

EMMANUEL NEWS

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study: 9:00 am (Sept-May)

Divine Service: Sundays at 9:00 am
Sundays at 10:00 am (Sept-May)



From the Pastor's Study

I found this great sermon delivered by C.F.W. Walther (pastor, seminary professor and president and the LCMS' first president) on New Year's Day in 1845. As we transition into 2026, his words are just as applicable to us and I pray that you take his words to heart. Here is a portion of that sermon:

“Should the Christian stand all day long at the grave of all joys which he enjoyed in past years? Through Holy Baptism a great stream of joy has been conducted in his heart, which does not drain away, but streams forward with his life until its waves carry him into the sea of a blessed eternity. Should the Christian be reminded all day long that the flowers of his youth fall more and more? He stands planted by God in the water of his Baptism as a palm tree which becomes greener and greener and whose leaves never wither. Yes, his Baptism makes death for him like a short winter's nap, out of which an eternal spring—an eternal youth—follows.

For Baptism is a bath that washed me not only once when I received it—washed me pure with Christ's blood—but it continuously washes me clean even daily for as long as I hold it in faith. For just as that same water of the flood drowned the sinners, but Noah with his relatives were brought to salvation and carried to Mount Ararat, so also did the water of my Baptism drown my sins, but my soul was brought to the eternal mountain of divine grace. And just as once those same waves of the Red Sea, which swallowed up Pharaoh and his army, were a protective wall for Israel, so also has my baptismal water swallowed up all of my damnation and is for me a sure wall before God's wrath and punishment....

Now then, all of you who believe in God's Word, let your watchword for entering the new year be this: “I am baptized!” Although the world may laugh at this comfort, the enthusiasts vex its confidence ... nevertheless, abandon any other dearly held pledges and speak only throughout the entire year to come, in all terrors of conscience and necessity through sin and death: “I am baptized! I am baptized! Hallelujah!” And you shall prevail! In every time of need, you will find comfort in your Baptism; on account of it Satan will flee from your faith and confession; and in death you will see heaven opened and will finally come into the joy of your Lord to celebrate a great year of jubilee, a year of praise, with all the angels forever and ever. Amen!”

December 10, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Attending: Wes Drost, Craig Wallace, Lyle Tegels, Marlin Johnson, Dave Woltman, Randy Drost, Jon Reaman, Jon Frank, Sheryl Huisenga, Jodee Sharp, Deanna Cole, Pastor Peterson

Meeting opened with prayer led by Pastor Peterson

Secretary's Report approved

Treasurer's/Financial Report: the last budgeted mission donation was paid. The report was moved and seconded.

Elder's Report: no new business

Evangelism Committee: \$957.82 was raised for the Turkey Drive. Christmas Day Dinner is still needing volunteers, it will be a free will donation.

Trustees' Report: a new regulator was instilled and Randy D sealed the furnace room. Snow is not to be piled on the front corner in front of the church. Bats have gotten inside under the gutter by the backdoor.

Pastor's Report: Add all members Flocknote (text service) will increase monthly charge from \$25 to \$42, motion was made and approved.

Old Business: none

New Business: discussed rotating charities that the church supports and decided to add Mission Central to the current 4 (Lutherans for Life, Orphan Grain Train, and Lutheran Family Services. Each charity will receive a yearly donation of \$1250. All proceeds from the Advent by candlelight Program will go to ESC Food Pantry and Camp Okoboji.

2026 Budget was discussed and approved

Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer

Deanna Cole/Church Council Secretary

LYF - December 2025

December 3

Giving Tree shopping at Dollar General

Pulled two tags from the tree at school

One female teenager, one male teenager

Dropped gifts off in the school office for the ESC pantry to disperse

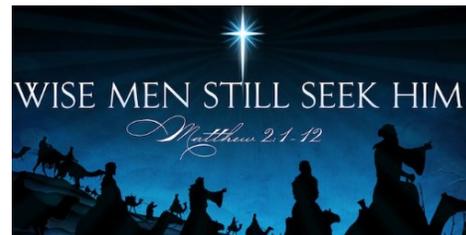
December 17

Christmas party in the fellowship hall

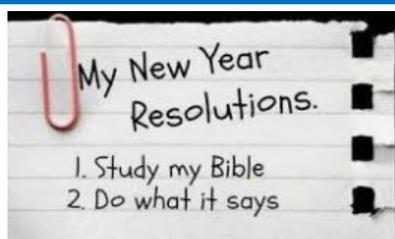
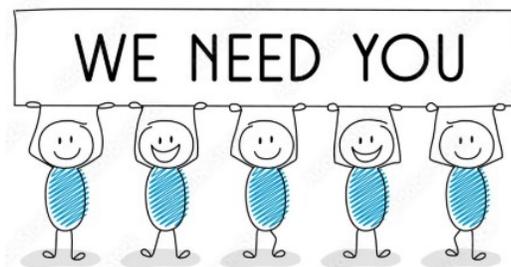
Peace LYF joined in

