

# EMMANUEL NEWS

Sunday School: 9:00 (Sept-May)

Divine Service: Sundays at 9:00 am (Memorial Day  
through Labor Day)  
Sundays at 10:15 am



## From the Pastor's Study

A couple of times in our Women's Bible study, we've been a little sidetracked (which is okay) with discussions regarding the differences between Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism. Our former Roman Catholic members remembered the stress of confessing all their sins to the priest, along with the stress of knowing that if they weren't confessed, they weren't forgiven. This was certainly contrary to the word and will of God. Our sins are forgiven in corporate confession and absolution, in the Lord's Prayer, in Holy Communion, and in Holy Baptism. These are all means by which we receive God's gift of grace. But did you know that the Lutheran Church does have Private Confession?

For many people the idea of Private Confession smacks of Roman Catholicism and having to list all your sins in order to be forgiven. Because of the abuse of Private Confession by the Roman Catholic Church (and because the idea of penance ran contrary to the Gospel message of Jesus Christ) the practice of Private Confession gradually died out in the Lutheran Church.

While Martin Luther and the reformers sought to correct the abuses of Private Confession, they didn't want to get rid of it. In the Augsburg Confession (an official statement of Lutheran doctrine written in 1530): *"Our churches teach that private absolution should be retained in the churches. However, in confession an enumeration of all sins is not necessary, for this is not possible according to the Psalm, 'Who can discern his errors?'"* (Augsburg Confession, Article XI)

Luther once said, *"Nevertheless I will allow no man to take private confession away from me, and I would not give it up for all the treasures in the world, since I know what comfort and strength it has given me."* Luther saw the need to give people the opportunity to unburden their consciences to the Pastor and to receive the forgiveness of sins after their confession.

Now one of the first questions is "Why?" Why do we need Private Confession if we have Confession and Absolution every Sunday morning? When you confess your sins on Sunday mornings and hear my absolution, your sins are forgiven. The problem is that sometimes people don't feel forgiven on Sunday morning. Standing in a big group, it's easy to feel that the Absolution is a little impersonal and that it can't apply to their particular situation and it's easy to think that the Pastor is talking to everyone else but them. It's at times like this that Private Confession and Absolution is a wonderful gift of God to the Church.

**Continued on page 2**

## Continued from Page 1

In Private Confession and Absolution, you are given the opportunity to share with the Pastor the particular sins that are bothering you. You confess your sins personally to me, as Christ's representative, and then I lay my hands on your head bestowing on you Christ's forgiveness of all your sins. In private confession, there's a personal element that's sometimes missing on Sundays and there can be a soothing comfort that comes from privately confessing your sins.

Rest assured, whatever sins you confess to me not only are forgiven, but no one will ever know either that you confessed to me or what you confessed. This is the Seal of Confession a vow I made to God at my ordination to keep confessions to myself.

This is just a brief overview of the Lutheran practice of Private Confession and Absolution and it's intended to whet your appetite for an immensely comforting way of hearing God's Word of forgiveness. Currently, I don't have any special times set up to hear confession, but I am willing to hear your confession anytime. If this is something you desire or have more questions, please contact me.

In the name of the Risen Savior,  
Pastor

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### Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

April 9, 2024

**Present:** Wes D, Marlin J, Randy D, Jon R, JoDee, Sheryl H, Geoff W, Pastor Peterson, Deanna C

**Secretary Report:** March meeting notes read and approved.

**Financial Report:** read and approved by Marlin J and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy D. It was also discussed how the decrease in offerings has impacted budget.

**Elders Report:** none

**Evangelism Committee:** Easter bags were not handed out due to having more kids than bags. Marlin has ordered roses to be handed out on Mother's Day.

**Trustees Report:** discussed crab grass removal in yard. Randy will leaves out from around bushes.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor will be attending the Spring Conference in Greenville. Conference is \$100 and Motel is \$67. Randy D made motion to approve covering the expenses and Geoff 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Free Stewardship Workshop with Zoom option. Registration closes 4/15. Please contact Pastor if interested. Confirmation: questions on 4/28 and confirmation on 5/4.

**Old Business:** It was discussed about having additional options/bids and possible other colors. Color should be reflected that the Church is God's House. Wes D volunteered to go to Wall Lake to pick up additional colors/samples.

