

EMMANUEL'S EPISTLE

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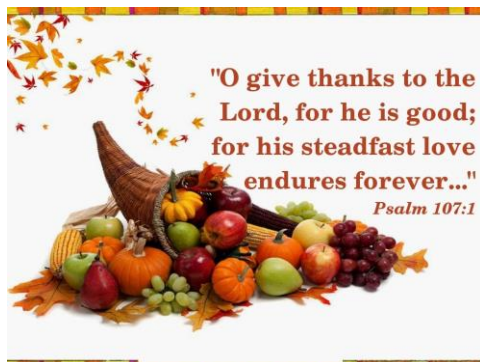
DECEMBER 2023

Sponsored by
Dean & Mardine Meyer

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

'Tis the Season

Have you noticed that this time of year, even before Halloween is over, Christmas things appear in the stores and on tv? I personally have a problem with the fact that it seems we've lost the holiday in between. I understand putting up decorations when the weather is warm and that people may like to extend the holiday season a bit longer, since some have early family celebrations due to time or distance to travel. I pray that you were all able to



gather or at least celebrate Thanksgiving and count your blessings from this past year. I heard

quick fashion, checking off our lists of things to do and buy.

This past Sunday, Pastor Weeg led a Service of Thanksgiving, in which we were able to sing a few of the hymns that recognize our thankfulness as Christians gathered together. We also discussed how it was the end of the liturgical year of the church. We have

completed Church Year A and will begin Church Year B this coming Sunday, December 3rd, our First Sunday of Advent.



Ahh, there it is...we enter the quiet, non-rushed, but anticipatory season of Advent. My home was anything but quiet over the Thanksgiving holiday, with all the children and grandchildren home and under one roof! The silence was almost deafening when they all left. And although I am grateful for each and every member, the quiet and rest were

it referred to as the "day of gluttony" as well on a late night talk show, to which I admittedly had to chuckle. And now that the "forgotten holiday" is over, we rush towards the next one, in an alarmingly

beneficial to my physical and to my spiritually reflective state of mind.

And so it is with the Advent season. It is a time for us to find the quiet and reflective moments we need to focus on what is coming. As we check off our lists of things to do, we need to focus also on Jesus and his coming to us in human form, To begin his earthly journey as one of us, to show us the way, and to be our Immanuel- “God with us”.

This is my prayer for you and yours, that no matter what lies ahead, whether it's the hustle and bustle of the coming days and events, concerns of illness or unknown physical maladies, or sadness in the loss of loved ones. Whatever you may be facing, may you find the “quiet” in your life to reflect on what Christ has done or will yet do for you. And if you are questioning what he wants from you or if he's even there...that you can open your heart and mind to him, to invite the Christ child into your life, to pray for his Spirit to help you when you are unable to help yourself. You are enough, you are worthy-he made you in his image and loves you enough to die on a cross for your sin and mine. And, yes, he is coming back...

Tis the season, not just to be jolly as the song would imply, but to anticipate and reflect and enjoy each and every thing He has given to us. Especially His greatest gift of all – **Jesus**.

A Blessed Christmas and New Year to all- Sharon :)



The following is from Our Daily Bread, the December 6th devotion and is a nice reflection of the season as well:

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
Matthew 1:23

Saint Nick

The person we know as Saint Nicholas (Saint Nick) was born around AD 270 to a wealthy Grecian family. Tragically, his parents died when he was a boy, and he lived with his uncle who loved



him and taught him to follow God. When Nicholas was a young man, legend says that he heard of three sisters who didn't have a dowry for marriage and would soon be destitute. Wanting to follow Jesus' teaching about giving to those in need, he took his inheritance and gave

each sister a bag of gold coins. Over the years, Nicholas gave the rest of his money away feeding the poor and caring for others. In the following centuries, Nicholas was honored for his lavish generosity, and he inspired the character we know as Santa Claus.

While the glitz and advertising of the season may threaten our celebrations, the gift-giving tradition connects to Nicholas. And his generosity was based on his devotion to Jesus. Nicholas knew that Christ enacted unimagined generosity, bringing the most profound gift: *God*. Jesus is “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). And He brought us the gift of life. In a world of death, he “save[s] his people from their sins” (v. 21).

