

Emmanuel and St. Paul's

December 2021 NEWSLETTER

As families, and church, we may feel a lot like I imagine Mary and Joseph felt: 'what now, what is next?' Unexpected pregnancy, towns folk's criticism, trip to Bethlehem, shepherds and wisemen, fleeing to Egypt!

For them, as with Elizabeth and Zachariah, the only certainty was a child was coming, then the child was there, in their care.

For us, our congregations are in our care. We certainly want to continue to worship Christ, live according to His example, be strengthened in faith for the days ahead. Ready for the day Christ will come again in glory. In Him is life, and hope, peace, even joy this world needs. Like the hope, love, joy, and peace, you experience when holding an infant. May we be renewed in these feelings within our church families!

One of the blessings of children is their presence requires focused family priorities. Mary and Joseph found themselves in an unexpected place in their lives, and life together. I believe, if we are honest about it, in the present, our usual ways are also disrupted. Some of the folks we have relied upon aren't coming back after COVID; some have graduated to heaven.

COVID has only intensified what was already 'not the best of times' for small town congregations. Yet, like Mary and Joseph, our priorities are secure when we fearlessly follow established core values and purposes for life, and our lives together. Still adaptations are in order.

May we draw closer and grow in unity with grace to work together with flexibility towards **keeping Christ's gift of salvation at the center of our life together**. Worship is each congregation's core activity along with service to and with one another, a witness of God's presence in our communities. Also central is involving young and older members in the ministries of our congregations, according their talents, gifts, and interests.

In unexpected ways our Heavenly Father provided for Mary and Joseph to protect and care for the life of His Son, entrusted to them. Likewise, may we be open to unusual, as well as the usual, ways to protect and sustain the mission entrusted to our congregations. A mission of sharing and being built up in the life of Christ. Let us consider carefully the essential ways we utilize and share God's gifts of grace and forgiveness, welcome and encourage others to be united through God's gifts with us.

Like Mary and Joseph, with the precious Christ child, it will be a journey. Our final destination is certain, because it is Jesus Himself who has prepared the way, filled in the valleys, leveled the mountains and hills – will smooth out the rough places for those who believe He is the one Son of God, come down from heaven for our salvation.

One of the greatest resources we have is each other, including area congregations. As conference dean and with Bishop Lorna's encouragement, in the New Year I will begin to convene a regional conversation about organizing a regional parish. Whether it is appropriate for St Paul's and Emmanuel to be a part of such an organization is for congregational leaders to determine.

As your pastor I am committed to serving the congregations I am called to. And can encourage and support regional envisioning of an organizational model which will make it feasible for our neighbor congregations to call pastors and continue their worship and service life in their communities. I believe it would be beneficial for leaders from St Paul's and Emmanuel to participate in the conversations asking the Lord to help and guide us all in these uncertain times.

There is no sure promise other than the love and mercy of our Savior who accompanies us along the journey.

Pastor Kust

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – October 11, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chuck Richardson, Marilyn Holmes, Mike Koval, Dan Hansen, Steve Jensen, Karen Erickson, Council Secretary Linda Wolfe, Pastor Kurt Hoover, Financial Secretary Kris Sherman. **Absent:** Becky DeWild, Kim Swank, Dave Wiebold.

Call to Order: Council President Marilyn Holmes. **Devotions and Prayer:** Pastor Kurt Hoover. **At this time, the agenda was changed to Financial Secretary duties:** Kris Sherman explained her duties and the way she keeps the records. Kris is resigning as Financial Secretary; Kris was thanked for her work. **Secretary's Minutes:** Reviewed, moved to accept, seconded; Council approval. **Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed. It was noted that the Light Fund was not listed on the Financial Report. Treasurer Suzanne Tysor will be contacted about this. It was moved, seconded to approve this report; Council approval. **Pastor's Report:** 1) Kim and Theresa Swank will attend the Regional Conference Meeting. 2) "Pay the Weigh for All to Eat" feeding hungry people in Western Iowa project. This will be discussed under NEW BUSINESS. 3) September was a busy month with: "Gods Work, Our Hands" Sunday, the Shen-Fest Congregational Pie Sale, the Shen-Fest parade float, Adopt-a-Family School Clothing Program. 4) Bishop Halaas will meet with the Conference on November 2.

