



# *Emmanuel and St Paul's December 2022 Newsletter*



While there are less and less secular organizations reflecting the Christian values of our nation's founding Scouting and 4-H share in common the theme of Advent: "Be Prepared."

Or as I like to say it, living prepared, and preparing, for the return of Jesus.

When we extend last Sunday's Gospel reading, we hear Jesus' own example of what it means to embody living prepared and as a citizen of God's kingdom while awaiting it's fulfillment.

<sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

<sup>45</sup> "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. <sup>47</sup> Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' <sup>49</sup> and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. <sup>50</sup> The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. <sup>51</sup> He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The **4-H Creed** reminds adherents they are equipped (*created*) with the resources they need to be prepared to advance the lives of others as well as their own. This understanding embodies what Jesus expects believers to do for one another, with our lives and resources.

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, skillful, and useful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community (*my church*) and in my responsibility for their development. In all these things

I believe, and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

**4-H Slogan:** "Learn by Doing" <sup>i</sup>

The same commitment was implicit in our foremothers and forefathers understating of how we should respond the church's credal statements of what our Heavenly Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit have done and continue to provide for our living now, preparing to live in the fulfillment of God's kingdom when Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead. Whether we are embodying in the grace we receive our Savior's righteousness in obedience to God's commands, or self-righteously pursuing our own interests at the expense of others?

May the Lord help us be the church as He envisions it for us.

<sup>i</sup> National 4-H History Preservation Project; <https://4-hhistorypreservation.com/History/M-C-P/>

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – October 10, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Marilyn Holmes, Mike Koval, Dave Wiebold, Jessica Bosley, Karen Erickson, Dan Hansen, Barbara Hoover, Susan Maxine, Pastor Kurt Hoover, Secretary Linda Wolfe, **Absent:** Joel Bashaw. **Call to Order:** Council President Marilyn Homes, **Devotions/Prayer:** Pastor Kurt Hoover.

**Secretary's Minutes:** September 12, 2022 Minutes, reviewed, moved, seconded; Council approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** September 2022 Finances, reviewed, moved, seconded; Council approval.

**Pastor's Report/Mutual Ministry Report:** 1) The 2023 Budget Committee met and the proposed Budget was set. This will be further discussed in the Finance and Stewardship Committee Report.

