

EMMANUEL NEWS

Sunday School: 9:00 am (Sept-May)

Divine Service: Sundays at 10:00 am



From the Pastor's Study

Writing newsletter articles might be my least favorite task when it comes to my obligations. I have to really rack my brain to come up with a topic (and of course, the material). Sometimes the monthly topic is evident: Independence in July or Advent in November or Summer in June. January is also a month when the topic should be easy to come by. Think of all the possibilities: A new year and a new you, making resolutions, promising to read the Bible every day, make the changes you know you should make. It should be easy to pick one of these, right? Wrong. In the years I've been your pastor my January newsletter articles have been about resolutions (ones about church), reading the Bible more, attending church more, moving into the new year while leaving the sins of the previous year behind, and making the most of your church membership in the new year.

Since I've covered the gamut of possibilities, I'm not going to encourage you to make yet another resolution to attend church or read the Bible. Honestly, have these resolutions about the things of God panned out? How quickly do you realize that since you've failed it doesn't matter if you just wait for next January? Or you beat yourself up so badly for failing that you don't want to restart?

What we fail to consider when making our spiritual resolutions is that they aren't powered by our inner fortitude or the hidden reserve of our motivation. If you resolve to organize the garage, just do it. If you want to read more books, put the phone down and pick the book up. It's not that hard. The only thing that will stop you from keeping your resolution is yourself. It's a far cry from the opposition you will meet if you resolve to read the Bible more. Satan doesn't care if the garage isn't organized. He is very worried when he observes you reading your Bible or sitting in the pew on a Sunday morning.

Satan will use all the temptations at hand to hinder your time with God. He'll convince you that you can read the Bible some other day. He'll use all manner of interruptions to steer you from reading the Bible and worshipping. All he wants is to destroy your love of the things of God and your faith. So don't resolve to read the Bible more or attend service more. Instead, turn to the Holy Spirit for the God-given fortitude you need to handle the things of God and withstand Satan's temptations. Jesus conquered Satan so when you use the power of the Holy Spirit found in God's Word, you too will conquer Him. He can't stand before the Word of God, and he can't work when you pray for the protection of the Holy Spirit. The devil is powerful, but when it comes to the things of God – Word, Sacraments, Prayer, Worship, he is powerless.

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My advice for you is to not resolve to attend worship more faithfully or to read your Bible and pray more fervently. Instead, pray for the Holy Spirit's help, guidance, and protection. He will hear your prayers, and He has promised that He will answer them with a resounding yes. Here's a great prayer to get you started.

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for giving me your Word as a source of wisdom, joy, and encouragement. Awaken in me the interest to grow in the knowledge of your Word so that I will be on guard from the devil's deceptions. By your Holy Spirit, open my eyes and my understanding so that I will grow through the study of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, defend me from the temptations that seek to distract me from my time with you. Cultivate my heart and mind with your Word which is living and active and can change what I myself cannot. In your precious name I pray, Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor

Council Meeting Minutes

December 12.2024

Present: Wes D, Marlin J, Sheryl H, Craig W, JoDee, John R, Randy D, Dave W, Jon F, Pastor Peterson, Deanna C

Secretary Report read and approved

Treasurer/Financial Report: reviewed and approved. Members can still donate to the carpet fund to help replenish the Celebration Fund.

Elder Report: no new business

Evangelism Report: Turkey Drive went well and excess went to ESC Food Pantry. Christmas Day Dinner planning in progress. 12/07/24 small town Christmas Celebration we ran out of cookies.

Trustee Report: will turn on outside step heater if there is snow or ice and turn off if clear. Parsonage furnace is waiting for parts.

Pastor Report: Copier is having issues and needed parts are no longer available. Will need a new copier.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

2025 Church Budget was completed and approved by Church Council
Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Deanna Cole/Secretary

LYF – December 2024



Emmanuel LYF invited Peace LYF to celebrate Christmas together! The night was complete with a movie, outdoor scavenger hunt, snacks, gift exchange, and games.

Standing from left: Kyler Snider, Xander Hemer, Evan Brockman, Jordan Ulmer, Diana Knaub, Miley Monahan, Macy Monahan, Emma Carico, Jordyn Carroll, Paige Polzien

Front: Jaiden Friedrichsen, Kennedy Harman, Briley Dornath, Sarah Bontrager



Did you know the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has its own magazine? You didn't?