STANDING COMMITTEES: Worship and Music: 1) Pastor continues to work with Emmanuel Organist Steve Richardson and St. Paul's Organist Carole Hamilton and the Worship Hymns. 2) It was noted that the congregation sometimes is confused as to when to sit/stand. Pastor will make the icons larger on the screen to indicate when to stand/sit. **Christian Education:** 1) Due to an unforeseen event, Sunday School had to cancel on October 10 and 17. Facebook messages were sent to all the Sunday School families. The Council felt a substitute teacher should be looked into to teach if the need arises. **Church Property/Parsonage Property:** 1) The Church furnaces were checked out by Lynn Furnace and readied for winter. 2) The new defibrillator batteries were installed; good for 4 years. 3) Barring any weather problems the steeple will be install on November 5. 4) Chuck Richardson is storing the float sides at his property. 5) The Parsonage furnaces were checked and readied for winter. **Finance and Stewardship:** 1) In Kim Swanks absence, Chuck Richardson presented the 2022 Budget. This will be discussed in NEW BUSINESS. **Membership:** 1) All pies were sold at the Shen-Fest Pie Sale. \$1,075.00 was made from the \$20.00 donations and the sale of the pies. The proceeds will be used for the Sanctuary Lights and the Wabash Fine Arts Camp. 2) The October 3 "Hot Dog Roast" at the Richardson Farm went well. Thanks to Chuck Richardson and Ron Oestmann for grilling and Steve Richardson for the Hayrack Ride. 3) The "Soup and Pie" Fund Raiser is scheduled for November 20. **LYO/Youth:** 1) The Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project information will be sent to the Church Office as Jessica Bosley and daughters are not able to organize it this year. **MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEES: Altar Guild:** 1) October Altar Committee: Theresa Swank and Melaine Prokop. October Altar Flowers by Dave/Kathy Wiebold IN HONOR of their Anniversary and Chris/Molly Wiebold IN HONOR of their Anniversary. 2) November Altar Committee: Barb Peterson and Linda Wolfe. **Cookbook, Funeral, Hospitality, Wedding:** No reports. **Memorial:** The Steve Fienup Memorial Fund has been established. **WELCA:** Linda Wolfe will host the Bible Study/Business Meeting on Wednesday, October 20 @ 2:00 p.m. at Church. **OLD BUSINESS:** 1) Workman's Compensation Policy. It was explained that the new policy will have the same coverage as old policy. Moved, seconded to approve the policy; Council approval. 2) The first draft of the revised Emmanuel Constitution was handed out to be reviewed by the Council. Each Council Member will now review it and the schedule for Congregational review will be decided at the December Council Meeting. 3) Ushering/Greeting. A sign-up sheet was put on the foyer table but no one has signed up. **NEW BUSINESS:** 1) Marilyn Holmes reported that Lisa Holmes has volunteered to take the Financial Secretary position. Kris Sherman will contact her with all the information. 2) The 2022 Budget was reviewed by the Council; same Budget as last year. St. Paul's has agreed on their Cost Sharing portion. It was moved, seconded to accept the 2022 Budget as printed to present to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting; Council approval. 3) "PAY THE WEIGH FOR ALL TO EAT: Synod Project. It was moved, seconded to designate the Thanksgiving Eve offering towards this program as well as some of the proceeds from the Soup and Pie Supper; Council approval.

Adjournment and Closing: Council Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. and closed with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Wolfe, Council Secretary

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women (WELCA)

The November 17 Bible Study/Business Meeting was hosted by Marcella Heaton at 2:00 p.m. at Church. The Bible Study was led by Pastor Kurt Hoover from the "Pleasing God" Bible Study; Chapter 6. The Financials and Business was presented followed by Marcella serving a delicious fall spice cake with nuts and caramel sauce, coffee and seasonal candy. Members present were reminded that on November 21, the ThankOffering would be taken up at the beginning of the Worship Service.

