

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

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

Church Office: 641-748-2736

Email: emanluthch@wctatel.net

Fax: 641-748-2989

Website: emmanuelgraffton.org

Facebook: Emmanuel Lutheran Church



*For Pastoral Care, contact Pastor Paul Weeg
at 641-381-0675*

*You may also call the church office or
Sharon Hulshizer at 641-425-7775.*

AUGUST 2023

Sponsored by:

Sharon & Randy Hulshizer

Seasons Come and Seasons Go...

There is a song that I remember singing at my father's funeral several years ago that had the above lyrics as the opening line. It continued on with, *"one day autumn, next day snow. But Jesus loves me, this I know, and He will lead me home..."*

It was a fitting song for a farmer, but addressed the seasons of life as well.

I'm sure you are noticing that we are in the summer season, with the warm and humid temperatures that accompany July and August. This time of year lends itself to swimming and camping, fairs, family get-a-ways and vacations, following the end of summer sports, but anticipating the beginning of school and "fall" sports. Once again, we question how quickly time goes by.

In the June/July Epistle, we spoke about being in the season of Pentecost. And at this time and for several months yet, we will remain in Pentecost. We recall that God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. That it was first shared with the disciples, but we are given the gift as well. The Holy Spirit is to be our helper. In the following devotions from Our Daily Bread, we see what the Holy Spirit can do in us.



Free in the Spirit

(July 8, 2023)

They were unschooled, ordinary men...and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Neither Orville or Wilbur Wright had a pilot's license. Neither had gone to college. They were bicycle mechanics with a dream and the courage to try to fly. On December 17, 1903, they took turns piloting their *Wright Flyer* on four separate flights. The longest lasted only a minute, but it changed our world forever.

Neither Peter nor John had a preaching license. Neither had gone to seminary. They were fishermen who, filled with the Spirit of Jesus, courageously proclaimed the good news: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The Wright brothers' neighbors didn't immediately appreciate their accomplishment. Their hometown newspaper didn't believe their story and said that even if true, the flights were too brief to be significant. It took several more years of flying and refining their planes before the public recognized what they had truly done.

The religious leaders didn't like Peter and John, and they ordered them to stop telling others about

Jesus. Peter said, *No way*. “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (v.20).

You may not be on the approved list. Perhaps you’re scorned by those who are. No matter. If you have the spirit of Jesus, you’re free to live boldly for Him!
MIKE WITTMER

What task or person causes you to feel inadequate? How might you rely on the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to step into that challenge today?

Jesus, I’m Yours. Use me in whatever way You want.

Drenched by the Spirit

(July 22, 2023)

Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

Author Scot McKnight shares how when he was in high school, he had what he calls a “Spirit-drenched experience.” While at a camp, the speaker challenged him to enthrone Christ in his life by surrendering to the Spirit. Later, he sat under a tree and prayed, “Father, forgive me of my sins. And Holy Spirit, come inside and fill me.” Something mighty happened, he said. “From that moment my life has been completely different. Not perfect, but different.” He suddenly had the desire to read the Bible, pray, meet with other believers in Jesus, and serve God.

Before the risen Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His friends: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised” (Acts 1:4). They would “Receive power” to become His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (v. 8). God gives the Holy Spirit to indwell everyone who believes in Jesus. This first happened at Pentecost (see Acts 2); today it occurs whenever someone trusts in Christ.

God’s Spirit also continues to fill those who believe in Jesus. We too, with the help of the Spirit, bear the fruit of changed character and desires (Galatians 5:22-23). Let’s praise and thank God for comforting us, convicting us, partnering with us, and loving us.
AMY BOUCHER PYE

How can you see the difference that the Holy Spirit has made in you? How can you welcome God’s Spirit to work in and through you more?

*Loving God, thank you for the gift of Your Spirit.
Help me to love You and others more today.*

Both of these devotions are examples of how the Holy Spirit is received and can affect those who embrace it. Maybe your experience hasn’t been as noticeable or magnificent. But each of us who believes in Christ has the Holy Spirit with us to help us through both the good and bad times. It is with us to meet our daily tasks, to lean on, and to guide us.

As you enjoy the remainder of your summer and we begin to sense the changing of the seasons, remember that Jesus is always with us, his love for us never changes with the seasons or the weather, and isn’t that a wonderful thing to know? Enjoy each and every moment that God grants to you, look for ways to live boldly for him and to feel His spirit working in your life so that you may be a living example for Him.

- Sharon



*Everywhere Across the Land
You See God’s Face
And Touch His Hand.*

Each time you look up in the sky
Or watch the fluffy clouds drift by,
Or feel the sunshine warm and bright,
Or watch the dark night turn to light,
Or hear a bluebird gayly sing,
Or see the winter turn to spring,
Or stop to pick a daffodil,
Or gather violets on some hill,
Or touch a leaf or see a tree,
It’s all God whispering, “This is Me
And I am Faith and I am Light
And in ME there shall be no night.”

