

# *Emmanuel and St. Paul's January 2023 Newsletter*

The gift of God's love, Paul describes in the reading below, calls us to clothes ourselves in Jesus truth and righteousness: the gifts of **God with us** and **for us**. Jesus went first, we get to follow.

<sup>14</sup>Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. <sup>15</sup>Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. Hebrews 2:14,15 NLT

The marvel of Christ's birth is God coming to live among humankind as one who experiences all of life as we do, as a child in innocence and vulnerability, growing and being fully human.

I have at times thought, 'but Jesus did not marry, so he did not experience the challenges and joys of life which go along with being joined with another person in marriage and life together.'

But now the Holy Spirit illuminates for me that Jesus did much more than take a bride, and all the mutual responsibilities and joys which are shared in the committed union of marriage.

Though He did not share physical intimacy with anyone Jesus shared all other aspects of the Human experience with absolute freedom from fear of what others might think. God sent His Son to live in human flesh with divinity, to remain pure and holy.. In this way show us that all the voids of our heart and mind are best – first – filled with God's divine truth. Then so equipped, having first sought the peace and glory of God's kingdom to fill and purify our hearts and minds, we may live our lives with full appreciation of all the abundance our Lord desires for us to enjoy. And encourage others to find also in relationship with God through Jesus.

<sup>10</sup>And it was only right that God—who made everything and for whom everything was made—should bring his many children into glory. Through the suffering of Jesus, God made him a perfect leader, one fit to bring them into their salvation.

<sup>11</sup>So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>For he said to God,

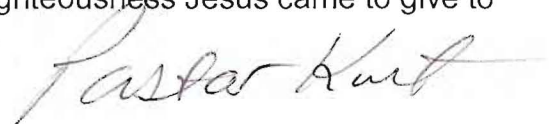
"I will declare the wonder of your name to my brothers and sisters.

I will praise you among all your people." Hebrews 2:10-12 NLT

Jesus is the best brother we could ever have. He came full of truth and love, not to put us down, rather to lift us up with reliable truth and hope so that we may desire to know God our Creator: the Father, and the redemption from sin and victory over death the Son accomplished for us. Receiving this truth we appreciate fully Gods' love and mercy through Jesus life, death, and resurrection. Through the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit illuminating these truths of who God is and how great and wonderful God's love is for sinners like ourselves.

<sup>16</sup>We all know that Jesus came to help the descendants of Abraham, not to help the angels. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, it was necessary for Jesus to be in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. He then could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted. Hebrews 2:16-18 NLT

My prayer is for you to receive with all the hope, joy, peace, and love which accompany it, growth in understanding and the assurance of the holy righteousness Jesus came to give to you. To live the full and abundant life he desires for you.



**Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting – November 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**(This Council Meeting was held in-person at the Church)**

