

EMMANUEL NEWS

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

Divine Service: Sundays at 10:00 am



From the Pastor's Study

The last two of the Ten Commandments deal with coveting: do not covet your neighbor's spouse and do not covet your neighbor's house (all their possessions). I would never say God did it wrong, but I wonder if there should've been an eleventh commandment – do not covet your neighbor's life. Maybe this was less of an issue in the time of Moses, but today with Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, TV, the Internet, YouTube and the rest, all we see are other people's lives, and usually, though not always, what we see are happy families, great jobs, and wonderful vacations.

Social media (which ironically is making us less social) by it's nature is intended to make others feel bad. Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating, a little. There are plenty of pictures out there focusing on disasters, cancer, and the like, and I think those can make us look outside of our own little bubbles.

However, why do we mainly see pictures of beautiful sunsets and not pictures of our bout with airsickness? Why do we post pictures of our fancy dinners and not the burned beef roast and runny mashed potatoes? Why do we post vacation pictures and not the fights that occur on the way to the destination? Why do we post wedding pictures and not the tear-stained face of a spouse who just received divorce papers?

It's human nature that we don't want anyone to see our messy, ugly lives. We keep them hidden, which makes everyone (maybe I'm exaggerating again) think that our lives are perfect and theirs woefully short of good, let alone perfect. I wonder what we would think if social media showed what was really going on in the neighbor's life? Would we be jealous or relieved?

We can't always pierce the veil between social media and real life. Maybe you'll never know the struggles of your neighbors like they won't know yours. In our struggles to find perfection or better lives, we lose sight of the truth. The truth is that Jesus came down into our messy, screwed up, imperfect lives. He got down in the muck and mire of our daily existence. And why? Because He is the one who brings the beauty of forgiveness and the joy of hope and help.

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Jesus says, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”* (Luke 4:18-19). He knows our fights and divorces, our addictions and regrets, our rejections and failures. He knows them and He walks through them with us. He promises that fires won’t burn His people and waters won’t drown them. The forgiveness of sins cleanses us of our shame, hurts, and the hurts we’ve put on others. He walks with us through our imperfect lives, steering us and guiding us to our heavenly home.

Life will never be like the Brady Bunch or Leave it to Beaver. Life will never be a perfect Instagram picture. It probably won’t be set to music like TikTok or a TV show. It will never be good as all the Facebook posts make you think it should be. Real life is full of sin and hurts. Left on our own, we’d only make a worse mess of things. Praise God that He sent His Son into our messy lives, to take those messes to the cross, so that we know with certainty, that we’re never alone. Sure, social media makes everything look great, but what makes life truly great is the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even with them in your life, there’s no guarantee of a happily ever after so forget what everyone has or does and instead look at what Jesus has done and does for you. You have a glorious treasure waiting for you – eternal life by the throne of God. You won’t live vicariously through pictures or videos, you’ll be experiencing it firsthand, and that can never be topped by a vacation picture or a sunset video.

In Christ,
Pastor

Mary/Martha Meeting Minutes

Mary & Martha met with 8 in attendance on Jan 12, 2025.

Pastor led the lesson and Sheryl gave the devotions.

Minutes and financial reports were given.

Group discussed all the spring events and groups were formed.

Changed the date of Muffins and Mites.

Closed with the Lords Prayer.

Submitted by Pam Wollesen, Secretary

01/08/2025 Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Present: Wes D., Randy D., Jon F., Sheryl H., Craig W., JoDee, Pastor Peterson, Deanna C.

Pastor opened meeting with devotional reading and prayer. Secretary report read and approved.

Financial/Treasurer Report: Offerings in 2024 were down 6.4% from 2023 but we received some large donations which were helpful.

Elder report: none

Evangelism: Christmas Dinner served 95 people. \$750 in donations was given to ESC Food Pantry. Soup Supper in February is in the planning stages.

Trustee Report: the kitchen light in the kitchen was fixed by Randy D.

Pastor's Report: Lenten Services combining with Peace Wall Lake are in preliminary discussions. Ash Wednesday service would be in each church.

