

## *A Message from Pastor Ben*

For the next few months I would like to take a look at war: its presence in the Old Testament and how it was used both by and against Israel, what we can learn from studying Jesus' teaching and actions, how it was understood in the early church and how that understanding changed as Christianity became the primary religion of the Roman Empire, what Martin Luther and other Protestants taught about it, how we might look at some of the wars in our own history, and, finally, what is going on in the world today, particularly with regard to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the escalating situation between China and Taiwan, in both of which we play a role.

This is a fairly enormous project, but I hope it will be worthwhile. I have the basic flow mapped out, but no thesis or conclusions. The purpose is to think through a complex issue in the light of scripture and of our faith. There is war in every age, in every place. What do we make of it in our own? I am very much interested in what you think! I would love to hear your perspectives as we go along.

So then, what about war in Genesis? The first thing to note is that there is no nation of Israel in Genesis, but only Abram's family living as shepherds among the Canaanites who had cities (ruled by minor kings). Even so, there are two flashes of war during this time: Abram intercedes in a war between two factions of kings when his nephew Lot is taken prisoner (chapter 14), and Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, provoke a battle with a Canaanite town when the ruler's son rapes their sister Dinah (chapter 34). Both of these conflicts are undertaken because a family member has been hurt by outsiders, but they are quite different.

### **May 2023**

In the first conflict, there was a larger geopolitical situation going on. The four kings of the East, led by the delightfully named Chedorlaomer, were fighting against five more local kings who had been their vassals, but had then revolted. That is, the five kings had been paying tribute (an annual tax to be left alone), but were trying to assert their independence. Chedorlaomer went to war to subjugate them again and in so doing, he took prisoner Abram's nephew Lot who had been living in Sodom. When Abram heard the news from an escaped prisoner, he immediately gathered the men of his household (318 of them) and went to war.

The important thing for Abram was not the geopolitics. He didn't care about Sodom's independence or Chedorlaomer's aggression. Abram cared about his nephew. Miraculously, given the small size of his force, he won and freed Lot. The king of Sodom offered to him the plunder from the battle, but Abram refused it. He was not interested in plunder. He didn't want to become powerful. He didn't want influence. He didn't want allies. He wanted his nephew. Abram did accept just enough plunder to give a tithe to Melchizidek, the king of Salem. Why? The likely explanation is that Melchizidek is described as Priest of God Most High. It seems that Abram was giving a thank offering to the Lord through this priest. He knew that he had met with success not because of his power or his brilliance, but because of God's blessing.

The second instance of war in Genesis has to do with Shechem, a prince of a Canaanite city, who fell in love with Jacob's daughter Dinah. He raped her, and then his father goes to speak to Jacob about a plan to have them get married. Dinah's brothers were aghast at this, "because Shechem had done an outrageous thing.. by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done."

Later, they further explain their anger by saying, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

So, an agreement was made whereby the men of the town would get circumcised and then Shechem and Dinah would get married. Everything went as planned until two days after the medical procedures had been done. Two of Dinah's brothers, Simeon and Levi, wanted revenge for what Shechem had done. They walked into the town and killed the men who were still in such pain that they were unable to fight. Then the other brothers come by, notice all the dead men and decide to plunder the city, robbing the houses, and carrying away the widows and children.

There is a parallel between the stories, sticking up for family. But there is a very great difference. Simeon and Levi acted out of a desire for revenge, not truly for the well-being of Dinah. What's more, they showed how little they were guided by God or by principle when they plundered the town for their own gain. They were not acting according to the will of their father, nor of God. They were slaves to their impulses and took joy in violence and theft.

Abram, on the other hand, didn't want the war at all, nor any benefits that might accrue to him because of it. He simply wanted to save the life of his nephew.

