



Last month I described a bit of the growing excitement that I had looking forward to Jesus finally coming. But the slip side of that was a weariness. There is a weight of failure that begins to build as Israel succumbs to Babylon, which is described or alluded to repeatedly in the Old Testament. There are so many words spent describing their failure to be faithful. Perhaps worse are all of the theological dead-ends that occupy them: no more foreign wives, better tithing, God killing their enemies, wisdom, etc...

Any of these things might be great, but none of them were going to save the situation. Israel has memories of a better time and a hope that begins to seem far distant (when you don't know it's coming.)

And then finally I turned the page and there was Matthew, chapter one, "An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham." For us, what follows is an incredibly boring list of names. But if that's what we see, we're missing it. What follows is actually an explosion of hope. The boring list of names is rooting Jesus in the story of Israel and, more importantly, to the promise of God to save and restore them.

First, Jesus is connected to the chosen patriarchs of Genesis. God chose Abraham and gave him promises. Jesus is the fulfillment of those promises, most especially the third one, that all the nations of the world would be blessed through Abraham. That's what Jesus is going to accomplish.

Next, Jesus is connected to David and the line of kings. God chose the House of David to rule over Israel forever. Jesus will be the restoration of Israel's kingship (though in a different form than they expect.)

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Also, Jesus is connected to notorious outsiders, to Rahab the Canaanite, to Ruth the Moabite, to Bathsheba the supposed adulteress. To be born of an unmarried Mary will not be hidden, nor will it be a source of shame; it is another way that Jesus is connected to the history and the salvation of Israel.

And then we come to the end of the list and something peculiar happens. Matthew does some counting. He says that there are fourteen generations from Abraham to David; and fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian Exile; and fourteen generations from Babylon to Jesus. By grouping them in fourteens, we might miss the point. But what if we divide it into sevens? How many groups of seven are there in three groups of fourteen? Six. Which means that Jesus begins the seventh group of sevens. What does that mean? I think Matthew is connecting Jesus to the idea of sabbath and Jubilee. The Sabbath was a weekly time of rest and restoration, a time to connect with God. A sabbath of years was a time for fields to lie fallow and be restored to life. A sabbath of sabbath years (seven cycles of seven years) was a time for special forgiveness of debt, for restoration of property, for a release from slavery, for a general amnesty. This is called Jubilee. I think Matthew is connecting Jesus to this Jubilee, though technically the Jubilee year followed the seven cycles of seven.

So what is all of this trying to say to the Jewish people who first heard Matthew's message? Jesus is rooted in the traditions of the Jews. He is the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham. He is the fulfillment of the promise to David. He is the one who brings forgiveness of debts, release from slavery, and a brand-new life. This would have resonated with those early ones who read Matthew, but it slips past us. But the message to us is the same. Freedom. The fulfillment of God's promise.

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**Emanuel-St John  
Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
Minutes  
October 12, 2022**

President Dennis Booth called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, Dennis Hinrichs, Dar Lake, LeRoy Johnson, Jean Matter, Carol Meyer, Pastor Ben, Faith Worley, LaVerne Arndt, Jeff Ellerbrock, and Pauline Lange. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by Dar Lake, second by LaVerne Arndt to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Dar Lake, second LeRoy Johnson to approve September minutes. Motion passed. Rhonda gave the Treasurers Report with a balance of \$20,714.99. Motion by Jean Matter, second by Dar Lake to approve Treasurers Report. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** Jeff Ellerbrock was present to go over Pastor Ben’s insurance for 2023. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Dar Lake to approve a single plan for Pastor Ben insurance with Portico. Faith Worley and the children will be on a private plan. Attached are the figures for the Alternate Plan. Total cost will be \$94,007.36 which is a savings of \$2290.64. Motion passed.