**PRESENT:** Marilyn Holmes, Mike Koval, Karen Erickson, Dan Hansen, Joel Bashaw, Barbara Hoover, Susan Maxine, Secretary Linda Wolfe, Pastor Kurt Hoover. **ABSENT:** Dave Wiebold, Jessica Bosley. **Call to Order:** Council President Marilyn Holmes. **Devotions/Prayer:** Pastor Kurt Hoover. **Secretary's Minutes:** Reviewed, moved, seconded: Council approval. **Treasurer's Report:** Reviewed, moved, seconded: Council approval. **Pastor's Report/Mutual Ministry Report:** **1)** St. John's (Essex) Interim Pastor Ed Bastedo will be finished in May. Essex would like to discuss cost sharing Pastoral duties with St. Paul's and Emmanuel. This will be studied for feasibility by the Emmanuel and St. Paul's Councils. **2)** Rose Walter has volunteered to contact members of the congregation to help decorate the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 26 @ 9:00 a.m. for Advent/Christmas. **3)** Chuck Richardson and Pastor are working on the sign to solve the blown circuit problem. **STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS; Worship and Music:** Preparing for Advent and Christmas. **Christian Education:** **1)** Weighting the feasibility of presenting a Sunday School Christmas Program; 2 children in Sunday School. **2)** Sunday School is presently holding class in the Meeting Room after seeing a garter snake in the basement. **Church Property/Parsonage Property:** **1)** Lynn Furnace will check the furnaces and change the furnace filters. **2)** A bathroom sink in the parsonage needs to be replaced. **3)** Emmanuel's name will be added to the new sign; working on what to include beside the name, i.e. symbol. **Finance and Stewardship:** **1)** St. Paul's Council met with Emmanuel's F/S Committee to set the cost sharing portion of Emmanuel's 2023 Budget. **2)** A letter thanking the congregation for making the 2022 Budget was discussed. **Membership Committee:** **1)** The November 12 Soup and Pie Supper with a Bill Sons Musical Program was well attended. **LYO/Youth:** No report. **MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEES: Altar:** November Altar Committee (Barb Peterson and Linda Wolfe). December Altar Committee (Rose Walter and Lisa Holmes) with Congregational Poinsettia. **Cookbook, Funeral, Hospitality, Memorial, Wedding:** No reports. **WELCA:** Bible Study/Business Meeting on November 16 @ 2:00 p.m. with Marcella Heaton as Hostess. No Bible Study/Business Meeting in December. January 18 – Mary Alice Johnson. **OLD BUSINESS:** **1)** Adopt-a-Family needs and wishes letter has arrived. Secretary Linda Wolfe will make labels for each item and place them on the "Snowman" Christmas Tree for the congregation to purchase items, also will wrap and deliver the gifts to the collection site and purchase the Food Gifts Cards with the November and December "Noisy Offering". The Quilters will give each child a quilt. **2)** Treasurer Mike Koval is finishing his Church Treasurer's position but will stay until January or until another Treasurer is found. **3)** Old Sign. What to do with the old sign. Discussion held on the old sign. Suggestion: remove the electrical connections and use as a silhouette display. The Council was asked to check with the congregation on their ideas. **NEW BUSINESS:** No New Business was discussed. **Adjournment and Closing:** There being no further business to conduct, it was moved and seconded to adjourn; Council approval. Council President Marilyn Holmes adjourned the meeting. Closing Prayer by Pastor Hoover who then led the Council in *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Wolfe, Council Secretary

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**Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women (WELCA)**

No Bible Study/Business Meeting was held in December. January 18 @ 2:00 p.m. will find us at the home of Mary Alice Johnson with Pastor Kurt leading the study on the Disciple Thomas – John 20:19-29. The sign-up sheet for the remaining Bible Study hosts will be at the meeting; if you are unable to attend the Bible Study in January, contact the Church Office to reserve a Bible Study date.

THANK YOU to the quilters for providing each of the Adopt-a-Family children a nice warm quilt as a Christmas Gift. Considering the weather, you can be sure they are very much appreciated.

Special THANKS to Teresa Roberts (who is now vacationing in sunny Arizona) for the gifts and 12 quilt tops she sent to the quilters. The package did not include warm weather. See everyone in January when we will learn more about the Disciple Thomas.

Linda Wolfe, WELCA Contact Person/Treasurer.

# EMMANUEL INFORMATION and EVENTS

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Draven Pedersen
- Andy Hansen
- Jonathan Jensen
- 6 Mary Jo Tillman
- 7 Merrill Whitehill
- 9 Connie Holmes
- Andrea Swank
- 10 Courtney Ryan
- 11 Tina Wigington
- 12 Alex Catherine (Holmes) Frazier
- 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

