# **Emmanuel and St Paul's** January 2021 NEWSLETTER

### Looking forward in the Light of Christ:

We look forward to going out, without fear, into the new year, 2021. Still, it feels like 2020 +1 because the ill effects we suffered in the last 10 months will linger into the new year. But still we have persevered holding onto what is good and helpful, vital for life. And Christ Jesus can be found there; in our homes, workplaces, the stores where space is given for the comfort of others, to slow the spread of an unseen danger.

Our lives are never without danger, so blessed are we to know God is with us, Emmanuel!

<sup>2</sup> "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light – a light will shine on all who live in the land where death casts its shadow. <sup>3a</sup> God's people will again be great, rejoice as people rejoice at harvest time." <sup>6</sup> "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." *Isaiah 9* 

Darkness and the need for the reliable light of truth is a shadow which lingers from the past year; we have just celebrated the light of truth coming to live in us: God Emmanuel. This is worth stating again and again, *"You may be the only Bible some people will ever read!* 

That is, your life, the words, tone, and actions you chose distinguish you among everyone else your family, friends and neighbors interact with. Most know you go to church; what that means for you, God's influence on your life, and the resilience and grace your faith provides you does not go unnoticed. In this COVID weary world, God's doing His best work in you. Not the secular Government, rather the divine light which leads some into the vocation of health care, police work even. And all other vocations and volunteer opportunities which provide aid for people in their weakness and vulnerability.

Your church, the church where you worship, and family of families united by faith in Christ is the place we come to seeking the light, hear from the Bible, praise, pray and worship. Even if it is online, or a printed service booklet.

This example Jesus used illuminates how important and powerful practicing your faith is. Also encouraging others to do likewise. Together we bear the light of Christ to the weary world.

Jesus said, "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

#### Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes – November 9, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. (This Council Meeting was held via Zoom)

Present: (on line) Jessica Bosley, Brian Holmes, Becky DeWild, Chuck Richardson, Kim Swank, Mike Koval, Dave Wiebold, Linda Wolfe, Pastor Kurt Hoover, Theresa Swank; (on phone) Marilyn Holmes. Absent: Kris Sherman. Call to Order: Council President Jessica Bosley. Devotions/Praver: Pastor Kurt Hoover. Secretary's Minutes: The November Minutes reviewed, moved, seconded and approved by the Council. Treasurer's Report: The November Financials were reviewed, moved, seconded and approved by the Council. Pastor's Report/Deacons Report: 1. Deacons Russ Burroughs and Ron Oestman resigned as Deacons. 2) During communion, the Deacons will hand out the wafers/cups and the Pastor will fill the cup. Each will have a part in stating the declarations (The body of Christ and The blood of Christ). 3) Live streaming is available with the new fiber optics connection. 4) Organization of a nursery during the Worship hour is being considered. 5) Pastor is open to all comments, thoughts and suggestions concerning how the Church is handling the COVID-19 virus services. STANDING COMMITTEES: Worship and Music: The Christmas Eve Worship Service will be decided upon. Christian Education: 1) 7-8 Children are attending Sunday School each week. 2) A Harvest Party was held in October. 3) Bibles will be given to Kindergarteners and upcoming Confirmation age students. 4) The coordinators are working on how best to present the Sunday School Christmas Program. Church Property/Parsonage Property: 1) The Church Steeple Project and voting ballots were discussed: 23/remove the steeple: 5/re-skin the steeple. 32/replace the steeple with a fiberglass one. It was decided to begin a Steeple Fund Raiser with the steeple to be replaced in the spring. An article will be placed in the December NL. 2) Mike Koval volunteered to be the Chairman of the Property Committee. Thank You to Chuck Richardson who has served as Chairman for many years. 3) Linda Wolfe, Pastor Kurt and Barbara Hoover will be compensated for the 2 months of cleaning and vacuuming of the Church property they did when Karen Erickson had knee surgery. 4) When cleaning, Linda Wolfe notated several areas that need attention; she made a list and passed it along to the Property Committee who will see to the areas. 5) Pastor noticed the parsonage bathroom sinks need attention. The committee will schedule a walk-thru in the up-coming months. Finance and Stewardship: 1) The committee met with St. Paul's to set the 2021 Budget. It was moved, seconded to approve the 2021 Budgets to be presented at the Annual Meeting; Council approval. Membership Committee; Did not meet; no report. LYO/Youth: 1) Jessica Bosley is getting more information concerning the Adopt-a-Family regulations during the pandemic. MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEES: Altar Guild: 24 poinsettia were ordered for Advent/Christmas to decorate the Sanctuary. Cookbook, Funeral, Memorial, Wedding: No reports. Hospitality: A meal was taken to Karen (knee replacement) and Byron (cataract surgery) Erickson. WELCA: Barbara Hoover will be hosting the November Bible Study/Business Meeting at Church. OLD BUSINESS: 1) A steeple fund is set up to received donations. 2) Swift has installed the fiber optic internet/phone. NEW BUSINESS: 1) Karen and Byron Erickson are resigning as custodians due to health issues. Linda Wolfe will continue cleaning until another custodian is found. 2) 3 Council members terms are up. The need for 3 new Council Members will be actively sought and placed in the December NL and Bulletins. 3) By Council consensus, it was decided instead of congregational food/personal items for the Adopt-a-Family, money will be collected for a Food Gift Card. 4) It was moved, seconded and approved by the Council to donate \$120.00 to the "Shop with a Cop" program. 5) It was moved, seconded and approved by the Council to designate the January 2021 to the Community Food Pantry. Adjournment and Closing: There being no other business to conduct, it was moved, seconded and approved by the Council to adjourn. Pastor Hoover led the Council in The Lord's Prayer. Jessica Bosley closed the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Linda Wolfe, Council Secretary.

#### Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women (WELCA)

In December, the WELCA Bible Study/Business Meeting is not held. The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20 @ 2:00 p.m. As of now, the hostess/location has not been decided upon; you will be notified when it is known. As of December 31, the WELCA Finances are: \$237.66 (Quilting Account) and \$1,125.98 (Business Account) and \$148.26 (Birthday Bags Fund). The collection basket for the Birthday Bag Project is under the Narthex Mailboxes. Special Thanks to Deb Carpenter and Teresa Roberts for making pillowcases which are placed in each Birthday Bag especially for the Birthday child. They are so colorful and I am sure the children enjoy their special gift. Don't forget, check the stores for medium sized bags with Birthday motifs.

The Quilters donated 5 quilts for the Adopt-a-Family. Each child received a quilt and 1 was given to the adults. Thank You to Teresa Roberts for making a cute baby sized quilt especially for the family's baby.

The congregation collected money for an Adopt-a-Family food gift card instead of food items. The response for money instead of food this year was overwhelming and the family should have a very nice Christmas. Gifts were bought by the congregation and the LYO. Special THANKs to all who participated in this year's congregational project.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Wolfe, WELCA contact person/Treasurer

#### **EMMANUEL EVENTS and INFORMATION**

#### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Draven Pedersen Andy Hansen
- 7 Merrill Whitehill 9 Connie Holmes
- Andrea Swank
- 10 Courtney Ryan
- 11 Tina Wigington
- 12 Alex Catherine Holmes
- 16 Chuck Richardson
- 19 Ryan Grebert
- 20 Heather Slater Dan Hansen Levi Kinnison Malachi Kinnison



- 27 Darian Slater
- 28 Gordon Sherman
- 29 Keely Bouska Carter Houchin

#### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES 31 Howard and Pat Elliott



OF SPECIAL NOTE JANUARY 15, 2021 is the final date to have your offering in to get it registered on your 2020 OFFERING DOCUMENT. If you wish your offering to be tallied for 2020, please clearly indicate this on your check OR on your offering envelope. REMEMEBER... January 15 for 2020 offerings.

IT IS OFFICIAL!!! Emmanuel has established the "Steeple Project Fund Raiser" to raise funds to remove and replace the existing steeple to protect the Sanctuary from the dripping water caused by years of erosion to the steeple. If you would like to donate funds, place a check or cash in the offering plate marked "Steeple Fund" OR you can send your donation to the Church: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 406 E. Pioneer Avenue, Shenandoah, IA 51601.

