

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

I feel called to speak about justice. This doesn't seem as if it should be a hard thing since justice is something that everybody wants. Nobody is going to say, "I'm in favor of injustice." And yet, when people start talking about what justice might mean, conversation gets difficult. Because justice is a whole lot easier to desire than it is to accomplish. What's worse, the pursuit of justice by no means assures us that we will move closer to it; rather, we might move further away with every determined step we take. I want to talk about justice for a time because I think it is at the forefront of our national experience right now and because we are enmeshed in struggles over it. I want to talk about it because I think it's complicated and multi-sided, simultaneously talked to death and ignored. So then, how can we think about justice? Here's a start.

One of the issues that has been front and center for the past several years is the experience of African-Americans, especially with regards to police. Everyone agrees that there is a bitter history to be found here. Africans were imported to America (and the whole New World) and sold as property. Even as our country was founded on the principles of equality and liberty, African-Americans were subjected to horrendous brutality and denied the most basic human rights. Even after fighting the most-deadly war in our history which resulted in the abolition of this execrable institution and the freeing of the slaves, the basic anti-humanness of racism continued. The blood of hundreds of

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thousands was not enough to establish justice. In many places, Jim Crow laws formally denied African Americans the rights which had been given to them in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to our Constitution. In other places, the injustice was informal, but no less true. The struggle continued, becoming the Civil Rights movement of the 20th century. The bigotry of "separate, but equal" schools and public services was broken down. An iconic moment of this period included the little black girl who was accompanied to school by the National Guard, walking through a gauntlet of screaming, spitting hating people.

I want to pause here and reflect on this part of our story. Slavery had been an institution throughout the world and throughout time. Putting a stop to it was costly. Just in terms of numbers, more Americans died in the Civil War than in World War 1, World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam combined. And these people who died were of all sorts, people who defended slavery, those who sought its end, those who didn't care; there were people with deep roots in America and those who had only recently arrived from across the ocean; people who chose to risk their lives and those who were chosen. There were those who did not die, but lived the rest of their lives without arms or legs or vision. And there were the people left behind, the widows and children, the mothers and fathers.

In his Second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Yet, if God wills that [the war] continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.'"

President Lincoln writes as if there is a kind of “math” associated with justice. An amount of blood required in order to atone for evil. He speaks as if there must be a moral squaring of the books. This is a terrible logic to this. He is suggesting that perhaps an additional amount of innocent blood needs to be shed in order to pay for the innocent blood that evil had already shed. He suggests that the widow need pay the cost piled up by the slave trader; that further injustice must pay the cost of justice.

We can look back at the Civil War and say that it is well that this price was paid. But we can say it because it wasn't us who had to pay. We are not the slave who suffered, nor the soldier who died, nor the widow who grieved. Justice is costly. And all too often it comes wrapped in injustice. The desire for justice should fill us with fear and trembling, both because true justice is a holy thing, but also because the pursuit of it can be so dangerous to the guilty and innocent alike.

(to be continued)

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### Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 14, 2021

President Brian Lantz called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, Jean Matter, LaVerne Arndt, Dennis Hinrichs, Keith Berry, Candace Booth, Dennis Booth, Pastor Ben and Colleen Arndt. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Colleen Arndt, to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Jean Matter, second by Dennis Hinrichs, to approve the July minutes. Motion passed. Rhonda gave the Treasurers Report with a balance of \$13,701.49. The board discussed using some of the undesignated memorials for the north parking cement project. The total memorials would be \$2,830.00. There has been \$9,579.10 given for the project, and with

the memorial it will be \$12,409.10. Motion by Rhonda Johnson, second by Keith Berry, to approve using the undesignated memorials. Motion passed. Motion by Dennis Booth, second by Colleen Arndt, to approve Treasurers Report.

**Old Business:** None

**President's Report:** Brian is still working on getting the lights on the outside cross repaired.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ben informed the council that he will be on vacation the Sundays of August 1 and 8<sup>th</sup>. Kelley Petersen from Rockwell City will be the pastor to call in case of an emergency. Council meeting for next month will be on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Concerns were discussed about outside worship services on Sunday. Wednesday night Family Services starting to have more attendance.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Jean Matter informed the council that Pastor Wayne Pfannkuch will be preaching on August 1<sup>st</sup> while Pastor Ben on vacation.

**Parish Education Committee:** No one present.

**Outreach Committee:** Colleen Arndt present no report.

**Property Management:** LaVerne Arndt and Dennis Hinrichs reported on cost of replacing kitchen flooring in the parsonage and putting in new cement on the patio outside. Estimate on both projects would be a total of approximately \$2000.00. Motion by Candace Booth, seconded by Jean Matter, to approve the projects to be completed. Motion passed. A new air conditioning unit will need to be replaced upstairs in the balcony.

