path. I know this because each of these people was me at different points in my life.

Thankfully, the Lord strategically placed Eli's in my life. My youth minister, Duane. My Sunday School teacher, Ruth. And my pastor, Reuben. Each of them, and many others, too, played the role of Eli in my life to help me recognize my spiritual gifts, to encourage my discernment of God's call, to listen to my concerns, questions, and objections, and ultimately to walk with me to the "yes" that finally came when I filled out my seminary application.

Friends, there are many, many Samuel's out there today who are called to serve and speak the Word of God, but instead of filling out a seminary application, they are pursuing a path that is more expedient or lucrative. They are pursuing a path that is more in line with the expectations of those around them.

So let me ask you to find your place in this biblical story. Are you a Samuel, knowing that there is a voice speaking to you and calling you to a purpose bigger than your own dreams and desires? Or are you an Eli, called to pay attention to the gifts of those with whom you worship? Called to encourage and walk with those who are or should be discerning God's call to Word and Sacrament ministry? Either way, you are the answer to the crisis we face today in the Church of Jesus, where sheep without a shepherd are "harassed and helpless." Every Samuel needs an Eli. And every Eli can recognize a Samuel with God's help.

Pastor Jeff Morlock is Director of Vocational Discernment at the North American Lutheran Seminary. He may be reached at jeff.morlock@tsm.edu.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

As we approach the end of another year, I want to thank the faithful stewards of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for what you have contributed this past year. Whether it was financial, leadership, donating time and material, or filling in when there was a need: each of you are important to the life of this congregation. We each are given a talent or purpose, however big or small, and how we use that is what is important. What can we do to continue to glorify God in our daily lives and the life of our congregation? Once again, the church is not just a building to keep up and make look good on the outside, the church is the body of Christ that make those on the outside, wish to come in. For the New Year, we need to stay the course, to do our part, however big or small. To invest our money and time in our congregation, and to reach out to the wider community-to children and families that will continue to live our legacy as *Emmanuel-God with us*. Continue also to pray for the Call Committee and God's guidance to a new Pastor. Remain hopeful and in all things, give thanks to God for all he has done. -Sharon



The Message of the Christmas Tree

If you look closely, you will see a message in the Christmas tree. The tree points up into the sky. The message: Jesus reigns on high!

The tree top has a shining star. The message: Come from near and far to worship Christ, the newborn King of earth and heav'n and everything.

The tree is lit with candles bright. The message: Jesus is the Light! The tree stays green throughout the year. The message: Christ is always here!

The tree is where our gifts are shared. The message: God so loved the world He gave his Son-a gift so we may live in heav'n eternally.

(Creative Communications

Mark Your Calendars:



The date for our Annual Meeting has been set for **Sunday, January 22nd**, with a snow date of January 29th. The meeting

will be held in the Fellowship Hall, following worship service. If you have reports to turn in to the office, please have them in no later than Monday, January 9th. It works best to e-mail them, remembering to send them in a word document, rather than a PDF, so that they can be manipulated to put into the report. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Immediately following the meeting, all boards are encouraged to meet to set up their first meeting time and to determine chairpersons and council representatives. This has worked well in the past. Please plan to attend.

E-Giving with Vanco



A reminder that Emmanuel offers electronic giving through a

program called Vanco. You can set up an account with them to give offering on a one-time basis or set up a recurring offering on a weekly or monthly basis. You may also choose from several funds to give to. You can link the offering to come out of your checking account or a credit or debit card. To use the e-giving program, simply to go our church website at www.emmanuelgraffton.org and scroll down to the Give Here area , click on the "click here to donate" line which will take you to a secure site for Vanco where you can sign up to create an account or log in if you already have account created.

You may also download the Vanco Mobile app for your phone by visiting the App store or Google play and downloading for free. There you are also able to select the church, the fund you wish to donate to, amount, payment method, and complete the donation. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

This is a great way to continue to give to Emmanuel even if you are unable to attend on a regular basis.



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
October 18th, 2022**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Fredrickson – President

Attended: Mark Borchardt – Vice President, Patti Rustad – Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt – Evangelism, Emi Kuntz – Lay Ministry, Will Bartz – Youth, Sharon Hulshizer – Secretary/Treasurer.

Absent: Jason Hackbart – Property and Abbie Steinberg – Christian Education

Devotions: Emi Kuntz

Agenda Review: M/S/C to accept agenda as presented.

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

M/S/C to accept Electronic Meeting minutes with the following change: “for the bid of \$4200 plus tax...”

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s report accepted. A suggestion was made to clarify the fund breakdown on our offering envelopes and write up something for the bulletin/newsletter/annual report to clarify these. Belinda will write up information, with Sharon’s assistance.