#### JANUARY ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes and Becky DeWild Altar Committee: Deb Burroughs and Barb Hoover Acolytes: Tyler Prokop and Maren Bosley (3) Evan Holmes (12) Ali Hansen (17) Lilly Wittmer (24) Maren Bosley (31) Readers: Undesignated (3) Jessie Bosley (10) Karla Koval (17) Undesignated (24) Undesignated (31) Ushers and Greeters: Undesignated (3,10,17,24,31)

#### FEBRUARY ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes and Becky DeWild Altar Committee: Acolytes: Evan Holmes and Ali Hansen (7) Tyler Prokop (14) Lilly Wittmer (21) Maren Bosley (28) Readers: Karla Koval (7) Jessie Bosley (14) Undesignated (21) Undesignated (28) Ushers and Greeters: Undesignated (7,14,21,28)

A 31 year Emmanuel member and a dear friend, Donna Currie unexpectedly passed away at her home on Saturday, December 12 at the age of 81. Our sympathies go out to her children Kevin. Chad and Aimee and their families. Due to the COVID-19 virus. a private (family only) Service was held at the Shenandoah Rose Hill Cemetery. A full celebration of Donna's life is being planned for September of 2021. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Donna's name are being directed to the Turnbull Child Development Center in Shenandoah where upon her retirement she spent many hours rocking babies as a volunteer at the Center. Donna will be missed by her Emmanuel Family. Her full obituary is posted on the foyer bulletin board or can be found on the Nishna Valley Funeral and Cremation web-site.

All gatherings are subject to change. Social distancing will be observed at the Sunday Service; please sit in the un-taped pews where the bulletins are placed. For your saftey and the safety of others, adult and children's masks are available in the foyer.

#### **Emmanuel Lutheran Church – JANUARY 2021**

406 East Pioneer Avenue, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601 web-site: <u>www.emmanuel-lutheran.com</u> Kurt Hoover, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Committee					1	2
Deb Burroughs						
Barb Hoover					New Years Day	
					Office Closed	
<ul> <li>9:15am Sunday School</li> <li>IO "Before Worship Coffee"</li> <li>0:30am Worship with Holy Communion</li> <li>:30pm THE STORY Bible</li> <li>tudy in the Fellowship Hall</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</li> <li>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY</li> </ul>	4	5	<b>6</b> Epiphany	7	8	9
0 9:15am Sunday School IO "Before Worship Coffee" 0:30am Worship with Holy Communion following :30pm THE STORY Bible Study in the Sancuary :00-7:30pm Clover Kids and 4-H Club/Fellowship Hall Baptism of Our Lord 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Quilting 5:30pm Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
<b>7</b> 9:15am Sunday School IO "Before Worship Coffee" 0:30am Worship 30pm THE STORY Bible tudy in the Fellowship Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting 7:00pm Membership Comm. Meeting (if needed)	19	<b>20 2:00 pm</b> Bible Study (place and hostess will be announced)	21	22	23
24 9:15am Sunday School IO "Before Worship Coffee" 0:30am Worship :30pm THE STORY Bible study in the Fellowship Hall 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 7th h Sunday of THE STORY	<b>25 9:00am</b> Quilting	26	27	28	29	30
<b>31</b> 9:15am Sunday School NO "Before Worship Coffee" 0:30am Worship 3:30pm THE STORY Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY	Émmanuel Hours: 9:	00-12:00 noon; Mond	ay thru Thursday	phone #:1-712-246-3	287 web-site: <u>emn</u>	nlutheran@yahoo.co

#### ST. PAUL'S INFORMATION CONCERNING JANUARY 2021 CHURCH SERVICES and EVENTS

#### With COVID-19 cases rising, St. Paul's has returned to virtual Sunday Services. We would like to THANK everyone for their patience and help through the pandemic as we have adjusted our services.

### TO WATCH THE VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Go to <u>https://youtube/jvFNTXtb1Pw</u> OR go to YOUTUBE under "kurt hoover" and it will be downloaded there.

Church Services at St. Paul's begin every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join in worship online each week.