**Stewardship and Finances:** Keith Berry present. The North Parking Cement project will be over the \$10,000 dollar limit. A notice will go out to the congregation to have a special meeting to approve the spending of this money,

**WELCA:** Candace Booth reported that August 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. will be the date for cleaning chairs in the dining area. Potluck lunch will be done. Quilts were boxed and sent to Spencer and Sioux City.

**New Business:** None

Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Keith Berry, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.



### RUB A DUB DUB, TIME TO SCRUB

Men, women, boys and girls are all encouraged to help scrub the upholstered chairs in the dining room. Time is set for Wed., August 4, 2021 at 9:30. Please bring scrub brushes, rags, and anything that has worked for upholstery cleaner. We hope to be done by noon so bring a potluck lunch item.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1) Adlynn Riedell
- 2) Ryan Adams
- 3) Everett Hinrichs
- 4) Shiloh Meyer
- 6) Brock Meyer, Bob Purdie, Dean Rix
- 7) Brandon Gibson, Cheryl Haden,  
Sally Musselman
- 8) **Ellis Byriel**, Darwin Lake, Ayden Toms
- 9) Allyson Williams
- 11) Jamie Williams
- 12) Zachary Vreeland
- 13) Ronald Haden
- 14) Megan Grodahl, Alexis Schuur
- 15) Lily Bartels, Teresa Lanning, Colby Leer
- 16) Gloria Kral, **Darwin Matter**
- 17) Sara Carlson
- 18) Jeffrey Schulte, Faith Worley
- 19) Shawn Rix, Jesse Scharn, Kacen Waller
- 20) Brielle Campbell
- 21) Diana Diersen, Kenneth Meyer
- 23) **LeRoy Hameister**
- 24) Jossa Hauptert, Julie Wheelock
- 25) Brian Haffner
- 26) Angela Edmondson, Kevin Johnson,  
Susie Scharn
- 27) Cory Diersen, Dwayne Newman, Heide Scharn
- 28) Tanner Campbell, Kyle Kral, Aurora Smith
- 29) Gary Ross
- 30) Marcus Mentzer
- 31) Sophie Twyman, **Gracia Willis**



### *It's a Girl!*

She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 19 inches long. She was welcomed home by big brother, Kacen. Alan and Carol Meyer are Koralyn's local grandparents and Marlene Meyer and the late Ron Meyer are her great-grandparents.

Congratulations to the Waller family!



On Friday, June 18, 2021, Cory and Jamie Waller became the parents of a baby girl, Koralyn Ann.

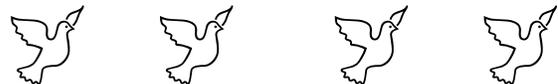


- Aug 4, 1988 Daryl & Jane Glasnapp  
 Aug 5, 1972 Dennis & Candace Booth  
**Aug 5, 1963 Stephen & Betty Kral**  
 Aug 9, 1975 Jim & Jan Frederick  
**Aug 9, 1959 James & Gracia Willis**  
 Aug 10, 1996 Arlin & Debbie Purdie  
 Aug 12, 1978 Randy & Linn Scharn  
 Aug 15, 2015 Grant & Megan Grodahl  
 Aug 18, 2012 Tony & Lacy Diersen  
 Aug 18, 2012 William & Myra Horton  
 Aug 23, 1975 Dennis & Peggy Dettmann  
 Aug 25, 2012 Dylan & Jennifer Wagener



**Joan Nehman**, mother of **Jane Glasnapp**, died Monday, June 21, 2021 at Loring Hospital. Jo's funeral was held Friday, June 25 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sac City.

**May God comfort all that mourn.**



### **ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS & PARENTS:**

Now might be a good time to let us know addresses/plans of your student BEFORE the last minute rush of leaving for college of your son or daughter. A simple note dropped off at the church

office or an email to palange1945@gmail.com will work. This will help us, your local congregation, as well as Lutheran Campus Ministries keep in contact with the young people as they venture out into new horizons and experiences. **Thank you!!!**



**NEW ADDRESSES  
FOR COLLEGIANS**

## Vacation Bible School/Day Camp!!!

A big SHOUT OUT to our GOD who worked mightily this week (and before) at Vacation Bible School/Day Camp!!! Four wonderful Okoboji Camp counselors came to help lead the older campers' program. We had 40 first through 6th graders and ten 3 year olds through kindergartners in attendance for a total of 50 campers! There was an accumulation of 23 junior high, high school, and adult volunteers that helped the campers' groups, in the kitchen, and with the preschoolers' activities. Around 65-70 snacks and lunches were served every day. Everyone learned bible verses, songs, crafts, and Bible stories that told us how Jesus gives us new life, new hope, new love, and new vision. THANK YOU to everyone that brought noon meals, supplied snacks, supplies, and PRAYERS for the week. Thank you to all of you that give monetarily to provide a building to gather, air conditioning when it is hot and humid, and all other physical needs that help create a center in our community for people to learn about Jesus. THANK YOU TO:

