

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# Annual Meeting

**January 21, 2024**



## **Come to Faith, Honor God's Word**

To be inspired and reconnected to God's Word and God's people, to share the message of the cross, and to bring God's love and healing to people in need.

**424 Scott Street, Fontanelle, Iowa 50846**

# Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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# Annual Meeting Agenda

January 21, 2024  
9:30 a.m. Meeting

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – President Dan Berg
  - A. Opening Devotions
  - B. Adoption of Order of Business
- II. **SECRETARY’S REPORT** – Craig Plymesser
- III. **TREASURERS’ REPORT**
  - General – Gini Herr
  - Approval of Treasurers’ Reports
- IV. **REVIEW OF ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Approve Revised Budget
  - B. Parsonage Property Update
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Vision Fund
  - B. Giving of Commodities
  - C. Elections: Council (Judy Albers, John Baudler, Raedeen Bigelow, George Fezell),  
Nominating Committee
  - D. LCMC Delegates
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Lord’s Prayer

Appreciation is expressed to all who have served our Lord Jesus Christ through our Congregation in any way, great or small, during the year 2023, and we ask His blessing and inspiration upon all who have been asked to serve Him in His Church during 2024.



#30904

# **Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes July 23, 2023**

The Semi-Annual meeting of Emmanuel Lutheran Church was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by President David Huff with a quorum of the members of the congregation present.

Pastor Broers led the meeting with devotions from Corinthians 13, love one another.

Council Members present: David Huff, Louise Johnson, Dan Berg, Iris Westphal, Craig Plymesser, Rhonda Boehm, Roger Jensen, and Gini Herr. Absent: Samantha Gettler.

A motion was made to amend and approve the agenda by George Feazell and seconded by Leo Weinheimer. Motion carried.

Minutes of the semi-annual meeting held January 15, 2023, were read by Secretary Craig Plymesser. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rick Johnson and seconded by Matt Gross, the motion carried.

The mid-year treasurer's report was given by Gini Herr. Gini also reviewed the proposed 2024 budget noting items that would increase. Darry Chiles moved to approve the report and Brittany Bridges seconded and the motion carried.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:**

A: 2024 Proposed Budget. There were no questions. Vicki Brown moved to approve, seconded by Carol Weinheimer, and carried.

B. Automatic Doors for the Parish Hall: Dave Huff reviewed the proposed automatic doors to be installed in the Parish Hall and reported that a ramp will be installed of the door threshold for now. We are waiting to review any fire code implications before proceeding with the doors. Questions were asked about whether both sets of doors would be replaced.

C. New Insurance: George Feazell and David Huff reviewed the situation that our current insurance company would no longer cover the property due to the age of the building. The council is waiting for quotes from 2 companies that would be provided 30 days before the expiration of the current policy.

D. Delegates to the October 1-4, 2023, LCMC Annual Gathering: Brenda Plymesser made a motion to approve Thad and Denise Bridges as the congregation's delegates. Seconded by George Feazell. Motion passed.

E. Nominating Committee: The nomination committee for new council members for 2024 will consist of Matt Gross, Bill Ernest, Dan Dreher as immediate past council members, and volunteers Brenda Plymesser, Leo Weinheimer, and Nancy Springer as members from the congregation.

Rick Johnson moved to close the meeting at 9:55 am, and Ann Rohner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Broers closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Plymesser  
Secretary

## Message From the Pastor



I began 2023 with two goals in mind: to help Emmanuel focus on becoming disciples who make disciples and to help all of us become more Biblically literate through going through “The Bigger Story” of the Bible each week during the Sunday messages. Emmanuel’s vision is to help people “Come to Faith and Honor God’s Word”. We intend on making that vision a reality through our mission statement: “To be inspired and reconnected to God’s Word and God’s people, to share the message of the cross and to bring God’s healing to people in need.” In the last year, two churches have closed in our community: the Presbyterian church in Greenfield and the Methodist church in Fontanelle. Therefore, it is all the more important that we are unified in our focus to not only grow as individual disciples who know how to make other disciples, but also on how to follow God’s will for our church as a whole. We want to be able to invite people to come to faith in Jesus and experience God in a healthy congregation.

How we make decisions as a church and how our leadership team works together affects every other aspect of our church life. According to scripture, pastors are called to be the spiritual leader for a congregation of believers just as a shepherd leads and watches over a flock. “Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jeremiah 3:5) In addition, they are called to “equip God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:2) Finally, they are called to be a good witness to how a Christian should live out their life both inside and outside of the church. “not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” (1 Peter 5:3)

But the pastor is not the only leader within our congregation. According to our church constitution, “The Church Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God.” (C12.04) In order to have a strong church, there are several characteristics that we should be looking for in our council members: they need to be servant leaders (C12.04b), maintain a supportive relationship with the pastor (C12.04d), be faithful witnesses of a Christian lifestyle (C12.04e), promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill as conflicts arise (C12.04f) and seek out and encourage qualified people to serve with them in leadership (C12.04i).

Each year, our nominating committee struggles to find people within our congregation who are willing to serve on the Council and many people on the Council have had a difficult time understanding what their job is and how to best carry out their assigned

tasks. At each year’s reorganizational meeting, Council members choose to be representatives of ministries teams but it isn’t clear what their role is in filling those teams, leading those ministries and organizing/attending meetings. There is a need for training, encouragement and empowering Council members to be the best Christian leaders that they can be. They are called to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” and pray “Thy will be done”, but they need to learn how to seek God’s counsel through Scripture and how to honor God’s Word not only in their personal life but in the life of the congregation.

