

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

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

Church Office: 641-748-2736
Email: emanluthch@wctatel.net
Fax: 641-748-2989
Website: emmanuelgraffton.org
Facebook: Emmanuel Lutheran Church



MARCH 2023

DEDICATED TO THE ONE WHO
LIFTS US UP AND REMINDS US
OF WHO HE IS!

***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.***

Reflections

In this season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing until Easter Sunday, we reflect on our lives. We receive the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads, to remember that “from ash we come and to ash we shall return.” The season is such a change from the Christmas season we came from, when we know the reason we celebrate and prepare for, but this season is somber and quiet, a time to reflect: on our failings, or at least the realization that we cannot do things on our own. We cannot be who God wants us to be, without his help, his guidance, and his forgiveness. We remember that Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. We struggle with our imperfections. We cry out in frustration, asking for deliverance...

And yet, we do know that he hears our cries and knows our failings. He listens to our heartaches and rejoices in our accomplishments.

There is a “light at the end of the tunnel.” We know that when we



stumble, he will lift us, when we are weak, He is strong. If we confess our sins, He will forgive us. What hope and strength we can receive from that. The promise of victory over death. As we move through this season, let us continue to reflect on ourselves and what Christ endured on our behalf.

I leave you with a few verses of another favorite hymn:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise, I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

As you reflect on things this season, remember how much he loves each one of us! -Sharon

Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 p.m. on March 1st, rescheduled from February 22nd, due to the weather. Join us as we experience the Imposition of Ashes on our foreheads, share in Holy Communion, and begin our Lenten journey, once again.



We will not have Lenten services on Wednesday evenings.

We will have **Maundy Thursday**, with First Communion for our fifth graders in April, along with **Good Friday** service and **Easter**, which will be on April 9th.

Pastoral Acts

Cillian Thatcher Boyd Henkle, son of Cody and Marena Henkle, was baptized on February 12th. Cillian was born November 19th, 2022 in Austin, Mn. His sponsors are Will & Brittany Bartz and Caleb & Hailey Clark.



We welcome Cillian into the Lord's family and the family of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. May Cillian grow to be a blessing to all those around him.



Siblings and Cousins...



Celebrating the Baptism...



Great Grandmother, Clarice Bartz

(Pictures submitted by Marena Henkle)

Connection Group Bible Study



Continues on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. We will finish Season One on March 8th and continue to Season Two the following week, with two episodes each Wednesday, until it is completed. Then we will begin the new season, Season 3.

In the first season, we learn what it is to be “Chosen.” We meet characters such as Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus, Matthew, and Simon.

SEASON TWO’s theme is *“Blessed are the Chosen”* and focuses on the Beatitudes from *Matthew 5:1-12*.

This season continues where season one leaves off and we begin to meet the disciples and followers of Jesus as they learn what following Jesus begins to look like. We learn about the religious sects that seek to find fault with Jesus’ teachings and the threat they feel as Jesus begins his public ministry and gathers his followers, as he continues to show them who he is and what he is there to do. We meet John and James, the “*Sons of Thunder*,” Nathaniel, Philip, *little James*, also known as *James the Lesser*, Simon the Zealot, Andrew, and Thaddeus, also known as *Judas or Jude*. The season wraps up as people gather to hear the Sermon on the Mount. Join us and bring a friend!



Please contact Charlotte Cole or Sharon Hulshizer for more information.



Where, oh where, are our new offering envelopes??

It seems they are still in the process of being printed and an exact date cannot be given...it is hopeful that they may be here the end of March!

Thank you for your patience, the counters have been doing a great job of keeping track of designated offerings and as long as money put into envelopes is labeled with your name and designation, Belinda is able to apply it towards your account.

Thank You, Stewards

...to Pastor Weeg for providing Sunday services and Communion.

...to our organists, Marena Henkle and Donna Schilling for their musical contributions to our worship.

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

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

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

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

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

...to our website manager, Renae Kroneman

...to the February Hospitality Team II: *Clarice Bartz*, Viri & Bonnie Deal, Garry & Angela Backhaus, Val & John Bork, Greg & Shal Zillgitt, Sara Buechele, JC & Sandy Dawald, Candi & Dave Feldt, Sharon Hulshizer, Corrie Kuntz, Ramon & Sara Kuntz, John & Sandy Duvall, Will & Brittany Bartz, and Kim Mogk.

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

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

Special Thanks

...to all who helped during our quilting days the end of January. Many quilts were assembled and tied, as well as several activity kits were put together. There were between 8-10 ladies who came each day. *“Many hands make light work.”*

...to Mark Borchardt, for his many hours applying colored grout to finish the edges of the new flooring in the basement area. TWC is most appreciative of his work!