**Worship and Music:** 1) The October and November Hymns were selected; 2) More familiar Hymns will be sung; 3) 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is on November 27; Advent bookmarks will be included in each bulletin; 4) The "Before Coffee Sign-up Sheet" is needed to be filled in and will be placed on the Fellowship Coffee Table. **Christian Education:** 1) Children's Sunday School will begin on October 15 at 9:15 a.m. **Church Property/Parsonage Property:** 1) Mark Johnson will replace the water stained ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall; 2) The new sign is working but it sometimes shuts off now and then, it might be a bad breaker and will be looking into; 3) The Church Kitchen faucets will be looked into after noting low water pressure; 4) Where the front tree was removed, was reseeded; the Committee has arranged for the Church lawn to have a weed control application. 5) Discussion on what to do with the old front sign i.e. take out the electrical components, tuck point where necessary and use as a shadow box or tear it out entirely. The concrete base would be hard to move. The Committee will consider all options and visit with Congregational Members for their suggestions. **Finance and Stewardship:** 1) At the October 6 Meeting, the Committee set Emmanuel's 2023 Budget which was brought to the October Council Meeting for approval to be recommended to be adopted at the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. The Committee noted they are meeting with the St. Paul's Council to set the cost sharing items. 2) The 2023 changes to the Budget were explained. It was noted that \$3,000.00 was the approximate amount raised from the 2022 Budget due to inflation and cost of living. It was moved and seconded to approve 2023 Budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting; Council approval. **Membership Committee:** 1) 15 pies were sold at the Shen-Fest Pie Sale; a few not sold were frozen to serve at the November 12 Soup and Pie Supper with the Bill Sons Family as entertainment. \$1,220 (Pie Sale plus donations) was collected. 2) 22 people attended the Fall BBQ at the Richardson Farm. Thanks to Chuck Richardson, Steve Richardson and Russ Burroughs for grilling. **LYO/Youth:** 1) By Council consensus, an Adopt-a-Family with 3-4 children will be reserved. NOTE: Last year 55 families – 130 children were provided for. **Altar Guild:** October: Theresa Swank and Melaine Prokop; November: Barb Peterson and Linda Wolfe. 2) 24 poinsettia were ordered for Congregational purchase. **Cookbook, Funeral, Hospitality, Memorial, Wedding:** No reports. **WELCA:** The October 19 – 2:00 p.m. Bible Study/Business Meeting will be held at the Mary Schumacher House in Farragut. **OLD BUSINESS:** 1) "Room at the Table" meal program held at the Presbyterian Church: Emmanuel continues to collect essential items used for Drawing Prizes; the box is in the foyer. **NEW BUSINESS:** 1) Examples of what the area at the top of the new sign were passed out. Discussion on lettering and size of lettering was held. The Council decided to put **EMMANUEL** in capitalized bold letter and **Lutheran Church** in lower case letters (except for the **L** and **C**). A symbol will be placed in the pointed upper area. Pastor will fashion an example of the Council's recommendation and bring it to the November Council Meeting. 2) \$100.00 was sent to the Page County Sheriff's Office from the "Noisy Offering" collection. 3) Mike Koval has resigned from the Council but will continue as Church Treasurer until a new Church Treasurer can be found. Council Members will contact/visit Members who might be willing to take over. It was moved and seconded to accept Mike Koval's resignation; Council approval. 4) As the Membership Committee will be using the Church's roasters for the Soup and Pie Supper, concerns were raised about the problem of too many roasters/crock pots plugged into the sockets and overloading the circuits. The Church has a diagram of what sockets are on what circuits which will be posted in the Kitchen for reference. 5) It was noted that Patti Gee might not have a key to the Church when it comes time to deliver the poinsettia. Linda Wolfe will make sure they have a key to use in case no one is here when the poinsettia are delivered as they are not sure when the Serenity Studios will receive their plants. **Adjournment and Closing:** There being no other business to conduct, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the October 10, 2022 Council Meeting; Council approval. President Marilyn Holmes adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Pastor Kurt led the Council in *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Wolfe, Council Secretary.

## EMMANUEL INFORMATION and EVENTS

### 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 Houchin
- 31 Howard Elliott



### DECEMBER ASSISTANTS

- Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes
- Altar Committee: Rose Walter and Lisa Holmes
- Acolytes: Megan Bosley and Lilly Wittmer (4)  
Ali Hansen (11)  
Lilly Wittmer (18)
- Christmas Eve. undesignated (24)**  
Maren Bosley (25)
- Reader: Marcia Johnson (4)  
Jessie Bosley (11)  
**undesignated (18)**  
**undesignated (24 – Christmas Eve)**  
**undesignated (25)**
- Ushers/Greeters (undesignated 4,11,18,24,25)**

### JANUARY ASSISTANTS

- Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes
- Altar Committee:
- Acolytes: The January-June 2023 schedule will be out this month
- Readers: **The January-March sign-up sheet is on the Foyer Table and needs to be filled in. (1,8,15,22,29)**
- Ushers/ Greeters: undesignated 1,8,15,22,29)**

### ANNIVERSARIES

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



The **BOLD TYPE** dates are when assistants are needed. The sign-up sheet is on the foyer table OR contact the Church Office (246-3287) to volunteer. Thank You to all who have signed up to be the Worship Assistants.

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women (WELCA)

On November 16 @ 2:00 p.m. the WELCA Bible Study/Business Meeting was held with Marcella Heaton as hostess. Pastor Kurt Hoover led the Bible Study on the Disciple John "Seeking to Be the Greatest" by Douglas Connelly. Following the Business Meeting and Bible Study, Marcella served a delicious seasonal apple desert, chocolates, nuts and coffee. **NO BIBLE STUDY** will be held in December...BUT on January 18 at 2:00 p.m. WELCA will meet at the home of Mary Alice Johnson for the Bible Study on the Disciple Thomas – John 20:19-29.

The annual WELCA Thank Offering was held on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of the Worship Service. For over 30 years the Women of Emmanuel have brought their Thank Offering containers to Church and "carefully placed" their coins and dollars in the collection basket and off it goes (via check not the basket of coins) to the Lutheran Women's Synod, Chicago. Our offering and offerings from Women's Groups all over America are combined to finance programs benefitting women and children. This year, \$201.55 was collected and will be sent to help these programs.