Administrative Report: 1) Thank you to Linda and Belinda for filling in as needed during Sharon’s recovery time. 2) Pastor Weeg has been visiting our shut ins and will continue to do so, as time allows. Confirmation is going well- Merlin & Lisa Bartz will fill in when Pastor Weeg is on vacation. Advent, Christmas, and New Year’s services need to be discussed and determined, according to Pastor’s schedule. There will be two baptisms on this coming Sunday. 3) 30 charcoal grey chairs have been ordered for the library; possible delivery time will be mid-December. These will supplement/replace the blue ones we have. 4) Worth County Public Health has given dates for

possible AED/ CPR training. Council has chosen Monday, November 14th, beginning at 6 p.m. 5) Possible new member reception: Will postpone for now as there may be more potential members joining.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: none

Lay Ministry: Set up schedule for opening/closing church via text.

Evangelism: 1) Has had a couple of meetings. The new church sign will be made of aluminum on front and back with corrugated plastic inside, color and font were chosen. D & D signs will make the sign. 2) A suggestion to revamp the prayer chain was discussed, as well as where it should be placed within the church boards. **M/S/C to place the Prayer Chain under the jurisdiction of Lay Ministry.** (this motion is null and void, after determining that, according to our Constitution, the prayer chain is under the jurisdiction of the Evangelism board.)

Y & E: has not met. The number of younger kids in SS is growing.

Property: New flooring is being installed this week in the ed unit; work began yesterday by Slowinski Flooring.

Membership review: none

Unfinished Business:

- a) Call Committee: Nothing new to report.
- b) WCDA grant update: waiting for a decision on the grant application.

New Business:

- a) Custodial job description review: With the hiring of a new custodian, the job description was reviewed and updated for future use.
- b) Wedding bulletin review: Council reviewed the wedding policy manual set up by Pastor Z. A few changes were made for now and more will be left up to the future Pastor.
- c) Nominating Committee: Sharon will get a list of the nominating committee to the President and Vice President, so they can meet with them. A list of nominating needs will also be printed.

d) Annual Meeting Date: M/S/C for the Annual Meeting to be on Sunday, January 22nd, with a snow date of January 29th.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Mark Fredrickson

Next meeting date and time: November 15th at 7:00 p.m.

M/S/C – meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



Grafton Cemetery Association: Received donations totaling \$2,140 this year. Thank you to all who contributed!



TWC (The Women's Council)
November 15th, 2022

Corrected Special Meeting Minutes from September:

**Electronic Meeting Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council
September 2022**

On September 29th, 2022 the Church Council voted electronically to accept the recommendation of the Property Committee for the bid of \$4200 plus tax, from Beland Tree Service, to remove all eight trees on the north side of the church, grind the stumps, and haul in dirt to fill the holes. -Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

**Financial Balance Information
for October 1-31, 2022**

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$70,220.17

Interest: \$12.08

Offering Revenues: \$6,979.00

\$50.00 basement rental

E-giving Revenues: \$366.71

Total Revenues: \$7,407.79

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$76,627.96

Expenses: \$5,376.21

End of month Balance: \$72,251.75

Sharon read Our Daily Bread, the October 15th devotion, based on Jeremiah 29:10, speaking of how the Holy spirit helps us develop patience to wait when it seems nothing is happening. It is a good reminder that God never forgets his people. TWC opened with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes from October were approved as read. Treasurer reports \$1,138.10 in Checking, Savings remains the same as last month. A thank you from Lea Norlinger was shared, giving totals for the LWR shipment from the Northeastern synod area. We are always amazed at how each area contributes to make such a great difference-a total of 890 quilts, 1294 school kits, 175 personal care kits, 108 baby kits, 8 fabric kits, and 3 blankets were collected for LWR. This is just the fall collection numbers!

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: Sewing days will be set up, potentially on November 30th and December 1st from 9-noon. 2) Kitchen remodeling project: a) a base has been created to place a metal cabinet on. Women will need help to lift up the metal cabinets to assess and clean the rust underneath before any are placed on the new base. b) a solution has not been reached on how to finish the edging around the new flooring, so it will be left as is, for now. Sharon will contact Adams plumbing to come and hook up the dishwasher and fix the piece broken that supports the table. 3) Fellowship Teams: a potential replacement for one of the teams has been contacted. Another needs to be replaced. 4) Bible Study: The Chosen, Season 3 will be released in December. Need to discuss options for resuming the Connection group. Pastor Weeg is leading a Bible Study on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. focusing on studying the text for the following Sunday.

5) Thank Offering: will be collected through the end of November and added to the local treasury, to be disbursed at the end of the year. 6) Coffee Carafes: after discussion, we will order 8 new carafes from Wilson supply.

