



from the  
Pastor

At our August meeting, church council decided that we would begin to move back inside the church for worship and Sunday School on September 13. Here are some lists to explain what was decided, "Just the Facts, Ma'am."

#### Sunday Worship

- Worship will be at 10 am like normal.
- A group of volunteers will disinfect pews, bathrooms, door handles, etc... before the service.
- Doors will be propped open so that people don't need to use handles.
- We will not have greeters.
- Bulletins will be available for you to pick up.
- We will seek to "distance" ourselves by family groups.
- We won't have a passing of the peace.
- We encourage you to continue giving your offering directly to the bank or electronically; we won't be "passing the plate."
- We encourage you to wear a mask, especially if you will be singing.
- We will be singing.
- Hymn lyrics will be printed in the bulletin because we will be removing the hymn books from the pews.
- The A/C will be off and the windows open.
- If it's too hot, we'll revert to outside worship.
- Worship will be dismissed from the rear to the front to avoid the indoor conversation clusters.

#### Sunday School

- Sunday school will be 9 am like normal.
- While the weather is nice they will have the opening outside.

#### **September 2020**

- Classes will seek out the largest rooms that are possible.
- No muffins and drinks to start the year.

#### Overall Thoughts

- We will continue to stream services on Facebook.
- We will continue to broadcast services on KJEP 98.3 FM.
- We will continue to make DVDs of the worship service.
- If you aren't comfortable worshipping in person, please join us via these other means.
- If you aren't comfortable with your kids coming to Sunday School, we understand.

So those were the facts as I understand them. Now for a few thoughts. I don't like abnormality of all of this. But I am certain that we can turn lemons into lemonade. One thing I've been grateful for through all of this is how positive the people of Emanuel-St. John have been. You have been exceptional. You have been quick with compliments and slow with criticism. Rather than withholding, you have been generous. If this time of Coronavirus is a time of testing, you are "A" students, continuing to love one another and live out the gospel. I am greatly blessed to be your pastor. As we move through this next stretch of time, I look forward to finding out how we can make it special and joyful.

A final thought: the testimony of scripture is not that God prevents times of trouble or testing for us, but that he is faithful to lead us through them. That is what is happening. The Lord is our Shepherd; we shall not be in want. We are truly, truly blessed in this.

--

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

**Emanuel St John Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2020**

President Jo Grodahl called the meeting to order. Present were Pastor Ben, Cindy Souder, Jeff Ellerbrock, Rhonda Johnson, Pauline Lange, Brian Lantz, Jean Matter, Colleen Arndt, Laverne Arndt, Nicole Meyer and Karen Cerra. Pastor Ben gave devotions and prayer. Motion by Brian Lantz, second by Nicole to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Karen Cerra, second by Jean Matter to approve the minutes from July. Motion passed. Motion by Jeff Ellerbrock, second by Brian Lantz to approve the July Treasurers Report with a balance of \$18,568.36. Motion passed. Rhonda informed the council members that the EPIC funds were divided in half between our church and St Paul's Lutheran Church of Rockwell City. \$3,833.58 was deposited in to the General Funds.

**Old Business:** Council discussed purchasing office chairs for Pastor Ben and Pauline Lange.

**President Report:** Jo Grodahl went through a list of what should be done before the church is opened to face to face worship services. The list contained how to keep everything sanitized, 6 feet distancing, wearing of masks, exiting at end of service. A list will be printed in the Vine so that members will know what to expect when worship is back in the building. Sunday School classes were discussed on how that would be done also. Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> is the goal to have inside worship and Sunday School. The worship services will still be videoed for anyone wishing to view the services that way.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ben suggested that Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion be scheduled for Reformation Sunday if we have returned to regular worship services. He reported on church member transfers in and out.

**Worship and Music Report:** Jean Matter present. Working on readers.

**Outreach Reports:** Karen Cerra and Colleen Arndt present. No report.

**Property Management:** Laverne Arndt present. He talked about cemetery ruling on burial plots for church members and non-church members, tree removal, electrical outlets needing replaced. Jeff

Ellerbrock talked about different air conditioner in Pastor's office. He will look into getting quotes.

**Stewardship & Finances:** Jeff Ellerbrock present. A new HP laptop computer was purchased with memorial money.

**New Business:** Brian Lantz reported that paving project funds are slowly coming in.

Motion passed. Closed with Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Ben.



### **September Birthdays**

- 3) Eric Gifford, Tina Peter-Smith
- 5) Erin Gifford
- 6) Elin Albright, Dennis Booth,  
Jered Campbell, Arlin Purdie
- 8) Dennis Dettmann
- 9) Jeffrey Talbott
- 10) Denise Ramsey, Stacy Talbott
- 11) Ann Albinger, Keith Berry
- 12) Haden Stell
- 13) David Diersen
- 14) Dennis Hinrichs, Zerik Winey
- 15) Jody Cerra, Sarah Cerra, Randy Scharn,  
Aubrie Stell
- 17) Kimberly Adams, Susan Albright,  
Carlyee Clark
- 18) Shelly Baumhover, Ty Purdie
- 19) Jamie Maulsby
- 20) Trevor Bounds, Kenneth Lange
- 21) Shelli Berry, Tanner Berry
- 22) Tyler Adams
- 23) David Robideau, Nathan Sands
- 25) Cindy Finley, Carol Ross
- 26) Brandon Diersen
- 27) Joleen Harmon, Dyle Rockafellow
- 28) Jamie Clark, Alison Greene, Hallee Maulsby,  
Brett Meyer, Shane Segebarth





Sept. 1, 2007 Jon & Angela Ellerbrock  
 Sept. 15, 1990 Timothy & Gloria Kral  
 Sept. 17, 2005 Chad & Tonya Lankford  
 Sept. 20, 1980 Ricky & Laurel Linquist  
 Sept. 20, 2003 Jeffrey & Stacy Talbott  
 Sept. 22, 1973 Michael & Sara Carlson  
 Sept. 24, 1983 Randy & Marilyn Schmitt

### Wedding Anniversaries



**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 RALLY DAY  
 SUNDAY,  
 SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning through May 2021. Children of the congregation and community from the age of three are invited to come each Sunday morning to learn about Jesus.