... to Mark and Arne Luckason, for their work on the restroom stall doors in the men and women’s bathrooms in the basement. When the new toilets were installed, the doors did not open properly as the toilets are larger than the old ones. This required removing the doors, reversing the swing of the door and/or reversing the hinges. They now function properly and are able to be locked with a hook inside.

A message to my sponsor

From our sponsor child, Lawrence, age 15, in Kenya



1-9-23

Dear friends,

Receive warm greetings in Jesus Lord our Saviour. How are you doing? I Hope all is fine with you. I say big thank you for your letter that was sent to me. I read it and understood all its content. Thank you for being my friends all along.

Happy New Year, I hope all your plans will be blessed and will progress well. We have closed school for Christmas and New Year's celebration towards end of January. We are busy in our school project with brass band. We had gone for competition and we emerged winners in that competition. I have known how to play drum set, brass, violin, and coronet.

I am working hard in my class work and also in our home. I have known how to bake a cake, at my free time reading story books. I am also practicing on how to play football. Thank you for your Christmas wishes and it is very cold there, but here in Kenya is very hot. I hope you are enjoying your holidays over there as I do too.

Your Friend,
Lawrence Emajong

Did You Know

... how Compassion International, the organization that we support Lawrence through, was started? The following devotion was received on my Daily Inspiration phone app on February 23rd and I felt it was very fitting and wanted to share it with you...

Mission of Compassion

Psalm 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves those who have a crushed spirit.

Reverend Everett Swanson discovered an unexpected mission in South Korea. Swanson, an evangelist, had prepared to minister to American troops battling in the Korean War. One morning, he watched city workers clearing what he thought were piles of rags from the streets. On closer look, he saw that it was not trash they were moving, but children who had frozen in the night.

The plight of war orphans sent him home a troubled man. Swanson's broken heart for the abandoned children of South Korea led him to start raising money to cloth these orphans through the winter. From there, Compassion International was born. Today, this nonprofit Christ-centered organization gathers funds from all over the world and distributes them to needy children in the form of food, clothes, housing, medical care, and education, all in Jesus' name.

To date, Swanson's broken heart has revived the crushed spirits of people in 97 countries and counting. God heard the cries of the innocent. Yes, His mighty hand can miraculously save them, but He often uses the hands and broken hearts of His people. If your heart breaks for the neglected and the abandoned, you are not alone. Jesus' heart breaks for them, too. Let God direct you as you work for Him to give hope to the lost.

Reflection: *What needs stir my heart? I will ask God how I can help minister to those needs- and I will listen for God's response.*

Prayer: *Loving Lord,*

Help me to be Your hands, reaching out to those in need. Let others see Your love shining through me. May everything I do bring Your peace to Your children. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



...that Emmanuel sent \$1860 to Food for the Poor as a designated organization chosen by the Stewardship board in 2022? I was contacted by a representative of the organization about a program they were looking to have churches support and agreed to let them apply our funds towards that particular program. The following is information about how our funds, along with other churches' funds, are being used :



We at Food For The Poor (FFTP) thank you for working toward fulfilling Christ's mission to serve the needs of the poorest of the poor in the Caribbean and Latin America. No matter what the challenge is, God wants His children to triumph, and your support shows His beloved children that He is with us all. FFTP's ***"Pastry Courses for Vulnerable Women"*** project is one in which His daughters will triumph!

Like other educational setups in the Dominican Republic, FFTP's in-country partner Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Santiago is always looking for ways in which to educate the vulnerable population that has not had the opportunity to study and advance in life. Through this program, 100 underserved women ages 18 to 60 will be taught pastry baking, which will allow them to find jobs in the industry and even open their own businesses. They trust in God and have decided to follow these words of wisdom:

"Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge."

Proverbs 23:12

We hope this project brings joy to the church. Please feel free to involve anyone you have in your heart and thank you for being part of this Godly outreach to assist those in need. May God's bountiful blessings continue to shine upon you. We look forward to working with you through this project.

Natalie Angel
Project Development Coordinator

Project Goal: Train 100 women from the Francisco del Rosario Sánchez community in the Dominican Republic in pastry baking and related activities, providing them with the skills necessary to produce a decent income.

Project Description: Through the Pastry Courses for Vulnerable Women project, Food For The Poor (FFTP) aims to train 100 low-income women (ages 18 to 60 years old) in the art of pastry making.

The courses will start them off in their own business or teach them the necessary skills to be hired by bakeries needing qualified personnel. In either case, these women will be able to work in the industry and earn a decent income to support their families.

