

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE HERALD

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be a place filled with the Holy Spirit where people are coming in to be sent out: Focused on changing hearts and changing lives for a better world.

December 2020

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

It's almost over! The year 2020 is almost over! That's one of the best Christmas gifts anyone could ask for! I was going to give you a rundown of all the crazy and awful things that happened this year (so far) but the list was too long, too controversial and a little depressing. Suffice it to say that between a global pandemic, shutdowns, wildfires, murder hornets and the derecho it hasn't been a great year. But wait . . . is that true? Has 2020 truly NOT been a great year?

I mean, I know that I have focused on the problems and the suffering A LOT throughout these last nine or ten months, but I personally have experienced some AMAZING things this past year as well. Yes, 2020 was a tough year in many respects, but I have to admit that there were a lot of wonderful moments in it as well. My family bonded throughout the many months of quarantine and my children learned to cook and take care of their special needs brother. We even saved enough money from not eating out for several months and having fewer expenses that we finally were able to buy a used Suburban to fit our big family! 2020 was also the year my youngest daughter Zoe Joy was born! That's pretty wonderful too! And since we are STILL not going out a lot, we have been able to watch her grow up so much more than we would have if life were "normal".

Even in the year 2020, there is still a lot for each one of us to be thankful for. How about the fact that through everything God has walked with us every step of the way! Even as we are experiencing rising Covid-19 positivity rates and rising numbers of hospitalizations, we are being strengthened and supported through it all by God's Holy Spirit. So many have died in our

country and the only way I can imagine getting through it all is because God is with us and will never abandon us. In years of plenty, we give thanks for good weather or a bullish economy, but this year, we must rely on God to see us through EVERY day. If more fully recognizing God's constant presence in our lives is the ONLY blessing of 2020, I believe it has STILL been a VERY good year!

I have learned a lot as well in 2020. About viruses, masks, Zoom and Facebook Live! We have seen our teachers, government leaders, churches and families stretched in countless ways to be able to continue working and connecting with one another. I remember my Grandma Johnston telling me that after living through the Depression, she never took having money for granted for the rest of her life. I will bet that those of us who survive 2020 will never take hugs, or smiles or a full church for granted again in our lives either. THAT is something that the year 2020 has also blessed us with. Eventually, we will all probably forget how miserable it was to suffer through the loneliness and anxiety, but we won't forget the friends we've made and valuable lessons we were taught.

I read a book once that explained that God does not jump us OVER the valley of death or walk us AROUND the valley or TURN AROUND and forget about the valley of the shadow of death entirely. He walks THROUGH the valley WITH US. You have a God that has been with you every step of the way this year and has promised to be with you every step of the way through 2021 and beyond as well. So maybe 2020 wasn't so bad after all, OR . . . at least God hasn't left us to suffer through it all alone! He loves you more now than ever before. And that's the greatest gift we could receive this Christmas. Amen.

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E.L.C. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—10/11/2020

Council president, George Feazell, called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. Council members present were George F., Pastor Steven Broers, Matt Gross, Bill Ernst, Raedeem Bigelow, Nellie Griffith, Lynn Christensen, and Roland Purdy. Absent were Dan Dreher and Iris Westphal.

Pastor Broers lead us in devotions.

Bill E. moved to amend the agenda to allow George to introduce the new church secretary to the council, and to give Craig & Brenda Plymesser an opportunity to report on their attending the LCMC convention in Minneapolis. 2nded by Matt G. Carried.

Guests included Amy Hoover, the new church secretary, and her husband Nathan. George introduced them to the council. Amy shared some background information and that she and her husband have two young boys. The council thanked them for coming and they exited the meeting.

Craig & Brenda reported that 125 people attended the LCMC convention. It was very inspiring. The coronavirus has drastically affected the number of people attending church services. It is not known whether things will ever go back to the way they were before the pandemic.

Craig & Brenda will present a short summary of their trip at each of the Sunday church services. They exited the meeting.

The secretary's report was read by Roland Purdy. Raedeem B. moved to approve the report. Bill E. 2nded. Carried.

The treasurer's report was given by Bill E. Motion by Matt G. to approve the report. Nellie G. 2nded. Carried.

