

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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JANUARY 2023

DEDICATED TO A NEW YEAR OF
HOPE, LOVE, FAITH, AND
FELLOWSHIP

***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.***

The Beginning of What?

As we find ourselves at the beginning of another year, what do we envision? What is it that we are hoping for? Is it for a better year than the last one or simply a way to start over again? Are we making resolutions that we know will just fall apart in a few weeks or months or is this the year we are going to make that commitment to do what we say we will? Sometimes in the rush and busyness of everyday life and especially after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, life seems to come to a screeching halt...and we don't even know what to do with ourselves. It becomes a quiet, almost overwhelming difference so that it is hard to even know where to begin. For Christians, Christmas doesn't end on Christmas Day. Christmas Day begins the journey of the Twelve Days of Christmas, in which we look to the Epiphany, the time of the Wise Men's visit. The time of the revelation of the fact that

Jesus came to us as a human being, but was so much more-he was God in human form. The Magi traveled to find the child, to worship and bring expensive gifts and perfumes, knowing that this baby was different than any other. This child was the Son of God. Think on that again-this child was the Son of God! (*silence*) (or for the younger generation- *mic drop*)

Do you find it hard to be silent? Does it make you uncomfortable to be alone with your own thoughts and feelings? Are we so accustomed to the noises of everyday life and exterior forces, that we struggle to be quiet? I grew up in a fairly quiet home and at times, I long for the quiet to sit and think. Other times, I welcome the noise of life and it makes me feel alive. By the time you receive this Epistle, the time of Epiphany may be over (it is recognized on January 6th). On Sunday, the 8th, we commemorate the Baptism of our Lord- to recognize him as the Son

of God. Christmas will officially be over and the world will have gone back to its regular noise and busyness of day-to-day activities. My prayer for you this year, is that you might be able to stop and embrace that quiet, to reach out through your discomfort of the silence and listen for what God is telling you. To really hear what that small, still voice is saying. What does God want for you this year? What do you need from the one who became human for us?

As a closing thought on this, I am going to share a portion of a Daily Inspiration devotion, based on Ephesians 4:23-24 (*look it up in your Bible and read*), and entitled, "Divine Follow Through"- in which the author writes, "Aren't you glad that God isn't like us? When he makes a promise, he follows through. Every time. God promises true renewal for His children-not just in the New Year, but every moment of our lives. As the new year stretches out ahead of you, full of opportunity and possibilities, claim God's promise to renew your spirit. Lean on Him. Tell Him what you hope to achieve this year. Tell Him the problems you foresee, and then turn them over to Him. He is more than capable of dealing with them. You are already created in God's image (*Genesis 1:27*). Now, let Him renew your spirit and mind, leading you into the bright future ahead."

Reflection: What could I accomplish this year if I allow God to renew my spirit and my mind, making me a new person in His likeness?

Prayer: Thank you for continually re-creating me. Please make me more and more like You. Renew my spirit and make me more mindful of You. In Jesus' name. Amen. ***May you have a quiet, peaceful, and blessed 2023!***

-Sharon

Joys and Sorrows

Congratulations... to

Lisa (Hulshizer) and Pastor Jonathan Dolan, on the birth of a son, Theodore Christof Dolan on December 20th.

He was born at the Mary Greeley Medical Center in

Ames at 5:05 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 14 oz and was 20" long. Theo has two big sisters- Anastasia, 4 and Etta, 2. Grandparents are Randy and Sharon Hulshizer. *May God bless their growing family!*



MISSION FESTIVAL 2022



(Rescheduled from November)

...will be on Sunday, January 8th. Kelly Grunhove from ***Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare*** in Mason City will be speaking to us during our worship service. She will have brochures and can answer questions in the Fellowship Hall following worship. IF you still have your 2022 Mission envelope, you may put your donation in that. Otherwise, any undesignated money or money placed into the special collection box in the narthex, along with money given last year, will be sent to Prairie Ridge, to help with their outreach programs.

New Offering envelopes for 2023..have been delayed, due to production issues. We hope to have them sometime in



January and Sharon will put it in the bulletin when they are ready for pick up. You may still designate your offering by marking it in your check memo, putting it in an envelope and marking it, or consider online giving. Your contributions will be recorded as usual. Thank you for your patience

Thank You, Stewards

...to Pastor Weeg for covering all Sunday and Holiday services in December.

...to Mark Borchardt and the choir for their special music throughout each month and on Christmas Eve.

...to Will & Brittany Bartz and Marena Henkle for organizing the Children's Christmas program-it was a delight to watch the enthusiasm of the kids telling the important story of God's miracle.