When we believe in Jesus, sacrificial generosity unfolds. We tend to others' needs, and we joyfully provide for them as God provides for us. This is Saint Nick's story; but far more, this is God's story.

WINN COLLIER

What's your experience with gift-giving- is it forced or free and joyful? How does Jesus' life change your notions of generosity?

*Dear God, I want to be generous, but I don't feel it
Help me to practice true generosity.*

Pastoral Acts



The Rev. W. Paul Weeg conducted funeral services for **Elaine Huebner** at Emmanuel on Tuesday, November 7th. Elaine died on October 24th at the Good Samaritan in St Ansgar. Inurnment will be at the Grafton Cemetery at a later date.



We pray for all those who mourn!



Olivia Ann Riggs, daughter of Carrissa (Trenhaile) and Jesse Riggs was baptized at Emmanuel on November 26th by the Rev. W. Paul Weeg. Olivia was born on May 18th. Grandparents are Steven and Brenda Trenhaile and Great grandparents are Earl and Judy.



We welcome Olivia as a member of our church family and pray for her as she grows in the Lord!



Olivia's sponsors are Amy Edwards, Brett Trenhaile, Brandon Trenhaile, and Alyssa Waage.



Thank You, Stewards

...to our organists: Charlotte Cole, Marena Henkle, and Donna Schilling. We are blessed with your talents and thank you for sharing them.

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

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

...to Val Bork and Emi Kuntz, our Altar Guild stewards for November.

...to our PA operators: Dan Nack and Josh Rosenberg.

...to our November Ushers: Paul Hackbart, Garry Backhaus, Duaine Dierks, and Marlin Rosenberg.

...to Renae Kroneman, our website manager.

...to the November Hospitality Team II: Clarice Bartz, Garry & Angela Backhaus, Bonnie Deal, 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 Lay Ministry members who open and close the church building on Sundays.

Special Thanks

...to Duaine & Myra Dierks for their many years serving on the counting committee and to Mark & Belinda Borchardt for replacing them.

... to Jane Dalluge and Kristy Arzberger for volunteering to be counter substitutes, as needed.

...to Lisa Bartz for leading worship on Nov. 12th.

...to Rusty Rustad for leading worship and Shal Zillgitt for sharing her mission through the Army National Guard for Mission Sunday on Nov. 19th.

...to Teresa Braun, for using her steam cleaning vacuum to remove some stains in the Fellowship Hall carpet.

...to Greg Zillgitt for continuing follow-up with the dishwasher (*which is 20 years old and may need fixing or replacing!*) and taking care of other items that need attention.

...to the Trenhaile family for the goodies shared after Olivia's baptism during fellowship!

... to Flint Henkle for choosing the cross shaped wreaths that adorn our wooden entrance doors for our Advent /Christmas season.

...to all those who go above and beyond for our church!



Lawrence- Age 16

the near future. Thank you to all who donate- even a seemingly small amount of change can make a difference, when added to other small amounts!

(From September -November, a little over \$200 was collected!)

Connection Group Bible Study...

will continue on Wednesdays, as determined by the group and weather. Season 4 of The Chosen will be released some time in February, but we may watch some other shows of interest and use a shorter Bible Study format while we are waiting. *If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Cole or Sharon Hulshizer.*



Keep in your prayers...Pastor and Peg Weeg, Clarice Bartz, Laurie Nack Bublitz, Sue Walk, Alan & Mavis Stevens, Kim Mogk, and any others that may not be mentioned, but are in our hearts.

If you may be interested in joining our Prayer Chain, to pray for those requests on behalf of members or others who need prayers, please contact Belinda Borchardt or the office. It is not a "gossip chain," but a sincere group of our church members who wish to uphold those in need of prayer.





The Logos Legos youth packed 11 boxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 5th. Other boxes were packed and brought in and a blessing was given over them during worship on November 12th.

Brittany Bartz



delivered a total of 16-18 boxes to the drop-off site in St Ansgar the following week. Thank you to all who donated supplies, boxes, or money to help cover the shipping costs.

Our AWANA club is growing at Emmanuel. We have 30+ children currently attending! More volunteers can always be used if you have some time to help. A "store" is being organized for the kids to use their points that they build up and can shop at twice a year. Monetary donations for prizes would be helpful for that as well. Thank you to all who support our young people in their learning of God's word.