I believe that as a congregation, it is extremely important that our leadership team learns how to follow God’s Word for our church and do it together as a team. I hope to work intentionally with the Council this year to make that happen and to better clarify the role of the Council members and the role of the pastor especially regarding ministry teams. It is my hope that by the end of the year, each ministry team will be much stronger than it was at the beginning of the year.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will see a lot of wonderful things that God has done through Emmanuel Lutheran Church. He has used you and me to reach out to people in the name of Jesus and helped us to grow in our personal faith lives as well. We have worked with the churches of our area to help people learn more about mental health and to praise God at the Gathering Place! We have sent many kids to camp and helped our community learn more about Jesus at GROW and VBS. Even in the midst of a difficult economy, you gave above and beyond to support the ministries here. We are called to continue to weather the storms in our lives and in our church so that we can point to Jesus and allow Him to bring His light to the darkness that surrounds us.

No matter what happens this year, I pray that you remember that God is with you and that the church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ alone. Amen.

# Pastor Broers—Ministry Task Accomplished January - December 2023

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship Services	101
First Communion Service	1
Baccalaureate Service	1
Confirmation Service	1
Ash Wednesday Service	1
Lenten Service	4
Maundy Thursday Service	1
Good Friday Service	1
County Fair Worship Service	1
Praise Team Concert	1
Christmas Eve Service	2
Christmas Day Service	1

## WORSHIP PLANNING/ OTHER

Contemporary Planning	12
Traditional Planning	12
Baptisms	21
Pre-Baptism Meetings	3
Funeral Visitations	5
Funeral Services	8
Graveside Services	9
Funeral Home Service	1
Funeral Planning Meetings	8
Attended Local Funeral	1
Pre-Marital Counseling Meetings	1

## PASTORAL CARE

Hospital Visits	16
Home Visits	39
Nursing Home Visits	140
Nursing Home Worship Services	6
Phone Counseling	112

Office Counseling	44
Benevolence Trips	6
Court Hearing	1

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

Prayer Group	46
Weekly Meeting with Secretary	39
Weekly Staff Meeting	6
Interviews for New Secretary	2
Weekly Meeting with Youth Minister	42
Youth Minister Evaluation	1
Bookkeeper/Accountant	1
FB Bible Study	38
Praise Team Practices	78

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

First Communion Classes	5
GROW Fun Night	1
Kids Movie Night	1
VBS Days	4
VBS Counselor Meeting	1
VBS Program	1
Riverside Counselors Dinner	1
Operation Christmas Child	1
Youth Family Fun Night	1
Confirmation Meeting	1
Confirmation Class	26
Confirmation Practice	4
Confirmation Camp Days	6
Confirmation Recharge (weekend)	3
KFC High School Study	26
HS Service Project for Church	2

## Pastor Broers—Ministry Task Accomplished January - December 2023 continued

HS 5th Qtr. / Gathering Place	2	LCMC Presentation for ELC	1
HS Okoboji Camp Days	6	<b>CONNECTIONS TO COMMUNITY</b>	
HS Game Night	2	Church Business Call	2
HS Lock-In (Sat-Sun)	1	Area Pastor Phone Call	3
Set Up Christmas Tree with HS Youth	1	Discipleship Phone Call	1
<b>MINISTRY MEETINGS</b>		LCMC Council Meeting in Griswold	1
Outreach Team Meeting	5	Phone Call with Mentor	3
Say Something Walk Meeting	2	Phone Call with The Well	1
Movie Sound of Freedom Meeting	1	Phone Call with Church Dr. Ministries	1
Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal	1	Call with Conflict Coach	1
Family Nativity Movie Night	1	Camp Meeting	1
Children's Ministry Meeting	1	Okoboji/Riverside Call Director	5
Stewardship Team Meeting	1	<b>CONGREGATIONAL LIFE</b>	
ELC Women's Bible Study	10	Reorganizational Meeting	1
Unnamed Men's Bible Study	1	Annual Mtg	1
Families with Littles	2	Semi-Annual Meeting	1
Discipleship Huddle	12	Council Meeting	12
New Member Class	4	Meeting With Council President	5
Financial Peace University Class	3	Council Executive Committee Meeting	1
Acolyte Training	1	Financial Meeting with DB, GH, GF	1
Sound Booth Computer	1	Budget Meeting	1
NV Ministerial Mtg	9	Pastor Evaluation	1
Firefighter Ceremony (Phone Call)	1		
Life Solutions Meeting	1		
Meals for the Heartland	1		
Gathering Place Meeting	1		
<b>LCMC ACTIVITIES/ MEETINGS</b>			
Quarterly LCMC Meeting	2		
LCMC IA District Board Meeting	5		
LCMC IA District Annual Meeting	1		
LCMC IA District Funeral	1		
LCMC Annual Meeting (days)	4		

# 2023 Parish Report



## MEMBERSHIP: TRANSFERS REQUESTED (IN OR OUT)

Andrew Crees	+1
Rachel Crees	+1
Jagger, Dax, Braydon, Braxton, Cash, Lux Crees	+6
Kiley Hannan	+1
Deb Tindle	+1
April Bruck – Nelson	+1
Dustin Nelson	+1
Orianna Blackburn	+1
Walker Sturtevant	+1
Cody Griffith	+1
	+ 15

## MEMBERS LOST BY DEATH

(including funerals conducted by Pastor of non-members that were held at church or Pastor performed elsewhere)

m = member    ~ ~    m\* = member by baptism    (-3 m/m\* lost)

Verlene Joy Williamson.....	1/23/2023
Dale Ernest Sickles .....	2/23/2023
Denny Eugene Sickles.....	3/18/2023
Patricia Anne Nelson (m).....	3/24/2023
Edward Alan Berg.....	4/25/2023
James William Huff.....	5/27/2023
Frances Emma Gross (m).....	7/5/2023
Helen Lavina Herr (m).....	7/12/2023
Danny Wayne Tindle.....	12/23/2023

## BAPTISMS IN 2023

(+24 baptized members)