...and to Jaxon and Madison Edwards and Kenzie Sorenson for narrating for the program.

...to the Jason Hackbart family, for setting up the new nativity set and display by the church. May it grace our church for years to come!

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling for sharing their musical talents with us, even in the midst of their own busy lives.

...to our December counters: Belinda Borchardt, Michael Cole, and Connie Rosenberg.

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Lisa Bartz.

...to our Altar Guild Steward, Candi Feldt

...to our PA Operator: Darren Marsh

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

...to our website manager, Renae Kroneman

...to the December 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.

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

...to all who helped to fold the December newsletter and prepare for mailing, while Sharon was out of the office.

...to the men who shovel the sidewalks and remove the snow in front of and around the church!

A Heartfelt Thank you...

To all those who have helped in various ways while I have been in and out of the office over the last month...our oldest daughter, Lisa, moved from De Smet, South Dakota, after Thanksgiving, with her husband, Pastor Jonathan Dolan, ELCA, and two

daughters, to his new call in Ames, Iowa at Bethesda Lutheran Church. He will be the Associate Pastor of Youth and Family. We helped pack up their belongings from a four-bedroom, large parsonage, bringing half home to store until they are able to purchase a house, and the rest went to their three-bedroom apartment. I was also blessed to spend several days with our new granddaughter in Iowa City (born to Kyle and Ashley) before spending a few days helping to unpack belongings in the new apt in Ames! It has been a very busy time for me and I appreciate all prayers and help in the office during my travels. I am blessed beyond measure

Thank you also for the generous Christmas gift -I am honored to be your Secretary and Treasurer at Emmanuel and look forward to the next year with you.
-Sharon

Thank you, Emmanuel

... for a most generous Christmas gift given by the Emmanuel Council on behalf of the congregation. It is so encouraging to know my work with you is valued. As we head into 2023, we face numerous unknowns personally, in family, church, and state. But one thing that we do know is who goes with us- our risen Lord Jesus! *-Pastor Paul Weeg*

...to the church council and Congregation for the Christmas Gift. I enjoy serving as substitute Church Treasurer. Sharon is wonderful to work with and I very much appreciate her training and patience.
-Belinda Borchardt

...to the congregation for the Christmas gift I received. I sincerely appreciated your generosity!
-Charlotte Cole

...to Emmanuel and the council for the Christmas gift for helping out when Sharon has been away. I am glad to be available to jump in when needed. And thanks to Sharon for doing such a great job and making it easy to be of help.
-Linda Koschmeder

...for the gift of food to Manna. It is greatly appreciated. Thanks again, - *Manna of Worth County*

...for your generous contribution to our Sponsor-A-Match campaign. The funds raised will be used to establish new matches and provide ongoing match

support. We are humbled by the compassion and generosity of our community as we transition into a new chapter of the mentoring program. Thank you for your continued support and choosing to donate to Bridges Mentoring. Sincerely,
- Bridges Mentoring Advisory Board



Thank you... to the Worth County Development Authority for the recent grant we received

to replace the deteriorating brick pillars at the main cemetery entrance. The new pillars were completed this fall and have immensely improved the overall look of the cemetery.

-Grafton Cemetery Association

Please keep in your

prayers...Caren Bartz, who had been hospitalized in Rochester for several weeks and

others who are recuperating from various surgeries or illness. Also, those serving on active duty in the armed forces: Taner McClure and Shal Zillgitt. *In the office are mailing labels for Shal that anyone wishing to send a letter or care package may use.*

Pray for our Church Council, Call Committee, and for those whose needs are known only to God.



Our new Nativity set in its new location, with a spotlight to light it in the evening for all to see! Let our light so shine...

Poinsettia Gifts

Given by . . .

Clarice Bartz- In Memory of Loved Ones

Bonnie & Virl Deal- To the Glory of God

Rod & Emi Kuntz- In Memory of Loved Ones

Earl & Judy Trenhaile- In Memory of Loved Ones

Albert & Doris Ralph- In Memory of Loved Ones

Phil & Gloria Hackbart- In Memory of Loved Ones

Charlotte Cole & Family- In Memory of Loved Ones

Ardis Hanson- In Memory of Allan Hanson "from his family"

Darren & Lori Marsh & Family- In Memory of Joanne Marsh

Dean & Mardine Meyer- In Memory of Dale & Shirley Meyer

Mark Fredrickson- In Memory of Ken & LaVerne Fredrickson

Pastor and Peggy Weeg- In Memory of Jim & Beverly Erickson and Reverend Warren C & Rebecca Weeg

Merlin & Lisa Bartz- In Memory of Orland Bartz, Jim & Phyllis Davis, and Jane Buechele

Connie Rosenberg - In Memory of Harper Putz, Don Anderson, and Elmer & Pearl Rosenberg

Greg & Shal Zillgitt- In Memory of Fehr, Zillgitt, and Wytaske Loved Ones

Family of Laurie Nack-Bublitz- In Memory of Loved Ones and Kuper Malmin

Chris and Teresa Braun- In Memory of Everett & Chrystal Braun and Allan Hanson



Thank you to all who shared plants to beautify our sanctuary.