- 3 Charles and Susan Maxine
- 31 Howard and Pat Elliott



## JANUARY ASSISTANTS

- Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes
- Altar Committee: Kris Sherman and Debbie Burroughs
- Acolytes: Ali Hansen and Maren Bosley (1)
- Lilly Wittmer (8)
- Megan Bosley (15)
- Ali Hansen (22)
- Maren Bosley (29)
- Readers: Carla Morrow (1)
- Marcia Johnson (8)
- Lisa Holmes (15)
- Undesignated (22)**
- Undesignated (29)**
- Ushers/Greeters: Undesignated 1,8,15,22,29**

## FEBRUARY ASSISTANTS

- Altar Guild: Marilyn Holmes
- Altar Committee:
- Acolytes: Lilly Wittmer and Megan Bosley (5)
- Gavin Wittmer (12)
- Ali Hansen (19)
- Maren Mosley (26)
- Readers: **Undesignated (5)**
- Marcia Johnson (12)
- Undesignated (19)**
- Undesignated (22 – Ash Wednesday)**
- Lisa Holmes (26)
- Ushers/Greeters: Undesignated 5,12,19,22,26**

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.

The **January “Noisy Offering”** has been designated to “The Community Food Pantry” to help them re-stock their shelves after the Christmas Holidays. The collection can is in the foyer for the entire month of January. And how about this...drop some “Noisy Offering” in the collection can so the Food Pantry can purchase (in bulk, some food) **AND** a food item or two in the Yellow Collection Box in the Narthex to fill up the shelves now!! Some great bargains on food, etc. are in the stores so please, help if you can so the Community Food Pantry can help others. **THANK YOU!**

The Church Council has set **Sunday, February 5, 2023 for the Annual Meeting** which will take place immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. **PLEASE** make every effort to attend this all important, once a year meeting. Committee Chairpersons, Council President, Sunday School Coordinators, Church Secretary, WELCA Contact Person, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Auditors, and Pastor, who wrote 1 or 2 paragraphs for the last Annual Meeting Booklet need to have what went on in 2022 to the office by **Sunday, January 29, 2023** to be included in the Booklet. If you would like a copy of what you wrote last year to go by, let the office know and it will be mailed or e-mailed to you. **[NOTE...3 Church Council Members are needed. Let Marilyn Holmes or a Council Member know if you would like to volunteer for a three year - only 36 worthwhile meetings/year!]**

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church – January 2023

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>1</b> No Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am</b> Worship with Holy Communion  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</i> <i>New Years Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Fellowship Hall reserved for Parish Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>   <i>Epiphany</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>10:30am</b> Worship Communion follows Worship <b>5:30-7:30pm</b> Fellowship Hall reserved for 4-H Club  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	<b>9</b> <b>9:00am</b> Quilting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <b>Council Meeting</b> <b>NOTE DAY CHANGE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am</b> Worship  <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>16</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Worship and Music Committee Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Membership Comm. Meeting (if needed)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>2:00pm</b> WELCA Bible Study/Business Meeting Hostess: Mary Alice Johnson @ her home	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am</b> Worship  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>23</b> <b>9:00am</b> Quilting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Coffee/Fellowship <b>10:30am</b> Worship <i>Reports for the 2022 Annual Meeting Booklet are due today!!</i>  <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Altar Committee: Kris Sherman and Debbie Burroughs</b> <b>Emmanuel Hours.: Monday-Thursday; 9:00-12:00 noon</b> <b>Emmanuel Phone #: 1-712-246-3287</b> <b>Emmanuel e-mail: <a href="mailto:emmlutheran@yahoo.com">emmlutheran@yahoo.com</a></b> <b>January “Noisy Offering”: Community Food Pantry</b>			

**NOTE: The Emmanuel Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 5, 2023 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Service**