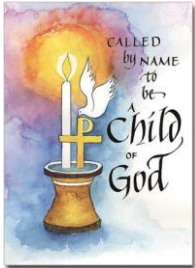
-Helen Steiner Rice

Pastoral Acts

Bridget Badker, daughter of Jon & Kim Badker, and Tyler Barker were united in marriage at Emmanuel on Saturday, June 3rd. The Rev. W. Paul Weeg officiated. They make their home in Mason City.



We wish them all of God's blessings in their union!



Kipp David Steinberg, son of Jeremiah & Courtney Steinberg, was baptized on Sunday, July 23rd at Emmanuel by the Rev. W. Paul Weeg. Kipp was born on April 19th and adopted a few days later.

Kipp's sponsors are Josh & Abbie Steinberg, Jessica Machin, and Luke Nielsen.

We welcome Kipp into our family at Emmanuel and ask that God bless him as he grows in his faith and calling.



Kipp,
parents,
and
Sponsors

The waters of
baptism



Introducing Kipp to
his new church
family



Joys & Sorrows *(cont. on p. 14)*

Congratulations:



...to **Carrissa (Trenhaile) & Jesse Riggs**, on the birth of a daughter, **Olivia Ann**, born on May 18th. Grandparents are Steve & Brenda Trenhaile and Great grandparents are Earl & Judy.

...to **Cierra (Dalluge) & Aaron Peterson**, on the birth of a daughter, **Alvina**, on June 7th.

God's blessings on the new additions !

... to **Earl & Barb Backhaus**, who celebrated 40 years together on June 25th ! The altar flowers are still being enjoyed by our worshippers.

God's blessings on this milestone!



...to **Ken & Linda Kroneman** in recognition of their 50th wedding anniversary on August 18th. *God's blessings as they celebrate with family and friends their years together!*

We also welcome... several new members into our church: A recognition reception was held on June 25th for new members: **Martha Crail** and twin daughters, **Amelia and Reagan, Kim Mogk** (who was unable to attend due to surgery recovery), and **Harley Rongved**, who completed two years of confirmation class in one year, under the leadership of Pastor Weeg. We recognized **Kenny Conlin** of Northwood for his completion of studies as well. Kenny is a relative of Pastor Weeg's and was interested in taking confirmation classes. His family attends church in Northwood.



Martha Crail and daughters, Pastor Paul Weeg, Kenny Conlin, and Harley Rongved

Cake provided by the Evangelism board.



New member reception

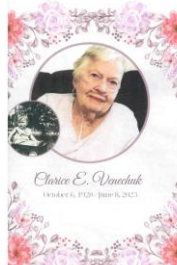


On **July 23rd**, the Steinberg family joined our church (*a reception will be held at a later date*). We welcome **Jeremiah (JD), Courtney, Nova, Knox, Vayda, and Kroix**.



Our condolences... to the family of **Clarice Venchuk**, who died on June 8th. A private funeral service was held at Emmanuel on June 24th.

May God comfort all who mourn!



The following information is from the funeral bulletin of Clarice and permission was granted by the family to share it. Sam's daughters and wife compiled the information, based on her records.

1920's- I was born October 6th, 1928 in Mason City. My cousin, Althea lives with us for a few years.

- Mickey Mouse premieres.
- Coolidge and Hoover were Presidents.
- Scotch Tape, Lazy Boy, and automatic bread slicer invented.

1930's- '32 I ran away from home to try to find dad at the farm. He found me by 27th and Delaware, about 13 blocks from home!

33- I turned 5, my brother Aloise was born May 7, I got a pony and we lived on a dairy farm.

'38- I turned 10, my sister Joy is born June 12, I also had Measels this year and got them from my dad.

- jacks and marbles were a favorite game I played.
- The Great Depression & WWII.
- Bonnie & Clyde were a top news story, Dillinger robs 1st National Bank in Mason City (she remembered these events)
- chocolate chip cookie, Teflon and Xerox invented

1940's- I would hitch hike to Clear Lake to swim, Dad didn't like that!

'47 I graduated from High School and met Jack

'48 Jack and I married in Mason City on August 29 with a reception at the farm

- WWII ends
- Betty Crocker cake mix, first transistor invented.

1950's- '51- Our daughter, Cindy is born, I am 23. '55 we move to Grafton our son, Sam is born, I am 27.

- color tv, Polio vaccine, wireless remote, Velcro and microwave oven invented.
- \$5 is equivalent to the value of \$55.60 today.

1960's- Cindy and Sam are school age. January of '69 it snowed so much the kids only went to school one week total.

- Vietnam War, NASA events, JFK, RFK and MLK JR assassinations.
- Bubble wrap, cassette tape, cordless tools invented.