Scavenger hunt, appetizer potluck, gift exchange, games

Education Corner



In one way or another, I have served Emmanuel in the education area pretty much since the day we arrived. I began by co-chairing, then chairing alone, as VBS director and Sunday School teacher. I joined the Board of Education not long after, and a year later, was elected chairperson. It has been a blessing to serve others in this way. However, the time has come for me to step down, and make room for others to serve & lead in this area. I am by no means the only person able to do so. Our congregation is filled with loving, caring people, with amazing ideas and skills and all of these fresh perspectives are needed to continue to lead our church further into this new century. I implore you, each of you to, PRAYERFULLY and thoughtfully, consider how you might serve Emmanuel in this way. Despite my long tenure at this position, you are not bound to any position indefinitely. I just ask that you consider at least a try at one of the open positions we have within the Board of Education. Are you gifted in teaching? We will need more teachers. Are you talented with organizing behind the scenes? The BOE needs YOU. Are you more of an event co-ordinator? Our VBS program desperately requires a new leader. Do you just have ideas you want to share? They are welcome at any and all times. There are no requirements to serve in this way. Even if you served once before, we would welcome your experience. If you never have, we welcome & encourage your participation. But please, please, consider giving of your time & talents in this way. Emmanuel needs YOU. I will be staying on the Board through the end of the “school year” (through May) and am also available to help anyone with the transition into the position after that time. Through your considerations & prayers, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (via text, email, phone or in person). I am excited to see what new opportunities are possible with **YOU**.



You’ve heard me say it before, but it absolutely bears repeating, especially after a season that usually involves overindulgence and sometimes a focus on all the distracting things, instead of what is important. So this year, when you make your list of resolutions, please put “GOD” at the top. Make Bible study a priority. Include daily devotions into your routine. If you think you don’t have time to “sit down” with the Bible & a devotional, there are many that you can listen to via podcast or similar methods (you can subscribe to Portals of Prayer electronically and they will actually “read” them to you). Come to worship. Stay for fellowship. If you’re like me, and hitting that exercise bike, you can listen to devotions during that time, or listen to the Bible (a great way to read that Bible in a year...or like me, several years...LOL). Car trips are also great times to pop in a podcast or stream your favorite Christian music. This year, let God cover your life, instead of pushing Him into a corner when it’s convenient. If you focus on HIM, you’ll find that everything else falls into place. I’ll save you a seat at Bible study & “my pew” always has open spots. Happy New Year!

Stewardship Under the Cross

God's Word on How We Use His Gifts

What is Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is the faithful management of our financial resources and all we have. It begins with the understanding that all we have is God's (Ps. 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it") and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1Tim 6:7). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have. So, for example, a father and mother use their income to feed, clothe, and protect their children.

Besides the vocations that each of us have in our family life and in society, we are also all Christians and members of this congregation. How do we use our income faithfully in regard to this vocation? To learn this we must look to God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 16:13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6-8 But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving. . . The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything.