Christmas at the Grafton Depot... will be on



Saturday, December 7th, Santa Claus will be making a visit from 5:30- 7:30 p.m.

The Canadian Pacific Christmas train will be passing through

sometime after 7 p.m.! Live music will be provided by Will Barrett.



Saturday, December 9th :

Omelet Brunch at the **Bethel United Methodist Church in Manly**. Free Will Offering. Start your Christmas Shopping at the Bazaar: Cookies, baked goods,

candy, crafts, etc. , and have a picture taken with Santa Claus!



Biblecamp...

will open camp registration in

December for 2024! Remember to sign up by February 15 for early-bird pricing! Also keep in mind that Emmanuel Lutheran will pay for half of your regular cost, whether you attend a full or partial week. If you are in confirmation, we pay 100%! This is only for the cost of attendance and not the extra costs for crafts, horse rides, or the special camps such as Ranch camp or CCC camps. We will have our own special church code that you can enter on your registration that lets them know what we will contribute. The church will be billed in the month that your child attends camp. So, make certain you check with Sharon for the code when you register. *(I have not received the code yet, but should have it by the time they open registration!)*

Manger Tales...

is this year's **Children's Christmas program** theme. Join us during worship on **Sunday, December 17th** to see and hear the children explore the Nativity story through interviews with the animals who saw it!



And after the kids' SS Christmas program on



December 17th, check out the selections and purchase some cookies/ goodies from the **Logos Legos Youth** at their **Cookie Walk!**

Free Will Offering

December Events at Emmanuel

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent

Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.



Sunday, December 10th

Second Sunday of Advent

Distribution of Bibles to 2nd Graders during 9:30 a.m. Worship



Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship 9:30 a.m., collection of Noisy Offering;

Children's program during worship;p

Logos Legos Cookie Walk afterwards



Sunday, December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Day worship 9:30 a.m.



Candlelight Service

at 6 p.m.

(Please note time change to an earlier start)



No worship on Monday, December 25th,

Christmas Day

Enjoy the time with family and friends!



Poinsettias ...may be ordered once again. You are invited to order one or more "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" loved ones or "to the Glory of God." The cost is \$14 per plant. The memorials will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve day and Candlelight bulletins and may be taken home after the Candlelight service. You are also welcome to bring your own plant. Order forms will be placed in the first few December Sunday bulletins, found outside the office on the small table, or can be phoned into the office.





John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Star of Christmas Is Shining

The star of Christmas is shining;
It's shining for all to see.
Follow it's light to the Savior;
Find Him, in faith bow the knee.

He's no longer in a manger;
Nor upon a cruel tree.
Death could not keep Him in a grave;
His love won eternally.

A Christmas wreath hangs from the cross;
A bow on the manger bed.
An evergreen tree is now standing;
Below the star up ahead.

In Jesus we live forever;
Our sins are all washed away.
God gave us a gift from heaven;
That astounding Christmas day.

The star of Christmas is shining;
From pages of love and truth.
The greatest gift ever given;
Was written in blood for you.

Susan Y Nikitenko
December 14th, 2012



Did You Know

... we have added a new member to our custodial staff? Shal Zillgitt has become the latest addition to join our cleaning crew. Harley is attending NIACC currently and has reduced her hours so Shal has been helping to cover the remainder of what Harley is not able to do. Jeff Miller is still on "stand by" for whenever we need an extra hand and I want to personally thank all of them for helping set up for the funeral visitation and funeral, to make sure that all the small details were taken care of. We are very fortunate to have conscientious people to care for our church building.

....(speaking of Harley), she has legally changed her last name to her mother's last name and now goes by Nyman instead of Rongved?

... Shal shared her mission as a member of the 1133rd National Guard Transportation Unit with the congregation on Mission Fest Sunday, November 19th? If you were unable to attend that Sunday, there is a video of her on our Facebook page you may watch. The Mission offering will continue to be collected until December 10th and then divided between two entities chosen by Shal and the Stewardship Board: The USO and the American Red Cross, both who assist Military families in need. Thank you for your donations.

...in the updated vacancy list from the



NALC in November that there are **67 congregations** actively seeking to call a pastor? **39** of those are openings for **full-time** ministry.