A note was left on my desk in the office, to share in the next newsletter as follows:

Sunday School: *I, recently being directly involved with our Sunday School program, will make the following remarks or observations:*

We have an excellent program and material that inspires the youth in Christian living. So having every possible student encouraged to attend is a good goal. Most evident was that the people involved are very talented, loving, and committed to our kids and grandkids. It is a true blessing for us at Emmanuel Lutheran Church! *-unsigned*



Christmas Program 2022

Miracle in the Manger



Did You Know

...that the "Prayer Chain" is based on this promise: "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20? If you wish to submit a prayer request to the Prayer Chain, you may contact Pastor Weeg, Sharon in the office, or Laurie Nack Bublitz, 748-2966. If you would like to be a team member on the Prayer Chain, praying for the needs of our families and friends, contact a member of the Evangelism board: *Curt Schaub, Candi Cole, Jane Dalluge, Gloria Hackbart, or Belinda Borchardt.*

...that some of our youth received a *Kids Spark NRSV Bible* from our church on December 11th? Pictured are:

Aiden Cook, Aiden Zillgitt, and Teagan Cook.



Parents presented the Bibles to their children and the congregation joined in prayer.

Pastor Weeg and the Zillgitt and Cook families



...Riverside Camp registration is open to campers for Summer Camp 2023! Remember, 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. We have a registration code that you can use when you register your child for camp. 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. www.riversidelbc.org

Mark Your Calendars:

The date for our Annual Meeting is **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. (*All board Chairpersons should submit a report.*) 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 go to 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
November 15th, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by: Mark Borchardt – Vice President

Attended: Patti Rustad – Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt – Evangelism, Emi Kuntz – Lay Ministry, Will Bartz – Youth, Jason Hackbart-Property, and Sharon Hulshizer – Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mark Fredrickson – President and Abbie Steinberg – Christian Education

Devotions: Mark Borchardt

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted.

Administrative Report: 1) Sharon has been working ahead in anticipation of two new grandchildren before the end of the year. Linda and Belinda are willing to step in as needed. 2) Pastor Weeg has been sick. He does plan to lead all Sundays in December. Will need to clarify December 24th and New Years' Day yet. 3) Shana Butler from Worth County Public Health led the AED/ CPR training on November 14th. Four people attended; it was a very good training session. Sharon has ordered two new parts that are expired and need replacing on our AED unit and will locate a training manual, as we do not seem to have one. M/S/C to pay \$150 for AED training. 4) Custodian job description and the Wedding manual have been updated. 5) New nativity set will need to be set out- discussion on placement and who will take charge of setting it up.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: Written report: met on 11-2-22. Mission Fest is being rescheduled for after the New Year-potentially in January. Proposed budget and other end of year budgets were discussed and determined.

Lay Ministry: Met to do budget and will meet again.

Evangelism: Written report: met on 11-6-22. Determined budget for next year. Discussed sending a letter to potential new members and have a new member reception sometime next year. Prayer chain does come under the jurisdiction of Evangelism and is being slightly revamped.

Y & E: Budget determined for next year. Christmas Program has been chosen.

Property: 1) New flooring has been installed in the ed unit; billing will be later, to give time to see how the flooring sets up. 2) We did not receive a grant for the landscaping proposal submitted. M/S/C to apply for a Spring grant through the WCDA for landscaping and renovating the West and North side of the church. 3) Adams plumbing will be contacted about cleaning the pipe behind the dishwasher in the kitchen, fixing the piece torn from the wall while remodeling, and moving the dishwasher back in place.

Membership review: none

Unfinished Business:

- a) Call Committee: No report.
- b) WCDA grant update: already discussed.
- c) Nominating Committee update: Mark Borchardt has met with members of the committee and they are currently calling to fill positions.

New Business:

- a) Mass Mutual review: JC Dawald has reviewed the policy and recommends having money set aside, in case we wish to add to the policy, but to wait until June to review it again to see how the policy performs.