Each monthly issue of the Lutheran Witness has a particular focus which is enlightening and thought provoking. Previous topics include: The Family, The Book of Acts, Prayer, Hope, and even a couple of issues on Lutheran and LCMS history. You'll also find snippets on LCMS work overseas, worship articles, a short Bible study, and an insert with news and events from our own Iowa District West.

The Lutheran Witness is provided to Emmanuel members free of charge (contributions are always welcome). To subscribe contact the church office. If you don't read your current subscription, please let us know so we can cancel it.

Mary and Martha Meeting Minutes

Mary & Martha met Dec 12th at Judy Kramer's home to celebrate with a Christmas luncheon. There were 12 members, Pastor and 2 guests present. Pastor let the devotions on "Shepherds".

Muffins for mites is Jan 5th. Sheryl, Joyce and Donna will bake muffins.

Ladies signed cards for birthdays and worksheets for 2025.

Closed with Lords Prayer and table prayer.

Pam Wollesen, Secretary

Daughters of Emmanuel Meeting Minutes

December 8th

DOES met for a Christmas celebration at Kim Drost home. Everyone brought a snack to share. Snowman jars were made and delivered to the nursing homes.

Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies today.

Submitted by Helga Gross, President

Education Corner

It's a New Year! Time for fresh starts, new focuses and a renewed commitment to your relationship with God! Read on for some tips to help making time with God a priority in 2025!

Helping our Children Engage in The Word

In our busy lives, it can be tough to "find" time to spend reading & discussing the Bible with our children. However, I would like to encourage you to prioritize this in 2025~make this a new habit that will ensure you & your children have a strong foundation in the Word and it will serve you through your lives! Below, find a couple of ideas that may help get your child comfortable and more interested in using their Faith Alive Bibles.

*For anyone under 3rd grade who has not yet received their Bible, I encourage you to use a child's Bible story book or children's Bible like those that can be found at: www.concordiapublishinghouse.org.

Some examples are:



*Try reading a story each day! Before bed is a great time to do this and you can end with the Lord's Prayer. For those who have their Faith Alive Bibles, help your child navigate what can be a big, scary book by getting Bible tabs: These mark the different books of the Bible so they can easily find them. There are ~~sooo~~ many options for these: different colors, shapes, styles.

Just try searching for "Bible Study tabs for children" on Amazon and you'll find some fun options like these:



They're bigger, easy to read, easy to grasp and make finding the different books fun for kids!

- Sometimes you can look at the Bible and think, "Where do I start?! There is so much here and I feel overwhelmed, how can I help my child?" Let us help you! After the New Year, look in the Fellowship Hall and find a "Bible Story Bookmark", which will have a list of the most common stories of the Bible and where to find them. You can also use Arch Books (also found at CPH or Amazon) to read Bible stories in a fun, easy format.
- There are also Bible game apps available for Android & Apple devices; these can be fun, but make sure you are monitoring them with your child for accuracy to Lutheran doctrine.

Other Helpful Tools for Spending Time in the Word!

Finding time to "sit" and read can sometimes be a challenge with all the running around we do, not just for our own schedules, but often coordinating with children, parents, friends & family. Consider these options to help get some time in the Word:

* You might have seen this advertised in Portals of Prayer or elsewhere, but here's my plug for it too! The Lutheran Study Bible App looks to be an AMAZING tool! The free version gives you access to search the Bible text by chapter/verse, allows custom notes, highlights & saves and has the complete LSB notes. If you upgrade to the premium version (cost is \$9.99/year, which is a pretty great deal), you add access to over 200 articles, maps & chapter introductions and an enhanced search feature. These are available for both Android & Apple users.

* Regular Bible Apps such as the ESV Bible also allow you to "hear" the Bible by selecting the "listen" icon. I'm hoping the LTB app also has this for one-stop helps! This way you can plug in your device and listen while you drive to all those different places every day!

* Speaking of Portals of Prayer, did you know there's a digital version? You can download the app for \$10/year and can be used on any digital device. Again, great for on-the-go busy people! I believe these will also "read" to you, so you can listen as well as read.

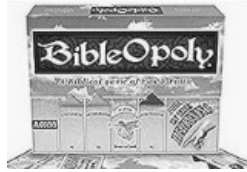
* Lastly, Bible study tabs aren't just for kids! There are a wide variety available & if you need help setting them up, I'm happy to do it for you!

Education Corner

Continued!

