

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

What do you think is the number one issue facing Emmanuel? After sitting in an unknown number of meetings, Bible studies, and private conversations, I can safely say that lack of church attendance is at the top of the list. Even if we don't compare today's attendance to what it was 50 or 60 years ago, it's clearly down in recent years. I'm sure it wouldn't take long to compile a list of reasons for this decline. How to fix the problem is a little tougher, right?

The Barna Group researches topics of every kind, including religion, churches, and attitudes towards religion. One of the statistics that jumped out at me from a recent study is that almost 80% of the unchurched would be open to attending church if they were invited. The Lifeway company is more pessimistic with their estimate of 56%. While that's a significant difference, the thing to note is that even if only 50% are interested, that's a huge number of unchurched people open to attending in response to a personal invitation. Another shocking number was that 70% of the unchurched have never been invited to church! I have no doubt you know where I'm going with this, so here are some things to keep in mind.

When you invite people to meet Jesus, which is what inviting them to church is all about, you follow the examples and commands found in the Bible. In response to being invited by Jesus, Andrew told Peter and Philip told Nathaniel. Jesus instructed His disciples to let the children come to Him. In a parable about a feast, the king sent messengers to the streets and byways to invite people to his feast (Luke 14:16-24). Jesus is the King and we're messengers sent with an invitation to the eternal feast.

Inviting someone to church can be a new and scary experience and prayer is a precious tool for help. Pray for opportunities to extend an invitation and for the words to say. Pray that the person you're going to approach will be open to the invitation.

Keep in mind you're going to be rejected at times; don't take it personally. God has called us to be faithful, but He handles the growth. If they reject us, they're rejecting God. Rejection may only be temporary because only God knows how it could affect them in the future. Remember that a "no" won't negatively impact your life, but a "yes" could potentially change someone's life forever.

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If you were invited to meet the President and told to just show up, how confident would you be? Without someone guiding you on protocols, you'd be lost. People invited to church also need a guide. They don't know the protocols of our church like where to sit (or not sit!), what to wear, when to arrive, etc., so when you invite someone, be their guide. Pick them up or meet them at the door, sit with them, explain things, and introduce them to others.

It can be intimidating to invite people to church, especially if it's not something you've ever done. But you're never doing it alone, and God will give you the words and strength you need. When we invite people to come and meet Jesus, we're inviting them to life and forgiveness. Why would we want them to miss out? Here's one more number for you: 80% of the unchurched who became believers came to faith through the invitation from a Christian to come meet Jesus.

I'm know there's more to be said on this topic, but I hope you've found enough here to start extending some invitations. I'm not saying that invitations are the magic bullets to fix our declining attendance, they might not be. But we have the greatest Savior and a wonderful church where the Word of God is faithfully taught, so let's invite and trust God to open hearts to the invitations.

In Christ,

Pastor

Daughters of Emmanuel Meeting

March 18, 2026

DOEs met during Lenten dinner with 11 members in attendance. Secretary and financial reports were read and approved.

Kitchen-Jen made a list of things needed

Old Business: none

New Business:

Lenten Dinner proceeds to go to VBS.

Spring Rally-April 28th at St Paul.

Assembled Easter baskets for shut ins.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Submitted by Helga Gross, Secretary

Council Meeting Minutes - February 11, 2026

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: expenses were discussed. It was moved to approve as submitted

Elder's Report: no new business

Evangelism Committee: no new business

Trustees' Report: will order a new water sensor. WiFi will need to be updated. It was discussed about how long it takes for the hot water to heat up in the kitchen. Wes Drost will research solutions and report back.

Pastor's Report: Pastor will attend the District Pastor's Conference on May 4th-5th in Algona. Council approved to cover the hotel cost, the conference is free. Confirmation will be on the first Sunday in May with 4 to be confirmed.

Old Business: Dishwasher in the Parsonage needs to be replaced.

New Business: At Easter a new Kid's Bible instead of the Arch Books will be given out to each child's family this year. The Evangelism Committee will cover the cost.

Meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer

Deanna Cole/Church Council Secretary

Mary/Martha Meeting

March 12, 2026

Mary & Martha met March 12, 2026 with 12 in attendance. Minutes and financial reports were approved.

Old Business: Discussed lasagna dinner. Quilts to be tied in April.

New Business:

*Discussed Camp Okoboji Annual Meeting

*Adopt a can

*Donna motioned to donate \$100 to Camp Okoboji as "can donation". Joyce second. Motion passed.

*Donna will be our delegate at District Convention June 11-13.

*Group wished Vicky best of luck and thanked her for her work with Mary/Martha.

Closed with Lords Prayer Submitted by Pam Wollesen, Secretary

Birthdays

Name	Date
Lynn Mohr	01
Peggy Busch	08
Lincoln Frye	09
Robert Bogue	10
Lavon Karstens	15
Susie Peterson	16
Renae Schmidt	16
Michelle Leonard	19
Elaine Frank	20
Jennifer Bohm	20
Landon Graff	20
Doris Larsen	26
Kevin Schmidt	27
Kylie Rudd	28
Lindsay Rudd	29

Anniversaries

Larry & Barb Bundt 03 61yrs

Serving in God's House

Elders:

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

Acolytes:

April 5: volunteer
April 12: Jaxon Carroll and Liam Mohr
April 19: Makena Liechti and Grace Wallace
April 26: Ryder Siebrecht

Counters:

April 2:
April 3: Brigit Frank and Mark Kruthoff
April 5: Amber Hadden and Julie Reaman
April 12: Kalyn Johnson and Karen Van Meveren
April 19: Brigit Frank and Mark Kruthoff
April 26: Amber Hadden and Julie Reaman

Greeters:

April 2: Jan Stock
April 3: Sheryl Huisenga
April 5: Tom and Julie Reaman (early)
April 5: Lyle & Linda Schuknecht
April 12: Kari Mahler & Karen Van Meveren
April 19: Judy Kramer & Waunita Tegels
April 29: Lannie & Judy Miller

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

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

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Email: lakeviewemmanuel@outlook.com

Online: lakeviewemmanuel.com

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

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30 Confirmation	2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	4
5 7:00 Son Rise Service 9:00 SS 10:00 Easter Service	6 7:00 pm Ladies Bible study	7	8 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 pm Council meeting 7:00 :LYF	9 1:30 pm Mary/Martha Meeting	10 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	11
12 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship	13 7:00 pm Ladies Bible study	14	15 3:30 Confirmation	16	17 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	18
19 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship	20 7:00 pm Ladies Bible study	21	22 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 pm DOEs 7:00LYF	23	24 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	25
26 9:00 SS & Bible study 10:00 Worship Questioning	27 7:00 pm Ladies Bible study	28	3:30 last day Confirmation	30		