New Business: 1) LRH Christmas gift list: has not been received yet. Mavis Stevens will take care of purchasing and delivering the gifts for the appointed recipients. 2) Thanksgiving Eve coffee: it was suggested to have a fellowship time after service on Thanksgiving Eve, for those who would like to stay. The Women will provide coffee and each participant will be asked to provide a dozen cookies or goodies to share. Sharon will put it into the bulletin. 3) Yearbooks: have been updated, need to be looked over for corrections, and will be printed next month or the first of the year.

Upcoming dates: December TWC Meeting will be December 20th at 9:00 a.m.

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

Bible
Study
with
Pastor
Weeg,

will continue in the New Year, meeting on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. in the church library. This is a text study of the following week's Gospel lesson and is open to anyone interested.



Looking Ahead



With all the changes in my life,
I ask You, Lord, for peace.
Keep me steady on my feet.
Let me learn from my mistakes
and grow beneath Your wings.
Prepare me for the days ahead
and all that life will bring.
For in the darkness, You are light.
In weakness, You are strong.
I am nothing without You—
I know where I belong.

-Jill Lemming, submitted by Clarice Bartz

A Final Thought

This comes from Our Daily Bread
October 30th, 2022

*I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."*

Lamentations 3:24

HOPE IN GOD

As the holiday season approached, package shipments were delayed due to an unprecedented influx of online orders. I can remember a time when my family preferred to simply go to the store and purchase the items because we knew we had very little control over the speed of mail delivery. However, when my mother signed up for an account that included expedited shipping, this expectation changed. Now with a two-day guaranteed delivery, we're accustomed to receiving things quickly, and we become frustrated by delays.

We live in a world accustomed to instant gratification, and waiting can be difficult. But in the spiritual realm, patience is still rewarded. When the book of Lamentations was written, the Israelites were mourning the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army, and they faced a series of challenges. However, in the midst of chaos, the writer boldly affirmed that because he was confident that God would meet his needs, he would wait on Him (*Lamentations 3:24*). God knows we're inclined to become anxious reminding us to wait on God. We don't have to be consumed or worried because "his compassions never fail" (*v 22*). Instead, with God's help we can "be still...and wait patiently for him" (*Psalms 37:7*). May we wait on God, trusting in His love and faithfulness even as we wrestle with longings and unanswered prayers.

-KIMYA LODER

**How have you been waiting for God?
How might you trust His timing?**

*Heavenly
Father,
sometimes it
can be difficult
to wait on You.
Please give me
the strength to
continue
hoping in You.*



December 2022 (All events subject to COVID restrictions)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | | |  | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship with HC/ Pastor Weeg 10:40 a.m. Fellowship, SS, and Logos Legos | 5  | 6  | 7 <u>Bible Study</u> 2:00 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m. | 8  | 9  | 10  |
| 11 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Weeg (choir sings) <i>(Bible presentations)</i> 10:40 a.m. Fellowship SS, and Logos Legos | 12  | 13 <u>Church Council</u> 7:15 p.m. | 14 <u>Bible Study</u> 2:00 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m. | 15  | 16 Grafton Depot: Music/ Treats 5:30-7:30 p.m. <i>Santa Visits: 6-7</i> | 17  |
| 18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Weeg <i>Sunday School</i> <i>Christmas Program</i> 10:40 a.m. Fellowship <i>Logos Legos Cookie Walk</i> | 19  | 20 <u>TWC</u> (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m. | 21 <u>Bible Study</u> 2:00 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m. | 22  | 23  | 24  Candlelight Service 6:30 p.m. |
| 25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 9:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Weeg <i>Enjoy time with your family!</i> | 26 <i>Office Closed</i>  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30 <i>Last day to make financial contribution for 2022</i>  | 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>  |



December 2022

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>December</u> | <u>Acolytes</u> | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Organist</u> |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, December 4th <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> | Madison Edwards | Damon & Krissi Dalluge | Charlotte Cole |
| Sunday, December 11th <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> | Landon Hillman | Jacob & Jacqueline Dalluge | Donna Schilling |
| Sunday, December 18th <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> | Raiden Kuntz | Larry & Carol Dalluge | Charlotte Cole |
| Saturday, December 24th <i>Candlelight service 6:30 pm</i> | Harley Rongved | **** | Donna Schilling |
| Sunday, December 25th <i>Christmas Day</i> | Aundraya Paulson | Jane Dalluge | Charlotte Cole |

Hospitality Team IX: Charlotte Cole, Neil & Donna Hackbart, Keven & Sandy Bruesewitz, Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Nicole & Michael Cole, Neoma Smidt, Chris Paulson, Phil & Gloria Hackbart, and Steve & Brenda Trenhaile

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