Rev. Ben Worley  
Emanuel St. John, Lytton, IA  
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**Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2023**

President Doug Bartels called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Dar Lake, Candace Booth, LaVerne Arndt, LeRoy Johnson, Rhonda Johnson, Jeff Ellerbrock, Pastor Ben, and Pauline Lange. Devotions were given by Pastor Ben. Motion by Dar Lake, second by LeRoy Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion Dar Lake, second by Candace Booth to approve March minutes. Motion passed. Motion by LaVerne Arndt,

second by Dar Lake to approve Treasurers Report with a balance of \$15,601.29. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** Motion by Dar Lake, second by Candace Booth to appoint Faith Worley to the Endowment Committee. Motion passed.

**President's Report:** None

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ben informed the council that outside worship will start for the summer on May 28<sup>th</sup> and be on the first Sunday of each month through September 3. He talked about Junior High, High School and Family summer activities. In June there is a Christian Music Festival at Sheldon, Iowa. There is another opportunity for high school students to go to Illinois for an overnight trip.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Candace Booth informed the speaker for the Gala Days Service. Kelli Glasgo from Church of Damascus Road will be speaking. The committee will have special music for the service also.

**Parish Education Committee:** Easter breakfast received about \$775.00 which will be used for camperships. Last Sunday School date is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Outreach Committee:** A reception will be planned for the graduating High School students from Church.

**Property Management:** LeRoy Johnson present. He talked to B.J. Musselman about cutting the slope at the North Cemetery ditch.

**Stewardship and Finances:** Dar Lake and LaVerne Arndt present. The purchase of a new guitar was made for Pastor Ben to use during services. It will come out of the Professions Expenses in the budget.

**WELCA:** Candace Booth reported that the Lenten soup supper was well attended during Lent and will continue next year.

**New Business:** Chairs for dining area need to be cleaned. There are four students that will be starting piano lessons for the church. Gala Days meal after the service was discussed.

Motion by LeRoy Johnson, second by LaVerne Arndt to adjourn. Motion passed. Lord's Prayer.





### Worship Schedule Information

Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> we will worship outside as part of our Gala Day Celebration. Worship will be at 10:30 a.m. rather than the normal 10 a.m. time.

We will plan to worship outside June 4<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will continue to live stream services on Facebook and on radio at 98.3 FM. Bring your lawn chairs and worship with us outside Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>!



### Janitors Needed:

Marlin and Karla Dettman are resigning from the church janitorial duties as of June 15. Anyone interested or know of someone who might be interested in this part-time job should contact a member of the property committee or call Pauline Lange at the church office. 712-466-2506  
LeRoy Johnson 712-662-4129  
Dennis Hinrichs 712-830-1356  
Randy Souder 515-571-1340



### It's a Girl!

On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Cory and Jamie Waller became the parents of a baby girl, Kollins Renae. Kollins was 7 lbs. 12 oz. and measured 19 inches long. She was welcomed home by big brother, Kacen and big sister, Koralyne. Alan and Carol Meyer are Kollins' local grandparents and Marlene Meyer is her great-grandmother.

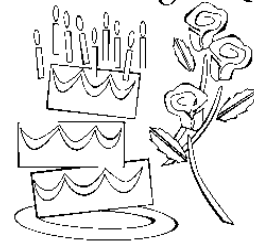
**Congratulations to the Waller family!**



### May Birthdays

- 1) Rhonda Johnson, Nikkie Vreeland
- 3) Martin Anderson, Matthew Toms
- 4) David Glasnapp
- 6) Collin Hillmer
- 7) Eva Hagen, Brady Ross, Tammy Williams
- 10) Kari Musselman
- 11) Douglas Bartels, Carolyn Mohr, Eric Scharn
- 12) Adlen Wheelock
- 14) Peyton Ellerbrock, Jona Grodahl, Brent Scharn, Ashley Riley
- 15) Adam Loux, Ben Worley
- 16) Rachel Crabb, Abigail Lankford, Shelby Purdie, Barbara Riley, Olivia Toms
- 17) Brendan Henkelman, Kyle Hout
- 19) Leah Henkelman, Charlie Nattress, Brinley Riley
- 21) Eric Foote, Gavin Holt
- 22) William Horton
- 23) Kari Grodahl
- 24) Jamie Andreasen
- 25) Brantley Diersen
- 29) Ben Albright, Charles Nattress
- 31) Tonya Lankford