1970's- We built our home in Grafton. We become grandparents to Cindy's boys.

- Watergate, Elvis dies, Beatles break up, MASH premieres.

1980's- We become grandparents to Sam's kids. Ceramics and oil painting are a favorite hobby of mine.

- disposable cameras, Rubiks cube, Pac-man, Cabbage Patch kids invented.
- Challenger explodes.

1990's- We start wintering in Arizona. My dad passed in 1990.

Jo and I drive Sara's car to AZ. I thought the speedometer was broken until Jo told me to let off the gas pedal. Our first great grandchild is a boy!

- internet, DVD/CD, texting, Y2K.

2000's- We now have 10 additional great grandkids, all girls. My mom passed in 2004, Cindy passed in 2010, Gene and Bud passed in 2011, Jack passed in 2013. I got my last speeding ticket 11-15 over in a 55! Oops

- reality TV, smart phones.

Thank You Stewards

...to our organists, Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling for providing preludes, offering, and postludes each Sunday, for their time and commitment to Emmanuel, and a welcome return to Charlotte after her surgery !

...to our June and July counters: Phil & Gloria Hackbart and Dan Nack; Myra & Duaine Dierks and Marlin Rosenberg.

...to our Lay Ministry stewards, Lisa Bartz and Kristy Arzberger.

...to Haley Tourtellott and Charlotte Cole & Myra Dierks, our Altar Guild stewards for June and July.

...to our PA operators: Dan Nack & Josh Rosenberg in June and Michael Cole & Corrie Kuntz in July.

...to our June Ushers: Mark Fredrickson, Steve McCready, Dick Neeley, Duane Rustad, and Gary Schotanus and our July ushers: Paul Hackbart, Garry Backhaus, Duaine Dierks, and Marlin Rosenberg.

...to Renae Kroneman, our website manager.

...to the June Hospitality Team VI: Jane Dalluge, Julie Schulz, Dean & Mardine Meyer, Duane & Patti Rustad, Bill & Tammy Borchardt, Janis Hackenmiller, Ken & Linda Kroneman, Renae Kroneman, Alan & Mavis Stevens, Sam Walk, Marsha Wilde, Janice Nelson, Larry & Carol Dalluge, and Christa Trenhaile.

...to the July Hospitality Team VII: Lisa & Merlin Bartz, Ryan & Ashley Trousdale, Marcy Hyde, Laurie Nack Bublitz, Dick & Ruth Neeley, Donna Schilling, Brett & Alex Trenhaile, and Ardis Hanson.

...to our Share Shoppe volunteers: Katie Bass & Teresa Sorenson in June and Laurie Nack Bublitz in July.

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

Thank You

...to Rusty Rustad and Lisa Bartz for leading worship on June 11th, after Pastor Weeg's fall earlier in the week.

...to Lisa Bartz for leading worship on June 18th.

...to Pastor Paul Weeg for continuing with services at the end of June, in spite of his fall and time needed for recovery.

...to all those who respond to the need, when Sharon was unavailable or needed assistance.

...to Will Bartz for leading the service and Brittany for leading the VBS kids during the sermon time on July 30th while Pastor Weeg was with family.

... to Brittany Bartz, for once again organizing the VBS program for this year. And to all those who helped in any way to make it a success!

VBS 2023!
July 25th -27th



We had an amazing time this year at our VBS.!

We learned that God provides all we need and we are covered in the cleansing waters of Jesus through his grace. We had 42 children join us throughout the week this year, with about ¼ of them from outside our congregation. We made new friends, ate dinner together, played games, did science experiments, sang songs, did crafts, and dived deeper into the word of God. We learned about Moses and the rock, Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and about Lydia at the river responding to God's call.

A huge THANK YOU to all who contributed to this year's VBS in so many ways. It was wonderful to see so many come together to make it a great experience for all the kids. It was a great success and we are already looking forward to next year!

Pictures submitted by Brittany Bartz





Sunday School 2023

Sunday School is right around the corner!
Scan here to sign up
for Sunday School
for the 2023-2024
school year. Even if
you have joined us
in the past, please
fill out so we have
the most up-to-date
information.





Emmanuel Lutheran is starting an AWANA club this coming school year!!

AWANA stands for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed and is taken from 2 Timothy 2:15. AWANA is a non-denominational, global, nonprofit ministry committed to the belief that the greatest impact for Christ starts with kids who know, love, and serve Him. AWANA offers a club that is biblically centered, shapes values, builds character, and provides tools children need to develop a solid, spiritual foundation.

They will TENTATIVELY meet on Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 7, but this may change depending on volunteer availability. They will meet weekly, have at least one theme night per month, as well as special nights like awards nights, movie nights, or bring a friend night!