The quilters have tied some outstanding quilts and will soon pick out the quilts to give to the Adopt-a-Family children and parents.

There will be **NO BIBLE STUDY MEETING** held in **December** but will resume in January 2022 with Rosamond Tillman as host at Church with Chapter 7, "Keeping the Peace" – Romans 14. Linda Wolfe, WELCA Contact Person/Treasurer

EMMANUEL EVENTS and INFORMATION

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Jonathan Jensen
4 Mark Holmes
5 Cathy Ballain
Jordan Tacker
Becky DeWild
7 Jeff Oestmann
8 Lacey Clark
11 Melanie Houchin
12 Natalie Ray
Kelly McQueen
19 Chuck Larson
20 Scott Oestmann
Ryan McQueen
21 Ron Oestmann
22 Amber Barton
Jackson Wigington
26 Pastor Ron Nelson
29 Mary Alice Johnson
Lilly Wittmer
30 Ron Tiemeyer
Patrick Clark
31 Howard Elliott



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 Don and Connie Buesing
15 Bob and Jane Gowing Agan
27 John and Rose Walter
29 Steve and Katie Jensen
30 Jim and Lucy Clark



The family of Eldora Gowing thanks you for your expression of sympathy in the loss of our mother Eldora. She loved her Church family and we are grateful for the love and support she was shown. She always looked forward to attending Church and valued her long time relationships. Thank you for joining with us in celebrating her long life.
Janet, JoAnn, Mary Beth, Jane and families

Thank you to all who have "checked out" the snowman tree in the Fellowship Hall and picked a tag or two to purchase Christmas presents for our 2021 **Adopt-a-Family**. Our family has 4 children and lots of needs and wishes (including favorite colors) for each of them. The November and December "Noisy Offering" is also designated to the family for gift cards instead of bringing can goods. The last day to collect the money and bring your purchases is **DECEMBER 5** to make sure we get them wrapped and delivered by the 7th.

DECEMBER ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes
Altar Committee: Rose Walter/Lisa Holmes
Acolytes: Lilly Wittmer and Maren Bosley (5)
Ali Hansen (12)
Evan Holmes (19)
Tyler Prokop (26)
Readers: Marcia Johnson (5)
Jessica Bosley (12)
Karla Koval (19)
undesigned (26)
Ushers and Greeters: **undesigned (5,12,19,26)**

JANUARY ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes
Altar Committee:
Acolytes: The new schedule will be out soon
Readers: **undesigned (2)**
undesigned (9)
undesigned (16)
undesigned (23)
undesigned (30)
Ushers and Greeters: **undesigned (2,9,16,23,30)**

The **BOLD** dates are when the assistants are needed; if you can volunteer to help, please fill in your name on the foyer table sign-up sheet OR contact the Church office (246-3287) (emmlutheran@yahoo.com) to reserve your date. Thank You!

A special THANK YOU to the Emmanuel's Membership Committee who organized the November 20 Soup and Pie Fundraiser Supper with a free concert following. Lots of people came and enjoyed the 5 different varieties of soup and (more than you could count) homemade pies. The 7:00 p.m. concert by Strings Unlimited was well received. The proceeds (following expenses, etc.) came to \$200.00 which will be sent to the Western Iowa Synod along with the November 24 Thanksgiving Offering designated for the Food Bank and Food Pantry Program. Thanks to all who made soups and pies, those who helped serve and those who cleaned up following the event.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 2021

406 East Pioneer Avenue, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601 www.emmanuel-lutheran.com Kurt Hoover, Pastor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Altar Committee Rose Walter Lisa Holmes			1	2	3	4
5 9:15am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 2 nd Sunday of Advent	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:15am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School Christmas Program Congregational Pasta Dinner Fundraiser follows 3 rd Sunday of Advent	13 9:00am Quilting 6:30pm Council Meeting	14	15 NO WELCA Bible Study/Business Meeting	16	17	18
19 NO Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4 th Sunday of Advent	20 6:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting 6:30pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	21	22	23	24 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service/Holy Communion Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 NO Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship 1 st Sunday of Christmas	27 9:00am Quilting	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00-12:00 NOON; MONDAY-THURSDAY
 TELEPHONE #: 1-712-246-3287

E-MAIL: emmlutheran@yahoo.com

ST. PAUL'S DECEMBER 2021 INFORMATION and EVENTS

(Services begin at 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul's each Sunday.)