## BAPTIZED

## BORN

## PARENTS' NAMES

Evelyn Jane Timko	12/3/2023	10/18/2022	Chase and Taylor Timko
Zander Hardie Symns Brooks	11/26/2023	1/9/2023	Hardi and Amanda Symns
Leon Wayne Jacobson	10/29/2023	6/20/2023	Zachary and Karina Jacobson
Hudson Murphy Queck	9/24/2023	4/6/2023	Paul and Abby Queck
Bellamy Rose Bridges	8/13/2023	11/6/2012	Thad and Denise Bridges
Debra Jean Tindle	5/12/2023	7/29/1955	
Walker LaVerne Sturtevant	5/9/2023	8/10/2005	April Bruck
Dustin Carl Nelson	5/9/2023	9/21/1983	Joyce Nelson
Lou Daryl Raasch	5/7/2023	11/13/2014	Trent and Terri Raasch
Clay Everett Raasch	5/7/2023	6/21/2011	Trent and Terri Raasch
Derek Hayden Raasch	5/7/2023	5/19/2009	Trent and Terri Raasch
Chayse Michael Bates	4/22/2023	11/15/2022	Chris and Jesi Bates
Keinell Alexa Symns Grant	3/26/2023	3/5/2016	Hardie and Amanda Symns, Jellie Grant
Denisha Alicia Symns Grant	3/26/2023	9/20/2010	Hardie and Amanda Symns, Jellie Grant
Kadisha Lucina Symns Brooks	3/26/2023	1 0/8/2008	Hardie and Amanda Symns, Jellie Grant
Paul Kurtis McDowell	3/12/2023	12/20/2022	Dillon and Susan McDowell



# 2023 Parish Report



<u>BAPTISMS IN 2023</u> (+24 baptized members)	<u>BAPTIZED</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>PARENTS' NAMES</u>
Lux Lillian Crees	2/26/2023	1/15/2021	Andrew and Rachel Crees
Cash Andrew Crees	2/26/2023	8/27/2019	Andrew and Rachel Crees
Dax Hendricks Crees	2/26/2009	9/16/2009	Andrew and Rachel Crees
Rachel Ann Crees	2/26/2023	8/1/1982	
Andrew Alexander Crees	2/26/2023	10/9/1989	
Joanna Lynn Marckmann	2/25/2023	6/23/2022	Justin and Cassie Marckmann
Avett Elbe Feick	1/21/2023	10/10/2016	Jason and Heather Feick
Allie Faye Cornelison	1/21/2023	10/16/2008	Jason and Heather Feick, Matt Cornelison

## MEMBERS CONFIRMED IN 2023

05/28/2023

Gabe Beaman, Allie Cornelison, Destiny Fry, Allyson Pickrell, Derek Raasch, Taylor Rohrig, Kadisha Symns

### 2023 Parochial Report

Total baptized membership, January 1, 2023.....	892
Total confirmed, transferred, or affirmed membership, January 1, 2023 .....	614
Members received by baptism in 2023 .....	24
Members received by transfer or affirmation of faith.....	22
Members lost by death.....	3
Confirmed members transferred to another church.....	0
Baptized members transferred to another church.....	0

#### AFTER STATISTICAL ADJUSTMENTS:

Total baptized membership, December 31, 2023.....	916
Total confirmed, transferred, or affirmed membership, December 31, 2023.....	633

#### AVERAGE IN-PERSON YEARLY ATTENDANCE EACH SUNDAY: 108

Previous Years: 110 (2022), 86 (2021\*Covid-19), 52 (2020\*Covid-19), 133 (2019), 135 (2018)

# 2023 Budget

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Budget

	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Proposed 2024
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
<b>Giving:</b>			
General	\$211,943.62	\$222,000.00	\$217,000.00
Designated Giving			
Children's Ministry	\$7,241.08	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>			
Rent	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Other Income	\$414.64		
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>\$219,899.34</b>	<b>\$227,250.00</b>	<b>\$222,250.00</b>
<b>Vision Fund Income</b>	<b>\$6,870.00</b>		
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>			
<b>Benevolence:</b>			
LCMC Benevolence 1%	\$2,025.00	\$2,220.00	\$2,170.00
Local Benevolence 5%	\$14,625.00	\$15,540.00	\$10,850.00
World Benevolence 4%	\$12,175.00	\$19,980.00	\$8,680.00
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>\$28,825.00</b>	<b>\$37,740.00</b>	<b>\$21,700.00</b>
<b>Ministry:</b>			
Pastor's Salary	\$54,343.44	\$54,750.00	\$56,250.00
Pension	\$6,659.52	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
Insurance	\$18,376.82	\$18,000.00	\$20,000.00
Vehicle Mileage & Expenses	\$3,428.85	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
Cell Phone	\$478.35	\$2,000.00	\$600.00
<b>Total Ministry</b>	<b>\$83,286.98</b>	<b>\$83,750.00</b>	<b>\$86,350.00</b>
<b>Payroll:</b>			
Custodial	\$2,865.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Organist	\$3,520.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Secretary	\$10,470.90	\$8,500.00	\$10,000.00
Youth Minister	\$21,125.00	\$20,500.00	\$21,000.00
Taxes	\$2,905.53	\$2,792.25	\$2,945.25
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$40,886.43</b>	<b>\$39,292.25</b>	<b>\$41,445.25</b>
<b>General Administration:</b>			
Printing & Reproduction	\$8,613.80	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00
Church Supplies	\$2,203.82	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Office Supplies	\$7,104.41	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Postage	\$1,549.44	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Professional Services	\$4,625.00	\$6,750.00	\$5,500.00
Other	\$1,440.87	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Total General Admin</b>	<b>\$25,537.34</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$19,750.00</b>