**President’s Report:** Dennis gave a report on the Special Congregational meeting for spending approval of North Cemetery stone repairs and cleaning and tuckpointing of the outside church. He asked members to think of different fundraising ideas for the church project. Pastor Appreciation Month is October. “Gods Work, Our Hands” previous idea was not feasible.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Ben talked about his Convocation Camp he attended.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Jean Matter present. Pastor on vacation Sunday, Oct 16 fill in will be Pastor Wayne Pfannkuch and on October 23 Kurt and Teresa Van Hulzen will give a talk. Thanksgiving services will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with a soup supper in dining area. Jean suggested that we invite the new people in the area to the Thanksgiving event.

**Parish Education Committee:** Faith Worley gave information on the Sunday School Christmas programs. A live Nativity Program will be done on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Haberstroh farm with a soup

supper after. On December 18<sup>th</sup> during morning church services the younger children will do a program. Money from Marge Everts memorial will be used for the confirmation Recharge event.

**Outreach Committee:** Carol Meyer present. No report.

**Property Management:** LaVerne Arndt, LeRoy Johnson and Dennis Hinrichs present. Cemetery committees have been formed. South Cemetery is LaVerne Arndt, Dar Lake, Brian Lantz and Darold Matter. North Cemetery is Alan Meyer, Doug Bartels, Dennis Hinrichs, and LeRoy Johnson.

**Stewardship and Finances:** Dar Lake present. No report.

**WELCA:** No report

**New Business:** None. Motion by LaVerne Arndt and second by Dar Lake to adjourn meeting. Motion passed. Lord’s Prayer



**Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church  
Special Congregational Meeting  
October 9, 2022**

President Dennis Booth opened the congregational meeting with prayer on October 9, 2022 following church services. He informed the members of the church in attendance that the donation has been given to use for the upkeep of the North Cemetery. Bylaws require that any amount over \$10,000 of congregational memorials or bequest money be approved by congregation. Motion by Dar Lake, second by Dennis Dettmann to approve repairs by Cemetery Restoration Services, Cherokee Iowa at the North Cemetery. The proposal was between \$11,550 and \$13,150. Memorial money will be used for these repairs. Motion passed.

The outside brick of the church needs cleaning and tuckpointing done. Stone Contracting gave an estimate of \$58,850.00 which would start next spring. Motion by Nicole Meyer, second by LaVerne Arndt to approve the cleaning and tuckpointing on the outside of the church. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned with Pastor Ben giving a prayer.



## November Birthdays

- 1) Carson Pibal
- 2) Kade Smith
- 3) Greg Williams
- 4) Clayton Garcia, Wyatt Glasnapp,  
Holly Hammen
- 5) Cooper Nattress
- 7) Katlyn Ackerson
- 9) Ayden Dart
- 10) Wesly Maulsby
- 11) Jerry Jacobs, Melissa Leer,  
Brock Nattress
- 12) Sandra Gibson, Donavon Lake,  
Alan Nuehring, Alanna Schuur
- 13) Nancy Bruns, Michele Hauptert,  
Mary Ann Lashinski, Carol Meyer,  
Tisha Murphy
- 14) Melissa Souder, Joshua Van Hulzen
- 16) James Toms
- 17) Gloria Johnson
- 18) Karla Dettman
- 19) Lexie McDonough, Jasper Heimdal,  
Nicole Meyer, Kierstynn Prenger
- 20) Amy Purdie
- 21) Baylee Ellerbrock, Payden Roberson
- 22) Marilyn Schmitt
- 23) Nick Albright, Dennis Hedin
- 24) Mark Riley
- 27) Angela Olerich, Jessica Prenger,  
Bonnie Walker
- 28) Treajan Diersen, Devin Riley
- 29) Kellen Meyer, Alexander Taylor



Nov. 7, 1970 **Dennis & Barbara Hedin**  
 Nov. 13, 2004 Charles & Sara Nattress  
 Nov. 26, 1966 **Dale & JoAnn Scharn**



Sunday,  
November 6, 2022



Nolan and Allysha Huddleson had their first born son, Waylon Jon, on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Waylon weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 18 inches long. Tim and Darsi Huddleson are Waylon's grandparents.