Pastor Broers presented his activities/mileage report. Motion by Bill E. to approve the report. Raedeem B. 2nded. Carried.

Emergency Benevolence: None.

Committee Reports:

Women of ELCA: have met. There was no further report.

Property: The old carpet on the front steps of the church has been removed to make ready for new carpet. The new may not be installed until spring due to cold temperatures. A new fence has been installed on the north property line north of the church. Two gates are to be hung at the east end of the fence.

Children's Ministry Report October 2020

ROW

-This year's theme is "Trust". The theme verse for the year is, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You." ~Psalm 56:3. Each month's memory verse is focused around trust.

-We are working through the Old Testament this year. Pastor Broers and Kristy have been recording 2 videos for the lessons each week (PreK-2nd & 3rd-6th). The video includes announcements, memory verses, links to a video about the lesson, Bible story reading, a song, an explanation of the activities, and prayer. Pastor Broers called all the G.R.O.W. families and we currently have 17 families (30 kids) and a daycare receiving the activity/lesson packets. Judy Nelson has continued to prepare the PreK-K activity, Brenda Plymesser turned in her list of activities from prior years, and Amy Hoover has been helping to stuff packets and then mail them. It is our hope that families are gathering together and spending time learning about God.

-Confirmation

-The confirmation students have been meeting in the sanctuary each week. Students are spaced out in assigned seats and are now required to wear masks, with the increase of cases of COVID in Adair County and due to the school mask requirements. This year's focus is Luther's Small Catechism. There are 10 students in 7th grade and 4 students in 8th grade. One student new to confirmation in 8th grade is doubling up their learning to complete confirmation in one year.

-High School

-High School Bible Study has been meeting weekly at church spaced out in the parish hall. Kathy Thompson has been the other adult there with Pastor Broers. There were approximately 8 youth in attendance the first week. Since then it has mostly just been our 2 high school children.

-Children's Ministry

-Operation Christmas Child packing night will be done by individual families this year. If a family is interested in packing a shoebox, gift ideas and a shoebox will be provided. All shoeboxes need to be at the church by Sunday, Nov. 15th to take to our drop off location.

-Kristy will not be doing a Christmas program this year due to safety concerns. If someone else is interested in leading one they are welcome to.

4. Memorial: Paul Bigelow has indicated the committee would have money available if the council decides to invest in a streaming device to enhance the audio/visual quality of

COUNCIL MINUTES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the Facebook Live broadcast of our Sunday services.

. Stewardship: Pastor Broers and Amy created samples of cards to reach out to members who have not been in church since March of this year.

Old Business:

In-person Church Services: Things are going well. All CDC guidelines are being followed. Masks are worn and social distancing is being practiced. Pews are disinfected after each service.

Vision/Mission Statements: Pastor Broers led discus-

sion on updating both statements. We will discuss suggestions at our next meeting.

New Business:

Stewardship letter—the letter is sent out to all active members each year. Content of the letter will be decided at the next meeting.

Motion by Matt G. to adjourn. 2nded by Bill E. Carried. We adjourned at 7:55 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be November 8, 2020

Roland Purdy, Secretary



The church council nominating committee will meet during November and December. The council is looking for up to three candidates for the annual meeting in January. You may be approached by the committee to serve on our church council. If you believe you have a spiritual gift for service to our congregation, please consider praying about serving on our church council.

George Feazell, President

Fund Balance Report
As of October 31, 2020

General Fund	\$51,180.94
Children's Ministry	
Grow	\$368.82
Sponsor A Sheep	\$0.00
Other	(\$628.30)
Total	(\$259.48)
Vision Fund	
Undesignated	\$7,640.21
Designated Building	\$440.00
Designated Mission	\$6,450.00
Total	\$14,530.21
TOTAL	\$65,451.67



Congregational Survey: Please return by December 13

Emmanuel Lutheran Church wants to hear from you! **Anonymous responses are encouraged.** Please return to the changing files by the secretary's office door, return to Pastor Broers, or mail to the church. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

