EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

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

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SEPTEMBER 2023

Sponsored by: Alan & Mayis Stevens

For Pastoral Care, please contact Pastor Paul Weeg at 641-381-0675 or Sharon Hulshizer at the office or 641-425-7775.

Does it Matter?

This is the time of year when we know that change is coming. I refer to it as "Summer-Fall," when the summer temperatures are still lingering, but the signs of the changing seasons are there to remind us that Fall is coming. The return to school and the anticipation of the harvest are good indications of where we are. Vacations are winding

down, with Labor Day weekend allowing us to enjoy just a little more freedom, but then we settle into our new or adjusted routines.



I always enjoyed back-to-school shopping, the smell of crayons and new materials when the kids started school and then anticipating what they might need when they went off to college and moving them into their new "homes" for the next school year. Sometimes, the college process is more than what kids anticipate, the changes are hard to adapt to. I believe it is especially hard to go from a small school where everyone knows your name, your family, and your achievements, to starting over in a place of new faces where most know nothing about you. I refer to it as the "big fish in the small pond" becoming the "small fish in the big pond."

We've all had an experience like that in our lives. There have been times when we've questioned what we are doing or even our importance. As Christians, we may question our worth or whether

what we do is important or even if anyone notices or cares. Does it matter and is it worth it? The following devotions address these topics:

Never Too Far Gone

by Heather Tietz (Taken from the Daily Inspirations app)

1 Timothy 1:15-16

The saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first, Jesus Christ might display all his patience for an example of those who were going to believe in him for eternal life.

The Apostle Paul thought of himself as the worst of sinners. Before he met Jesus, he approved of Stephen's stoning. He imprisoned families that had newly declared their faith in Christ. His passionate mission was to silence the Church.

What sin could be worse than trying to stop God's love? What character flaws are greater than trying to keep God's love from bringing peace, joy, and hope to the needy?

What arrogance is required to attempt to hide God's light from revealing sin, changing hearts, and bettering lives?

Perhaps Paul was indeed the worst of all sinners until he accepted Jesus as his Savior. But God had enough mercy for Paul. He had enough forgiveness.

patience, and love to bring him thoroughly into His family and even entrust him with caring for new believers.

Think you know someone beyond God's reach? Paul declares that no one is too far gone. Not you, not your neighbor, not the black sheep of your family. Perhaps, like Paul, they need a miracle to open their eyes and give them new sight and a new heart.

Have faith! Persevere! When you are in Christ, don't be surprised if He reaches out to others through you.

Dear Lord,

Please shake me like you shook Paul, when I need it. Please get the attention of my friends who do not know Jesus. Lead me to show them Your love. I want to help bring them into Your family. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Lower Deck People

(Taken from Our Daily Bread-July 30th devotion)

Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable

1 Corinthians 12:22

A friend of mine works on a hospital ship called *Africa Mercy*, which takes free healthcare to developing countries. The staff daily serve hundreds of patients whose ailments would otherwise go untreated.

TV crews who periodically board the ship, point their cameras on its amazing medical staff, who fix cleft palates and reset club feet. Sometimes they go below deck to interview other crew members, but the work Mick does typically goes unnoticed.

Mick, an engineer, admits being surprised about where he'd been assigned to work—in the ship's sewage plant. With up to forty thousand liters of waste produced each day, managing this toxic material is serious business. Without Mick tending its pipes and pumps, *Africa Mercy's* life-giving operations would stop

It's easy to applaud those on the "top deck" of Christian ministry while overlooking those in the galleys below. When the Corinthians elevated those with extraordinary gifts above others, Paul reminded them that every believer has a role in Christ's work (1 Corinthians 12:7-20), and every gift

is important, whether it's miraculous healing or

helping others (vv. 27-31). In fact, the less prominent the role, the greater honor it deserves (vv. 22-24).

Are you a "lower deck" person? Then lift your head high. Your work is honored by

Now you are the BODY OF CHRIST and each one of you is a part of it

God and indispensable to us all.

-SHERIDAN VOYSEY

What happens when you compare your gifts with others? Which "lower deck" person can you affirm the efforts of today?

I'm important to You, God, Thank You for noticing me whether others do or not.

So we are reminded that someone is watching and someone does care. Even if no one else sees us, God is always watching and always wanting us to do our best for Him. We are worthy! HE sees US, even when others do not. We are all a part of the Body of Christ, each to do his/her part. Even when we doubt or question our importance or our path, God never finds us "too far gone" or "not good enough." One never knows who may be watching or noticing the things that we do, but we are reminded that every job, no matter how big or seemingly insignificant, when done for Him, makes us indispensable!