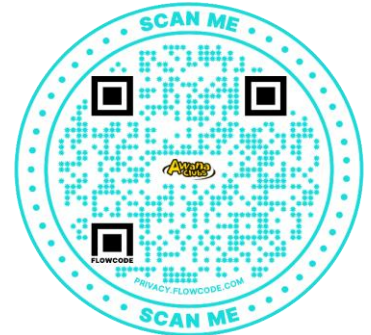
The cost for a uniform and handbook is \$25. Membership dues will be \$15 to cover the cost of awards and activities, so total cost per child will be \$40 for the year. Scholarships will be available for those who have need of financial assistance.

There will be Small Group Time/ Large Group Time and Game/Interactive Time. Groups are CUBBIES (age3-PreK), SPARKS (K-2), and Truth and Training (3rd -6th).

Students will need a handbook and uniform. They will receive awards throughout the year that will be displayed on their uniforms. Uniforms and awards provide a sense of belonging. Every award represents Scripture that has been internalized for God's glory in their life. They are then displayed on their uniforms. When Scripture memory and Bible engagement is consistently praised and awarded, a child will shape his or her identity around the Gospel and God's word.

The ratio of students to leaders is 5:1. All volunteers will be subject to a background check. There are currently enough leaders for 3 years-6th grade, but the program can be expanded to 2 years-12th grade with more.

For more information, scan the code and follow our Facebook page. A link to sign up is on the page!



You can also reach out to Brittany Bartz at brittany.jolani.bartz@gmail.com.

Needed: School supplies for Activity Kits for Lutheran World Relief



The following items are used for kits:

70-sheet 8" x10 1/2" spiral notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper

30-centimeter rulers, or one with both centimeters and inches

Pencil sharpeners

Blunt scissors

Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

Black or Blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

Box of crayons (16-24)

2 1/2" eraser

If you are out shopping and find a good deal, pick up some of these items and drop them off at the church. There is a basket under the clothing rack inside the wooden door entrance or you can bring them to the office.

If you have any questions, contact Clarice Bartz

CEMETERY NEWS



...a Special Thank you to Kevin Cole, Duane Rustad, Mark Fredrickson, Neil Kruger, and Chris Braun for spending several hours at the cemetery in June, straightening fifteen stones! A great beginning!

... as was mentioned at the annual meeting, the Grafton Cemetery Association is considering plans for a columbarium at the cemetery, which would have double and single urn interment options. We will need to apply for a WCDA Grant if there is enough interest within the community. **Please contact board members if you are interested in considering this option.** Board members are Philip Hackbart, Mark Borchardt, Chris and Teresa Braun.

Encouraged:

Monthly sponsorships for the Epistle (Newsletter)

Cost is \$90/month, which allows us to print in color.

Checks can be made out to Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Let Sharon know if you are interested in being a sponsor.

Thank you!

Did You Know

...that the NALC Convocation is being held in Oklahoma City, OK, August 7th -11th ? And at the Convocation, there will be an election for a new Bishop?

The two nominees are:

current bishop, Rev. Dr. Daniel Selbo (*on left*) and Rev. Dr. David M. Wendell(*on right*)



The following is a *Prayer for the Process* from the Prayers of Discernment booklet from the NALC:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the witness of Your whole Church in his name. We thank You for Your Holy Spirit, empowering us for ministry. So guide the hearts and minds of all those who shall choose a Bishop in this, Your Church, and those who will respond to the call, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for Your people. May our discernment transform our spirits and draw us close to You; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

...that our own Interim Pastor Weeg is an artist? This photo is a copy of a picture he drew to hang in



his son's room of Noah's ark. Pastor used it for a children's sermon and handed out copies of it. The original can be

seen hanging in our entrance on "Jane's " bulletin board. Come and take a look !

...that Emmanuel has received a grant from the WCDA for landscaping? The north and west sides of the church were done the week of July 17th by Noss Landscaping of Sheffield.





Beginning phase- removal of existing plants/rock



Southwest side: fresh dirt and landscaping fabric under the new stone/ replacement bushes



new North side plants and rock



West side bushes

Thank you to those who have brought hoses, sprinklers, and volunteered to help water our new areas- it takes time and effort to be good stewards of our changing landscape! (more volunteers are always appreciated!)