(We are not alone and should not be discouraged, but rather praise God for strong leadership and a willing and able part-time Interim Pastor who shepherds us, while still balancing health needs, family, and retirement. Continue to pray for Emmanuel's future and God's timing for our needs.)

... the following article comes from the November issue of the Lutheran Core, written by Pr. David Charlton, Lutheran CORE Board President and is an interesting alternative for congregations like ours who are without a fulltime minister:



In the September CORE Voice, I reflected on my time as the pastor of a mission congregation. My question was whether the Lutheran Church is prepared for a time when many, if not most, congregations do not own property. This month, I want to ask a similar question: What are we prepared to do to help congregations without pastors?

For at least the last decade, the Lutheran Church has been facing a double crisis. The first part of that crisis is that there are fewer pastors to fill the needs of congregations. The second part is that more and more congregations are too small to afford to call a pastor. What can be done about this crisis?

Two proposals have been discussed in CORE Voice in recent months. One is to train lay ministers to fill the need. The other is to change the path to ordination. Requiring a person to receive a four year master's degree, as well as acquiring tens of thousands of dollars of debt in the process, is impractical. Rather than training lay-ministers to serve in congregations, it is argued, we should train people who will be ordained upon receiving a call from a congregation.

That is an important debate, but I don't want us to be distracted from an option that can be implemented in the meantime. My proposal is simple, but often overlooked. That is to encourage lay people in small congregations, or people hoping to form a congregation, to do what lay people are already permitted to do. Namely, we should encourage them to pray together, gather for Bible study, read the Catechism, visit the sick, care for the hungry, and so forth.

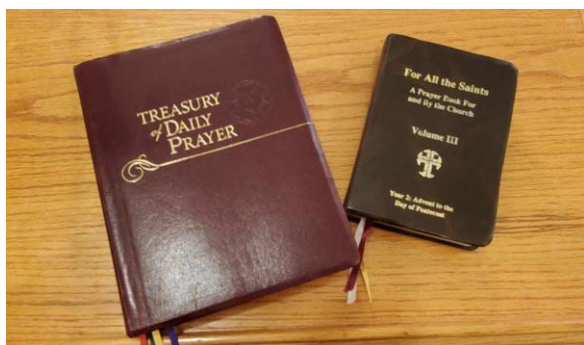
In particular, one question is what to do when there is no pastor to lead corporate worship. The solution, in my opinion, is found in the hymnal. Let's take the venerable *Lutheran Book of Worship* as an example. There are at least six services in that hymnal that do not need to be led by an ordained pastor. They are the Service of the Word, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, Responsive Prayer 1 and Responsive Prayer 2. All of these may be led by a lay person. (The *Lutheran Service Book* has even more options.)

In addition, the three settings for Holy Communion can be altered in such a way that they can be led by one or more lay persons. First of all, each setting offers an option of omitting the second half of the service, Holy Communion. The Service of the Word is what remains. The Greeting and Benediction also need to be altered, but apart from that, the rest of the service remains.

Since the focus would be on the Word and prayer, full use of the Sunday and the Daily Lectionaries would be ideal. Congregations would be encouraged to take time to meditate on the lessons, as the hymnal suggests. Too often, in our rush to finish worship in one hour, we fail to allow enough time for people to do this. In this case, however, there would be an opportunity to renew that practice.

The next question would have to do with the sermon. There are so many resources that I cannot name them all. Instead, I will focus on just two at this time. The first resource is [*For All the Saints*](#), published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. The second is the [*Treasury of Daily Prayer*](#), published by Concordia Publishing House. *For All the Saints* follows the two-year daily lectionary found in the Lutheran Book of Worship. In four volumes, it contains a prayer of the day, an Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel for each day, plus all 150 Psalms. In addition, however, there is a Writing for each day that relates to and helps interpret the lessons for the day. In a prayer service, this Writing could serve as a sermon.

Finally, what could we do to help? Imagine a group of de-churched Lutherans wanting to form a congregation. We could gather used LBWs, or other hymnals, and ship them to the congregation. Then, through donations, we could



purchase a set of *For All the Saints*, or a copy of *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, for their use.