# 2023 Budget

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Budget

	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Proposed 2024
<b>Children's Ministry:</b>			
GROW	\$4,604.71	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Vacation Bible School (VBS)	\$2,073.88	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Summer Camp	\$1,410.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Confirmation	\$360.46	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Other	\$1,593.10	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Children's Ministry</b>	<b>\$10,042.15</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
<b>Worship and Service:</b>			
Altar	\$362.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Visiting Pastors	\$398.90	\$500.00	\$500.00
Adult Ministry	\$972.26	\$750.00	\$750.00
Music Ministry	\$80.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Outreach Ministry	\$314.60	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
Other	\$795.00		
Miscellaneous	\$1,431.23		
<b>Total Worship &amp; Service</b>	<b>\$4,353.99</b>	<b>\$4,300.00</b>	<b>\$4,300.00</b>
<b>Church and Parsonage</b>			
Building, Equip. & Maint.	\$3,610.79	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
- Parsonage		\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Utilities - Church	\$10,374.09	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
- Parsonage	\$4,183.92	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00
Telephone - Church	\$2,745.32	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
- Parsonage	\$1,365.78	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Insurance	\$9,809.47	\$7,500.00	\$10,500.00
Services	\$2,232.94	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Church &amp; Parsonage</b>	<b>\$34,322.31</b>	<b>\$34,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$227,254.20</b>	<b>\$227,082.25</b>	<b>\$221,545.25</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>(\$7,354.86)</b>	<b>\$167.75</b>	<b>\$704.75</b>
<b>Vision Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$29,208.72</b>		

Bell Tower CD - \$31,274.72



# Fund Balance Report As of December 31, 2023

## Fund Balance Report As of December 31, 2023

General Fund	\$65,880.47
Vision Fund	
Undesignated	\$12,164.57
Designated Mission	\$6,090.00
Designated Building	\$0.00
Total	\$18,254.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$84,135.04</b>

General Giving	
As of December 31, 2023	
Budget	\$211,943.62
Actual	\$200,478.51
	<b>(\$11,465.11)</b>

### **ONLINE GIVING**

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council would like to remind everyone you can manage your online giving! This allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and review your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the internet.

Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at [www.fontanellelutheran.org](http://www.fontanellelutheran.org).
2. Click on the "Give Online" button.
3. Click on the "Create Profile" button.
4. Then follow the onscreen instructions to create an account profile and schedule you recurring contributions.



## 2023 Benevolence

<b>Local</b>	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
Emergency (Families-in-need)		\$400	\$1,500	\$400	\$2,300
Adair County Food Pantry	\$650	\$645	\$285	\$845	\$2,425
Ingham-Okoboji Bible Camp	\$650	\$645	\$285	\$845	\$2,425
Riverside Bible Camp	\$650	\$645	\$285	\$845	\$2,425
Ronald McDonald House	\$650	\$645	\$285	\$845	\$2,425
Hope Ministries	\$650	\$645	\$285	\$845	\$2,425
LCMC - Iowa District				\$200	\$200
	\$3,250	\$3,625	\$2,925	\$4,825	\$14,625
					\$0
<b>World</b>					
Vision Mission	\$1,395	\$1,555	\$1,250	\$1,890	\$6,090
The Well	\$1,120	\$1,240	\$1,000	\$1,510	\$4,870
Operation Blessing - wells	\$560	\$620	\$500	\$755	\$2,435
Lutheran World Relief - agriculture	\$560	\$620	\$500	\$755	\$2,435
Iowa City Children's Hospital	\$560	\$620	\$500	\$755	\$2,435
	\$4,195	\$4,655	\$3,750	\$5,665	\$18,265
LCMC	\$465	\$515	\$415	\$630	\$2,025



**MEN'S GROUP**

# Property Report

## Men's Group Report

### Property Report for 2023

- Privacy Fence around Parsonage was installed this past spring. The seeding has not been completed, but is on the schedule for spring of 2024.
- Epoxy finish applied to the basement floors. Dan Berg, Craig and Brenda Plymesser, Pastor Broers, and several of the youth helped move furniture for this project.
- A threshold was put in the entry door to the Parish Hall to make it more handicap accessible.
- Lights were installed in library and in parsonage basement. Additional lights were repaired. Thanks to Matt Gross and David Sickles for working on the lights.
- There was a squirrel getting in the north end of the roof. Matt Gross took care of the problem.
- Fascia and soffit replacement on parsonage.
- I am sure I have missed some people that have helped with various projects and repairs. Please know it is not intentional. I appreciate everyone who helps out in any way to maintain our beautiful church and parsonage.

By: Roger Jensen, Property Committee

### Men's Group Report

January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

The Men's Group sponsored the Harvest meal in conjunction with the Outreach Committee in November. It was a huge success and was attended by many. They raised \$1500.00 to go toward updating the church parsonage. This past year the group purchased a new rug for the Parish Hall entrance and also had a water line installed for the ice makers on the refrigerators in the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who supports us and all men are welcome to join us at any time.

Beginning Balance 1-1-2023	\$ 3459.79
Deposits	\$ 2428.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 2481.54</u>
Ending Balance 12-31-2023	\$ 3406.25

# Memorial Report



## Memorial Committee Report 2023 January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Beginning Balance 1-1-2023	\$40,553.76
Memorial Deposits	\$ 7989.29
Interest Earned	<u>\$ 159.70</u>
Total Gross on Hand	\$48,702.75
Expenses	
Organ Maintenance	\$ 425.00
Outreach Ministry (Grief Share)	\$ 455.00
Basement Floor Refinish	<u>\$15,165.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$16,045.00
Ending Balance 12-31-2023	\$ 32,657.75

## Memorial Designations January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Open	\$14,774.67
Vacation Bible School	\$ 2,704.00
Organ Maintenance	\$ 283.00
Bell Music	\$ 110.30
Grief Counseling	\$ 1,651.95
Youth Bibles	\$ 1,000.00
Burrack Endowment	\$11,133.83
Grow Fund	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
	\$32,657.75

Memorial Committee: Paul Bigelow, Roleen Chiles, Ed Christensen, and Nancy Pettit  
Treasurer: Paul Bigelow  
Council Representative: Dan Berg



## Adult Ministry

### Sound of Freedom Movie

ELC Adult Ministry wanted to involve our parish and the community in learning of human trafficking in our community. Notices were emailed or called to every parish in Adair County, informing them of the film "Sound of Freedom", being shown at the Grand Theater. Our parish issued 68 free tickets from our congregation to see the movie for a discounted price of \$357 and Kenny Sheeder provided free tickets for everyone else that viewed the film. There were over 400 individuals in our local communities who watched the movie in Greenfield.