1. Are you currently attending or watching church services either at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Fontanelle or another place of worship? Yes or No
2. If you are currently attending or watching church services at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Fontanelle, how are you currently involved?
 - Attending in person
 - Watching on Facebook Live
3. How often are you currently attending or watching?
 - Weekly
 - Every other week
 - Once a month
 - Less than once a month
4. If you have not attended church services since we re-opened in July, what is the main reason you have been staying away? Please circle all that apply:
 - Trying to keep my family and others safe from Covid-19
 - Don't desire to wear a mask at church
 - Out of the habit
 - Enjoy watching church online more than in-person
 - Other _____
5. If you are watching our services on Facebook Live, do you have any suggestions on how to make the church service more enjoyable online?
6. How have you been involved with Emmanuel Lutheran of Fontanelle within the past eight months? Please circle all that apply:
 - Watching or attending church services
 - Giving money to support the ministry
 - Watching Facebook Live Bible Study
 - Viewing Pastor's Weekly Devotion or Genesis through Revelation You Tube Videos
 - Watching GROW Online videos and/or doing GROW activities with family
 - Other (please list)
7. If you are planning on attending a Christmas Eve service in-person, which service will you be attending?
 - 7 p.m. Traditional
 - 11 p.m. Contemporary

PRAYER REQUESTS



HEALING AND HEALTH CONCERNS

mmett Grove (Rachel & Jesse Grove's son), Marilyn Eshelman (June's daughter-in-law), Teresa Schilmoeller (Bernie's daughter), Shirley Paugh (Stan Brown's sister), Katie Duran, Chelsea Payne, Bill Maasch, Sonja LaBarge, Lynn Bohling, Darry Chiles, Tony Ortgies, Carmen Homan, Virgene Martin

HOMESTEAD OF CRESTON

Harold Nelson

GOOD SAMARITAN RESIDENTS

June Eshelman, Shirley Jorgensen, Ruth Rohner, Lyle Miller, Donna Grothen, Joyce Herr, Della Marckmann, Maxine Baudler, Bernard Baudler, Zola Westphal

SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Lucas Queck, Clint Eshelman, John Sidey and Trent Jameson (grandson of Rex & Karen Hight), Zac Scar, Austin Brown (grandson of Stan Brown), Tucker Wambold, Reba Lonsdale, Clint Powell, Brett Schafroth, Jesse Johnson, Curtis Darr

GREENFIELD REHAB CENTER RESIDENTS

Ralph Lane, Linda Hohertz, Barbara Nelson, Gene Held

ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Larry Hohertz, Pat Nelson, Eileen Sorensen, LaVerne Estell

OUTREACH TEAM

We want to say "Thank You" to the many health care workers in our community who do so much to care for our loved ones and thought this would be a great time of the year to do it! We will be doing this in two ways: First, we are collecting donations to provide gift cards for local businesses to the workers at the Good Samaritan Center and Greenfield Rehab. Just write "Nursing Homes" in the memo line of checks or put in the donation basket at the back of the church. Second, we are collecting thank you cards to show our appreciation. To take part, please take a name or two from the basket in the back of the church and return your filled out cards to the church. Deadline for cards and money donations is [December 13th](#). Thanks for your kindness and generosity!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ADOPT-A-FAMILY

There are ornaments hung in the parish hall to adopt families from our community this holiday season. Each ornament has a gift idea listed for members of the family. Please consider sharing gift of love with others to remind them of Christ's love this Christmas! Please complete by December 14.

Christmas Services

Four Sundays of Advent
Contemporary Services at 8:30 a.m.
Traditional Services at 10:30 a.m.

- November 29—1st Sunday of Advent
- December 06—2nd Sunday of Advent
- December 13—3rd Sunday of Advent
- December 20—4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve, December 24

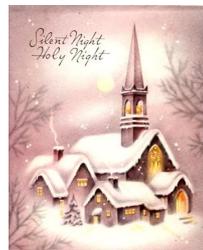
- 7:00 p.m. Traditional Service
- 11:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, December 25

- 9:30 a.m. Christmas Morning Service



All information needs to be in the office by 8:00 am on Thursday mornings for the bulletins.



ALTAR GUILD CARDS AVAILABLE

Christmas cards are now ready for you for only 50 cents each. They are in the card case right of the water fountain. Please, check them out. You are able to purchase single Christmas cards. If you purchase 2 cards, then the 3rd card will be free.