**Parish Education Committee:** Alison Greene, Nicole Meyer, Sara Nattress - they are the group responsible for Vacation Bible School/Day Camp - provided our Sunday Evening meal, registrations/name tags for campers, supplies, advertisement

**Preschool volunteers:** lessons - Candace Booth (created small car and poster of daily themes/puppets), Brian Lantz (created large car in foyer), Kari Lantz (games), Cheryl Haden; crafts - Angie Ellerbrock; music/puppets - Faith Worley; Storyteller - Pastor Ben; helpers - Susan Albright and Aubrie Stell; all worked together throughout the morning and many times in the afternoon helping with campers!!

**Kitchen(Pit Crew):** Colleen Arndt, Karen Cerra, Alison Greene, Cindy Souder; put together snacks, beverages, served lunch, and provided supplies, and so many things that made snack/meal time fabulous!!

**Helpers:** Lisa Albright, Derek Greene, Laura Greene, Taylor Greene, Holly Hammen, Kelsie Hejtmanek, Jossa Hauptert, Onna Hauptert, Nicole Meyer, Nancy Rodeman, Jewell Talbott, Adlen Wheelock, Sadie Wheelock - these people rarely had a break!!

**Food for Noon Meals:** Doug/Jamie Bartels, Dennis/Peggy Dettmann, Cheryl Haden/Laura Hejtmanek, Barb Riley, Teresa Simpson (snack food)

**Pictures and Slides:** Nelda Bartels and Andrew Van Hulzen

**Parents:** Allowing, encouraging, and providing a way for your kiddos to come, cash donations and supplies!!!!

**Host Families:** Candace/Dennis Booth; Jean/Darold Matter

**Office Help:** Pauline Lange

**If you feel like you missed out.....join us next year June 27-30, 2022!!!!**



### The Church of the Damascus Road (from May-June 2021 CoDR Flash)

CoDR started a long-range planning process in the Fall of 2019. We made good progress until March 2020 when the pandemic shut down our congregations, including CoDR. While most of our congregations have reopened for some form of in-person worship, volunteers are still not allowed to enter the North Central or Fort Dodge Facilities. We're hoping we will be by this Fall. Along with our ministry inside at a stop. COVID made it difficult to meet and plan for the future of CoDR. While meeting with each other has been a challenge, we have managed to make progress, but it has been slow.

One of the possibilities CoDR leadership has been exploring is becoming part of a shared or parish ministry where several congregations share staff and resources to better serve all the members we are called to minister. The CoDR Outside Church Council voted in March to have me develop a model for ministry that would include CoDR. Inside leadership is aware of what is happening and is supportive of CoDR being part of a shared parish ministry.

I have made a recommendation to Bishop Halaas for such a ministry that would include CoDR. After she has a chance to review the recommendation, we will begin moving in that direction. While this is changing how CoDR has been structured, we're confident being part of a shared ministry will be a blessing, and help us continue to proclaim the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ to the men on the inside through our presence and love for them.

Please pray for us as we await the time when we'll be able to be inside for worship

We're grateful for your prayers and support that make this ministry possible.

Any questions? We welcome them. God bless all of you.

Pastor Jim Davis



**August 2021, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**  
**Back to School Month**

School is right around the corner! This time of year can be exciting and stressful for many of us, but adjusting back into a classroom routine can be especially difficult for kids and teens with emotional or behavioral disorders. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) provides mental and behavioral health services for children and families across the state. Our therapists provide virtual and in-person therapy sessions with children, while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services (BHIS) team collaborates with families in their home or in a community setting to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa children and teens. We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

**Helping Families Adjust to a New Normal**

Uriyah felt overwhelmed by anxiety. During the pandemic, it was hard for him to even leave his room, talk to his family, and attend school. When classes moved online, he felt comfortable completing his homework and attending classes virtually. But when it was time to return to school for in-person classes, he would not attend. His mom, Holly, wanted him to be able to finish the school year virtually, but she needed help navigating the transition with his school.

That's when she learned about LSI's STEP IN community program. Through the service, LSI social workers are there to build on a family's strengths and ensure children and parents have what they need to thrive and create a brighter future. Children and teens in the program work with their LSI team to develop coping skills, conflict resolution, and healthy communication. The LSI team helped Uriyah feel more comfortable engaging with his family, and Holly had the support she needed to work with the school, advocate for her child, and ensure Uriyah could finish the school year online. Now, Uriyah has felt a weight lifted off his shoulders, and he successfully graduated out of LSI programming. The last year has created unprecedented stress and anxiety for many children and teens, but Uriyah now feels more comfortable and confident moving forward.