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

The congregation brought their **THANK OFFERINGS** to Church Sunday, **November 21**, along with non-perishable foods for the Hamburg Food Pantry. The monetary Thank Offering goes to WELCA.

River Dow's Confirmation was recognized during the Church Service at St. Paul's on **November 21**. River was Confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 7, 2021.

Practices for the Christmas Eve Program began on Sunday, November 21.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed on **Sunday, November 28**, the First Sunday in Advent.

St. Paul's has also been collecting "Adopt-a-Family" donations in November. The donations collected will go toward the project in general and will be sent at the beginning of December.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS:

Bible Study will meet the 1st Thursday in December. **Penny Bredensteiner** will be hosting the meeting on **December 2, 2021 at 12:00 noon**.

WELCA will meet on **December 12**, immediately following the Church Service.

December 19 is the deadline for bringing your candy to St. Paul's. We are asking each family to bring **6 dozen wrapped pieces of candy for the Christmas sacks**, which will be distributed during the program on Christmas Eve.

December 24 – 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program

December 25 – Have a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Following surgery, Peg Griffey is recovering at home. We are offering our prayers to both Peg and Faye Rolf, who continues her recuperation in Colorado with her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Mark Boon. Please keep both Peg and Faye in your prayers. If you would like to send them a card: Peg Griffey, 14100 W. 90th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215 and pmaure6@gmail.com.

Faye Rolf, % Suzanne Boon 5175 Mining Camp Trail, Parker, Colorado 80134

Our prayers go out to those members of St. Paul's who are unable to worship with us at the present time – Waddy Coffman, Faye Rolf and Mabel Baker. They continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank You to Leigh Ann Hamilton for sharing her gift of art with St. Paul's. She has done an incredible job and we are more than appreciative of her God given talent.

DECEMBER ATLAR COMMITTEE: Penny Bredensteiner and Jean Bredensteiner.

The following is a list of hymn selection assignments for specific months:

December – Dallas Prather

January – Mary Beth Bredensteiner

DECEMBER CLEANING SCHEDULE

Patti Rolf (4)

Deb Weiss (11)

Mary Beth Bredensteiner (18)

Kathy Athen (25)

DECEMBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Tim Bredensteiner (5)

Shane Bredensteiner (12)

Shane Bredensteiner (19)

Shannon Gilbert (26)

DECEMBER READERS' SCHEDULE

Dallas Prather (5)

Dallas Prather (12)

Kymm Bredensteiner (19)

Kymm Bredensteiner (26)

Information for the monthly NEWSLETTER will be sent to the Emmanuel Office by the 15th of each month. If you have anything you would like in the NEWSLETTER, please contact Mary Beth at: marybeth@tarkio.k12.mo.us or get the information to Nancy or Penny.

December 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been another difficult time for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping the people LSI is privileged to serve. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Never Alone

Two years ago, Kayla knew it was time for a change in her life. She had struggled with substance use for years. When she was pregnant with her youngest son, Rafe, she was determined to build a brighter future for him. She entered treatment to become sober and create a healthy home for her baby.

While in treatment, Kayla enrolled in the HOPES program through LSI Early Childhood Services, which provides in-home parenting education and guidance for parents of young children. Kellie, Kayla's LSI worker, met with her every week to ensure she had all the resources and support she needed to raise Rafe in her home. They kept track of all his important developmental milestones, sharing smiles and laughs along the way. Whether it was supplying diapers or being a listening ear, Kellie was always there for Kayla.

Kayla is now two years sober, has a job as a chef, and feels empowered and confident that she has everything she needs to help her family thrive.

"I just feel overwhelmed and overjoyed. I never thought I could do all this, so I'm proud of myself," she says. "There are people at LSI that care about you. They are there to support you and they are willing to help."

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
406 E. Pioneer Avenue
Shenandoah, Iowa 51601



Photo provided by Jim Wolfe