**New Business:** Letter from Blackhawk Lake Preservation asking for donations. It was decided to leave donations up to individuals.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes taken and submitted by Deanna C, Council Secretary

## Mary & Martha Meeting Minutes

Mary & Martha met April 11th with 12 in attendance. Minutes and financial reports were given and approved. Judy gave a report on Camp Okoboji.

Seven women tied 14 quilts on April 8th. Spring Rally is April 23rd in Wall Lake. Cost of meal is \$8.00 with the theme "Always Pray and Never Give Up". Ingathering is items for Swaddling at Sac City Church.

District Conventions June 13-15. Karen Wetzstein and Judy Kramer plan to attend. Group noted to increase our "Love Offering" from \$15 to \$25 and \$25 for "Activity Fund".

Have Graduation and Mothers' day cards for sale.

Orphan Grain Train will resume April 30th.

Closed with Lords Prayer and table prayer.

Submitted by Pam Wollesen, Secretary

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## Daughters of Emmanuel Meeting Minutes

DOEs – April 24, 2024

Met in the fellowship hall with eight members in attendance. Mollie hosted.

**Secretary report:** roll call and January minutes approved

**Treasurer report:** Balance of \$1,028.20

Deposits: \$102 poinsettias, \$335 Lenten dinner, \$50 IH funeral

Payments: \$32.08 to Jennifer for tote, \$200 to Zone for mites, \$15 to Zone Love money, \$17.98 to Helga for bulletin covers

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** Mollie, Jen/Brigit and Jon

### Committees

Kitchen – Jen purchased little tongs

### Old Business

Lily sales – all 16 have sold, need to collect money from two

Lenten dinner – took in \$335, will continue to think about where to give money

DOEs booklets are in mailboxes

Little free library and devotional books – Jen will remind Pastor to talk to elders about putting a library on church grounds; continue collecting gently used devotional books and place in box in fellowship hall

### New Business

Children's church bags – will go through tonight and restock with items leftover from VBS

Mission ideas – checking on IOWAY ideas, voted and approved paying to rent a tux for an ESC student – Rachel will work on this

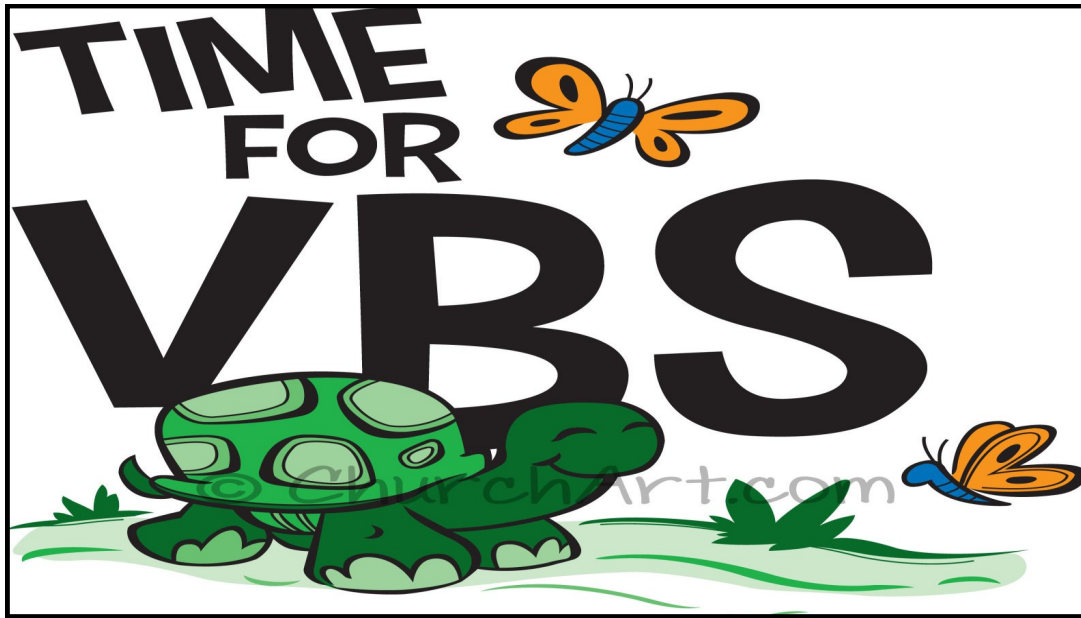
Spring rally – Helga will send out info when she receives it

**Next meeting:** April 24

Collected mites and offerings

Assembled Easter bags

Respectfully submitted by secretary Rachel Zehnder



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBS is June 3rd-7th 9:00-11:30 pm

We need adults to lead our kids from activity to activity. This year's theme is Celebrating our Savior and we could use some extra adult help in the Fellowship Hall.