### Elvira Mae Peters

Elvira M. Peters, age 93, of Newell, Iowa passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake. Her funeral was Monday, August 3, 2020 at the Bethel Baptist Church in Newell with burial at St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Lytton.

Elvira Mae Helmbrecht was born February 20, 1927 on the family farm near Lytton, Iowa the daughter of Fred and Augusta (Scharn)

Helmbrecht. She later welcomed an infant brother, Ronald, in 1935.

As an infant, she was baptized at the Emmanuel-St. John Lutheran Church in Lytton and later confirmed on March 17, 1940.

Growing up, Elvira attended country school and graduated from Lytton Consolidated School in 1944.

Following high school graduation, Elvira worked at the Creamery in Lytton along with numerous other jobs. She also worked at the Newell Nursing Home for several years as a cook until she retired in 1993.

In 1953, Elvira met the love of her life, Warren, while dancing at the Starline Ballroom in Carroll, Iowa. On May 23, 1954, Elvira was united in marriage to Warren Peters at the Emmanuel-St. John Lutheran Church in Lytton. Together, they were blessed with four children: Marc, Jean, Judy, and Jayne.

Although Elvira had only one brother, Warren had nineteen siblings and they welcomed her with open arms. Every year they looked forward to celebrating at the annual Peters Reunion that was held in Newell. Elvira was the last survivor on the Peters side.

Elvira was a member of Emmanuel St. John Lutheran Church in Lytton where she taught Sunday School for several years. Later in life, Elvira moved to Newell and attended the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

In her younger years, Elvira enjoyed fishing with her husband, Warren. Elvira was an avid sports fan. She enjoyed football, basketball, baseball and softball. She especially loved watching her grandchildren play for the Newell-Fonda Mustangs and continued to follow the Mustangs even after they all graduated. In March, she was recognized as the "Fan of the Year" at the state basketball tournament where she smiled from ear to ear. Elvira loved watching her Chicago Cubbies, reading, and playing Bingo. She also enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, word search, and playing cards. Elvira treasured her social visits from Meals on Wheels, especially the deliveries from the high school students. Family was the center of her life and she was very proud of her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She will be deeply missed and remembered as a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and friend.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children: Jean (Roger) Sarchet of Newell, Iowa; Judy (Doug) Carlton of Storm Lake, Iowa; Jayne (Dale) Schumann of Lakeside, Iowa; grandchildren: Rob (Laura) Sarchet of Polk City, Iowa; Jason (Sarah) Sarchet of Hartland, Wisconsin; Luke Sarchet of Newell, Iowa; Chris (Libby) Carlton of Grimes, Iowa; Corey (Katie) Carlton of Creston, Iowa; Jennifer (Chad) Hustedt of Alta, Iowa; Nathan (Natalie) Schumann of Albert City, Iowa; great grandchildren: Hannah, Molly, and Maggie Sarchet; Caden, Kylie, Cruz, and Kinley Sarchet; Ellie, Caleb, and Jax Carlton; Landry, Emma, and Walker Carlton; Paisley, Presley, and Grady Hustedt; and baby Schumann due in September; many nieces; nephews; cousins; extended family and friends.

Elvira was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Augusta Helmbrecht; husband, Warren Peters; infant son, Marc Peters; brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Elsie Helmbrecht; along with the Peters in-laws.

Our hearts will always be on fire for our ELVIRA.

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



### **Direct Support Professionals Week**

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is a role that is both demanding and meaningful. During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives, especially during the extra challenges surrounding COVID-19 this year.

One way LSI empowers Iowans is through our Services for People with Disabilities. From 24-hour support to occasional respite care, the LSI team lifts up Iowans with disabilities as they find the

confidence and independence they need to thrive. In recent months, our DSPs have been dedicated to the people we are privileged to serve, adding extra safety measures to continue supporting individuals in our 24-hour facilities and providing new activities to keep everyone entertained and busy when leaving the house was not safely an option.

This high-quality care is possible because of you – thank you for lifting up your Iowa neighbors in times of crisis! If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI's Services for People with Disabilities, 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 [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **We are Still Here: LSI's Services for People with Disabilities**

LSI Team Leader Ada works at Harmony House in Muscatine, a 24/7 care facility provided through LSI's Services for People with Disabilities. The home provides consistent care to five Iowans with intensive disabilities and medical conditions. Ada and her team assist residents with most parts of their day, from movement around the home and hygiene routines to medications and meals.

Because of COVID-19, the residents at Harmony House have not been able to safely see their families or participate in the volunteering or work they love, as some are able to do. But Ada and her team are there to offer a familiar face and structure when everything else feels uncertain. On days when clients feel scared or unsure, Ada and her team provide support and comfort.

Throughout the pandemic, Ada and her team have worked long hours to ensure they follow additional safety precautions, protecting both themselves and the clients they serve.

"We are an essential part of their daily life, regardless of whatever storm lies in front of us. My work is needed for my clients to survive," Ada says. "But they are essential to me and the other staff. They are the reason we do what we do."