-In Him, Sharon



Mark your calendars for September 10th ~ That will be our Rally Sunday, kick-off for the Sunday School year, held at the City Park.

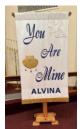
Worship will be held at 9:30, bring your own chairs, and enjoy the outdoors and special music and service by our own Worship team.

There will be activities afterwards for the youth at the park. Hope to see you all there!

(Sunday School Classes will begin on the 17th.)

Pastoral Acts

Alvina Mae Peterson, daughter of Cierra (Dalluge)



and Aaron Peterson, was baptized on Sunday, August 20th by the Rev. W. Paul Weeg. Alvina was born on June 7th. Her sponsors are Jackie Dalluge, Leah Nelson, Kelsey Slagle, Justin Peterson, and Trevor Varner.

We welcome Alvina into our family at Emmanuel and ask that God bless her as she grows in her faith and calling.

(Pictures submitted by Cierra Peterson)









Joys & Sorrows

Congratulations

... to *Haley Tourtellott and Jessie Gerdes*, on their marriage *August 19*th.

God's blessings as you begin your life together!

... to *JC and Sandy Dawald*, who celebrated *60 years* together on *August 31*st. They were married at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Estherville.



God's blessings on your years together and the memories you share!



Our condolences...to Donna & Neil Hackbart and family on the death of Donna's mother, Erma Duponcheele, on August 13th.

May God comfort all who mourn!

Thank You Stewards

...to our faithful organists: Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling.

...to our August counters: Lisa Bartz, Michael Cole, and Connie Rosenberg.

...to our Lay Ministry steward, Janice Nelson.

...to Tammy Borchardt, our Altar Guild steward for August.

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

...to our August Ushers: Mark & Belinda Borchardt, Ken Kroneman, Calvin Thompson, and Troy Tourtellott.

...to Renae Kroneman, our website manager.

...to the August Hospitality Team VIII: Julie & Curt Schaub, Jeff Schultz, Jason & Nicole Schuttler, Jason & Jody Hackbart, Jay Schaub, Linda & Gary Schotanus, Rod & Emi Kuntz, Nancy Walk, Gregg & Mary Jo Urbatsch, and Dorothy Mensch. (and to Charlotte Cole for organizing workers and food) ...to our August Share Shoppe volunteer: Donna Schilling.

...to Lay Ministry members who open and close church on Sundays.

Special Thanks

...to Corrie Kuntz for taking over the watering of our new plants and those who helped previously and continue to help. It is a huge job to keep ahead of the heat and weather, to monitor what needs to be done, and to be good stewards of our property.

...to Lisa Bartz, Bruce White, Kim Mogk, and any others that have been removing old brush, trimming, and weeding in the courtyard area, to make it look fresh and clean.

...to Pastor Paul Weeg for his service to Emmanuel, while taking care of Peg during her recovery. (Peggy is following up in Des Moines after surgery with various appointments and is being encouraged to have the other carotid artery operated on as well. Please keep them in your prayers!)

...to Will Bartz for his special music during the Children's sermon on August $20^{\rm th}$.

...to Lisa Bartz for leading worship on August 27th and to Kim Katuta for sharing her message and presentation about her ministry with the Dayspring Village children's mission in South Africa. (And to those who donated so generously to the Village – we were able to send a check with Kim for \$768!)

... to Brittany Bartz for her organization of leaders and children joining our AWANA club, beginning on August 30th. We have 24 kids signed up!

Thank You, Emmanuel

...for all of your prayers, cards, visits, and well wishes for our recovery. Thanks also to Pastor Weeg for two wonderful visits and all the blessings you have brought to us. You are the best!

-Alan & Mavis Stevens

... to our favorite nurse, Josh Steinberg, and to all those who responded when Earl "hit the deck" on communion Sunday. We are so grateful to be part of a loving congregation.

-Earl & Judy Trenhaile

...for the grace of flexibility in my schedule as I have been watching various grandchildren throughout the summer. I so much enjoy being a part of a church community that works together to get things done and for all those who help me out in so many different ways.

-Sharon Hulshizer



CLUB Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Emmanuel!

(Contact Brittany Bartz for more information.)

Noisy Offering... will resume on the third

Sunday of the month.

September
17th will be our first collection.
This year, we are designating the money towards the

sponsorship of our child, Lawrence, through Compassion International.