This pretty hosta blooms in front of our parsonage



Purpose of our 2023 Lutheran Week and Mission Convocation From Bishop Dan Selbo:

An inspiring, informative, and energy-filled time together is being planned for our 2023 Lutheran Week in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Having moved to an every-other-year approach to our in-person gatherings, this year's convocation is the first time we have met together since Corpus Christi, Texas, in 2021. As a result, we don't want to miss the opportunity we have to take in the events being planned and the opportunities they afford. The purpose of Lutheran Week, however, goes far beyond the events themselves. It's an opportunity to support and encourage each other, and to gain the support and encouragement that comes from our connection with Jesus. While many of us are in regular contact with colleagues and friends, many others are spread out, isolated and in need of support. During Lutheran Week, we have the chance to be there for one another — for prayer, for worship and for Christian fellowship — and to strengthen the unity that is ours in Christ. The week begins with a gathering of our Lutheran Theologians for the Church. Formerly known as our younger theologians, this group of biblical scholars, theologians, historians and pastors come together for the purpose of thinking through and praying about ways in which the foundations of our faith and the biblical witness can be shared most effectively in a post-Christian culture. They also take on the task of addressing what needs to happen in our congregations and seminaries to continue passing on the faith to future generations. Several of our current seminary professors took part in this event long before they became faculty members. I'd encourage you to be praying for this gathering as some of our strongest and most influential theologians come together to be strengthened and encouraged in the important work to which they have been called.

The week also includes a Faith Formation Festival,



designed for anyone working with youth and family ministries. Led by Pastor Teresa Peters and Melanie Corn, the gathering is designed to encourage and support our collective ministry to and with our youth, as well as to offer practical ways for engaging and equipping our youngest members to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. In a world in which our young people are being pulled in many directions and in which families are regularly challenged in setting priorities consistent with our faith, this gathering is designed to provide inspiration for our youth and tools and resources for families to remain connected daily and together in Christ.

The Gathering of the Women of the NALC is always one of the bright spots of Lutheran Week. This year's



gathering, built around the theme of "Using Our Gifts to Serve," will include worship and Bible study, reports on activities from the past year, and ways to strengthen the ministry and witness of women throughout the NALC. Again, the reason for this event is to deepen the faith and the partnership our women have with each other in Jesus, and to strengthen the witness we offer together in Christ. One of the highlights of the week of activities is the Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology. The theme for the lectures this year is "God the Father Creates ... In His Image." Based upon a few key verses from Genesis chapter one, the lectures will address the question of Christian anthropology and how, created in the image of God, we are called to live out and bear witness to the world as His representatives. We have a strong group of presenters this year, helping us to think through and take hold of what it means for us to bear — in our very persons — the image of God. In a culture in which identity is defined and given in so many empty and shortsighted ways, it is essential that we cling to the identity we have in Christ, rooted in the love of God for us in Jesus, and the image we bear eternally as ones created by and for Him.

This all leads to our two-and-a-half-day Mission Convocation, beginning on Wednesday afternoon and continuing through Friday. This year's gathering comes at the end of a six-year focus on the identity and work of our Triune God — two years on each of the three persons of the Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

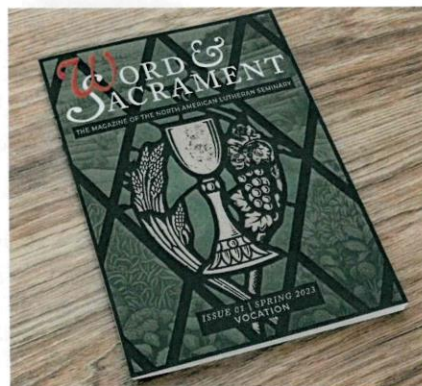
The theme for this year's convocation, "Missio Dei



— The Mission of God," grows out of that six-year focus. The identity of God as a

Trinity is intimately connected to the Mission God is about, and has been about, from the time this world was first created, as well as the mission and commission He has given and entrusted to us. Our focus will be on exactly that — the way in which God has invited us into and claimed us for and allowed us the opportunity to be about a work that has its purpose and foundation in Him. Throughout the course of the Mission Convocation, focused time and attention will be given to the mission we have in our congregations locally, domestically and globally. Three two-hour sessions will help us to zero in on the opportunities we have in each of those three areas. Several international guests — global workers and ecumenical leaders — will be joining us. It will be a challenging and encouraging time together. We will also be doing some of the business of the church, which is just as crucial to our mission as anything else we do. The adopting of spending plans for our work and the electing of leaders to serve in some key areas of our shared life are among the important decisions we will be making. This year we will also be making a decision about our next bishop and who we believe God is lifting up for us to serve in that role for the next four years. My encouragement to all of you is to read through the materials offered online, to be prayerfully listening to and discerning God's voice, and trusting the Holy Spirit to lead and to guide His Church in decisions and directions that would be honoring to Christ. Throughout our time together, we'll be casting a vision for our future, making decisions that will enable us to stay on task and on course, and celebrating the many ways in which God has blessed

us in our life together and is opening doors for our mission work in the years ahead. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to finalize your travel plans and register for the Convocation. As always, if you need help attending this year's gathering, please do not hesitate to reach out. Lutheran Week promises to be an inspiring, informative and energy-filled time together, filled with events to encourage and strengthen us in our faith. But the purpose of Lutheran Week goes far beyond the events themselves. It's an opportunity to support and encourage each other in our common and shared witness, and to gain the support and encouragement that comes from our connection with Jesus. Blessings to all of you. I hope to see you in Oklahoma City. In the meantime, be praying for our church body, for our upcoming Lutheran Week, and for a renewed excitement and energy for sharing in "Missio Dei — The Mission of God."