**Congratulations to the Huddleson family!**



These Sunday School students were present all Sundays in September 2022—

- Nursery-Preschool: Nash Riley, Kacen Waller and Earl Bartels,
- Kindergarten & Grade 1: Bradlee Aden, Teddy Albright, Canon Albright and Jack Bartels;
- Grades 2, 3 & 4: Adelaide Worley, Elin Albright, Myla Albright, Lily Bartels, Johnny Worley and Wesley Twyman;
- Grades 5 & 6: Elodie Mentzer, Abby Worley, Sophie Twyman, Marcus Mentzer and Lille Greene

Class winner for best attendance was Grades 5 & 6 taught by Faith Worley.



**Ruth D. Bartels**, 74, of Waukee, passed away Sunday, October 2, 2022 at her home in Waukee, Iowa. Funeral service was held Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church, Lytton with Pastor Ben Worley and Pastor Robin Coughenower officiating. Burial was at St. John Lutheran Cemetery, North of Lytton.

Ruth is survived by her brother Glen Bartels of Alta; sister-in-law Nelda Bartels of Lytton; nephews, Randy Bartels of Rockwell City, and Doug (Jamie) Bartels of Lytton; nieces, Brenda (Jet Tessmann) Lawson of Garland, Texas, Barbara (Doug) Riley of Lytton, Teresa (Kurt) Van Hulzen of Sac City, and Julie (Ryan) Wheelock of Rockwell City; other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Hinreka (Hameister) Bartels; and brother Earl Bartels.

Ruth Darlene Bartels was born April 21, 1948, to Elmer and Hinreka (Hameister) Bartels at Lake City, Iowa. She was baptized and confirmed at Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church. While growing up, Ruth was a member of the Garfield Glean Girls 4-H Club and enjoyed teaching vacation Bible school while in high school. She graduated from Lytton High School, with the Class of 1966. Ruth attended Waldorf Junior College and the University of Northern Iowa where she received her bachelor's degree in library science in 1970. She later received her master's degree from the University of Missouri in 1978. Ruth was a high school librarian at Floyd Valley in Alton, Iowa, and an elementary and middle school librarian at East Dubuque Elementary School in East Dubuque, Illinois, elementary librarian at Creston, Iowa, and a children's librarian at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She returned to Iowa to work for the State of Iowa, at the Iowa Department of Education, as the librarian in the resource center; Department of Cultural Affairs, librarian with the State Historical Society of Iowa in the Des Moines Center Library, and librarian for Department for the Blind.

Ruth was active on many boards and various committees. Her hobbies include reading, knitting, movies, and going to sporting events.

**WE PRAY FOR GOD'S COMFORT AND STRENGTH FOR ALL WHO MOURN!**



**A Joy Filled Advent**

Plans are underway to make the upcoming Advent season especially joyful! The children of Emanuel St. John are preparing programs to share the true meaning of Christmas with you.

As in past years, nursery through 4th grade students will be meeting every Sunday morning at 8:45 to spend that extra time practicing for their program. Their program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18, during the morning worship service. Please see that your child/children are ready to begin practice at that time as this will be the only

practice time they will have. Each student was given their individual part during practice on Oct. 23. Please help your student to memorize the song and readings.

The confirmation students are assisting committee members in preparing for a very special service. On Sunday, Dec. 11, (inclement weather date of Dec. 18) everyone is invited to Julie Haberstroh's barn for a program that will be a special blessing to all. This will be a multi-generational program so many will be invited to participate. Volunteers welcome! We plan to have a choir share many familiar Christmas carols. You will find program updates in the weekly bulletins and the December Vine.

Also, as part of the Christmas barn program a fund-raising supper will be held in the church basement with proceeds going toward the masonry tuckpointing project. Details will be forthcoming.

For questions please contact planning committee members Cheryl Haden, Shelley Hauptert or Faith Worley



**November 2022, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article**  
**National Adoption Month**

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption services, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, healthy home.

LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment. But more work needs to be done. Thousands of children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care into a "forever family".

To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit [LSIowa.org/Foster](http://LSIowa.org/Foster), or contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit [LSIowa.org/church-relations](http://LSIowa.org/church-relations) or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