The following components will comprise the bakery project:

- Bakery courses
- Educational materials for the bakery
- Baking supplies, tools and equipment
- Training and administrative personnel
- Mobile phone service
- Transportation

Our in-country partner (ICP) for this program will be Cáritas Arquidiocesana de Santiago.

Total Project Costs: \$26,156.84

Completed project budgets are subject to change if not fully funded within six months. The completion date of this project may be extended for issues related to weather, natural disaster or civil unrest to the extent that such events exceed normal conditions and impede the project's progress.

Since 2000, FFTP has been working in the Dominican Republic to serve the 23.4% of its residents living below the poverty line. Francisco del Rosario Sánchez is located northwest of the province of Santiago. In Francisco del Rosario Sánchez, there is a high number of women who do not work. Many are single mothers, and if they have husbands, the spouses do not produce enough to support the family. These women have expressed their wishes to be trained in pastry-making to start their own businesses, independently or in partnership with others. Many would like to be employed by bakeries needing qualified personnel.

We invite you to walk with us through this journey and experience the satisfaction of imparting knowledge and skills to women in need. You will be helping them earn a decent living and support their households, something they hadn't been able to do before.

Thank you, Emmanuel



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
January 10th, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Fredrickson – President

Attended: Mark Borchardt – Vice President, Patti Rustad - Stewardship, Belinda Borchardt - Evangelism, Will Bartz - Youth, Emi Kuntz - Lay Ministry, Abbie Steinberg - Christian Education, and Sharon Hulshizer - Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Jason Hackbart - Property

Devotions: Will Bartz

Agenda Review: M/S/C to approve agenda as amended: under New Business: b) Old Nativity Set and c) Old chairs.

Review Printed Minutes: M/S/C to approve minutes from December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report accepted.

Administrative Report: 1) It has been a very busy time in the office: newsletter delayed due to illness and working on the Annual report, still waiting on some reports to be turned in. 2) Thank you to Belinda for help with the proposed budget. 3) A wedding is planned for June, Pastor Weeg will meet with the couple and plan to officiate for the wedding. 4) New chairs have arrived, delivered this morning, four had some damage. 5) Speaker for the Mission Fest- discussion of reimbursement for time and gas. **M/S/C to pay the Mission Fest Speaker, Kelly Grunhvd, \$75.00.**

Board highlights:

Stewardship: Mission Fest was on January 8th: board visited with Kelly prior to worship; donations are used for clothing and other necessary items. Board provided cookies for congregation members.

Lay Ministry: Has set up schedule for opening and closing church.

Evangelism: New sign is in process of being created. Prayer chain has been updated.

Y & E: There is need for one SS teacher. Discussion of future SS/VBS leadership.

Property: no report.

Membership review: none

Unfinished Business:

- a) Call Committee: Darren has reached out to the NALC assistant for further information.
- b) Nominating Committee update: most openings have been filled.
- c) Proposed Budget 2023: Sharon and Belinda made a few slight changes to the budget to reflect needs more accurately. **M/S/C to approve changes to the 2023 budget prior to the Annual Meeting.**

New Business:

- a) Annual Audit: Will need two people to conduct the audit, usually done in February. Jane Dalluge and Martha Crail have agreed to serve in this capacity.
- b) Old Nativity Set: Discussion on what to do with the old nativity set. Will need to find out more about the history of the set and who may be interested in it.
- c) Old Chairs: Discussion on what to do with the old blue chairs in the library that have been replaced with the new grey ones.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Mark Borchardt
Next meeting date and time: February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to those council members who have completed their terms: Mark Fredrickson, Jason Hackbart, and Abbie Steinberg.

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

Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information for January 1-31, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$85,565.85

Interest: \$12.26

Offering Revenues: \$8,852.00

E-giving Revenues: \$270.00

Total Revenues: \$9,134.26

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$94,700.11

Expenses: \$20,965.20

End of month Balance: \$73,734.91



TWC (The Women's Council)
February 21st, 2023

Clarice shared devotions with a focus on Ash Wednesday, based on 1 Corinthians 15:57, reminding us that it is a time of reflection, self-sacrifice, and self-discipline. A note from the editor of the devotion spoke of being distracted by others and reminding us not to judge,

TWC began with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes from January were approved as read. Treasurer reports \$977.38 in the checking, with a deposit for fellowship to be added and a few outstanding bills to be paid. There was no correspondence.