Also, don't forget about the **"Thinking of You"** cards. We have not seen many of our friends for quite a while and a card is always a good way to let them know we are thinking about them. These cards are in the case on the left side of the water fountain. Many new cards have been added lately. We hope you find the perfect card to send.



ELC WOMEN
December 2, 2020
1:00 PM - Meeting

- Hostesses:** Circle Chairmen
- Decorations:** Executive Committee
- Hymn/Devotions/Meditation:** Executive Committee
- Bible Study:** Pastor
- Business Meeting:** Mardell Martin
- Birthdays**
- Lord's Prayer**
- Table Prayer**
- Kitchen Committee:** None





Though November was a short month for us at G.R.O.W. with Thanksgiving break, we are thankful for the ability to share the stories of God and His faithfulness with families. We are also thankful that, even though we were unable to gather for our annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing night, you all were generous in your giving and we were still able to send shoeboxes to kids around the world. Thank you for that!

During the month of November, we continued our Old Testament journey with Moses. The first week we learned about the Passover and how God spared the first born children of the Israelites when they put the lamb's blood on their doors. The second week we learned about the miracles God performed through Moses as he led the Israelites through the Red Sea. The last week of November we learned about how God provided for the Israelites as they wandered through the desert with quail in the evenings and manna in the mornings. It was appropriate that the manna lesson came right before Thanksgiving as God continues to

provide so much for us, just like He provided for the Israelites. It is important that we take the time to thank Him in ALL circumstances.

Our theme for G.R.O.W. this year is TRUST. We feel like there are so many things going on in the world and the lives of our G.R.O.W. kiddos and we want them to know that through it all, God can be trusted. The verse for the whole year is from Psalm 56:3, "**When I am afraid, I put my trust in You**". The memory verse of the month is from Psalm 37:5, "**Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act.**"

It is our prayer that by memorizing these verses as a family, the kids might be able to rely back to these verses when they face problems.

Please keep the G.R.O.W. children and families in your prayers as we continue this year. We want to see seeds planted, lives changed, families brought closer to You, and God shining through all of us. Thanks!



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Though this year has been different in so many ways, your generosity and thoughtfulness continues to shine through! Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.O.W. families and the people of our congregation, we were able to pack **36** shoe boxes to be sent for Operation Christmas Child this year! We were also able to donate the full amount to help ship the boxes! It is such a gift to be a part of a congregation that lives out the call to love our neighbors! We pray that these shoeboxes safely arrive to just the right people and that lives are changed through the Good News of Jesus Christ! Thanks for shining with Jesus and making sure the word of God gets sent far and wide!



Typically, each Advent season, our family invites you all to join us for a night at the movies as we watch "The Nativity Story" and share Christmas snacks with you. Just like most things this year, we will not be hosting this event. We encourage you to take the time to watch "The Nativity Story" as a family and we hope to be able to share in this event next year.



Children's Christmas Program

The Church Council has decided that we will not hold our annual Children's Christmas program this year due to the pandemic. We will, however, have a Traditional Service at the 7 PM time as well as the 11 PM Contemporary Candlelight Service.



WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

	December 6, 2020	December 13, 2020	December 20, 2020	December 24, 2020 11:00 Service	December 27, 2020
Keyboard	Kellie	Kellie	Kellie	Kellie	Kellie
Drums	Matt	Malachi	Dan	Matt	Matt
Rhythm Guitar	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
Male Vocalists	Dave, Pastor	Brian, Pastor	Dave, Pastor	All	Brian, Dave
Female Vocalists	Kendalyn, Sophia	Ann, Sophia	Kendalyn	All	Ann
Greeters/Ushers	Brian and Sam	Kathy	Nellie and Jeanne	Iris	Brian and Sam
Advent Candle	Gettler Family	Hall Family	Dreher Family	n/a	n/a
1st Reading	Kendalyn	Brian	Dave	Vicki B.	Ann
2nd Reading	Dave	Ann	Kendalyn	Brian	Brian
3rd Reading Christmas Eve (only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Ann	n/a
4th Reading Christmas Eve (only)	n/a	n/a	n/a	Kendalyn	n/a
Gospel Reading	Dave	Ann	Kendalyn	n/a	Brian
Confession/ Forgiveness	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	
Prayers	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor	
Mount Offering	George	Lynn	Dan	George	Nellie
Sound	Rollie	George	John	George	John
Cameras	Earlene	John	George	John	George
Pro Presenter	George	Tammy	Matt M.	Tammy	Tammy
				7:00 Service	
Organist	Kathy	Shirley	Jane	Kathy	Karen
Greeters/Ushers	Arlene	Raedeem	Sherol	Iris	Sandy
1st Reading	Bill	Radeem	Sherol	Arlene	Iris
2nd Reading	Bill	Raedeem	Sherol	Arlene	Iris
3rd Reading	Arlene	Iris	Rollie	Iris	Sandy
Mount Offering	Rollie and Bill	Raedeem and Iris	Rollie and Bill	Rollie and Iris	Radeem and Iris
Sound/Cameras	Rollie	Matt G.	John	George	George
Pro-Presenter	Tom T.	Sherol	Tammy	Clella	Tammy