### Birthdays &



### Anniversaries

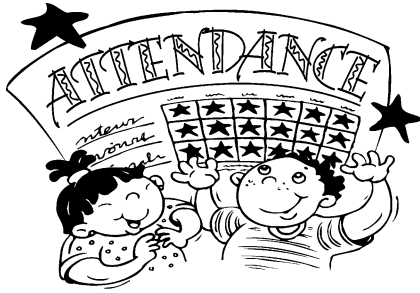
- May 19, 2001 Ryan & Julie Wheelock
- May 19, 2018 Dustin & Kelly Clecker
- May 20, 1989 Larry & Chris Pierce
- May 21, 2005 Jay & Sarah Cerra
- May 23, 2009 Ben & Faith Worley
- May 25, 1985 Clayton & Kim Fjerstad
- May 31, 1997 Tony & Amy Hammen

### May Anniversaries



Marlyn Purdie and Abigail Willison were married at Emanuel-St John on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

**Congratulations, Marlyn and Abigail!**



## Perfect SS Attendance March 2023

Sunday School students present every Sunday in March:

Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten: Nash Bartels and Earl Bartels;

Kindergarten & Grade 1: Jack Bartels;

Grades 2, 3 & 4: Lily Bartels, Adelaide Worley, John Worley, Sawyer Riley and Chase Hejtmanek;

Grades 5 & 6: Lille Greene and Abby Worley;

Class with best attendance this month was Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten taught by Julie and Adlen Wheelock.



Seven young people joined the Emanuel-St. John church family at the Lord's Table for the first time on Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023. They were Lille Greene, Abigail Lankford, Elodie Mentzer, Brinley Riley, Sophie Twyman, Chase Hejtmanek and John Worley.



## Graduation 2023



These young people will graduate from area schools this May— Connor Scharn, Madison Schultz, and Elijah Wheelock.

Congratulations to each of our graduates. May God lead you forward as you venture out into the world!



The following young people affirmed their baptism on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023:

<u>Confirmation Verse</u>	<u>Name</u>
Philippians 4:13	<b>Jossa Makana Hauptert</b> Daughter of Nate and Shelley Hauptert
Deuteronomy 31:6	<b>Kelsie Michelle Hejtmanek</b> Daughter of Laura Hejtmanek and Kevin Hejtmanek
1 John 4:19	<b>Reef Thomas Lankford</b> Son of Chad and Tonya Lankford
Isiah 41:10	<b>Kellen Kenneth Meyer</b> Son of Brett and Jessica Meyer
Psalms 23:1	<b>Devin James Riley</b> Son of Mindy Riley and Mark Riley
Romans 1:16	<b>Owen Robert Scharn</b> Son of Jesse Scharn and Nicole Scharn
Jeremiah 29:11	<b>Sadie Mae Wheelock</b> Daughter of Ryan and Julie Wheelock

We received **Easter Lilies** in memory of Nelma and Ed Rix Jr., Valerie Rockafellow and David Purdie from Dyle and Edna Rockafellow, in memory of Marge and Laverne Dettmann, Miriah Murphy and Marc and Laurie Dettmann from Dar and Denise Lake, in memory of our parents and grandparents from Rick and Marilyn Dettmann, in memory of Arthur and all other family members who have gone home to be with our Lord and Savior from Pauline Lange and family, one from Dorothy, JoAnn and Julie Wilson and one from LaVerne and Colleen Arndt in memory of all that have died.

Thank you for their beauty that graced our chancel this Easter season.