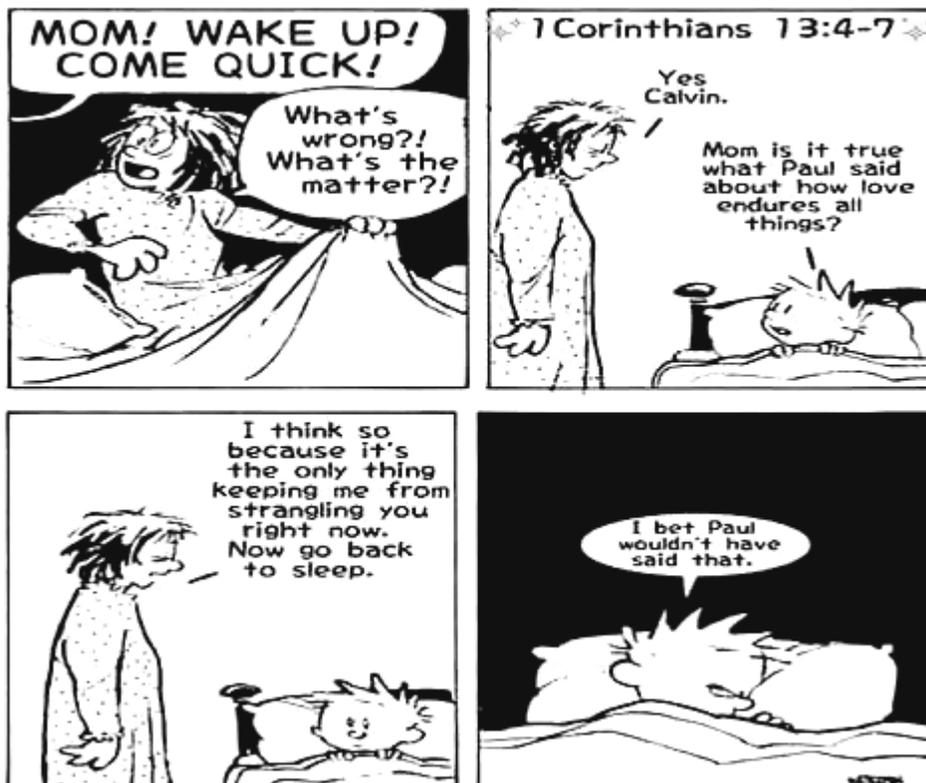
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What does this mean?

Your heart always goes where you put God's money. Stewardship is not an optional subcategory of the Christian life; it is the living out of a Christian's dependence on God. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives you His Life in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. The things of this world are temporarily given to us by God to see and we will be called to account for how we manage the Owner's things (Rom.14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

As we start a new year, prayerfully consider your giving to God's work in His Church. Are you faithfully giving a first-fruits tithe (10%) of your income to the work of God? Are you, as St. Paul says, "excelling in this grace of giving"? If not, why not? In next month's newsletter we'll consider more of what God says about Stewardship – specifically more about tithing (the Biblical practice of giving a tenth of our income to God's work in the Church) – and provide steps for planning your giving for next year.

Prayer: Lord God, Creator and Redeemer of all things, there isn't anything that our life in this world can throw at us that is bigger than You. Grant us Your grace to trust You in all things, including our financial stewardship for the sake of the Gospel. Drive away fear and grant us steadfast faith to trust You boldly in how we live and how we give! Amen.



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
Aston Racobs	17
LaVon Freese	18
Nancy Fertig	24
Layne Huisenga	24
Chuck Wollesen	26
Janine Waldrop	26

Anniversaries

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:

Jan 4: Craig Wallace (606)584-3221
Jan 11: Dave Woltman (712) 660-3532
Jan 18: Craig Wallace (606)584-3221
Jan 25: Marlin Johnson (712-210-0879)

Acolytes:

Jan 4: Makena Liechti and Grace Wallace
Jan 11: Ryder Siebrecht
Jan 18: Brynn Boeckman and Cora Maddix
Jan 25: Konnor Snider

Counters:

Jan 4: Brigit Frank and Mark Kruthoff
Jan 11: Amber Hadden and Julie Reaman
Jan 18: Kalyn Johnson and Karen Van Meveren
Jan 25: Brigit Frank and Mark Kruthoff

Greeters:

Jan 4 : Jan Stock & Sheryl Huisenga
Jan 11: Lyle & Linda Schuknecht
Jan 18: Lannie & Judy Miller
Jan 25: Karen Van Meveren and Joyce Bettin

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 260, Lake View, IA 51450

Physical Address: 115 Second Street

Church Office: 712-657-3324

Email: lakeviewemmanuel@outlook.com

Online: lakeviewemmanuel.com

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

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	3
4 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship	5 7:00 Women's Bible Study	6 7:00 Evangelism Comm Meeting	7 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 Council Meeting	8 1:30 pm Mary/ Martha Meet	9 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	10
11 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship	12 7:00 Women's Bible Study	13	14 3:30 Confirmation 5:15 JIF 7:00 LYF	15	16 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	17
18 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship	19 7:00 Women's Bible Study	20	21 3:30 Confirmation	22	23 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	24
25 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship	26 7:00 Women's Bible Study	27	28 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 DOEs 7:00 LYF	29	30 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	31