CHURCH CALENDAR

December 2020
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
PO Box 217 – 424 Scott Street
Fontanelle, IA 50846
641-745-2415 Parsonage 641-745-4040

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00 Pastor to GSC	1:00 ELC Women 6:00 GROW & Confirmation	9:00 Prayer Group		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 Praise Team Warm-up 9:30 Contemporary Worship 10:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Christmas Eve Praise Team Practice	10:00 Bible Study FB <u>Council Agenda Deadline</u>	10:00 Pastor to GSC 7:30 Alpha Online	6:00 GROW & Confirmation	9:00 Prayer Group		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 Praise Team Warm-up 9:30 Contemporary Worship 10:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Council Meeting 11:00 Christmas Eve Praise Team Practice	10:00 Bible Study FB	10:00 Pastor to GSC 7:30 Alpha Online	6:00 GROW & Confirmation 8:00 High School Bible Study	9:00 Prayer Group		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 Praise Team Warm-up 9:30 Contemporary Worship 10:30 Traditional Worship 11:00 Christmas Eve Praise Team Practice	10:00 Bible Study FB 	10:00 Pastor to GSC 7:30 Alpha Online		7:00 p.m. Traditional Service 11:00 p.m. Contemporary Candlelight Service	Merry Christmas! 9:30 Christmas Day Service	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 Praise Team Warm-up 9:30 Contemporary Worship 10:30 Traditional Worship	10:00 Bible Study FB	10:00 Pastor to GSC 7:30 Alpha Online		New Year's Eve 9:00 Prayer Group		



The Poinsettia

The poinsettia is known as the “flower of the Holy Night”. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ, while the white leaves represent his purity. Poinsettias will be put around the altar and the Christmas tree again this year, starting the Sunday before Christmas. Would you consider providing one for us?

The Altar Guild will be purchasing poinsettias this year. You will have the option to choose from 5 colors and 2 sizes---regular or large. Some colors sell out, so if you want a specific color, order early. If you would like to provide one for Christmas, please fill out the form below, put it in an envelope with your payment made out to Immanuel Lutheran Altar Guild for each plant you would like, label it “Christmas Poinsettia” and give it to Iris Westphal or put in her church mailbox. In order to have our memorial listed in the church bulletin, please have orders and information to us by Sunday, December 13th. (If you have any questions, please contact Iris Westphal @ 641-743-2245.) Thank you!

Name _____

Colors available:

Regular Size (\$15)

Large Size (\$25)

Red	_____	_____
White	_____	_____
Pink	_____	_____
Burgundy	_____	_____
Red/White	_____	_____
(Jingle Bells)		

In Memory of: _____

Do you want to take your poinsettia home after Christmas? ___yes___no

●
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
424 SCOTT STREET—PO BOX 217
FONTANELLE, IOWA 50846
OFFICE PHONE—641-745-2415

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FONTANELLE, IOWA
PERMIT NO. 10



Coming in to be sent out!

<http://www.fontanellelutheran.org>

Come and Worship With Us

Sunday Contemporary Service—8:30 a.m.

Sunday Traditional Service—10:30 a.m.

Traditional Service Dec 24—7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service Dec 24—11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day—9:30 a.m.