After all movies, Adult Ministry representatives handed out flyers for an informational follow-up meeting. Twenty persons attended the meeting. Guest speakers were Bailey Wiggins and Heidi Goodrich from Crisis Intervention and Advocacy Center in Creston and Denise Bridges, Executive Director of Pregnancy Center in SW Iowa of Red Oak and Youth Minister at Emmanuel. Topics covered were:

- 5 stages of human trafficking used by perpetrators to lure victims
- Recognizing the signs of victims
- Services available to help victims
- Contact numbers to call to notify authorities

Information for hotline services was distributed to local gas stations and local schools. More information can be found on human trafficking visit:

[humantraffickinghotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org).

Respectfully Submitted: Rhonda Boehm

### The Chosen Bible Studies

The Chosen II and III were offered to the church as an short term Bible Study on Sunday evenings over the course of 2023.

**"The Chosen"** series is a nationally acclaimed bible based tv/movie series with some creative license used in describing the personal lives of the disciples.

**Starting January 8, 2023**, a group of 14 individuals (led by Craig and Brenda Plymesser) met to watch the stories and participate in a group discussion about the movie series **"The Chosen, Series II"**.

The group spent 8 weeks watching and discussing the disciples who were chosen to serve Christ.

**September 10, 2023**, a group of 11 individuals spent 8 weeks watching and discussing **"The Chosen, Series III"**. This series featured the "sermon on the mount" and other parables and focused on the growing interest by people in listening to and following Christ.

Respectfully Submitted: Craig Plymesser

### Unnamed Men's Breakfast Study

Beginning in December of 2023, a new men's group call the Unnamed Men's Breakfast started meeting on one Saturday morning at 8:00 am in the Parish Hall. Led by Thad Bridges, they are spending time getting to know each other and discussing current Christian subjects that are faced by men today. They invite to come anytime and enjoy breakfast with them.

Respectfully Submitted: Thad Bridges





# Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild of Emmanuel Lutheran Church meets as needed. Serving as officers in 2023 were:

President:	Iris Westphal
Secretary:	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer:	Iris Westphal

The members continue to serve by preparing the worship space at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We do the set-up for communion for the Contemporary and Traditional services and take care of the clean-up afterwards. We change paraments and get banners ready for weddings, funerals, and baptisms. This past year, we serviced 9 funerals and 24 baptisms. We care for the altar linens, the altar appointments, and candles. We coordinate weddings, handle arrangements for Holy Week (including ordering the Easter Lilies), decorate for the harvest season, and prepare for Advent and Christmas (including ordering the Poinsettias).

We also oversee the sale of greeting cards.

Committees for the year were:

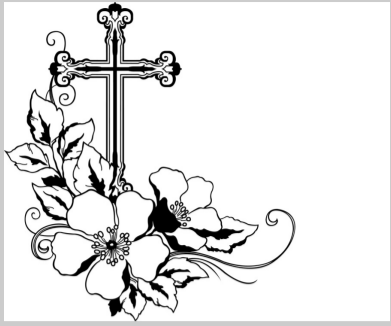
- Altar Linens/Baptisms/Confirmation: Iris Westphal
- Banners: Lynn Christensen
- Sale of Cards: Iris Westphal and Raedeen Bigelow
- Communion Preparation: Carla Leeper, Gloria Ernst, Carmen Homan
- Flowers: Brenda Plymesser
- Candles: Iris Westphal
- Paraments: Heidi Sorenson-Rohrig

I appreciate all these ladies that volunteer their time throughout the year. Without their help things could not get done. Thank you for all you do!

The Altar Guild thanks you for purchasing cards, Easter lilies, and Christmas poinsettias as this is our source of income. We purchase communion linens, as needed, flowers for the altar, stoles for confirmands, baptism cloths and blankets (if needed) and palm fronds for Easter.

Submitted by: Iris Westphal

<b><u>ALTAR GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT 2023</u></b>	<i>By Iris Westphal</i>
Balance on hand January 1, 2023	\$ 1,07.77
Donation for flowers – poinsettias & lilies	1004.00
Income from card sales	<u>133.10</u>
Total funds available	\$ 2,544.87
 Less Expenses	
Palms	\$ 47.08
Poinsettias	622.21
Lilies	<u>211.86</u>
Balance on hand 12-31-23	\$ 1,663.62
 Savings account balance 1- 1-23	\$ 884.04
Interest added	<u>4.42</u>
Savings account balance 12-31-23	\$ 888.46



# ELC Women of the Church

The Emmanuel Lutheran Women meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month. We have a Bible Study led by Pastor Broers followed by a brief meeting. Every month we decide on a project to which we contribute to. The ELC Women also assist with funding for needs within the church. In 2023, they purchased new toys for the Pre-School Rooms, VBS Supplies and a new TV and DVD player for the Confirmation/High School Rooms.

The ELC Women also provide funeral lunches and coffee for the funerals held here at Emmanuel. In 2023, they served families and guests at 9 funerals.

We welcome any and all women who would like to join us.