# ST. PAUL'S NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2023

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

## JANUARY

**January 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated**

Sunday School follows Worship

**January 5 - 12:00 noon** Bible Study. Further details will be sent out via email.

**January 8 - 9:00 a.m.** Worship – Annual Meeting – Time will be announced

WELCA Business will meet after Worship

**January 15 – 9:00 a.m.** Worship – Sunday School follows Worship

**January 22 – 9:00 a.m.** Worship

**January 29 – 9:00 a.m.** Worship – NO Coffee

*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.*

*As you are praying today, please include Mabel. At the time of this printing, she is in Jennie Edmundson for treatment of pneumonia. Her granddaughter is with her and Sharon is flying in. Their expectation is for Mabel to be brought back to Hamburg Hospital. If you send a card, please send it to her home address: 3059 Dusty Lane, E. Avenue, Northboro, Iowa 51647.*

Pat Athen has donated his labor and the materials to lay the flooring in the basement hall and bathroom. As a congregation, we would like to Thank him and express our appreciation for his generosity.

Kathy Athen made Christmas ornaments out of the remaining old paramment remnants. Her creativity and thoughtful gift to the church enabled us to sell all of them in a matter of minutes and the proceeds will go toward the basement flooring. We are so appreciative of the many ways Kathy has used her artistic talents to help us preserve the memories of St. Paul's in the Church and our homes.

**In order to free up some space at the Church and to add extra income to the Basement Fund, there are several unused items being made available for purchase:**

**1)** Dehumidifier **2)** 10 ft. pew that was in the basement – not padded. It is currently in the tunnel if you want to see it. **3)** six – 8 ft. wooden folding tables. They were used in the basement before the white ones. They are currently stored in the back of the Sunday School room. Bid on 1 or 6. **4)** Slate blackboard approx. 36" x 32". **5)** Television. **6)** VCR **7)** Wooden TV Stand **8)** Large, round white enamel dish pan (some chipping and rust). **9)** 2 Bandage Rollers.

**Bidding:** Bidding should be made listing item (s), your name and your bid (s). Place in a sealed envelope and give to one of the Council members **by January 15, 2023**. All receipts will be applied to the Floor Fund. If you have questions, please ask.

**JANUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Faye Rolf and Penny Bredensteiner

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

**January – Sharon Gilbert**

### JANUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE

Carole Hamilton (7)  
Jill Gilbert (14)  
Dallas Prather (21)  
Deb Ratliff (28)

### JANUARY ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Nancy Middaugh (1)  
Annual Meeting (8)  
River Dow (15)  
KeelyBredensteiner (22)  
Shaye Snyder (29)

### JANUARY READER'S SCHEDULE

Sharon Gilbert (1)  
Annual Meeting (8)  
River Dow (15)  
Kathy Athen (22)  
Kathy Athen (29)

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church – January 2023

3055 – 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Northboro, Iowa 51647 Kurt Hoover, Pastor 1-641-417-9269 [kurtshoover@ymail.com](mailto:kurtshoover@ymail.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 9:00am</b> Worship with Holy Communion R: Sharon Gilbert A: Nancy Middaugh Sunday School follows  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas                      New Year's Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 12:00 noon</b> Bible Study	<b>6</b>  <i>Epiphany</i>	<b>7</b> Church Cleaner Carole Hamilton
<b>8 9:00am</b> Annual Meeting WELCA Meeting follows  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany                      Baptism of Our Lord</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 BIRTHDAY</b> Faye Rolf	<b>14</b> Church Cleaner Jill Gilbert
<b>15 9:00am</b> Worship R: River Dow A: River Dow Sunday School follows  <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 BIRTHDAY</b> Dalton Weiss	<b>21</b> Church Cleaner Dallas Prather
<b>22 9:00am</b> Worship R: Kathy Athen A: Keely Bredensteiner  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 BIRTHDAYS</b> Steven Middaugh Dillion Dow	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Church Cleaner Deb Ratliff
<b>29 9:00am</b> Worship R: Kathy Athen A: Shaye Snyder NO COFFEE BIRTHDAY: Gayle Moody  <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Altar Committee: Faye Rolf and Penny Bredensteiner</b> <b>Emmanuel Phone: 1-712-246-3287</b> <b>Emmanuel e-mail: <a href="mailto:emmlutheran@yahoo.com">emmlutheran@yahoo.com</a></b> <b>Emmanuel Hours: 9-12:00 noon; Monday-Thursday</b>			

## January 2023, LSI Newsletter Article and Story “Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families”

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to provide services to Iowa children and families and to share their stories with the community. As a way of amplifying our communities' voices, we invite you to be a part of the annual Lutheran Day on the Hill event.