Adult choir rehearsal... will begin on Wednesday, September 6th at 7 p.m. If you enjoy singing with a church group, please join us. Choir generally sings twice a month at Emmanuel.

Community Choir...is open to

anyone who enjoys singing and is made up of members of several local churches that do not have their own choir. Rehearsals are on some Tuesday evenings, beginning on Sept 5th at 7 p.m. and on Sunday afternoons, beginning Sept. 10th at

2 p.m. Performances are in various local churches about once a month.



If you are interested in either choir, contact Mark Borchardt, director.

Did You Know

... In a significant show of unity and trust, delegates of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) have re-elected the Rev. Dr. Daniel W. Selbo as their bishop during the NALC Mission Convocation in Oklahoma City, OK.? Receiving 77% of votes on the first ballot, Bishop Selbo's re-election stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, strong leadership, and vision for the church's future. The announcement of his re-election was made by NALC General Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Amy Little on Thursday, August 10, 2023.



Bishop Selbo has been a pivotal figure in the NALC, previously serving as the pastor of St.

Timothy's Lutheran Church in San Jose, California and holding the position of dean of the Central Pacific Mission District.

His continued leadership as

bishop reaffirms the trust and confidence of the congregations and mission districts across North America.

Especially touching was the contextual background of Bishop Selbo's early ministry. Having served as a vicar in South Africa, his roots in global mission made the global participation and musical segments of the Mission Convocation even more poignant, symbolizing the intertwining of cultures, faith, and the universal message of Jesus Christ.

Upon addressing the congregation, Bishop Selbo's words resonated with gratitude, vision, and a roadmap for the years ahead. He extensively spotlighted the North American Lutheran Seminary, underlining its crucial role in raising the next generation of pastoral candidates. He called for a renewed, invigorated focus on mission, discipleship, and spiritual renewal, emphasizing the continuation and evolution of the NALC's 20/20 Vision.

Bishop Selbo stated, "The North American Lutheran Church, over the years, has become a beacon of hope, faith, and spiritual resilience. As we move forward into the future together, our mission remains firmly anchored in the teachings and love of Christ, and our enduring commitment to discipleship, both locally and globally.

I am profoundly honored by this re-election and the immense trust placed in me. My earnest prayer is that together, as one unified body, we will continue to participate in the mission and work of God by lifting up Jesus as Lord and Savior of all, that the world might be drawn by the Holy Spirit to Him."



... The Mission Convocation was graced by a plethora of over 600 global delegates and visitors? This broad spectrum of attendees included representatives from various global Lutheran bodies and renowned ecumenical partners. Notably present were the Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa (Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus), the Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer (Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), the Most Rev. Dr. Ray Sutton of the Reformed Episcopal Church (Anglican Church in North

America), and the Rev. Dr. Walter F. Kedjierski (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). Through the NALC's participation in the Global Confessional and Missional Lutheran

Forum, other church leaders and representatives were present from Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Laos, Mongolia, Norway, and Tanzania.

Adding to the sentiment of unity and global outreach, a video greeting was shared with attendees from the Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, a bishop of the emerging Global Methodist Church, which resonated with warmth and camaraderie.

The North American Lutheran Church, through its rich history and tradition, has cemented its role as a pivotal pillar in the global Lutheran tradition. With congregations spread across North America, the NALC stands as a testament to the strength, unity, and faith of the Lutheran tradition. Centered around the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, the church remains steadfast in its commitment to discipleship, evangelism, and the good news of Jesus Christ.

Underpinning the NALC's ethos are its four foundational Core Values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused. These values serve as the bedrock upon which the church operates, guiding its decisions and spiritual direction. In a world fraught with challenges, the NALC continues to shine as a beacon of faith and hope. It is a dynamic and renewed Lutheran community, fervently moving forward in faith, focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to evangelize and make disciples both in North America and around the globe.

(Information taken from the NALC website)



Update on the NALC Disaster Response

...On Tuesday Aug. 8, a firestorm fueled in part by fierce winds from the Category 4 Hurricane Dora's 140 mph winds triggered raging fires on the island of Maui? These fires hit the historic town of Lahaina, a popular tourist destination and economic hub. The wildfires also impacted the communities of Kihei and Kula.

As of Tuesday Aug. 22, the death toll from the Maui wildfires has surpassed 114, with over 850 people still unaccounted. Authorities are continuing to search the community by grids and the harbor waters for remains. This is the deadliest United States wildfire in more than 100 years. 3,000+ homes, businesses, schools, government, and cultural centers are destroyed.