Just wanted to share a quick update to those supporting Emmanuel Home of Protection with your prayers and/or financial support. We had a honeymoon period up arriving. The group of girls had been together a long time and were well transitioned. The smaller number is due to an effort by the government to close group homes. The United Nations Children's Fund has deemed group homes an unsafe place for children, which we admit can sometimes be the case. In an effort to create a favored international image, Nicaragua has decided to try to close all group homes finding placements for the children. These placements are often without necessary support and sometimes even returning to homes to live with pas perpetrators.

The government has not been able to locate family of the girls currently left at the home which technically makes them orphans. This included some with mental and/or physical disabilities and girls who first became mothers at the age of 13 and are currently learning parenting skills. The important part is that they are learning, and growing, not only in daily living skills but also growing in their relationship with the Lord. Kurt and I have evening devotion time with the girls when there is a translator available. Arlan Salas and I are doing a discipleship program with the girls called, Su Nueva Vida en Cristo (Your New Life in Christ). The girls are active in the discussions, asking many good questions and seeking. Some are studying God's Word on their own. It is very encouraging.

Despite the constant threat to be closed down, a couple of new girls have been placed here. Recently, Glendy, a young child with a 3 month old baby, and Maria Angeles. Maria Angeles' mother lives on the stress due to mental health needs. Due to this situation Maria Angeles was sexually abused repeatedly by her 3 uncles. The police reported that the uncles are notorious in their community for drug dealing. She has many behavioral needs as she fights the demons of her past.

## Worship Leaders for August 2021

### August 1

Worship Attendant: Gloria Johnson

Reader: LeRoy Johnson

### August 8

Worship Attendants: Dennis and Peggy Dettmann

Reader: Brendan Henkelman

### August 15

Worship Attendants: Ben and Susan Albright

Reader: Jo Grodahl

### August 22

Worship Attendants: Darold and Jean Matter

Reader: Dar Lake

### August 29

Worship Attendant: Scott Greene

Reader: Tonya Lankford



## **Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 1, 2021 Immediately following worship**

There will be a special congregational meeting after church, August 1<sup>st</sup>, to discuss and vote on the cement project for the north side of the church. The church's constitution says the congregation needs to vote on any project that will cost over \$10,000. It is estimated that this project will cost approximately \$15,000.00. It involves removing the present sidewalk and replacing the whole sidewalk from the west corner to the alley and paving of the parking area from the west corner, some 115 feet to the east. The last 25 feet next to the alley will be left as grass and a place to pile snow in the winter. We currently have \$12,409.10 for this project through donations and undesignated memorials. Additional donations for this project will be appreciated. Thank you.

I was contemplating all that we face in trying to support the girls in their personal growth and this constant battle of trying to keep the girls from being returned to unsafe situations. Yet hope is all around us. My quiet time this morning took me to Psalm 31. It was a good reminder that although times are uncertain everywhere, my trust is in God alone. He hears our prayers. We have seen that over and over with financial concerns and as meetings with the government have been lifted in prayer. I look at the home, the wall around it with the guards at the gate to keep the girls safe, yet I am reminded they will not live here forever. Emmanuel Home, with its walls and guards will not keep the girls safe everyday of their lives. God is the Rock that is immovable among all the changes we face. In verse 4 Psalm 31 talks of the Lord pulling us from "the net that has been secretly laid for us". With this constant defending of ourselves to the authorities I can relate to the battle of traps laid for us. Yet we remain hidden in the secret place of His Presence through it all.

The Lord is truly our strength no matter what traps are laid. It is God's mercy that we see all around us in the growing faith of the girls that puts gladness in our hearts. God has definitely bowed His ear to hear our prayers and know our struggles and for that our hearts are grateful. The political issues here are concerning, to say the least, but again we remember our trust remains in One high above all earthly polities. Whether in Nicaragua or in the United Sta, our times remain in His hands.

I can easily get caught up in the worries of the situation here. I looked up the phrase in verse 22, "For I said in my haste, "I am cut off from before Your eyes". In my haste is a phrase that was translated "in my hurried fear". I could so relate to that! I run around here afraid of what lies ahead politically or for the girls and get caught up in the feeling that God does not see us, does not see me. Despite my lack of faith at times, He hears our prayers and strengthens our hearts during difficult days.

One way He does that is the calls and emails from supporters who continue to pray for us and support the Home financially so that we can keep the physical lights on and, most importantly, keep the true Light on before the girls. Your prayers and financial support keep many employees paid so that we can meet government regulations to keep the doors open.

I just want you to know that we realize that none of this would happen without you. The girls may not know who you are or what you do, but we see it, and God does too, and we thank Him for you with a deep gratitude. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have questions or want to learn more.