Join Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines on March 14, 2023! This day is essential for amplifying the voices of those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

If you are interested in joining LSI for Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit our website at <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/>. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) 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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### “A Journey of Overwhelming Joy”

After going through fertility treatments and being told they weren't able to have any more kids, Dani and her husband pursued their foster care license in 2015 and have cared for 13 kids since.

“Throughout our journey of being foster parents, we've had many great placements,” said Dani. “Our shortest placement lasted five days when we cared for a girl, whose mother was incapable of watching her while she recovered in the hospital, and our longest lasted 18 months.”

Dani shared that one of their biggest blessings was having the opportunity to adopt some of the children they fostered. The family adopted their first child at age one, and they had plans to adopt another when the child turned 18 years old.

“Every time our family adopts another child, I get the same feeling of overwhelming joy,” said Dani. “I feel like any expectant mom –not being able to contain my joy when their adoption comes up, and telling everyone I know about it.”

Dani shared that it is hard to explain the full impact fostering – and the lows and highs it brings – has had on her family. “We've cried, stressed and lost a lot of sleep. We loved, laughed and had so many firsts,” said Dani. “But I still tell everyone who is considering being a foster parent to do it. It's a roller coaster, but so worth it.”



**Sharing Poinsettia with us this Advent/Christmas Season:**

The Altar Poinsettia by the Women of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church **IN MEMORY** of Past WELCA Members and **IN HONOR** of all Present WELCA Members;  
Tony and Cathy Ballain **IN MEMORY** of Our Parents and **IN HONOR** of Our Grandchildren and Children;  
Russ and Debbie Burroughs **IN MEMORY** of Teresa Crossman and **IN MEMORY** of Arnold Dammann;  
Karen Erickson **IN MEMORY** of Bryon Erickson and **IN MEMORY** of Kim Leftwich;  
Gene Fienup **IN MEMORY** of Steve Fienup, Don & Phyllis Fienup and Charles & Sophia Fienup;  
The Gowing Girls and their Families **IN MEMORY** of John and Eldora Gowing and **IN MEMORY** of Sally Gowing;  
Newt and Marcella Heaton **IN MEMORY** of Our Parents;  
Marilyn Holmes **IN MEMORY** of Bob Holmes and **IN HONOR** of my Grandchildren: Ali, Matt, Audri, Alex, Andy, Austin and Samantha;  
Mark and Marcia Johnson **IN MEMORY** of Howard Johnson and **IN MEMORY** of Mark Dinsmore;  
Terry and Marcene Johnson **IN MEMORY** of Our Daughter Penny Sievers and **IN HONOR** of Our Daughters Tammy Grebert, Roxie Herreck and Traci Campin;  
Dan and Barb Peterson **IN MEMORY** of Our Parents - Don and Mary Peterson and Homer and Dorothy Focht;  
Kim and Theresa Swank;  
Marlin and Mary Jo Tillman **IN MEMORY** of Howard & Elizabeth Fletcher;  
Marlin and Mary Jo Tillman **IN MEMORY** of Orville & Virginia Tillman;  
Dave and Kathy Wiebold **IN MEMORY** of Our Parents and **IN HONOR** of Our Children and Grandchildren;  
*(THANK YOU for sharing your poinsettia with us this Advent and Christmas Season. The display was so beautiful. When you pick yours up, please do not take the Altar or Piano poinsettia)*

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

406 E. Pioneer Avenue

Shenandoah, Iowa 51601