This wildfire caused more than a loss of homes and land, but a loss of identity, loss of heritage, and a loss of *ohana* as known there. Everyone on the island of Maui has been affected directly or indirectly by these fires, and all are suffering and mourning their losses.

An estimated 12,000 people are displaced, with people in shelters that will be closing soon, placed in hotels for the next 45 days, or living in their vehicles, tents in the park, on the street, or with family and friends. With businesses destroyed, there is also a massive loss of jobs, income, and tourism.

NALC Disaster Response is providing support through local partners, shipping gift cards and other supplies for emergency relief.

To support these efforts, donate your gift cards to NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave. Caldwell, Ohio 43724. If you'd like to give monetary support, send checks to the NALC Disaster Response, PO Box 860565, Minneapolis, MN 55486



Drive Thru Pork Loin Sandwich Supper:

Sunday, September 18th
4-8 p.m.
Visitation Catholic Church
604 N Broad St.
Stacyville, IA.
There will be games, raffle
baskets, and the Mitchell
County Dairy Trailer from
2-6 p.m.

Menu includes pork loin sandwich, bbq baked beans, chips, cookie, and water or milk. *Free Will Offering.*

Bethel's Annual Chicken and Noodles:

Saturday, September 20th
4:30-7:00 p.m.

Bethel United Methodist Church
Highway 9
Manly, IA.
Serving: Chicken and Noodles,
mashed potatoes, corn,

cole slaw and fruit salad,
pie and drink

Cost: \$9 adults / \$6 K-12 / Preschool

Cost: \$9 adults/\$6 K-12/Preschool Free
Take out orders available upon request

Lutheran Retirement Home Auxiliary 36th Annual FALL FESTIVAL FAIR:

Saturday, September 23rd 9:00-11:00 a.m.

701 9th St.N

Northwood, IA.

Baked goods, produce, crafts,
Drawing for a quilt and other prizes!
tickets for the drawing are available from auxiliary
members or can be purchased the day of.

Join us for coffee and cookies, too!

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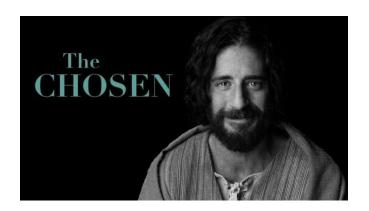


TWC does not meet in July and August, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 19th at 9 a.m. Please join us, if you are able.



September is our month to help at the Lutheran Retirement Home (LRH) in Northwood. On Fridays, volunteers are needed to help with BINGO. The time has changed from afternoon to a

10 a.m. start time. One or two volunteers are needed each week and asked to arrive 10 -15 minutes early. We also provide prizes-those most requested are Beanie babies, jewelry, and candy. There are five Fridays in the month of September for us to fill. If you are able to help or provide prizes, please contact Charlotte Cole.



Connection Group Bible Study...

will be resuming this fall. We plan to rewatch Season 3 of <u>The Chosen</u> and have discussion each week. As the starting date and time have not yet been determined, please watch your bulletins and the leaders will announce and notify you when we plan to begin. If you have not seen <u>The Chosen</u> or wish to watch it again, please feel free to join our group.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Cole or Sharon Hulshizer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information for July 1-31, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$73,320.53

Interest: \$12.94

Offering Revenues: \$9,706.00 E-giving Revenues: \$250.00

Total Revenues: \$9,968.94

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$83,289.47

Expenses: \$5,141.51

End of month Balance: \$78,147.96

Online Giving Update

Many of you are familiar with VANCO, our online giving program, which makes it possible to set up payments to Emmanuel using a credit/debit card or withdrawing funds electronically from your bank account. This was originally started to make it easier for those who may not attend regularly, who might be gone for a time, or just a way to make regular payments. During COVID-19, we had a number of regular subscribers who used the program. Since then, we have seen a decline in the numbers of regular usage. This has led to reconsidering if it is the most cost-effective way to receive donations. There is a monthly fee and some transaction fees that are associated with such a program. They are not huge amounts, but something to consider overall.