Old Business: Copier options were discussed and it was voted to purchase a new copier. New average maintenance fee will be \$38/month vs \$120. .0089 per page b/w, .075 per page/color. More information on E-giving was in last December newsletter.

New business: Pastor Peterson will celebrate 20 years in the Ministry this coming June.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer

Deanna Cole/Council Secretary

Daughters of Emmanuel Meeting Minutes

DOES met Jan 22nd with 10 members in attendant. Julie K was our hostess. Kim opened the meeting with the LWML pledge, and Pastor led a bible study on "purpose".

Minutes and financial reports were read and approved.

Birthdays: Tami A -Jan 1st Helga G.- Jan 14 Anniversary: LuAnn & Mike-Feb 14th

Old Business:

Poinsettia and cookie walk wrap up. \$558 sent to Hurricane Relief.

New Business:

Hostess sign up for 2025 sent around.

Soup Luncheon Feb 9th. Worklists out.

Lenten Dinner;-March 19. Sign up for Tacos, salads and desserts.

Easter Basket sign up sheets went around.

Easter Lilies will be \$12/ea. Mollie and Helga are point people for sales.

Spring Rally is April 29th at Emmanuel.

Mites/offering collected. Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Helga Gross, Secretary

LYF meeting – January 29, 2025

LYF met in the fireside room with four members to plan upcoming events.

Upcoming events

February 9- “soup”er bowl lunch

LYF members will help carry trays and clear tables

Lenten dinner-Date TBD

Serving maidrites, party potatoes, salads, desserts

March 9

Volleyball tournament with area youth groups

Will invite all churches in Auburn, Wall Lake, Sac City, and Lake View plus FCA members

Youth gathering opportunities

July 19-23 – National Youth Gathering in New Orleans

July 20-26 – Youth Week at Camp Okoboji

Bible work – books of the Bible and confirmation verses

Next meetings – February 12 and 26 at 7:00

Stewardship = Love

The heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don't see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. Only when we are immersed in God's Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism's life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord's loving intent for us, and those we know and love.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world to die for the hate of mankind.

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit is then distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of Jesus we reflect His love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Education Corner

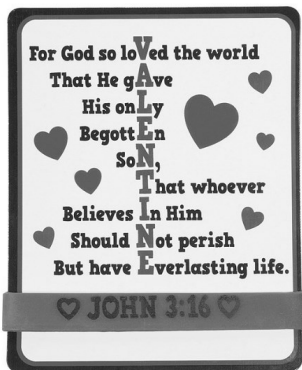


February is often thought of as the month of “love” and that love usually means romantic love. It seems like we have hardly opened up our Christmas presents and the Valentine’s candy, cards & gifts are filling up the store shelves. Worse, the world would like us to believe if we don’t have a romantic partner, then well...you’re some kind of worthless person. The pressure society puts on us to give & receive “Valentines” from a special person starts incredibly young and continues into adulthood. I’d like to turn that around for all of us ~ children, parents, grandparents, friends, family. For we are all worthy of love and the greatest of this love, is the love from God, our heavenly Father.



It’s easy to say we “love” someone, but what does that really mean? Is it a paper card once a year we give? Is it that super special gift or bouquet of flowers? Or is it...something less that is actually something “more”. Love can be a hug, it can be a wave to someone as you’re passing on the sidewalk, it can be an encouraging word for someone who is experiencing pain, grief or sadness. It can be sitting with someone in silence, just to let them know we are there for them. Love isn’t a once a day or once a year thing. The best way we can show love to others, is to share the Gospel with them. Start with your children! There is no better way for your children to learn of God’s love than to bring them to Sunday School and worship, where they will hear Scripture lessons, the sermon, the liturgy which are all filled with references to God’s love, grace & mercy. When Pastor proclaims the absolution ~ that’s God’s love right there! That He would forgive our sins because he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins & give to us eternal salvation. What an amazing message! And from there, encourage your children to share this Good News by sharing it yourselves! Invite a neighbor to church, bring a treat to a home-bound member, send a card to let someone know you’re thinking of them. Show your children how to reflect God’s love, by being that reflection in your daily lives. The ways to do so are truly endless!