Individuals could be encouraged to follow the daily lectionary at home, even purchasing a copy of *For All the Saints* or *Treasury of Daily Prayer* if they

choose. (Online and digital resources are also available.) What would it be like for a group of people to worship together or alone for a year using these wonderful resources? *Pr. David Charlton*



IOWA MISSION DISTRICT news:

The following is an excerpt of the featured article on the home page of the Iowa Mission District website:

We are in the midst of a three-year cycle of themes in the Iowa Mission District: Hope, Faith and Love... our theme for 2023—Faith. It is our faith in the Lord Jesus and His promises that gives us hope and courage to continue to be faithful in following Him. He is the fulfillment of the promises made by our heavenly Father through all the ages—from Adam and Eve, through the prophets, and culminating in the ministry of John the Baptist who pointed to Jesus as the long-promised Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. As the ancient Creeds of the Church bear witness: He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died, and buried; rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. In the meantime, we are called to live faithfully, trustfully, and patiently—knowing that He will return, but not knowing when. This is the faith to which we are called as children of God and heirs of eternal life. In the meantime, as Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth—and continues to remind us—“*Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*” (1 Corinthians 16:13 —Pastor Barbara Wills

For more Iowa Mission District info, visit the website at www.iowamissiondistrict.com.

NALC 2023 Advent Devotionals are here...

The following is a description of the devotional as found on the NALC website:

In the sacred tapestry of the Christian liturgical calendar, this year marks a significant expansion in our journey of faith as we extend our devotional reflections to encompass not only the season of Advent but also the joyous celebration of Christmas—as well as the illuminating days of Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord.



Echoes and Epiphanies is an invitation to embark on a scriptural pilgrimage, to discover the nuanced resonances and radiant epiphanies of Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to appreciate the intricacy of God's redemptive story and to inspire a life attuned not just to Christ's gentle reverberations but to His moments of illuminating truth.

Copies of the devotional will be available on the small table inside the wooden doors, along with our latest Our Daily Bread devotionals.

VANCO UPDATE



At the November Church Council meeting, Council voted to follow the recommendation of discontinuing our VANCO online giving, **effective**

December 31st. You may choose to use VANCO until the end of the year. After that, you will need to set up automatic payments through your local bank., if you are interested in giving in that way. I will be glad to assist with any questions or information needed to do that. - Sharon



2024 Offering Envelopes... are here and will be available by Christmas Eve. (possibly earlier!)

They will be placed on tables inside the wooden doors for you to pick up for yourself and others! If you wish to receive a box of envelopes and do not currently do so, please contact Sharon at the office.

Grafton Cemetery Update:

On September 8th, Merlin & Lisa Bartz, along with Cody & Marena Henkle, hosted a New Shed Party, providing food and live bands. A Free will Offering was taken



for the Grafton Cemetery - **\$2, 026** was raised! The Cemetery Board is most appreciative of this effort and thanks all those involved in helping to organize this.

In addition, the annual collection for the cemetery on All Saints' Sunday, took in **\$1385.**

Thank you to all who support our local cemetery!

Christmas offering...has been designated as in the past: the first \$1500 will go to Benevolence and the remainder will stay in the General Fund.



End of the year contributions are due by the December 31st worship service to be recorded on this year's financial statements.

Sponsorships Encouraged:
\$90/month

**Thank you to those past and present,
for your support!**

This comes from the One Year Book of Hymns: The scripture comes from Micah 5:2,4- read it on your own)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the Holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us we pray ;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Philip Brooks was a giant of a man and a prince of a preacher. When his six-foot-six frame filled the pulpit, the people of his churches learned and responded. He served Episcopal congregations in Philadelphia and Massachusetts.

In 1865 Brooks went to the Holy Land and was especially impressed by a Christmas Eve service at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, the traditional site of Jesus' birth. Three years later he needed a Christmas song for the children's service at his church in Philadelphia. Since he loved children, Brooks decided to write the song himself. For inspiration, he thought back to his experience in Bethlehem.

It is said that after Brooks died, one five-year-old girl of the church was upset because she hadn't seen him recently. Her mother told her gently that Bishop Brooks had gone to heaven. The girl's face brightened as she said, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be!"