The Quilters have selected quilts for the 4 children of our congregational Adopt-a-Family. The 17 year-old girl, 13 year-old boy, 8 year-old boy and 4 month-old boy will have a special quilt for the winter months ahead. If you chose a name from the Snowman Tree to purchase a gift for the children, the items are needed to be back by December 8 so they can be wrapped and delivered by December 12. ALSO, December 4 is the LAST SUNDAY to drop in November and December "Noisy Offering" donations to purchase Food Gift Cards for our Adopt-a-Family. A Blessed Christmas to all as we end out 2022 and look forward to seeing everyone worshipping together at Emmanuel.

Linda Wolfe, WELCA Contact Person/Treasurer

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church – December 2022

406 East Pioneer Avenue, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601 [www.emmanuel-lutheran.com](http://www.emmanuel-lutheran.com) Kurt Hoover, Pastor 1-641-417-9269

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Altar Committee</b> <b>Rose Walter</b> <b>Lisa Holmes</b>		<b>Emmanuel Hours:</b> 9-12 noon; Mon-Thurs. <b>Emmanuel Phone #:</b> 1-712-246-3287	<b>Emmanuel e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:emmlutheran@yahoo.com">emmlutheran@yahoo.com</a>	1	2	3
<b>4</b> 9:15am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion <u>Last Sunday to donate to the "Noisy Offering"</u> <u>Adopt-a-Family Food Gift Cards will be purchased.</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	5	6	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Advent Worship Service	<b>8</b> <u>Adopt-a-Family presents need to be at the Church!</u>	9	10
<b>11</b> 9:15am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship – Communion follows Worship 5:30-7:30pm Fellowship Hall reserved for 4-H Club 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>12</b> 9:00am Quilting 6:30pm Council Meeting	13	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Advent Worship Service	15	16	17
<b>18</b> 9:15am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee/Fellowship 10:30am Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	20	<b>21</b> NO WELCA BIBLE STUDY 6:30 pm Advent Worship Service	22	23	<b>24</b> 8:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Holy Communion
<b>25</b> 9:45am Coffee and Fellowship 10:30am Worship Christmas Day	<b>26</b> 9:00am Quilting?????	27	28	29	30	31

**ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2022**  
Services begin at 9:00 am at St Paul's each Sunday.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WAS CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 27, THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.**

**BIBLE STUDY** - Bible Study will meet at 12:00 noon, December 1, 2022 with Sharon as the host.

The WELCA met on Sunday, November 13. It was decided that rather than doing "Adopt-A-Family" for Christmas, St. Paul's will be collecting donations to be given to a different area care center each year to help with the purchase of Christmas gifts for their patrons. There will be a bag in the narthex marked for these donations.

**December 4 - The Second Sunday in Advent.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will meet every Sunday, following the church service, to practice for the Christmas Program.

**December 11 - The Third Sunday in Advent.** WELCA will meet immediately following the church service.

Hymn selections for each month will be made by the following parishioners:

December - Dallas Prather      January - Sharon Gilbert

**DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Penny Bredensteiner and Jean Bredensteiner

**December 18 - The Fourth Sunday in Advent.**

Please bring 6 dozen wrapped pieces of candy to the church on December 18. We will be sacking candy following the church service that day.

The Christmas Eve Program will be at 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 24, 2022.

There will be no coffee on Christmas Day, December 25, 2022.

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

**DECEMBER CLEANING SCHEDULE**

12/03/22 PENNY BREDENSTEINER  
12/10/22 SHARON GILBERT  
12/17/22 KYMM BREDENSTEINER  
12/24/22 KERRA RATLIFF  
12/31/22 TONI COMSTOCK

**DECEMBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

12/04/22 SHANNON GILBERT  
12/11/22 SHANE BREDENSTEINER  
12/18/22 SHANE BREDENSTEINER  
12/25/22 PENNY BREDENSTEINER

**DECEMBER READERS' SCHEDULE**

12/04/22 DALLAS PRATHER  
12/11/22 KYMM BREDENSTEINER  
12/18/22 KYMM BREDENSTEINER  
12 /25/22 DEB RATLIFF

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – DECEMBER 2022

3055 – 410<sup>TH</sup> Avenue, Northboro, Iowa 51647 Kurt Hoover, Pastor 1-641-417-9269 kurtshoover@ymail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Altar Committee</b> <b>Penny Bredensteiner</b> <b>Jean Bredensteiner</b>		<b>Emmanuel Hrs.</b> <b>Mon-Thurs; 9-12 noon</b> <b>Emmanuel Phone #:</b> <b>1-712-246-3287</b>	<b>Emmanuel e-mail:</b> <b><a href="mailto:emmlutheran@yahoo.com">emmlutheran@yahoo.com</a></b>	<b>1 12:00 noon Bible Study</b> Sharon Gilbert Please bring a side dish	<b>2</b>	<b>3 Church Cleaner</b> Penny Bredensteiner
<b>4 9:00am</b> Worship R: Dallas Prather A: Shannon Gilbert Sunday School Christmas Program Practice follows  <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 6:30pm</b> Advent Service at Emmanuel	<b>8 BIRTHDAY</b> Waddy Coffman	<b>9</b>	<b>10 Church Cleaner</b> Sharon Gilbert
<b>11 9:00am</b> Worship R: Kymm Bredensteiner A: Shane Bredensteiner Sunday School Christmas Program Practice follows WELCA will meet following the Worship Service  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14 6:30pm</b> Advent Service at Emmanuel	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 Church Cleaner</b> Kymm Bredensteiner
<b>18 9:00am</b> Worship R: Kymm Bredensteiner A: Shane Bredensteiner Sunday School Christmas Program Practice follows <b>Congregational candy is due TODAY to be sacked after worship</b>  <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 BIRTHDAY</b> Jean Bredensteiner	<b>21 6:30pm</b> Advent Service at Emmanuel	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Church Cleaner</b> Kerra Ratliff  6:00 pm Christmas Eve Program
<b>25 9:00am</b> Worship R: Deb Ratliff A: Penny Bredensteiner  Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29 BIRTHDAYS</b> Natalie Gilbert Nichole Gilbert	<b>30</b>	<b>31 Church Cleaner</b> Toni Ratliff

## 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! Because of your generosity LSI has continued to offer hope and healing to Iowans of all ages. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI we see veterans getting help, children overcoming fear, moms and dads parenting with renewed joy and confidence, new neighbors from foreign lands becoming established and active in their communities, the pride of independence for those experiencing challenges in everyday life. We know parents who feel hopeless, with few 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 spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, allows us to stand together and celebrate this Christmas season.

LSI's annual matching gift campaign gives opportunities to double new and increased gifts 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **Thank you!**

As 2022 comes to an end, we reflect back on all those whose lives have been impacted by your gifts.

From Iowa's newest citizens, those you've helped to feel at home in a new country: "Thank you"; from the young first-time mom who has learned how to care for her newborn: "Thank you"; from the teenager who needed some redirection and support: "Thank you".

From the veterans needing help readjusting from trauma they endured: "Thank you"; from the person who was able to receive the kind of mental health therapy they needed: "Thank you".

From the person with disabilities who is able to live as independently as possible with our help: "Thank you"; from the parents who are learning new processes to provide healthy, safe environments for their children: "Thank you"; from the foster parents who are providing care when needed, "Thank you".

From those kids in residential whose lives have come to a turning point with new skills to use going forward: "Thank you!"

And from all of us at LSI that you have encouraged and supported: "Thank you!"

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

Although small in number, the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 23 was big on inspiration. Special THANKS to Theresa Swank for being our READER, Jim Wolfe for coming out of Acolyte Retirement to serve as our ACOLYTE, Steve Richardson (and the Musical Angel Muse on his shoulder) for giving us the outstanding Hymns that we so wanted to hear on Thanksgiving and Pastor Kurt for delivering the special message and prayers of Thanksgiving for everything God has provided and will provide for us. You can find this outstanding service on-line.

The list of those who shared their Poinsettia with the congregation during the Advent and Christmas Seasons will be in the January NEWSLETTER.

Special THANKS to those who decorated the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for Advent and Christmas. Each year the beautiful red Poinsettia plants, the garland, the trees and their soft lights are a welcoming sight when entering the Church.