As part of our focus on God’s love this month, I am going to make the little door hangers shown at the top right of this page. They will have the church information on the back. I encourage you all to pick one up and leave it on the door of a neighbor or perhaps an inactive member to encourage them to come join us at Emmanuel & learn of God’s great love for them. The Sunday School children will make these in class, so please make sure they come! Please share the Good News with someone today! You never know how it will change their day...and shape their lives.



SIP, SAVOR, AND DRINK DEEPLY
Women's Faith Conference



Receive God's Overflowing Gifts

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 21st
COST: \$30 Light breakfast & lunch provided




Deb Burma, author of *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply* and other Bible studies, books, and devotionals, is a sought-after speaker for women's retreats and conferences. She is a follower of Jesus, a pastor's wife, a mom, and a brand-new grandma! She is a devoted coffee-mocha-latte drinker too!

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
WALL LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
108 Boyer Street, Wall Lake, IA 51466

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JENNIFER PETSCHAUER peacewallake@gmail.com

The Emmanuel family provides \$2,200 to support Lutheran Family Service. Here is an example of how your offerings help.

Lutheran Family Service & Many Hearts Provide Real Help & Real Support to Women Facing Unplanned Pregnancy



Unplanned Pregnancy Options Counseling	Creating a Better & More Stable Future
Evidence-Based Decision Making	Community & State Resource Connection
Parenting Preparedness Program & Courses	Substance Abuse Referrals
Mental Health Counseling	Domestic Violence Referrals
Medicaid & WIC Applications	Stress Management
Transportation Assistance	Before & After Birth Support
Housing Referrals	Adoption Planning
Case Management	Thoroughly Vetted, Loving Families Ready to Adopt
Resume Writing & Job Applications	Free Travel to Clients
Help with Difficult Family or Partner Communication	Pregnancy Help Text-Line

♥ Text "love" to 844-764-2029 ♥

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!



February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	3	4 7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting	5 3:30 Confirmation	6	7 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	9
9 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship 11:15 Souper Bowl	10	11	12 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm LYF	13 Mary/Martha 1:30 pm	14 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	15
16 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	17	18	19 3:30 Confirmation	20	21 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	22
23 9:00 Sunday School/ Bible Class 10:00 Worship	24 7:00 Women's Bible Study	25	26 3:30 Confirmation 5:00 JIF 7:00pm DOES 7:00 pm LYF	27	28 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	

Birthdays

Name	Date
Pam Wollesen	01
Mark Kruthoff	04
Kennedy Pieken	06
Wanda Freese	07
Lisa Mohr	07
Bob Cleveland	08
Mike Norris	08
Abbey Pieken	09
Cindy Wilke	12
Brett Sharp	19
Kennedy Reaman	19
Adam Frank	19
Ross Moeller	20
Jerry Waldrop	22
Mary Meyer	22
Mike Naberhaus	23
Klara Liechti	23
Carly Tegels	24
Karen Van Meveren	26

Anniversaries

Lannie & Judy Miller	02	51yrs
Dave & Denise Woltman	03	25yrs
Mike & K'Lee Naberhaus	13	43yrs
Andy & Brook Boeckman	14	14yrs
Mike & LuAnn Norris	14	38yrs

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

Serving in God's House

Elders:

Feb 2: Dave Woltman (712) 660-3532
Feb 9: Marlin Johnson (712-210-0879)
Feb 16: Lyle Tegels (712-830-7151)
Feb 23: Dave Woltman (712) 660-3532

Acolytes:

Feb 2: Carter Huegerich and Konnor Snider
Feb 9: Katie Ryan and Kalee Jenkins
Feb 16: Brynn Boeckman and Kayla Kotz
Feb 23: Kylee Rudd

Counters:

Feb 2: Amber Hadden, Julie Reaman
Feb 9: Lucas & Kalyn Johnson, Brigit Frank, Karen Van Meveren
Feb 16: Judy Miller, Dale & Lynda Wiebers
Feb 23: Amber Hadden, Julie Reaman

Greeters:

Feb 2: Charles & Pam Wollesen
Feb 9: Roger & Rita Peters
Feb 16: Wes & Kim Drost
Feb 23: Judy Kramer

Contact Us

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