Stewardship Musings

As we near the end of 2023, it is good to reflect on the past year. Our Church Council continues to be mindful of our expenses as they meet to set up the proposed budget for the next year, to be presented at the Annual Meeting in January. *(Meeting date to be determined at the December Council meeting)*

I am grateful to all those who faithfully give and encourage all of us to continue to do the Lord's work through our gifts- our talents and our money. We have been able to go above and beyond our day-to-day budget and share special collections with various organizations this year, even above the monies designated by the Stewardship board at the beginning of the year! That is impressive with a church body our size!

May this season, when we are busy attempting to find the perfect gift for loved ones, remember that all we are and have comes from God, so that we may share with those less fortunate in the way that we are best able. For... *"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me"* *(Matthew 25:40)*

Looking to a New Year, a fresh start for us to serve the Lord!
-Sharon Hulshizer, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Financial Balance Information for October 1-31, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$88,839.41

Interest: \$14.45

Offering Revenues: \$11,248.00

E-giving Revenues: \$250.00

Total Revenues: \$11,512.45

Total revenues + Beginning balance: \$100,351.86

Expenses: \$4,322.93

End of month Balance: \$96,028.93



**Congregational Council Minutes
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
October 12th, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by: Mark Borchardt – President

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

Absent: none

Devotions: Belinda Borchardt

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

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

Treasurer's Report: accepted

Administrative Report: 1) Pastor Weeg will be gone for two Sundays in October and November. He has lined up a former student to be our guest speaker on October 22nd from The Navigators group- a special collection will be taken up for the organization. 2) Discussion of holiday services:
a) **M/S/C to follow Lay Ministry's recommendation regarding Thanksgiving service date/times for this year.** b) discussion of Christmas Eve as it falls on a Sunday this year. We will have both a morning service and the Candlelight service, with a possible change to an earlier time for the Christmas Eve Service. Sharon will discuss with Pastor Weeg and Lay Ministry.

Board highlights:

Stewardship: Met October 4th: 1) Shal Zillgitt will be speaker for Mission Fest on Nov 19th. Board will hand out cookies after service as they did last year. 2) The counting committee needs to replace a couple of persons retiring- it will be advertised in the bulletin. 3) Board has determined Thanksgiving and Christmas offering designations.

Lay Ministry: Met to set up schedule for unlocking and locking on Sundays through January.

Evangelism: Has not met. Will set up a budget meeting.

Y & E: 1) Sunday School is averaging around 20 kids per week. 2) Christmas program may be December 17th during the worship service. 3) Logos Legos will be meeting once a month and will participate in Operation Christmas Child. 4) AWANA club will be bringing in donations for Operation Christmas Child- have 27 kids so far. Could use more adult volunteers.

Property: Our church insurance will be ending January 16th. We need to find new coverage. Lonnie will contact a few places. Mark will reach out to Pastor Staley for suggestions.

Membership review: none

Unfinished Business:

- a) Landscaping project: Checking plants to make sure all are doing well. Company did not send requested plant information and care.
- b) Endowment Fund: Received draft/revision to look over. Stewardship board can make recommendations of names to put on the ballot at the Annual meeting to serve on the Endowment Fund board.
- c) Mass Mutual Review: May need to start adding money to help maintain the policy benefit. Patti Rustad will see if an agent will come and speak to council regarding the policy.
- d) Thrivent Funds: are available, as needed.

New Business: none

Next meeting devotion's preparer: Lonnie Hillman

Next meeting date and time: Monday, November 6th at 6:30 p.m.

M/S/C – meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.
Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



TWC

(The Women's Council)

November 21, 2023

Sharon opened with devotions from Our Daily Bread entitled, "One Thing Needed," based on Luke 10:41-42. It spoke of how we are easily distracted in our busy, everyday lives, just like Martha was when Jesus came to visit. We are to learn from her to realize that the one thing needed that Jesus told Martha she should embrace is choosing to draw close and learn from Him. TWC opened with the reading of the purpose. Secretary minutes were read and approved from October. Treasurer reports \$2,937.40 in Checking and \$4,008.46 in Savings. We have changed our account to a Hi-Fi savings account to earn a bit more interest. Thank Offering will be collected through the end of November.