**GALA DAYS**

**Ecumenical Outdoor Worship Service**

**May 28, 2023 10:30 a.m.**

**Luncheon to follow**

A community meal is being planned by the Outreach Committee to follow the Ecumenical Community Church Service on Sunday, May 28. Smoked pork loin/pulled pork sandwiches will be the main entree. We are asking congregational members to help supplement the meal. Those whose **last names** begin with the letters A-H are asked to bring salads, letters I-R to bring side dishes, and S-Z to bring desserts. Drinks and table service will be provided. Donations for the meal will benefit Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



**Kay Dettmann**, 86, of Marcus, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Bavarian Meadows in Remsen, Iowa. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to MMC Foundation, PO Box 412, Marcus, Iowa 51035

The funeral for Kay Dettmann will be Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at Grace United Methodist Church in Marcus, Iowa. Immediately following the service, there will be a lunch and time for visiting. Following the lunch, Kay's ashes will be interred at the Fonda Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials will be given to the "Kay Dettmann Music Scholarship" at the MMC (Marcus Meridan Cleghorn) Highschool.

**Rev. Ron Yarnell** died on Monday, April 17, 2023, of congestive heart failure. He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Victoria. He is survived by his wife Katharine and daughter Madeline.

His funeral was Friday, April 21, at Lutheran Church of Hope, 1335 NE Beaverbrooke Blvd, Grimes Iowa.

Rev. Yarnell served as Interim pastor for us Feb 18, 2013 through March 15, 2015

His complete obituary can be found at ILES FUNERAL HOMES, Des Moines, IA

**May God comfort all that mourn.**



**Recognition Sunday May 21**

Emanuel St. John's graduating high school seniors will be recognized during the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, May 21. Also being recognized that day will be the recipients of the 2023 Orval and Linda Baum Memorial Scholarship. We look forward to celebrating with our scholars!



**SAVE THE DATE!** Emanuel-St. John will again be having VBS this summer. Calling on all sorts of detectives to uncover truths!! Mark your calendars!!



## READY.....SET.....GO.....PIANO STUDENTS

READY---- ESJ Worship and Music Committee is pleased to announce four potential piano students committing to lessons. More can be added at any time.

SET----- A special piano fund has been activated. ESJ has offered to assist students in paying for lessons. Each student has a few different options for teachers.

GO----- Students will begin soon. Now it's up to supporters to contribute to the piano fund. The financial support should be outside regular offerings. Please note if you desire a contribution to go into the piano fund. It is estimated a little more the \$200 each month from the fund. Each contributor should be proud to witness music appreciation and growth in the lives of each student.

Thank you to all who feel this is important to the future of music in our church worship and will contribute.



### *Lutheran Services in Iowa*

#### **May 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story** **Happy Mother's Day!**

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate and empower all the strong, loving women in your life. At LSI, we provide mothers, and soon-to-be mothers, with the education and resources they need to build the brightest future for their children.

LSI's Foster Care and Adoption Services work to bring families together and to help them throughout the process of becoming licensed for foster care and approved for adoption. Our Family Centered Services uses a strengths-based approach to keep Iowa families together by equipping parents with skills they need to be successful, independent and healthy.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember that your support helps empower Iowa moms. If you are looking for a way to help these moms, or to honor a mother in your life this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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).*

#### **Staying Connected to your Roots**

LSI Foster Care and Adoption is proud to be part of the Native Families for Native Children (NF4NC) project, which is a collaborative effort between the four native tribes of Nebraska, human services agencies and private agency partners in Nebraska and Iowa. As part of the project's efforts, we recruit, train, license and support Native American families in accord with the traditions, needs and resources of their communities.

Rebecca and Kirby expanded their family when they adopted their son in January. The couple had the opportunity to work with the Omaha Tribe and were able to participate in the second Customary Adoption in the State of Iowa.

Through their Customary Adoption, the family completed a culture plan with the tribe and will be able to keep their newly adopted son connected to his cultural roots with the Omaha Tribe. The new family also was able to keep their son connected to his biological siblings, so he can continue to be involved with them.

LSI is proud to help connect families, like Rebecca and Kirby, with the resources they need to continue to grow their families and build the brightest future for Iowa children.