



Jesus loves you. All of scripture is either setting the stage for this, telling us this, or explaining how this is so. It is all one story about how God loves his people and goes about trying to get them to understand it.

If we go to the Garden at the very beginning, what do we see? A God who created an entire world and then... he created people to enjoy it. In Abraham, we see a man who was chosen by God in order that he might be blessed and that through him God might bless other people too. In Moses, we see a stern lawgiver, yes, but through him God is establishing a people and a culture into which Christ can be born.

Even as we look at the terrible failures of God's people in the Old Testament, we see the preparations for what is to come. Adam and Eve choose sin. Their kings fail them. Their temple is destroyed because of their own stubbornness and disobedience. Their prophets are ignored and killed. But without these trials and these failures, without a deeply rooted story in which they could be understood and deeply felt, the coming of a savior would not have a meaning that could be grasped.

The Gospels tell us the story of Jesus, focusing almost entirely on the three years at the end of his life, and more specifically still on his last days when he gave up his life. These gospels have fascinated even those who do not believe, but lack any significant meaning until you understand that everything he did was

March 2024

motivated by love. Theology can be complicated, but what Jesus did was simple. He gave up his life so that those he loved could live. That was the reason for everything.

The rest of the New Testament is simply the story of those first loved ones telling others while they tried to get their minds around what he had done. How could this love be given to people who had not known him? How did this love change their lives? What would happen when the world attacked this love? What would happen when we proved unworthy of it?

All of this, what comes before and what comes after, points back to Jesus. Everything he did, he did because he loved you. Any particular thing might be hard to understand, but it is a part of this whole. That is why scripture means so much. It tells us the story of how God loves us. It tells us in different ways. It tells us with adventure stories, love stories, stories that show what to do, stories that show us what not to do, poems, advice, songs..... Scripture tells us how God loves us in a thousand different ways so that somehow, we might come to believe it.

--

Rev. Ben Worley

Emanuel St. John, Lytton, IA
(712) 541-4785 (cell phone)



Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes February 7, 2024

President Jeff Ellerbrock called the meeting to order. Present were Nicole Meyer, Dar Lake, LaVerne Arndt, Rhonda Johnson, Pauline Lange, LeRoy Johnson, Randy Souder, Ty Riley, Ron Haden, Pastor Ben and Kari Lantz via phone. Pastor Ben gave opening devotions. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Ty Riley to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Dar Lake, second by Ty Riley to approve January minutes. Motion passed. Motion by Dar Lake, second by Ty Riley to approve the Treasurers Report with a balance of \$12,290.30. Motion passed.

Old Business: Insurance report from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance looks good.

President's Report: Would like to look at an apprenticeship program for committees and treasurer. It would be a way to get some new faces active in the church and show them what the committees are all about.

Pastor's Report: Bible Camp employee coming Sunday, February 11th to talk about camps and getting kids signed up.

Worship and Music Committee: Ron Haden reported that they are working on Lenten services.

Parish Education Committee: No Report

Outreach Committee: Kari Lantz reported the committee would like to review the committee responsibilities. They are working on confirmation, March 24th Palm Sunday. They will be serving breakfast for the students, parents, and church members before the church service.

Property Management: LeRoy Johnson reported that they are talking to Thrasher basement to see if the warranty is still good on the work they did too the basement wall. If it is not, they will be calling WIC of Carroll to have them look at repairing the basement wall. Going to check the A/C units to make sure the drains are not plugged to try and prevent any water damage to the church as in the last couple years. Also looking for someone to lock and unlock the church.

Stewardship and Finance: Dar Lake present. No report

WELCA: Kari Lantz. No report

New Business: Motion by Dar Lake, second by Ty Riley to approve moving the March meeting to

March 14th. Motion passed. Motion by Rhonda Johnson, second by LaVerne Arndt to approve sending a \$200 offering to Synod Assembly. Motion tabled by Rhonda Johnson until next month. Motion by Ron Haden, second by Ty Riley to revise the Bylaws by January 2025 annual meeting. Motion passed. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Ty Riley to move money as needed from Youth Gathering Fund to camperships fund. Motion passed. Motion by Dar Lake, second by LeRoy Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Lord's prayer.