NALS begins magazine

The North American Lutheran Seminary has begun publishing a magazine called Word & Sacrament:

The Magazine of the North American Lutheran Seminary. The inaugural issue of the magazine explores the meaning of Christian vocation. It was published in June and sent to all NALC congregations and pastors. Word & Sacrament will be **published twice a year. To read or subscribe to the magazine or for more information on the NALS Network go to thenals.org.**

(The following articles come from the latest NALC newsletter.)

New pastors are approved

The NALC Candidacy Committee met on July 10-11 at the NALC offices in Grapevine, Texas. Rick Robers and Therese Whitten were approved for ordination. The committee also endorsed three seminarians for internship: Khrystle Sullivan, Dale Stanley and Quinn Silco. Other candidates for ministry came to the meeting for ongoing discernment and progress updates. The meeting included a message from Bishop Dan Selbo on the parable of the sower. Pastor David Wendel presented tips for a pastor's first call. There was lively discussion and time spent in prayer. The Candidacy Committee will meet again on Oct. 9-10 in Columbus, Ohio

(to give you an idea of what is happening in the NALS and what they are trying to do to help fill the great need for pastors at churches like ours)

Seminarian week seeks to form future NALC pastors and build relationships

NALC seminary students from throughout North America gathered together June 12-16 for a week of intensive learning and fellowship at the North American Lutheran Seminary Center at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. All candidates seeking ordination in the NALC are required to take two one-week June residential intensive courses as part of their seminary education. The NALC covers most of the cost of this required week of learning together. An overnight retreat was held following the course. One purpose of these June seminary weeks is for students to "learn together about and discuss the unique ethos of the North American Lutheran Church."

Another purpose is to bring all of the NALC students together in the hope of building ongoing relationships with other future pastors that will continue throughout a lifetime of ordained ministry. NALC students are studying at many different locations. The NALS Network consists of the Seminary Center at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, as well as Houses of Study at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama; Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton,

Alberta; Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and Houston, Texas; Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina; and Luther House of Study at Kairos University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This year's June course was entitled, "The Patristic and Medieval Horizons of the Lutheran Reformation." It was taught by Dr. David Luy and Dr. Alex Pierce, NALS professors at Trinity School for Ministry. For more information on the NALS Network go to thenals.org.

Update from our Call Committee

The Call Committee met with Shelly Schulz, the pastor in charge of the call process, on July 9th. We had a productive meeting, which allowed her to get a better picture and understanding of our church. She also had some constructive feedback in regards to our Congregational Profile and how we can make it catch the attention of a new Pastor. The call committee has revised our profile and will have it submitted for the next month's update. She described how we would discuss our people and all the great things we have going on at Emmanuel more. We will also be featuring more pictures and congregational updates on our Facebook to help highlight these things there as well. Please continue to pray that the right shepherd will be coming our way.

-Call Committee Secretary, Brittany Bartz

Manna of Worth County... is looking for a new coordinator as Laura Hagedorn will be stepping down. Christa Trenhaile will be the interim coordinator until we can find someone to fill the position. If you are interested, please contact Christa at 641-390-0484. We are always looking for volunteers to help unload the Truck on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month as well as back-up people to work on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings.



A reminder: we have a shopping cart in the front entrance of our church to collect non-perishable food items for local food banks!



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
May 11th, 2023**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Borchardt – President

Attended: Greg Zillgitt – Vice President, Belinda Borchardt – Evangelism, Emi Kuntz – Lay Ministry, Will Bartz – Youth & Education, and Sharon Hulshizer – Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Lonnie Hillman- Property and Patti Rustad – Stewardship

Devotions: Belinda Borchardt

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

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

Treasurer's Report: accepted

Administrative Report: 1) May 21st has been chosen as Confirmation Sunday for Landon Hillman. 2) Pastor Weeg is completing the pre-marriage counseling for a wedding on June 3rd. 3) Emmanuel will be hosting a Celebration of Life service for Steve Kalvig on May 13th. 4) Discussion on the future of Emmanuel. A suggestion was made to meet with the Call Committee and Pastor Weeg for further discussion.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: No meeting. Need to set up one to discuss Endowment Fund.

Lay Ministry: No meeting.

Evangelism: No meeting. An email was sent out to discuss painting the posts before installing the new sign.

Y & E: 1) Last day of SS will be May 21st, still planning an activity for the kids. 2) VBS kit was ordered, VBS will be July 25-27th, postcards will be sent out.

Property: 1) Estimate was received for library carpet replacement. **M/S/C to order and install carpet, paying for it from the building fund.** 2) WCDA grant was awarded for landscaping the North and West sides of the church. Will ask for a copy of the grant/details.