Over the last few months, I have been monitoring our usage of VANCO and presented that information to the council. It is my recommendation that after the end of the year, we should discontinue its use. There are other options that may work just as well: You may continue to write checks or give cash, using your offering envelopes (which I already have in my office, to avoid what happened last year!) There is also the option of contacting your local bank and setting up an electronic payment through them. This could be withdrawn weekly, monthly, or however you would like to set it up. They may need additional information, which I can provide. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office. I will keep you posted. - Sharon Hulshizer, Treasurer



Congregational Council Minutes Emmanuel Lutheran Church July 10th, 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, Patti Rustad –

Stewardship, and Sharon Hulshizer -

Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Lonnie Hillman – Property

Devotions: Patti Rustad

Agenda Review: M/S/C to approve agenda as amended: Unfinished Business c) Call Committee and New Business b) Correspondence

Review Printed Minutes: M/S/C to approve

minutes.

Treasurer's Report: accepted as presented

Administrative Report: 1) Reception for new members was done on June 25th. 2) Discussion of summer and fall schedule with Pastor Weeg- has hopes to take some time to go fishing this summer, depending on recovery after his fall. 3) Upcoming baptism and possible new membership on July 23rd.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: Met with group to discuss Endowment fund.

<u>Lay Ministry:</u> Set up next three months' schedule for opening and closing.

Evangelism: 1) Ordered cake for new member reception. 2) Gave \$150 to Renae Kroneman for her design assistance with the new sign. 3) Sent annual donation to <u>Our Daily Bread</u> devotionals.

Y & E: No meetings. VBS is coming up, 36 kids signed up so far. There will be a float for Turkey Day parade to promote it.

Property: Has not met. New library carpet installed on June 28th. LP contracts are being looked into and completed.

Membership review: M/S/C upon receiving transfer papers, Council approves the transfer of JD Steinberg and family.

Unfinished Business:

- a) Clarification of landscaping project:

 Timeline for project is predicted to be the end of July. No drawing or information on what the project will look like. An announcement will be put in the bulletin to inform people about the project and see if anyone is interested in having plants or rock that will be removed and replaced.
- b) Endowment Fund: document explaining the fund and the overseeing group is being rewritten by Mark, who will retype, describe the parameters and guidelines of the fund. Next step will be to call an oversight committee of people to manage the fund. This will be under the Stewardship board.
- c) Call Committee: Met July 9th via Zoom with Pastor Shelly Schultz- discussion on updating the profile and listing pastoral salary and benefits for potential candidates. Council discussed what the salary and benefits may look like.

New Business

- a) Mass Mutual Review- leave on agenda for next month, when we may have more information.
- b) Correspondence: Discussed various correspondence received.

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Will Bartz

Next meeting date and time: Monday, August 7^{th} at 7:00 p.m.

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

Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer

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September 2023

		•		<u></u>		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fall	Sep+e	ember			LRH Bingo 10 a.m.	2
3 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:40 a.m. Fellowship	Happy Labor Day! Church building closed	5	6 AWANA Club 5:30-7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	7	LRH Bingo 10 a.m.	9
10 _{15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship at City Park (Rally Sunday) 10:40 a.m. activities for SS kids}	Pastor Weeg's 75th birthday	12	13 AWANA Club 5:30-7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	Church Council 7 p.m.	LRH Bingo 10 a.m.	16
17 _{16th Sunday after Pentecost} 9:30 a.m. Worship (Noisy Offering) 10:40 a.m. Fellowship; Sunday School	18	TWC (The Women's Council) 9 a.m.	20 AWANA Club 5:30-7 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	21	LRH Bingo 10 a.m.	23
24 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship (Choir sings) 10:40 a.m. Fellowship; Sunday School	25	26	27 <u>AWANA Club</u> 5:30-7 p.m. <u>Choir</u> 7 p.m.	28	LRH Bingo 10 a.m.	30



September 2023

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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<u>September</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>	
Sunday, Sept. 3 rd 14 th Sunday after Pentecost	Kaelee Hicken	Janice Nelson	Donna Schilling	
Sunday, Sept. 10 th 15 th Sunday after Pentecost	Rally at	City Park	Worship Team	
Sunday, Sept. 17 th 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	Aundraya Paulson	Kayla Pappas family	Marena Henkle	
Sunday, Sept 24 th 17 th Sunday after Pentecost	Raiden Kuntz	Chris Paulson family	Donna Schilling	

Hospitality Team IX: Charlotte Cole, Unit Leader

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

Lay Ministry: Sheila Lundon

Counters: Teresa Braun, Phil & Gloria Hackbart

Altar Guild: Haley Tourtellott-Gerdes

<u>Share Shoppe Volunteer:</u>
PA Operator: Garry Backhaus