- During this Christmas Season, we owe many people "Thank you's" and hope they realize the depth of our gratitude. Thank you to Pastor Kurt, Barbara, Penny and Carole for making sure we have access to a Sunday Service at St. Paul's
  - Even though we might not be gathered in one Sanctuary, we are one family sharing the experience. Thank you to Pastor Kurt, Deb Ratliff and Penny Bredensteiner for all the work they did on the virtual Christmas Eve Program. We have truly been blessed to have Pastor and Barbara as our technical support throughout the pandemic and for the Christmas Eve Program.

### THE ANNUAL METING WILL BE SUNDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY AT ST. PAUL'S WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING. THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WILL PICK UP REPORTS ON THE WAY INTO THE MEETING.

#### JANUARY 2021

January 3 – NO Worship Service at Church. <u>You are encouraged to watch the YouTube Service each Sunday</u>. January 10 – NO Worship Service at Church/NO WELCA Meeting

January 13 – NO Bible Study; An announcement will be made about a startup date when that decision is made.

January 17 - NO Worship Service at Church/ 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting with Social Distancing/Masks

January 24 – N0 Worship Service at Church

January 31 - NO Worship Service at Church

#### JANUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE: Faye Rolf and Deb Weiss

The following are the scheduled assistants. Please check with Penny Bredensteiner concerning Reading/Acolyting.

JANUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE	JANUARY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE	JANUARY READER SCHEDULE
Patti Rolf (2)	Andy Rolf (3)	Deb Ratliff (3)
Deb Weiss (9)	Andy Rolf (10)	Deb Ratliff (10)
Mary Beth Bredensteiner (16)	ANNUAL MEETING/No Service (17)	ANNUAL MEETING/No Service (17)
Kathy Athen (23)	Steven Middaugh (24)	Kerra Ratliff (24)
Blu Dow (30)	Steven Middaugh (24)	Kerra Ratliff (31)

**Pat Athen has done a fantastic job** of replacing the floor in the basement along with baseboards, a door and some panel replacements. We truly THANK him for his thorough and impeccable work. It has made a huge difference. Please stop by and see how nice it looks.

**Our Food Drive this year went** to the Atchison Country Food Pantry. We would like to THANK everyone for their generous contributions. The following is a Thank You from the Food Pantry in Tarkio:

Dear St. Paul's Members, Thank you for your generous donation to the Tarkio/Westboro/Fairfax Food Pantry. The monetary donation and food items will help us keep food on the shelves for those in need in our communities. God has been so faithful. With gratitude, The Food Pantry Board

**Waddy Coffman** has been convalescing at his daughter's home in Shenandoah after a stay in the hospital due to health issues. We truly miss his presence at St. Paul's and hope to see him again soon. If you would like to send a card (s), please send them to: Waddy Coffman, 103 West Grant, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601

PLEASE REMEMBER HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SUPPORT ST. PAUL'S DURING THE TIME CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED. The Council encourages you to continue to give your offerings. It is easy to place one's offering in the collection plate on Sundays when we are in Church. It is less on our minds and in our actions when we are not at St. Paul's. Please consider prayerfully your giving for this final month of 2020. At this point, the Treasurer has received \$623.50 in offerings for December. The monthly Budget of the Church is \$2,844.00. Yes, we have savings that can be tapped into to makeup differences, but it would be nice to keep those funds intact for emergency needs in the future. The address for sending your offerings: Nancy Middaugh, PO Box 71, Hamburg, lowa 51640.

The Chuch Counci met on November 22 and decided to go virtual; any changes - you will be notified.

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church – January 2021 3055 – 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Northboro, Iowa 51647 Kurt Hoover, Pastor 1-515-850-7670 kurtshoover@ymail.com