- b) Proposed Budget 2023: Council worked on completing the proposed budget for 2023. More will be discussed and added next month.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Mark Fredrickson

Next meeting date and time: December 13th at 7:15 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information for November 1-30, 2022

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$72,251.75

Interest: \$11.68

Offering Revenues: \$7,646.00

E-giving Revenues: \$391.71

Total Revenues: \$8,049.39

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$80,301.14

Expenses: \$4,745.96

End of month Balance: \$75,555.18



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

Emi shared devotions based on Galatians 6. The focus was how we are to carry one another's burdens and by doing so, we can lighten one another's loads. TWC was opened with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes from November were approved as read. Treasurer's report shows \$4,251.26 in Savings and \$1,559.87 in Checking. There are a few outstanding bills to pay for this month. Correspondence from the Good Samaritan

nursing home in St Ansgar, regarding the 2023 monthly birthday party schedule was shared, along with a letter from Mavis Stevens regarding her year as the LRH Auxiliary representative in Northwood.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: Sewing days will be set up after the first of the year. A donation was received and used for towels and sheets for kits and quilts. 2) Kitchen remodeling Project: a colored grout to use for sealing the new flooring edges may be looked into. The dishwasher table needs to be fixed and the dishwasher moved back into place after the edges have been finished. Metal cabinets need to be checked over in the furnace room before they can be moved. 3) Fellowship Teams: discussion for replacing unit leaders for a couple of the teams, to take effect next year. 4) Bible Study: The Chosen connection group will try to start up in January again, possibly meeting to rewatch the last two seasons, while waiting for the Season 3 Bible Study guide to be released. Will need to discuss with Pastor Weeg, the future of his Bible study as well, to choose dates and times that will work for all. 5) LRH Christmas gifts: Have been purchased by Mavis Stevens and we thank her for doing a great job of choosing the items for our designated residents. 6) Coffee Carafes: have been ordered and will be sent to the church. 7) Yearbooks: corrections have been made and new ones can be created for 2023.

New Business: End of year disbursements: Discussion was held about the amount of money needing to be kept in our treasury for purchases committed to. There were no fundraisers this year. It was decided to transfer some money from Savings and to disburse funds in the amount of \$550 to 8 entities: The WNALC, Northern Lights Homeless Shelters, Manna of Worth County, Crisis Intervention Service, Globe Gazette Cheer Fund, ELC Rochester, One Vision, and a Jmart gift certificate for a local family.














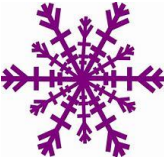






Upcoming dates: January TWC will be on January 17th at 9 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30 a.m. Worship w/HC - Pastor Weeg No fellowship or SS	2  Church building closed	3 	4 <u>Bible Study</u> 2 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	5 	6 Epiphany  Epiphany Worship	7 
8 Baptism of our Lord/ Mission Festival 9:30 a.m. worship w/ Rusty Rustad; <i>Guest Speaker</i> -Kelly Grunhovd: Prairie Ridge 10:40 a.m. Fellowship, SS	9 <i>Deadline for Annual Meeting reports</i>	10 <u>Church Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	11 <u>Bible Study</u> 2 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	12 	13 	14 
15 2nd Sun after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Worship (Choir/Noisy Offering) 10:40 a.m. Fellowship, Sunday School	16 M L King Day 	17 <u>TWC</u> (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	18 <u>Bible Study</u> 2 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	19 	20 	21 
22 3rd Sun after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Annual Meeting , Sunday School	23 	24 	25 <u>Bible Study</u> 2 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	26 	27 	28 
29 4th Sun after Epiphany 9:30 a.m. Worship (choir) 10:40 a.m. Fellowship, Sunday School (Annual Meeting snow date)	30 	31 				



January 2023

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<u>January</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, January 1st <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>	Landon Hillman	JC & Sandy Dawald	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, January 8th <i>Baptism of our Lord/Mission Fest</i>	Raiden Kuntz	Larry Diedrich	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, January 15th <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Harley Rongved	Duaine & Myra Dierks	Donna Schilling
Saturday, January 22nd <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Kaelee Hicken	John & Sandy Duvall	TBD
Sunday, January 29th <i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Gus Walk	Kyle & Amy Edwards	TBD

Hospitality Team I: Lori & Darren Marsh, Steve, Kristi, and Zane Arzberger, Vanessa & Levi Hanson, Liz Backhaus, Chris & Teresa Braun, Joy & Jerry Buechele, Mark Fredrickson, Elaine Huebner, Lonnie & Jennifer Hillman, Tammy Schuttler, Callie & Jason Athey, and Abbie & Josh Steinberg.

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

Lay Ministry: Duane Rustad

Counters: Michael Cole and Myra & Duaine Dierks

Altar Guild: Val & Brianna Bork

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Nicole Cole

PA Operators: Michael Cole and Corrie Kuntz