Just a couple extra tips/ideas:

- Sometimes we need a guide, a map to help us navigate the Bible. We can help with that! In January, you can find a variety of Bible reading plans on the table in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a comprehensive plan (OT, NT, Psalm each day), one for just the OT, one for just the NT and one for the Psalms. And you can always use one of the Bible bookmarks we're making which have important Bible stories & where to find them.
- * Bible Games are a great way to get away from electronics and engage with your family & friends. Here are some options, including "on the go" games as well as sit around the table games:



(Please do monitor these for accuracy to Lutheran doctrine; Pastor is always available to help with this!)

- **Above all, consider coming to Bible Studies!** The New Year is a great time to start a new habit of joining with your brothers & sisters in Christ, spending time together in the Word and in fellowship. I'll even promise to have coffee on Sunday mornings... Drop the kids off at Sunday School & join us upstairs! Or maybe Monday night with the ladies or Friday morning with the men more suits your schedule. And if none of those does, let us know! Maybe we can work in other options! We are very open to ideas to help YOU be in the Word & in fellowship with your fellow Christians!



ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Emmanuel wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for Emmanuel. Online Giving allows you to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, or make a one-time donation.

There are multiple options to set up electronic giving:

- 1) Visit www.lakeviewemmanuel.com, click on the donate box, and fill in the requested information.
- 2) Download the Vanco Mobile app from Google Play or the Apple store, search for our church by entering the invite code **4S5BTT**, set up an account, and make your offering designation.
- 3) Fill out a paper authorization form located on the table in the fellowship hall and submit it to Sheryl Huisenga or in a labeled envelope to the church office. Please do not give it to Pastor Peterson.
- 3) Scan the QR Code, set up an account, and make your offering designation.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE OF GOD AND GENEROSITY WHICH HE USES FOR HIS PURPOSES HERE IN LAKE VIEW AND BEYOND!



AUTHORIZATION FORM

Name of the organization: Emmanuel Lutheran Church (Lake View, IA)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City		State Zip
Email Address		
Date of first donation: ____/____/____ Date of last donation (optional): ____/____/____	Frequency of donation: (please check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Weekly (every other week) <input type="checkbox"/> One Time	Amount of first donation: \$ _____ Amount of last donation (optional): \$ _____
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ <small> ⑆ 23456789 ⑆ 23 23456 0001 └─── Routing Number └─── Account Number └─── Check Number </small>
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____	
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card	
	Card Number: _____	Expiration Date: _____
	Name on Card: _____	
	Billing Address (if different from above): _____	
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____	

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	4
5 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	6 7:00 Women's Bible Study	7	8 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 pm Council Meeting	9 Mary/Martha 1:30 pm	10 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	11
12 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	13 7:00 Women's Bible Study	14	15 3:30 Confirmation 5:00 pm JIF 7:00 LYF	16	17 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	18
19 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	20 7:00 Women's Bible Study	21	22 3:30 Confirmation	23	24 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	25
26 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	27 7:00 Women's Bible Study	29	30 3:30 Confirmation 7:00pm DOES meeting 7:00 LYF	31		

Birthdays

Name	Date
Tami Auen	01
Brynn Boeckman	01
Donita Mork	02
Macy Monahan	03
Bob Freese	09
Larry Bundt	10
Lisa Garrels	10
Sue Frank	11
Tom Shelp	13
Helga Gross	14
Bill Clausen	17
Clarann Lightfoot	17
Ashton Racobs	17
LaVon Freese	18
Layne Husienga	24
Chuck Wollesen	26
Janine Waldrop	26

Serving in God's House

Elders:

Jan 5: Craig Wallace (606) 584-3221
Jan 12: Craig Wallace (606) 584-3221
Jan 19: Marlin Johnson (712-210-0879)
Jan 26: Lyle Tegels (712-830-7151)

Acolytes:

Jan 5: Katie Ryan, Kaylee Jenkins
Jan 12: Brynn Boeckman, Kayla Kotz
Jan 19: Kylie Rudd
Jan 26: Talon Graff, Ryder Siebrecht

Counters:

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

Greeters:

Jan 5: Joyce Bettin, Brigit Frank
Jan 12: Bob & Twila Cleveland
Jan 19: Wuanita Tegels
Jan 26: Lyle & Linda Schuknecht

Anniversaries

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 260, Lake View, IA 51450
Physical Address: 115 Second Street, Lake View, IA 51450
Church Office: 712-657-3324
Email: lakeviewemmanuel@outlook.com
Online: lakeviewemmanuel.com