	$0.05 = 410^{10}$ Avenue, No	11110010, 10wa 31041	Kult Houvel, Pastor	1-010-000-7070 Ku	tshoover@ymail.com	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Committee Faye Rolf Deb Weiss					1	2 Church Cleaner Patti Rolf
3 On line taped service; be alert for the address R: Deb Ratliff - A: Andy Rolf 5:30pm THE STORY Bible Study @ Emmanual 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY	4	5	6 BIRTHDAY Cheryl Whipple Epiphany	7	8	9 Church Cleaner Deb Weiss
10 On line taped service; be alert for the address NO WELCA MEETING R: Deb Ratiff - A: Andy Rolf 5:30pm THE STORY Bible Study @ Emmanual Baptism of Our Lord 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY	11	12	13 NO BIBLE STUDY (an announcement will be made about Bible Study start-up date when that decision has been made) BIRTHDAY Faye Rolf	14	15	<b>16 Church Cleaner</b> Mary Beth Bredensteiner
17 NO SERVICE 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting with social distancing and masks 5:30pm THE STORY Bible Study @ Emmanual 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of THE STORY	18	19	20 BIRTHDAY Dalton Weiss	21	22	23 Church Cleaner Kathy Athen
24 On line taped service; be alert for the address R: Kerra Ratliff A: Steven Middaugh 5:30pm THE STORY Bible Study @ Emmanual 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 17th Sunday of THE STORY	25 BIRTHDAYS Steven Middaugh Dillon Dow	26	27	28	<b>29 BIRTHDAY</b> Gayle Moody	30 Church Cleaner Blu Dow
31 On line taped service; be alert for the address R: Kerra Ratliff A: Steve Middaugh 5:30pm THE STORY Bible Study @ Emmanual	Emmanuel Hours: 9	-12 noon; Monday th	nru Thursday # 1-71	<b>i2-246-3287</b> <u>emmlu</u>	theran@yahoo.com	
4th Sunday after Epiphany 18th Sunday of THE STORY						

#### January 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

#### Raising Our Voice for Iowa Children and Families

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants striving to build new lives.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Help us ensure their voices are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

This legislative session may look different from past years. But now more than ever, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) will be advocating for our community members who are so often overlooked in our society.

You can join us in this important work. Visit LSIowa.org/advocacy and sign up for our Advocacy Alerts. Learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at <u>Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org</u> or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

#### **Compassion During Crisis**

Across the state, LSI team members work with families at risk of child abuse or neglect, connecting them to the tools and resources they need to keep their children in their homes whenever safely possible.

One of the critical programs available to parents is the Strengthening Families program. The program typically provides 14 weeks of in-person parent group work, family activities, and a family meal to enhance child development, help parents create their own support network, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse or neglect.

When COVID-19 created challenges to this in-person model, LSI did not give up on the families who relied on this important service. Instead, LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services team has gone virtual.

Maria, a program supervisor with LSI, has been leading a virtual version of the program this year, where families join a Zoom meeting and use "breakout rooms" for individual sessions. Meals are purchased from Hy-Vee and delivered the night of the session, so families are still able to celebrate their tradition of eating together each week.

This year has created several challenges for all of us, but LSI continues to answer the call and provide the high-quality care and services Iowa children and families deserve.



#### Sharing their Poinsettia with us this Advent/Christmas Season

- The Altar Poinsettia are given by the Women of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, are **IN MEMORY** of Past Members and **IN HONOR** of all Present ELCA Members;
- Tony and Cathy Ballain IN MEMORY of Our Parents and IN HONOR of Our Children and Grandchildren;
- Sally Batemen IN MEMORY of Charles Bateman, Bill Bateman
  - & Alma and Reuben Peterson;
- From the family of Donna Currie;
- Eldora Gowing **IN MEMORY** of John Gowing and **IN MEMORY** of Sally Gowing;
- The Gowing Girls and Their Families **IN HONOR** of Eldora Gowing;
- Newt and Marcella Heaton **IN MEMORY** of Our Parents; Marilyn Holmes **IN MEMORY** of Bob Holmes and **IN HONOR** of
- My Grandchildren: Ali, Audri, Matt, Alex, Andy, Austin and Samantha;
- Wayne Holmes IN MEMORY of Mary Lou Holmes;
- Gene and Miriam Houchin IN MEMORY of Our Loved Ones;
- Mary Alice Johnson **IN MEMORY** of Howard Johnson and Bettie and Harold Johnson & **IN HONOR** of My Children and Grandchildren;
- Terry and Marcene Johnson **IN MEMORY** of Our Daughter, Penny Sievers and **IN HONOR** of Our Daughters; Tammy Grebert, Roxanne Herrick and Traci Campin;
- Mike and Karla Koval;
- Kim and Theresa Swank;

Emmanuel Lutheran Church 406 East Pioncer Avenue Shenandoah, Iowa 51601