Are your children interested in attending Bible camp this summer? There's still time to register. Register your son/daughter and pay the registration fee, then let us know which camp they will be attending and the dates and Emanuel-St. John will pay the balance owed.

Please join us for the delicious Easter breakfast, immediately following the sunrise service! Donations will go toward sending kids to camp this year.

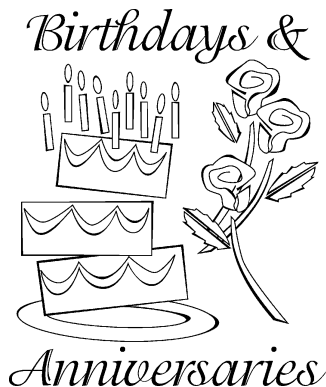


Join Us

All are welcome to join the ESJ Confirmation Class of 2024 in celebrating their confirmation at a breakfast reception in their honor on Palm Sunday, March 18, at 9 AM in the church basement. This year's confirmands include Aidan Albright, Peyton Ellerbrock, Danika Meyer, Cooper Nattress and Benjamin Worley. These students will confirm their faith at the 10 AM worship service that morning.

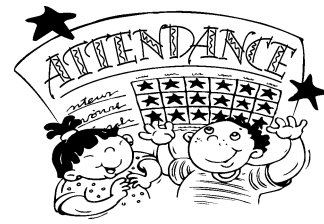
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 1 Canon Albright, Hayden Crabb, Heidi Hammen, **Betty Kral**, Colten Riley
 Mar 11 Pamela Meyer
 Mar 12 Stephanie Andreasen, Molly Ringgenberg, Lexie Rosado
 Mar 14 Brenda Lawson
 Mar 15 Amy Carlson-Hammen, Madison Macrunnel Jewel Talbott
 Mar 16 Jennifer Wagener
 Mar 17 Autumn Purdie
 Mar 18 LaVerne Arndt, **Mildred Purdie**
 Mar 19 Michael Carlson, Kimberlee Taylor
 Mar 20 Robin Lowrey, **James Willis**
 Mar 21 Wesley Twyman
 Mar 22 Troy Hillmer
 Mar 23 Laurie Glasnapp, Daniel Lange, B. J. Musselman
 Mar 26 Douglas Schultz
 Mar 27 Clayton Fjerstad, Matthew Haden
 Mar 28 Nathan Leer, Madison Schultz
 Mar 29 Teresa VanHulzen
 Mar 30 Tim Huddleson, Colton Mohr
 Mar 31 Jesse Ross



Mar 1, 1986 Darwin & Debbie Otto
Mar 2, 1968 LaVerne & Colleen Arndt
Mar 6, 1965 Darrell & Carol Ross
 Mar 7, 1987 Kenneth & Pamela Meyer
 Mar 8, 2014 Brock and Elizabeth Meyer
 Mar 14, 1998 Ricky & Marilyn Dettmann
 Mar 18, 2006 Brett & Jessica Meyer
Mar 24, 1973 Greg & Tammy Williams
 Mar 26, 2004 Anthony & Vanessa Althiser
 Mar 26, 1988 Doug & Barb Riley
 Mar 31, 1984 Alan & Carol Meyer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Perfect SS Attendance January 2024

Students present at Sunday School the Sundays we had SS during January were:

- ☆ Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten-Hazel Bartels and Kacen Waller;
- ☆ Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2-Earl Bartels and Jack Bartels;
- ☆ Grades 3 & 4-Lily Bartels, Adelaide Worley, Baylee Ellerbrock, and Johnny Worley;
- ☆ Grades 5 & 6-Chase Hejzmanek and Abby Worley.

Class winner for best attendance in January was Grades 3 & 4 taught by Doug and Barb Riley.



Our 5th grade students (and parents) are asked to attend a class session **Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 p.m.** to prepare to attend their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 28th. The 5th grade students are: Dillon Graeve, Sawyer Riley & Wes Twyman.

We look forward to welcoming them at the Lord's Table!



It's a Girl!