**COME JOIN THE FUN!!**



Lutheran  
Family Service

### **Lutheran Family Service To Offer Free Support Groups & Webinars On Infant Loss, Marriage, and Identity**

**Christ At The Center: Conquering Communication & Creating Connection** - May 7th @5:30.

Marriage was designed by God, but that does not mean it is always an easy road. For Christian couples who desire to strengthen their communication and connection, this webinar is for you. LFS Marriage & Family Therapist Hannah Fowler will discuss common communication mistakes, why conflict occurs, and practical tips to assist in this area of your marriage, all rooted in Scripture and research based therapeutic approaches. We will also explore ways to intentionally deepen your marital connection in a busy, distraction-filled world. If you would like to join the webinar, sign up at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/webinar-christ-center/>

**Male And Female He Created Them: Creation And Identity** - If you or someone you love struggles with who God has created you to be, please join Pastor Jonathan Conner and Licensed Mental Health Counselor Cassie Beltz as we discuss God's good gift of gender and identity as it is revealed to us in the Scriptures and how the world seeks to distort this gift to us. This is a 5-part webinar, hosted live on Thursdays May 9th, May 16th, May 23rd, May 30th, June 6th at 7:00pm. Sign up at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/webinar-creation-identity/> LFS is also starting an ongoing support group which will meet Tuesdays at 7:00pm CT. If you would like to join the group, sign up at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/support-parents-transgender/>

**The Loss Of An Infant** - Presented by Dr. Mark Vande Braak, known worldwide as a grief expert, this grief/loss support group is for anyone who has dealt with the death of a very young child due to miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, and beyond. There will be four Wednesday sessions at 1:00 pm: May 15th (Informational Meeting), May 22nd, May 29th, and June 5th (Support Group Meetings). Sign up at <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/support-childloss/>

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:45 pm Confirmation Party	2	3 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	4
5 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Confirmation Sunday	6 <b>Pastor at Conference</b>	7	8 7:00 pm Council Meeting	9 1:30 pm Mary & Martha meeting	10 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	11
12 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	13 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	14	15	16	17 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	18
19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	20 7:00 pm Ladies Bible Study	21	22 7:00 pm DOES meeting	23	24 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	25
26 10:15 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	

## Birthdays

## Anniversaries

Name	Date
Alice Werkmeister	02
Xander Hemer	02
Kathryn Drost	03
Kathy Keefe	04
Alan Kruthoff	05
Miley Monahan	09
Rowan Garms	09
Deb Stehr	10
Kellan Johnson	12
Brianna Boeckman	14
Myrna Kruse	18
Lyle Tegels	18
Reggy Rohrbeck	24
Tom Wilcke	24
Meredith Frye	25
Connor Tegels	26
Merrison Schlepp	29
Jeff Ross	31

Bob & Twila Cleveland	60 years
Marlin & Candi Johnson	34 years
Dan & Donita Mork	41 years

## Serving in God's House

### Elders:

May 5: Lyle Tegels (712) 830-7151  
May 12: Marlin Johnson (712)210-0879  
May 19: Craig Wallace (606) 584-3221  
May 26: Dave Woltman (712) 660-3532

### Acolytes:

May 5: Macy Monahan, Katie Ryan  
May 12: Evan Brackman, Konnor Snider  
May 19: Brynn Boeckman, Kylie Rudd  
May 26: Jacob Huegerich, Carter Huegerich

### Counters:

May 5: Brigit Frank, Karen Van Meveren, Lucas & Kalyn Johnson  
May 12: Christina Caton, Amber Hadden, Julie Reaman  
May 19: Judy Miller and Dale & Lynda Wiebers  
May 26: Brigit Frank, Karen Van Meveren, Lucas & Kalyn Johnson

### Greeters:

May 5: Bob & Twila Cleveland  
May 12: Lyle & Lynda Schuknecht  
May 19: Tom & Julie Reaman  
May 26: Jennifer Peterson & Brigit Frank

*If your birthday or anniversary is not on our list, please contact the church office so we can add you to our list.*

## Contact Us

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*Pastor Don Peterson:* 657-3056 (home) or 712-830-5017