Submitted by: Arlene Schwartz, Vice-President, Roleen Chiles, Treasurer

### Checking Account

Balance on hand 1-1-23	\$657.37
Income from funeral lunches	2802.50
Donations	<u>535.00</u>

Total funds available \$3994.87

### Less expenses

For funeral lunches	\$1172.57
Misc. expenses and donations	<u>1653.32</u>

Balance on hand 12-31-23 \$1168.98  
(one outstanding check of \$234.31)

### Savings Account

Savings account balance 1-1-23	\$3,126.85
Interest	<u>15.61</u>

Savings account balance 12-31-23 \$3,142.46



# Emmanuel Lutheran Praise Team



It was another busy and exciting year for the Emmanuel Lutheran Praise Team in 2023. We meet twice every week to prepare for Sunday worship services: Sunday evening at 6:30pm and Sunday morning before the Contemporary service at 7:30am. Being a part of the Praise team is a great way to use your gifts for the glory of God!

This past year, we had two Outreach events. The first was at the Adair County Fair when we led the Sunday morning service for anyone who wanted to attend. We also performed a concert in September to raise funds for The Gathering Place and their work around our community.

We love to lead worship each Sunday and especially enjoy preparing and leading the Christmas Eve candlelight service each year. We are blessed as a small church in rural Iowa to have so many talented singers and musicians that want to come together and use their gifts for God. We look forward to another year of bringing God's Word to our congregation through the gift of music!

Balance 12/18/2022	\$ 3064.24
<b>Deposits</b>	
Donations (Christmas Eve)	\$ 196.00
T-shirt money	\$ <u>607.00</u>
Total deposits	\$ 803.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Trailer license	\$ 20.00
T-shirts	\$ 606.00
Service charges	\$ <u>38.52</u>
Total expenses	\$ 664.52
Balance 12/18/2023	\$ 3202.72





# Children's Ministry

Our Children's Ministry program here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church had another amazing year. We have continued to see steady growth in several ways. The number of children participating has increased by over 20% with most of the increase accounting to new children to the program. Through the increase we are now experiencing growth in new families that are participating in our programs. The final celebration of GROW for the Summer brought 135 children and family members to the Hot Dog/ Game Night at the church and our Family Christmas night in December. We celebrated with singing, pizza, a family craft, and the Nativity Story with 120 children and family members. The growth has been amazing and the feedback from the community has been very positive and uplifting. While this growth is a blessing, this also means we need more people in the church to step up and volunteer to meet the needs of our children and families.

## Ministry Team

The Ministry Team met in the spring and fall to plan and discuss needs and plans for the various children's programs. Moving into 2024 the team will continue to meet in the spring and fall with the youth minister to look at summer and school year plans, needs, and programming. All members of the congregation are welcome to be a part of the team.

### Team Members

Kristy Broers

Brenda Plymesser

Raedeen Bigelow

Terrin Gettler

Gini Herr

Steven Broers

Iris Westphal

Sam Gettler

Vicki Brown

Kendalyn Huff

## Vacation Bible School – June 19-22

The theme for the week was Foundation from Psalm 62:2. Riverside sent a female leader and 3 male counselors to work with 54 total children with an average of 49 kids in the building for the 4 days of VBS. In addition to the camp staff, we had 17 volunteers from the church and community help daily. Also, Gini Herr served as a gracious host to the camp staff, Brittany Bridges and Micah Broers taught Pre-K, and Pastor Broers and Kristy Broers helped with whatever was needed. Thursday night that week we held a closing program for the kids, parents and community.

### VBS Volunteers

Kristy Broers

Micah Broers

Brittany Bridges

Cindy Grantham

Brenda Plymesser

Diane Subbert

Dax Crees

Iris Westphal

Nancy Stringer

Steven Broers

Malachi Broers

Kylie Nelson

Vicki Brown

Ashlyn Beaman

Iris Westphal

Rachel Erb

Rhonda Boehm



## Children's Christmas Program – December 24, 2022

This year's program was called "Love Came Down". We had 8 children involved in the program and 6 students from the Confirmation Class and High School help with the readings. The children performed 2 songs and a fingerplay poem. The cast of Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, Angels were amazing. Brittany Bridges helped to direct the program.



# Children's Ministry

## G.R.O.W. (God Rocks on Wednesdays)

During the Spring we focused on the New Testament stories on the life of Jesus and celebrated the Lent/Easter season. Beginning with the Fall semester we moved to a new program called, Celebrate Wonder. The fall started with Genesis until we moved to the Christmas story and now in the Spring of 2024, we will continue to focus on the stories of Jesus leading up to Easter.

Information from the Spring semester and fall semester.

- 31 Sheep sponsored at \$50.00 a sheep
- 55 Total kids have attended the G.R.O.W. program
- 45 Kids on an average week for fall semester
- 20 Adult and High School volunteers on an average week
- 29 Total volunteers helped by teaching, helping, making food, bringing treats, cooking the meals.

In November, 132 Shoeboxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child during several G.R.O.W. nights and delivered by Denise Bridges to our local collection church in Stuart. The kids worked hard and increased the number of boxes this year by 36 over last year.

### G.R.O.W. Volunteers

Alyse Dreher	Diane Subbert	Malachi Broers
Brenda Plymesser	Jorand Fezell	Rhonda Boehm
Carla Leeper	Kendalyn Huff	Brittany Bridges
Jeremy Rohner	Nancy Stinger	Raden Bigelow
Iris Westphal	Kim Nelson	Jodi Baudler
Kristy Broers	Gini Herr	Genevieve Livingston
Rachel Hall	Jacob Fry	Kylie Nelson
Sam Gettler	Wanda Johnson	Deb Tindell
Steven Broers	Ben Hoover	Terrin Gettler
Ashlyn Beaman	Heather Rothe	Elle Huber

### Confirmation

In May of 2023, 7 Youth were confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The Students were Gabe Beaman, Allie Cornelison, Destiny Fry, Allyson Pickrell, Derek Raasch, Taylor Rohrig, Kadisha Symns

The 2023/24 curriculum focus is on memorizing and learning the content of the Bible. The curriculum focus alternates every other year with the catechism and going through the Bible in a year. This year's confirmation class consists of 7 total students that consist of 3-1<sup>st</sup> year and 4-2<sup>nd</sup> year students.