Membership review: none

Unfinished Business:

- a) Call Committee: No new information.
- b) Endowment Fund: Still needing to coordinate a meeting between all parties involved.
- c) AWANA club: Brittany Bartz is setting up informational meetings- one at South Square in St Ansgar, on May 23rd, one after church on the 28th, and one at Emmanuel on the 31st. There is a 5:1 kid to adult ratio required. There are helpers already committed to be leaders.

New Business:

- a) Tiling: has been done on the Garver property. A new inlet has been placed. **M/S/C to accept installation of tile in the SW corner of the Garver 40 acres as discussed via electronic communication.**

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Emi Kuntz

Next meeting date and time: Wednesday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information

for May 1-31st, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$65,267.75

Interest: \$11.83

Offering Revenues: \$11,661.25 (includes 4-30 offering)

E-giving Revenues: \$275.00

Total Revenues: \$11,948.08

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$77,215.83

Expenses: \$5,323.85

End of month Balance: \$71,891.98

more Joys...

Congratulations:

...to **Zane Arzberger & Nicole Halbach**, who welcomed a daughter, *Elleanor Mae Arzberger* on May 11th.



...and to **Vanessa (Arzberger) & Levi Hanson** on the birth of a daughter, *Adaline Rose Hanson*, on July 25th.

Proud grandparents are Kristy & Steve Arzberger!

God's blessing on these little ones!

Thank You Emmanuel

Pastor and Peggy Weeg thank you all for your prayers. Peggy was flown to Mercy One in Des Moines to address a blood clot in the brain. Many tests later, a 90% blockage of the carotid artery was revealed. The clot and blockage are most likely related. There is as yet no clear steps that will follow. Romans 8:28 was to be the basis of my sermon (on the 30th) before all these events began to unfold. Peg and I firmly believe it is so true.

-Grace and Peace

(Surgery was scheduled for August 1st and no update was available at the time of printing. Please keep their family in your prayer)

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS

Taken from the Daily Inspiration app;

Importance of Little Things

by Pastor Ken

Luke 16:10 He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much. He who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

The rocket failed because one tiny nut was missing. An airplane crashed due to one small defect in the engine.

One tiny mold spore resulted in the discovery of penicillin. And one tiny seed produced a mass of colorful, fragrant petunias.

All great disasters and all great accomplishments are the results of little things. They all start with something small.

The universe God created is under His constant care to keep every little detail working in perfect order.

In the same way, we need to be taking constant care of our lives so we live out every little detail in faith. In doing so, we will be able to experience the truth of today's verse. We will be given much to be faithful and thankful for.

An appreciation of daily blessings, a wise use of daily opportunities, a diligent use of God-given talents—this is what Jesus calls for. When you develop the habit of living this way, you will be useful anywhere you go and will be doing great things for God.

Reflection:

I want to take a few minutes at the start of each day to ask God's blessing and put me in a frame of mind to live the day for Him. What are some little things I need help with today?

Prayer:

Dear God,

Please help me be faithful in little things so I can glorify You in all I do. Help me to see that nothing and no one is insignificant in Your eyes. In the name of Jesus, who is ever faithful, I pray. Amen.



Congregational Council Minutes

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

June 7th, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Council met with the Call Committee and Pastor Weeg at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the future of Emmanuel, as far as getting a pastor, sharing ideas and concerns. We thank the Call committee members and Pastor Weeg for meeting with us.

Meeting called to order by: Mark Borchardt – President

Attended: Greg Zillgitt – Vice President, Belinda Borchardt - Evangelism, Emi Kuntz - Lay Ministry, Will Bartz – Youth & Education, Jon Badker - Property, Patti Rustad – Stewardship, and Sharon Hulshizer - Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: none

Devotions: Emi Kuntz

Agenda Review: M/S/C to approve agenda as modified: remove Mass Mutual from new business.

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

Treasurer's Report: accepted

Administrative Report: 1) Pastor Weeg has been busy with confirmation and chose June 25th as the date to recognize Kenny Conlin and Harley Rongved for their completion of Confirmation classes and to have a new member reception for Harley, Martha Crail and daughters, Amelia and Reagan, and Kim Mogk. 2) Working on clearing an area to store the new Nativity set in the ed unit. 3) Reviewed Emmanuel's suggested charges for non-member funerals to refer to in the future. 4) There is money available through the Iowa Mission District to pay for NALC convocation attendees.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: Meeting on June 11th after church to discuss Endowment Fund.

Lay Ministry: Has recommended using the Service of the Word for the summer, except for Communion Sundays.

Evangelism: 1) The new sign has been installed, a thank you to all involved in its design. 2) New member reception will be June 25th, Evangelism will provide the cake.

Y & E: 1) Brittany has met with people willing to help with the AWANA club this fall. 2) VBS is July 25-27th and Brittany plans to organize a float for Turkey Day to promote both events.