Old Business: 1) LWR projects: three quilting days were organized by Clarice and very well attended. All the batting was used for the quilts. There is a need for more people to help with tying the quilts. After the first of the year, dates will be set up for the next quilting days. 2) Kitchen Report: a) Fundraiser: a huge Thank you to the Venechuks for providing the food free of charge; attendance was around 55. Initial offering was \$750. It was nice to have the SS children join us. i) discussion of replacing the plastic tablecloths on the front serving tables as they are becoming difficult to keep clean. ii) prioritizing new flooring over chairs in the Fellowship Hall as needing to be done first. b) Dishwasher: needs to be looked at by a repair person. Greg Zillgitt is setting this up. There are two 5-gallon pails of dishwasher soap in the furnace room that should be used/disposed of. 3) Fellowship Teams: still need unit leaders for three teams. The JD Steinberg family has been added to Team VII. 4) Bible Study: will wrap up on December 6th. The movie, "Journey to Bethlehem" is being shown in Northwood. TWC discussed the possibility of going to the matinee as a group on Wednesday, December 13th. 5) Thank offering: will be collected through November and disbursed in

December to local charities. Sharon will clarify in the bulletin what the monies will be used for.

New Business: 1) Christmas gifts for LRH residents: Mavis will take care of these once she has received the list of recipients. 2) Yearbooks: Sharon has been working on getting the yearbooks updated for 2024.

Upcoming Dates: Next TWC meeting: Tuesday, December 12th at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

-Secretary, Sharon Hulshizer



... to all who attended and/or supported our Fall Fundraiser on November 12th. We enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship

with all who came. Thank you to those who provided food and helped to serve and clean up. We are grateful for the monetary donations received, which will be used towards future Kitchen/Fellowship needs.

ATTENTION LADIES:



We are considering going to the matinee of "**Journey to Bethlehem**" at the Northwood theater on Wednesday, December 13th. Please contact one of the *TWC members if you might be interested so we can set up times and carpooling. This is not by the producer of "The Chosen," but is a





musical production that he encourages people to see. *(Charlotte Cole, Belinda Borchardt, Emi Kuntz, or Sharon Hulshizer)

Christmas with The Chosen: Holy Night

is this year's Christmas special and is a combination of two short films produced by Dallas Jenkins, along with special music and is a 2+ hour show. It is being shown at Cinema West in Mason City from December 12-17th at 7 p.m.



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:40 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School	4	5 	6 Connection Group 1 p.m. <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>AWANA Club</u> 5:30-7 p.m.	7 Santa at the Depot 5:30-7:30 pm. Canadian Pacific Holiday Train	8 	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ presentation of Bibles 10:40 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School	11 	12 TWC (The Women's Council) 9 a.m.	13 Connection Group Journey to Bethlehem <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>AWANA Club</u> 5:30-7 p.m.	14 Church Council 7 p.m.	15	16 
17 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ SS Christmas Program 10:40 a.m. Fellowship; No SS; Logos Legos Cookie Walk	18	19 	20 No Connection Group <u>Confirmation</u> 4:30 p.m. <u>AWANA Club</u> 5:30-7 p.m.	21	22 	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. No Fellowship & Sunday School 6 p.m. Candlelight Service	25 	26 	27 No Connection Group No Confirmation No AWANA Club	28	29	30 
31 First Sunday of Christmas 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Fellowship; No Sunday School	<div>    </div>					



December 2023

NON-PROFIT
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US POSTAGE PAID
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PERMIT NO. 11

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

308 4th Avenue
PO Box 282
Grafton, Iowa 50440

641-748-2736
Address Service Requested

<u>December</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Organist</u>
Sunday, December 3rd <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	Kaelee Hicken	Curt & Julie Schaub	Marena Henkle
Sunday, December 10th <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	Aundraya Paulson	Jay Schaub	Marena Henkle
Sunday, December 17th <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	Raiden Kuntz	Michael & Elizabeth Schaub	Charlotte Cole
Sunday, December 24th <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	Weston Paulson	Donna Schilling	Marena Henkle
Sunday, December 31st <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	Madison Edwards	Gary & Linda Schotanus	Charlotte Cole

Hospitality Team III: Yvonne & Troy Tourtellott, unit leaders

Ushers: Michael Cole, Dave & Candi Feldt, Corrie Kuntz, and JC Dawald

Lay Ministry: Lisa Bartz

Counters: Belinda Borchardt, Michael Cole, and Connie Rosenberg

Altar Guild: Candi Feldt

Share Shoppe Volunteer: Nicole Cole

PA Operator: Darren Marsh