In October the confirmation students held a fundraiser breakfast. The funds raised were used to help with the cost of attending Ingham-Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp's Recharge event in November. In November, the entire class attended Ingham-Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp for a Recharge weekend. The theme this year was "Be Real" and focused on Psalm 139:9 about living out our faith.

### Confirmation Volunteer

Brittany Bridges

Submitted by: Denise Bridges, Youth Minister





# K.F.C. HS (Kids for Christ)

The year started off with a bang and lots of snow but the kids started the year strong. Our numbers for Wednesday nights have been increasing and over 50% of the High School kids are also helping with G.R.O.W. This has been a great help with leading the classes and the younger kids are so excited to have them there. There has been a lot of bonding and looking up to the big kids.

In January, we took 2 carloads of kids to the Winter Jam concert in Des Moines. It was quite a night and we all enjoy the different Christian music artists. We also had the first of several Game Nights for the year. We have been collecting a variety of board games and we enjoyed an evening of games, food and fellowship along with additional youth from area churches. It was enjoyed and there have been several more throughout the year.

In February, the kids prepared a Valentine Breakfast for the congregation to raise funds for camp. It was a great event with even the boy's doing dishes and we appreciate the church supporting their meal and providing funds for them to attend camp.

With the help from Brittany Bridges, we have taken car loads to the Recharge Weekends at Lake Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp both in the Spring and the Fall. This past year, seven kids attended in April and we returned and took seven more again in November. The kids really enjoy the time to be with kids from different churches all spending time in the company of each other and the Word of Jesus.

This past fall, we were gifted by the ELC Women's Group a new smart TV and DVD player. This has allowed us to use video-based Bible studies during our Wednesday night gatherings. The kids have enjoyed having a new venue for the studies and we appreciate the ladies support.

During the fall, along with the Nodaway Valley Ministerial Association we organized several 5<sup>th</sup> Quarters for after home games during football and basketball. They were held at the Gathering Place and both Middle School and High School kids are invited to attend to play games, eat snacks and hang out. They have been a success and plans are already in the works with area churches to continue them into 2024.

Thanks for your support of this group and the work they are doing to learn what it means to both believe in Jesus and to serve Him.

Submitted by: Denise Bridges, Youth Minister

## K.F.C. Financial Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/23 -	\$3,216.01
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Activities – Game Night, V. Day Breakfast	\$399.04
Okoboji Spring charge Camp	\$444.00
Okoboji Summer Camp for High School -	\$ 500.00
Okoboji Fall Recharge Camp	\$320.00
Ending Balance 12/31/23 -	\$2,372.00



# Outreach Ministry



There were many several Outreach events throughout the year that made an impact on our community, but the majority of them happened near the end of the year. In August, we held worship at the Adair County Fair which is always a great opportunity to share God's Word with families that are involved in that event. Later on in the month, we invited young families to a movie night at Emmanuel where little ones could watch a couple of Veggie Tales movies, eat snacks and make crafts together. In addition, Pastor Broers continued to plan a Families with Littles group that has tried to meet once a month starting in September. We are always trying to find ways to support families and help them know that they are not alone as they seek to raise their children in the faith.

In September, the Emmanuel Praise Team held a concert at The Gathering Place to raise funds for The Gathering Place and the work they do to support people in our community. It was so much fun to sing and play to the glory of God! Our church was also a part of the Say Something Walk sponsored by the United Methodist Church in Greenfield where we had Emmanuel members involved in walking, cheering and providing resources to those in attendance. It was an excellent way to remind everyone that mental health is something we need to talk about and, as Christians, we want to support each other especially through the difficult times of life.

The Thanksgiving Fellowship meal on November 19<sup>th</sup> was a terrific way to gather together to eat delicious food and help support the ministries at our church. We are especially thankful to the men of the church for their hard work getting the meal organized and prepared. In 2024, we are excited to already have two more special meals to offer the community: A soup luncheon on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:00 and a salad luncheon on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 11-2. We hope that you will come and bring a friend to these events!

Christmas time was a wonderful opportunity to share our gifts with others. Many people donated to support Operation Christmas Child. It was an awesome opportunity to empower our youth to share the love of Jesus with young people around the world! Our church also sponsored two local families from the Neighborhood Center: A mom with four children and a couple with a baby and another on the way. This was an exciting way to share God's love with people in need and truly live out the Christmas Spirit.

We are excited to have several events in the planning stages for 2024. We will be hosting a Valentine's Party on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00. It will involve a meal, a video titled "Helping Couples Win" and there would be childcare available downstairs. We are asking for a free-will donation to cover the expenses. We would love to see a lot of people from our church and from the surrounding area at this event. All are welcome! We are also hoping to have a Young Women's Conference here at church in the Spring. We want to have workshop activities and a speaker aimed at young women going through the same stages of life.

We hope to continue encouraging people both within our church and outside the church to become disciples of Jesus Christ and we hope to have even more people involved next year!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Steven Broers



# Stewardship Ministry

The financial state of the church was the topic of a lot of discussion both inside and outside of the church this year. We took a big step of faith this last year and increased our budget by a lot; however, we struggled throughout the year to meet our monthly goals. This caused a lot of worry and anxiety. Thankfully, by the end of the year, the members of Emmanuel really stepped up and supported the ministries here. The Stewardship team has worked throughout the year to educate, motivate and support the giving of Emmanuel and we hope to continue doing so in 2024 as well.

At meetings, we discussed fundraising ideas and agreed to focus giving toward all the ministries of the church and maintenance needs rather than specifically toward projects at the parsonage. Pastor Broers brought up the 90-Day Tithing Challenge. Many group members agreed that we needed to not only focus on tithing but on encouraging people to increase their giving incrementally. This led to a discussion on how to help people learn to give. We talked about the following ideas that we are hoping to implement over the next several months and in 2024.