Property: Has not met. 1) Carpet will be ordered when half the payment is received, the company will call a week before installation. 2) Mark has fixed the spindles in the back stairway above the sacristy and the balcony. 3) Gregg has started on the men's bathroom and will finish the wall repair.

Membership review: none

Unfinished Business:

- a) Annual Audit: Was done on May 10th by Jane Dalluge and Martha Crail.
- b) Endowment Fund: A meeting has been set up for June 11th for all parties to meet.
- c) Clarification of landscaping project: A WCDA grant was received to do some landscaping around the church. Noss landscaping will be doing a revamping of the north and west areas of the church, possibly beginning in late June. Most plants will be removed and/or replaced in those areas. Council would like to have drawings of what it may look like at completion and have an idea of future maintenance.

New Business: none

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Patti Rustad
Next meeting date and time: Monday, July 10th at 7:00 p.m.

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

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information

for June 1-30, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$71,891.98

Interest: \$11.77
Offering Revenues: \$8,018.00
Memorial Day bulletins: \$75.00
Wedding fees (bulletin printing): \$30.00
WCTA dividend: \$293.70
E-giving Revenues: \$250.00

Total Revenues: \$8,678.47

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$80,570.45

Expenses: \$7,249.92

End of month Balance: \$73,320.53



TWC

(The Women's Council)
June 20th, 2023

Charlotte shared devotions with a Father's Day theme: "A Loving Father" tells us that it is a gift to look to God and to cry out, "Abba, Father". "The Savior Who Knows Us" reminds us that He loves each one of us completely and accepts us as we are. TWC began with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes were approved as read from May. Treasurer reports \$1516.57 in checking. Charlotte and Emi each have outstanding bills to be paid. Correspondence was a Thank You from Kenny Conlin.

Old Business: 1) LWR Projects: 23 quilts were assembled during quilting days. Work will continue as needed. 2) Kitchen Report: A few items would be handy in the kitchen: possibly a rug in front of the new sink and a stool to sit on. There is an interested party in the remaining stove for sale. A thank you will be sent to Jeff Jessen for his donations of coffee over the years and other items

he had provided. 3) Fall Fundraiser: Has been discussed. More discussion will be done in August. 4) Fellowship Teams: Replacement of another unit leader and options for serving Sunday mornings was discussed. 5) Bible Study: will wrap up tomorrow for this season.

New Business: 1) September Bingo/Birthday Party at Lutheran Retirement Home: September is our month to provide volunteers to help with Bingo on Fridays and to provide a birthday cake for residents on the third Thursday of the month. Charlotte will check to see what the policy is currently for needs. 2) New member reception: we will ask ladies from Bible Study to help serve for the reception on June 25th.

Upcoming dates:

Bingo and birthday party at LRH- details to follow.

Next TWC meeting on September 19th at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

Grandma's Apron

My grandma's apron is such fun;
It's not a little frilly one.
It's long and wide enough to be
Of lots more use than folks can see.

If Grandma sees a speck of dirt,
She puts that apron right to work,
And when I sleep on Grandma's lap,
She tucks it 'round me like a wrap.


But when I need it most of all
Is when I'm hurt or had a fall.
Grandma picks one corner up
And holds my chin as if a cup.

Then wipes away each tear I cry
On that old apron - then she'll sigh,
And hug me tight until I smile. Oh!
Grandma's apron is so worthwhile!



-Submitted by Clarice Bartz

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 
6 10 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship/HC 10:40 a.m. Fellowship	7 NALC Convocation Church Council 7:00 p.m.	8 NALC Convocation	9 NALC Convocation 	10 NALC Convocation	11 NALC Convocation 	12
13 11 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Fellowship	14	15 	16	17	18	19 
20 12 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Fellowship	21 	22	23 	24	25 	26
27 13 th Sunday after Pentecost (Pastor Weeg gone) 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Fellowship	28	29 	30	31		



August 2023

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

308 4th Avenue
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Grafton, Iowa 50440

641-748-2736
Address Service Requested

<u>August</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, August 6th <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Kenzie Sorenson	Steve McCready	Donna Schilling
Sunday, August 13th <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Raiden Kuntz	Dean & Mardine Meyer	Marena Henkle
Sunday, August 20th <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Jaxon Edwards	Jerry Navratil	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, August 27th <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Sophie Urbatsch	Dick & Ruth Neeley	Marena Henkle

Hospitality Team VIII: Unit leader needed

Ushers: Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Ken Kroneman, Calvin Thompson, and Troy Tourtellott

Lay Ministry: Janice Nelson

Counters: Lisa Bartz, Michael Cole, and Connie Rosenberg

Altar Guild: Tammy Borchardt

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Donna Schilling

PA Operators: Mark Fredrickson and Gregg Urbatsch

