



# EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 15, 2024

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Central Lutheran School: (260) 493-2502

# News & Notes

**SATURDAY EVENING** - 5:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
**DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICES EACH SUNDAY** - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
**THE GATHERING** – Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in Central Lutheran’s Auxiliary Gym.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Emanuel Lutheran Church furthers God’s Kingdom by connecting people, strengthening families, and proclaiming God’s Word.

### ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

need to be sent to the Church Office by December 16.

**CARD SHOWER FOR BETTY PATERSON:** Betty will turn 90 this week and her family said she’d love to be showered with cards! Here is her address:

Lutheran Life Villages  
9802 Coldwater Rd. Room 215  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

**THE HANDBELL CHOIR IS IN SEARCH** of a few (3-4) more people to serve as ringers. What’s needed?

- 1) Attendance at rehearsal (Thursdays at 6pm)
- 2) a good sense of rhythm
- 3) strong note-reading ability (including bass clef notes)

The goal is to have the Handbell Choir ring approximately once a month, plus special services (Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Easter, etc.). Interested? Talk to Doug Reynolds today!

**SINGERS ARE REQUESTED, ENCOURAGED & WELCOMED** to join a family choir for the Christmas Eve Service at 6pm. All singers (individuals or families) from 7<sup>th</sup> grade - adults are invited to join. Doug Reynolds will be directing. Practices will be in the balcony on Monday night (12/16) at 7pm, Wednesday night (12/18) after the 7pm service, & 1 more rehearsal yet to be scheduled. Come to all practices or as many as possible to learn the music. It’s a great way to use your talents & celebrate the birth of our Lord!

### DAILY LECTIONARY FOR THIS WEEK

- December 15:** Is. 30:27-31:9 / Rev. 3:1-22
- December 16:** Is. 32:1-20 / Rev. 4:1-11
- December 17:** Is. 33:1-24 / Rev. 5:1-14
- December 18:** Is. 34:1-2, 8-35:10 / Rev. 6:1-17
- December 19:** Is. 40:1-17 / Rev. 7:1-17
- December 20:** Is. 40:18-41:10 / Rev. 8:1-13

### BIBLE CLASSES

- United & Growing:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 8-Noon
- Monday Morning Bible Study:** Conference Room at 6:45
- Women’s Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the FLR
- Monday Night Bible Study** at 7pm in the FLR
- Sunday Mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m.**
- Adult Bible Class** in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday School** for 3 years – 7<sup>th</sup> grade begins in the sanctuary, then heads downstairs to classrooms.
- Confirmation Class** for 8<sup>th</sup> graders & their parents in FLR

### EMANUEL’S BUDGET SNAPSHOT

*Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**As of October 31, 2024**

	Actual	Budget	Actual vs. Budget
Receipts	\$734,050	\$833,333	\$ (99,283)
Expenses	685,779	830,860	(145,081)
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 48,271	\$ 2,473	\$ 45,798

### RESPONSE TO HIS LOVE (attendance last week)

Saturday = 70 Sunday = 221 Gathering = 158  
Visitors = 55 Advent Midweek = 184

### THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

#### TODAY

Worship.....8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Class, Confirmation, Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.  
The Gathering.....10:30 a.m.  
Private Party in the FLR.....Noon-5 p.m.

#### MONDAY

Bible Study.....6:45 a.m.  
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Family Choir Practice.....7:00 p.m.

#### TUESDAY

Food Bank.....9:00-11:45 a.m.  
Board of Finance.....9:00 a.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

CLS Chapel.....8:00 a.m.  
Ladies Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Advent Service.....10:30 a.m.  
Advent Fellowship Lunch.....11:30 a.m.  
Advent Fellowship Dinner.....6:00 p.m.  
Evening Advent Service.....7:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Family Choir Practice.....7:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY

Quilters.....9:00 a.m.  
CLS K-2 Christmas Program.....6:00 p.m.  
Handbell Rehearsal.....6:30 p.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsal.....7:15 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

Viewing.....4:00-8:00 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

Funeral.....10:30 a.m.  
CLS 3-8 Christmas Program.....5:00 p.m.

#### SUNDAY

Worship.....8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.  
Adult Bible Class, Confirmation, Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.  
The Gathering.....10:30 a.m.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Family and friends of **Kenneth Messmann** who was called to his heavenly home
- † **Mike Mackin** (PRMC)
- † **Cinda Lambert, Vicky Schmidt, Betty Paterson, Sherry Ungemach, Lowell Brueck, Marlene Poling, Lucille Meyer, Kim Doster** (health concerns)
- † **Aiden Bearman** and **Michael Shaffer (Mary Bearman’s grandson and nephew)** both with health concerns
- † **Delores Hoffman** who celebrates her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday this week, **Betty Paterson** who celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this week
- † **Shadrach Doh Oo** who is baptized this morning at Emanuel

**BAPTIZED THIS MORNING AT EMANUEL**



**Shadrach Doh Oo**

Shadrach was born on October 26, 2024 to Koko and Leymoo Oo.