Brock and Elizabeth Meyer became the parents of a baby girl, **Sydney Anne**, on Friday, December 22, 2023.

Ken and Pam Meyer and Pat and Sue Moore are her grandparents.

Congratulations to the Meyer Family!



SAVE THE DATE! Emanuel-St. John will again be having VBS this summer. June 24-27, 2024--Mark your calendars!!



Important Dates for March 2024

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Lenten Service March 6, 13, and 20 at 7 p.m.

Soup or light meal served beginning at 6 p.m. prior to Lenten service.

Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service

March 28th at 7 p.m.

with First Communion for 5th grade students

Worship Attendants: Ben and Susan Albright

Greeter: Julie Haberstroh

Acolyte: Aidan Albright

Good Friday

March 29th at 3 p.m.

Worship Attendant: Kari Musselman

Greeters: Ron and Cheryl Haden

Readers: Ron Haden & 6 others

Cross Bearer: Peyton Ellerbrock



Reminder to Thrivent members

- deadline to direct 2023 Choice Dollars March 31, 2024

Cheryl and Ron Haden would like to remind Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars to direct that they have two options do so:

1. Go to:

www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/.

2. Talk with a Thrivent representative by calling **800-847-4836** and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

Members can direct their accumulated Choice Dollars throughout the year. A minimum of \$5 in Choice Dollars

is required. Members have until March 31 of the following year to make their selection(s). This means members can direct 2023 Choice dollars through March 31, 2024.

We continue to encourage you to direct your Choice Dollars to Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church to help with the upkeep and ministry of the church. **If you need any help in the process of directing your funds, please contact Ron or Cheryl at 1-712-660-1557.** They will be glad to walk you through the process or answer any questions you may have.



Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church 2024 Church Council Officers and Committee Members

PRESIDENT: Jeff Ellerbrock

VICE-PRESIDENT: Brian Lantz

SECRETARY: Nicole Meyer

TREASURER: Rhonda Johnson

FINANCIAL TREASURER: Bette Lohff

PARISH ED COMMITTEE

(3 members-3-year term)

Faith Worley (25), Jamie Waller (26) and Jill Parker (27)

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

(3 members-3-year term)

Darwin Lake (25), LaVerne Arndt (26)
and Alan Meyer (27)

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(3 members-3-year term)

LeRoy Johnson (25), Randy Souder (26)
and Ty Riley (27)

OUTREACH

(3 members-3-year term)

Kari Lantz (25), Cheryl Haden (26)
and Shelli Berry (27)

WORSHIP & MUSIC

(committee of 6-3-year terms)

Sara Pibal (25), Barb Riley (25)
Ben & Susan Albright (26), Ron Haden (26)
Cory Waller (27) and Kari Musselman (27)

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

(5 members-3-year term)

Dennis Hinrichs (2nd term Dec 2025)
Colten Riley (2nd term Dec 2026)
Jo Grodahl (1st term Dec 2024)
Cheryl Haden (2nd term Dec 2024)

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Brian and Kari Lantz

(Committee Members serve until Jan of year listed except Endowment members whose term ends in Dec)



March 2024, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

At LSI, we believe every Iowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Take a moment to read the following story from a Host Homes mentee:

"My journey with LSI's Host Homes started in early 2023. I've known my mentor for a few years while he provided hourly services to me. We learned about Host Homes and thought it would be a good fit for us. I moved into my mentor's home where he helps me maintain a daily routine with schoolwork, household tasks, daily living skills, improving independence, and more.

I attend a college nearby and go to classes a few days a week. I am able to navigate the local bus system to access my community to attend classes and visit friends. My mentor is always available to transport me into the community as needed.

This summer, I went on a trip across the country with one of my classes. While on this trip, I was able to maintain my independence with limited support, but I knew my mentor would be available by phone to assist me with my coping skills and problem solving. This trip was a big success for me knowing I had support only a phone call away.

I like LSI's Host Homes Program because my mentor supports me in the way I want to be supported, assists me with some daily tasks I struggle with, and understands me."

If you are interested in becoming a Host Homes mentor and helping a fellow Iowan achieve independence, please visit LSIowa.org/HostHomes for more information.

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 and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