Old Business: 1) LWR projects: 10 quilts have been hemmed at home, with more to be done. March 19th has been chosen as Quilt Sunday; A set up time will be determined. 2) Kitchen Remodeling Project: a) There is an interested party in the one remaining stove and a few items to either dispose of or donate. Sharon will advertise one more time in the bulletin to see if people are interested and then they will be removed. b) Mark Borchardt has completed the grouting of the new flooring edges and it looks great- we thank him for his many hours to apply the colored edging. Emi will do some touch up painting of the baseboard, as she is able. 3) Fellowship Teams: A replacement unit leader is needed for Team IV- Clarice is willing to help by calling persons to provide food for the fellowship time. 4) Bible Study: will continue on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. We are almost finished with Season 1 and will continue with Season 2. 5) Coffee carafes: 8 new carafes have arrived and will be a nice addition to what we have. A thank you will be written to the donor of funds to purchase the new carafes.

No New Business.

Upcoming dates: Next TWC meeting on March 21st at 9 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Dear God,

Goodnight, Dear God

*The Sun has gone down from the sky
And peace of night is drawing nigh.
I pray, Dear God, my soul You'll keep
While in Your loving arms I sleep.*

*Forgive the things I did today
When from Your glorious path I'd stray,
And when I slumber through the night
Please take my hand and hold it tight.
And when I awake to a bright new morn,
Restored, refreshed, renewed, reborn,
I'll try again, Dear God, to be
The person You would hope of me.*

-Unknown

2023 Leadership Roster

President: Mark Borchardt

Vice President: Greg Zillgitt

Board of Youth and Education:

Will Bartz- Chair/Council representative
Amy Edwards
Brooke Stiles
Christa Trenhaile
Megan Rustad
Jamie Trenhaile

Board of Church Properties:

Gregg Urbatsch- Chair
Lonnie Hillman- Council rep
Jacob Dalluge
Michael Schaub
Jon Badker

Board of Evangelism:

Curt Schaub- Chair
Belinda Borchardt- Council rep
Candi Feldt
Gloria Hackbart
Jane Dalluge
Marcy Hyde

Board of Lay Ministry:

Lisa Bartz- Chair
Emi Kuntz- Council rep
Lori Marsh
Janice Nelson
Kristy Arzberger
Sheila Lundon
Kim Mogk (associate member)

Board of Stewardship:

Julie Schulz- Chair
Patti Rustad- Council rep
Connie Rosenberg
Kara Walk

Grafton Public Housing:

Dick Neeley

Manna of Worth County Board:

JC Dawald and Christa Trenhaile

Lutheran Retirement Home:

Auxiliary: Mavis Stevens
Board: Josh Steinberg

IA Mission District Convocation:

Monona, IA September 16th

Merlin & Lisa Bartz

NALC Convocation:

August 7-11 in Oklahoma City, OK

No representatives at this time












ELC Foundation:

Lisa Bartz -President
Marlin Rosenberg- Secretary
Clarice Bartz- Treasurer
Teresa Braun
Belinda Borchardt
Dan Nack

2023 Nomination Committee:

Brittany Bartz
Mark Fredrickson
Jason Hackbart
Duane Rustad
Abbie Steinberg

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No Connection Group <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. Ash Wed Service <i>(Rescheduled)</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Choir afterwards</i>	2 	3	4 
5 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship w/HC 10:40 Fellowship, Sunday School	6	7 	8 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	9 <u>Church Council</u> 7:00 p.m.	10	11 
12 <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship (Choir) 10:40 Fellowship, Sunday School	13 	14	15 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	16	17 	18
19 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship <i>Quilt Sunday/Noisy Offering</i> 10:40 Fellowship, Sunday School	20 	21 <u>TWC</u> (The Women's Council) 9:00 a.m.	22 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	23 	24	25
26 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> 9:30 Worship (Choir) 10:40 Fellowship, Sunday School	27	28 	29 <u>Connection Group</u> 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7:00 p.m.	30	31 	



March 2023

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>March</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, March 5th <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	Landon Hillman	Neil & Gloria Hackbart	Donna Schilling
Sunday, March 12th <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	Raiden Kuntz	Paul Hackbart	Marena Henkle
Sunday, March 19th <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	Harley Rongved	Phil & Gloria Hackbart	Donna Schilling
Sunday, March 26th <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	Madison Edwards	Janis Hackenmiller	Marena Henkle

Hospitality Team III: Yvonne & Troy Tourtellott, Kyle & Amy Edwards, Steve McCready, Rachel Rosenberg, Connie Rosenberg, Duaine & Myra Dierks, Pat Clark, Liz & Michael Schaub, Todd Trettin, Jamie & Brandon Trenhaile, Cory Hicken, Kim Hicken, Suzanne Seleskie, Crystal Wilde, Haley Tourtellott, Nicole Thorson, and Judy & Earl Trenhaile.

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

Lay Ministry: Lori Marsh

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

Altar Guild: Lisa Bartz

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Linda Koschmeder

PA Operators: Randy Hulshizer and Gary Schotanus