1. Quarterly sermons on giving and stewardship
2. Having a time during the service where a member of a ministry team could explain what they are doing and how much it costs. We are hoping to better inform the congregation about our ministry expenses and how we need their commitment to give each year. We want congregation members to do these explanations rather than solely relying on pastor to talk about it.
3. We began passing the offering plate again at each service especially to help newer and younger members remember the importance of giving to the church.
4. Pastor Broers offered Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University.
5. We began putting information about stewardship in the newsletter each month and shared information with the congregation about how to support the church through such things as required minimum distributions/commodities/Thrivent giving/Last Will and Testaments.

We also agreed to start sending out letters to all members, not just members who have a contribution of record, so that we are encouraging everyone to give to ministry here and share the load of financial support.

It was exciting to see how, by the end of the year, the congregation really stepped financially. My hope and prayer is that you will all continue giving and finding the joy of putting God first with your time, your talents and your treasure.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Steven Broers



# 2023 ELC Ministry Leaders



Traditional Service  
Contemporary Service  
Outreach Ministry  
Adult Ministry  
Children's Ministry  
Property Ministry  
Memorial Committee  
Women of the Church Ministry Leader  
  
Hospitality Ministry  
Altar Guild  
Stewardship  
Policy Committee

Ruth Buenting  
Kellie Mangels  
Louise Johnson  
Rhonda Boehm  
Denise Bridges  
Roger Jensen  
Paul Bigelow  
V.P. – Arlene Schwartz,  
Treas./Sec.– Roleen Chiles,  
Nancy Stringer & Rhonda Boehm  
Iris Westphal  
*Vacant*  
George Feazell

## 2023 Church Committee Members

### Current Council Members

President: Dave Huff/Dan Berg  
Vice President: Dan Berg  
Treasurer: Gini Herr  
Secretary: Craig Plymesser  
Music & Worship: Iris Westphal  
Children's Ministry: Samantha Gettler  
Property: Roger Jensen  
Outreach: Louise Johnson  
Adult Ministry: Rhonda Boehm

### Employees

Pastor Broers  
Secretary: Amy Hoover/Denise Bridges  
Youth Minister: Denise Bridges  
Custodians: Cris Queck  
Patty Jacobson  
Bookkeeper: Barb Lemke  
Keyboardists: Kelly Mangels  
Kim Nelson  
Organists: Karen Schulteis  
Shirley Meisenheimer,  
Kathy Thompson

### LCMC Delegates

Thad/Denise Bridges  
Craig/ Brenda Plymesser (non-voting)

### Praise Team

Kellie Mangels – Leader  
Brittany Bridges  
Pastor Broers  
Malachi Broers  
Kathi Christensen  
Dan Dreher  
Brian Fox

### Praise Team continued

Kendalyn Huff  
Kim Nelson  
Ann Rohner  
Jodi Baudler  
Matthew Mangels

### Benevolence

Dan Berg  
Louise Johnson

### Property

Dan Berg  
Matt Gross  
Dave Sickles  
Craig Plymesser  
Brian Gettler

### Policy Committee

George Feazell  
John Baudler  
Pastor Broers  
Myrna Gundel  
Roger Jensen  
Craig Plymesser

### Stewardship

Raedeem Bigelow  
Pastor Broers  
Vicki Brown  
Ed Christensen  
Iris Westphal  
Craig Plymesser  
Gini Herr  
Rhonda Boehm



# 2023 Church Committee Members

## **Memorial Committee**

Paul Bigelow  
Roleen Chiles  
Ed Christensen  
Nancy Pettit

## **Aesthetics Committee**

John Baudler  
Ed Christensen  
Myrna Gundel  
Tammy Jensen

## **Men's Group**

Dan Berg  
Stan Brown  
Ed Christensen  
Jim Dickerson  
George Feazell  
Brian Gettler  
Steve Herr  
Dave Huff  
Jeff LaBarge  
Bob Queck  
David Sickles  
Pat Westphal  
Jim Buenting

## **Wednesday Men's Bible Study**

Stan Brown  
George Feazell  
Steve Herr  
Craig Plymesser  
Bob Queck  
Bruce Westphal

## **Unnamed Men's Study**

Thad Bridges  
Craig Plymesser  
Steve Herr

## **Altar Guild**

President: Iris Westphal  
Secretary: *Vacant*  
Treasurer: Iris Westphal  
Members:

Raedeem Bigelow  
Lynn Christensen  
Gloria Ernst  
Carmen Homan  
Carla Leeper  
Brenda Plymesser

## **Tech Committee**

George Feazell  
Dave Huff

## **Media Team**

Pro-Presenter:

Malachi Broers  
Micah Broers  
Sherol Brown  
George Feazell  
Nathan Hoover  
Tammy Jensen  
Kylie Nelson  
Tom Thompson

Sound:

John Baudler  
Micah Broers  
Ed Christensen  
George Feazell  
Matt Gross  
Rollie Purdy  
Jayden Rohner

Video/Cameras:

Micah Broers  
John Baudler  
Ed Christensen  
Earlene Purdy  
George Feazell  
Roger Jensen

## **Traditional Service Organists**

Shirley Meisenheimer  
Karen Schulteis  
Kathy Thompson

## **Traditional Worship Ministry Team**

Ruth Buenting  
Nancy Pettit  
Steve Pettit

## **Contemporary Worship Team**

Pastor Broers  
Kellie Mangels  
Vicki Brown

## **K.F.C. (Kids for Christ) High School**

Denise Bridges  
Brittany Bridges

## **Confirmation**

Pastor Broers (leader)  
Brittany Bridges





# **Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

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Pastor's Cell Phone: 641-745-7648  
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