*We welcome you into the Lord's family!*

**A LIFE QUOTE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15:** "Who is going to be king? Christ or Herod? Christ or I? Every day we make dozens of decisions which either acknowledge Christ's lordship or which assert our own. The star of the Magi reminds the Christian that he has a gracious King to whom he can, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, submit his will and live. By His word Christ desires to reign in our hearts through faith!" *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

**EMANUEL'S ENDOWMENT FUND:** Since its inception, the Emanuel Endowment Fund has provided in excess of \$1,566,833.00 from its earnings to enhance Emanuel's ministry. Contributions to this fund are legacy gifts. Pamphlets explaining this opportunity are available in the narthex hallway. DID YOU KNOW? During 2024, the Endowment Fund provided \$934.00 for paraments which will be used to enhance the altar area during The Gathering worship services.

**IF YOU SPONSOR A CHILD AT POINT OF GRACE** in Kenya, or wish to sponsor a child, please stop at the table in narthex and complete a new sponsor form. In January all payments will be made directly to 4KenyaKids instead of to the church. We need to get your information updated. OR you can contact Cheryl Brockmann (260) 341-0167 at your convenience.

Blood Drive



**EMANUEL IS HOSTING A BLOOD DRIVE** on Monday, December 30 in the Fellowship Hall from 1-6 p.m. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: elcnh to schedule an appointment.

**SINCE WEDNESDAY WILL BE THE LAST ADVENT SERVICE,** it will also be the last Wednesday that the Lutheran Lunch Ladies will serve meals at 11:30am and 6pm. We'll enjoy a potato bar: baked potatoes with lots of choices for toppings and a hearty soup. Hope to see you at one of these meals. Sincerely, *The Lutheran Lunch Ladies*

**UPDATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:** Does Emanuel have *your* family membership record correct? Here's your chance to update *your* record for our annual Guide Book & Directory. It's time to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in *your* family over the past year. Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all still attending Emanuel? Please let the church office know of any updates you may have by emailing us at [churchoffice@emanuelnh.org](mailto:churchoffice@emanuelnh.org).

**GIVE HOPE:** At the beginning of January, you'll get the chance to give hope by supporting our local Christian crisis pregnancy center, A Hope Center. On January 4&5, we'll be handing out baby bottles for you to fill with coins, cash, or checks and return to the box in the narthex or the church office by Sunday, January 19. When Jesus came down from heaven & became flesh, Mary's womb was His home for 9 months. When the angel Gabriel 1<sup>st</sup> came to Mary, she was overwhelmed at the surprise announcement that she, a virgin, was to give birth at all, let alone to the Son of God. Joseph could've left her when he found out she was pregnant. Yet, they both trusted God's word & anticipated Jesus' birth in hope. There are many women who are told of their surprise pregnancy, are scared & feel hopeless. A Hope Center shares the hope of God's love by caring for moms and their babies before and after birth.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed to the glory of God by Robert & Susan Crowl, in loving memory of their sister, Donna Rose.

**A LIFE THOUGHT IN THE CHURCH YEAR FOR DECEMBER 15:** Gospel-motivated voices For Life bring reasonableness to the cultural conversation about life issues (Philippians 4:5). It means a message of joy and hope instead of just another angry and fearful demeanor. The sanctity of life proclaims good news to neighbors made poor (Luke 7:22) by pressures toward abortion and physician-assisted suicide. God remains mighty to save (Zephaniah 3:17), even in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis.

**SERVING AT EMANUEL NEXT WEEK**

- December 18:**  
**Elder:** Dennis Herman (10:30); Mike Sweet (7:00)  
**Ushers:** Group 5 (Mike Schultz) (7:00)
- December 21:**  
**Elder:** John Colter  
**Ushers:** Group S2
- December 22:**  
**Elder:** Mark Schuller  
**Ushers:** Group 5 (Mike Schultz) (8:00)  
Group 6 (Greg Peters) (10:30)  
**Gathering:** Steve Poling  
**Communion Assistants:** Ryan Abbott (8:00)  
Brian Lepper (10:30)

**LIFECARE CONNECTIONS**

**OUR NEXT GRIEF SUPPORT LUNCH OUTING** will be Tuesday, January 7 @ Noon at Zianos, 10520 Maysville Rd. We welcome any newcomers to join us for great food and fellowship!

**ELC'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP WILL NOT BE MEETING** in December. Please consider attending one of the worship services listed below. Our next group will meet Tuesday, January 21 at 6pm downstairs in the Life Care Director's office.

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy, and there is plenty of reason to celebrate the birth of our Savior. However, hidden emotions like being alone, feeling overwhelmed, crushing sadness, grief, and loss require extra energy to hide during an already exhausting season. Please consider attending one or both of the following worship services:

- Tuesday, December 17 @ 7pm - Blue Christmas worship service at St Peter's Lutheran Church (7710 E State Blvd).
- Saturday, December 21 @ 6:30pm - The Darkest Night worship service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (3705 S Anthony Blvd)

These services are intended to create a space at the foot of the cross where we can feel these very real emotions together and know that 'happiness' is not the same as hope. Indeed, the hope for us is not in ourselves, but in Jesus Christ who has forgiven and redeemed us in spite of how we feel. The lighting will be low, tissues will be in every pew, and no matter the reason why you are there, you won't need to pretend for anyone else. Join others as we experience some of these feelings together and recognize that in the body of Christ, we are never alone.

**CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**CLS HAS FORMED A CALL COMMITTEE** seeking 2 teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. We are seeking candidates for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teacher & a Junior High English Language Arts teacher. Candidates should hold a valid teaching license and be qualified to teach in these areas. If you would like to submit a name for consideration, please send your recommendation to David Van Spankeren - [dvanspankeren@cluth.org](mailto:dvanspankeren@cluth.org). Thank you.