

# THE VISITOR

701 S. First Street - Milbank, SD 57252 // [www.elcmilbank.org](http://www.elcmilbank.org)

## **Worship Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 2:00 p.m.

Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>  
weeks and every Wednesday

Sunday School 10:15-11:15

YouTube Live Streamed on Sunday or  
Watch Replay

[https://www.youtube.com/@emanuel\\_lutheranchurchelcmi4536](https://www.youtube.com/@emanuel_lutheranchurchelcmi4536)



## **Contact Information**

Pastor Chris Davis

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Find us on Facebook

@Emanuel Milbank

## **Hidden Christmas**

Over the course of the next 25 days or so, you are going to hear the phrase, "Christmas is all about...." dozens of times. "Christmas is all about giving." "Christmas is all about peace on earth." "Christmas is all about family." "Christmas is all about slowing down and focusing on what's really important." I heard that last one recently during an advertisement for "Great American Family" channel on Direct TV. Yes, Christmas is about lots of things for lots of people. Yet hidden amid so much of what we focus on each Christmas is what Christmas is really all about. For years over my office door there was a sign given to me by a parishioner that read, "Take the CHRIST out of CHRISTMAS and You are Missing a SAVIOR!" I always appreciated that little reminder, especially as Karrie and I were raising our boys. It is easy to get caught up in the other things Christmas is all about and forget what's truly important. Our theme for this Advent is "Hidden Christmas", based on a book by the same name written by Timothy Keller. Pick up an Advent Daily Devotion booklet and join us each Wednesday evening in December as we look at the joy and meaning of the message hidden in our yearly Christmas celebrations. Together, we will be reminded that the true meaning of Christmas can't stay hidden from the world. That's because Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus our Savior! Have a blessed Advent season and a very Merry Christmas everybody!

**In Christ,  
Pastor Davis**

**Official Acts** – Baptism: Adalyn Jane Wagner; Funeral: Dixie Poppen

## **Scripture Readings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Festival</b>	<b>1st Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Dec. 7</b>	Second S. in Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7	Rom. 15:4-13	Matt. 3:1-12
<b>Dec. 14</b>	Third S. in Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146	James 5:7-11	Matt. 11:2-15
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Fourth S. in Advent	Isaiah 7:10-17	Psalm 24	Rom. 1:1-7	Matt 1:18-25
<b>Dec. 24</b>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 110:1-4	1 John 4:7-16	Matt 1: 18-25
<b>Dec. 25</b>	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1-6	John 1:1-14
<b>Dec. 28</b>	The Holy Innocents	Jer. 31:15-17	Psalm 54	Rev. 14:1-5	Matt. 2:13-18
<b>Dec. 31</b>	Eve of the Circ. And Name of Jesus	Isaiah 30:8-14	Psalm 111	Rom. 8:31-39	Luke 12:35-40

## **Helping during Worship Service**

<b>Sound Radio Broadcast</b>		<b>Acolytes</b>
<b>Dec. 3</b>	Harlan Monson	Finley Hunt, Isaac Zubke
<b>Dec. 7</b>	Dave Schamber	Bennett Schwandt, Andrew Karges
<b>Dec. 10</b>	Larry Underwood	Braden Mueller
<b>Dec. 14</b>	Tracy Pinkert	Karlie Nies
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Charles Schamber	Sean Nicholson
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Harlan Monson	Alyssa Henderson, Alyssa Rethke
<b>Dec. 24</b>	4pm – Dave Schamber 6pm – Larry Underwood	4pm – Sydnee Weyh, Whiney Weyh 6pm –
<b>Dec. 25</b>	Tracy Pinkert	
<b>Dec. 28</b>	Charles Schamber	
<b>Dec. 31</b>	Harlan Monson	

**Radio Broadcasts in loving memory of Armin & Bea Pinkert with love from their family on what would have been their anniversary, 12/3.**

**Thank you to those who participated and took photos or submitted photos for our Church Pictorial. The last day to submit photos to Brandy is December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Dart Ball starts up again on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the church basement, all are welcome!**



**Pancake Breakfast**  
**SATURDAY, DEC 6**  
**8-10AM**  
 Milbank Elementary School  
 507 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street - Milbank  
 Pancakes, Sausage, Orange Juice & Coffee  
**\$5/person**  
 All proceeds go to the Emanuel Lutheran Church Youth Group to help fund future Camps, Gatherings, and Activities.



**DEC. 7 - 3PM**  
**Christmas Caroling**  
 Let's go Caroling on December 7!  
 We will meet in the fellowship hall at 3.00 p.m.  
 We need more people!  
 After caroling, we will return to church for pizza and hot chocolate.  
 The residents of the nursing home love to see kids, please bring your whole family!



**Lutheran Family Service**  
*For Nothing is Impossible with God*

### **December Special Mission: Lutheran Family Service**

Lutheran Family Service is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS and does not seek or use government funds, ensuring our work remains fully Christ-centered. This decision makes it possible to serve others in Jesus's name, faithful to Scripture and God's design for life. Your partnership enables us to hire professional Christian counselors who integrate faith into their care. It also allows us to continue our traditional adoption model — placing infants with married moms and dads who are active in their Christian faith. <https://lutheranfamilyservice.org>

Please use the "Special Mission Offering" envelope or make mention on your form of payment that you wish to contribute to this mission. Thank you for your support.



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate for Christmas!  
Special thanks to the Schambers Family for the donation of our Christmas Tree.





## **Stewardship Section:**

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13). Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.

-LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
lcms.org

**December Movie: December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

**"Christmas With a Capital C" – Runtime approx. 80 minutes.**

**Handbells and Choir: All are welcome to join**

**Rehearsals in Dec. Wed.'s Bell Choir – 5:30 p.m., Choir – 6:10 p.m.**

**Are you interested in sharing your musical gifts on Christmas Eve? If you need an accompanist, contact Nancy Meyer (605) 467-1011, Kris Street (605) 237-1797 or Linda Kolb (701) 429-0838. Anyone wishing to share special music for the Christmas Eve Services needs to let the church office or Linda know by December 19<sup>th</sup>.**



The Ladies of Emanuel (LOE/LWML) will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 9, for their annual Christmas meeting. The lunch is a potluck affair, with Pastor Davis having devotions and a short film after.

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!!**

Our focus for Dec. is sending cards or visiting our shut-ins. Serving coffee on Dec. 7 are Karin Mueller, Phyllis Schultz, and Rona Muilenburg.

*A heartfelt thanks to the Emanuel LWML for working so hard to make these important crosses for the proclamation of the Gospel.*

Recently I spoke to five different classes of 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Sharon Lutheran School and gave each student two of the crosses like the ones you made. One is for them to keep, and one is for them to give to a non-Christian to witness to them. This is all to say that your work is so greatly appreciated.

Carol and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students of Sharon Lutheran Primary School

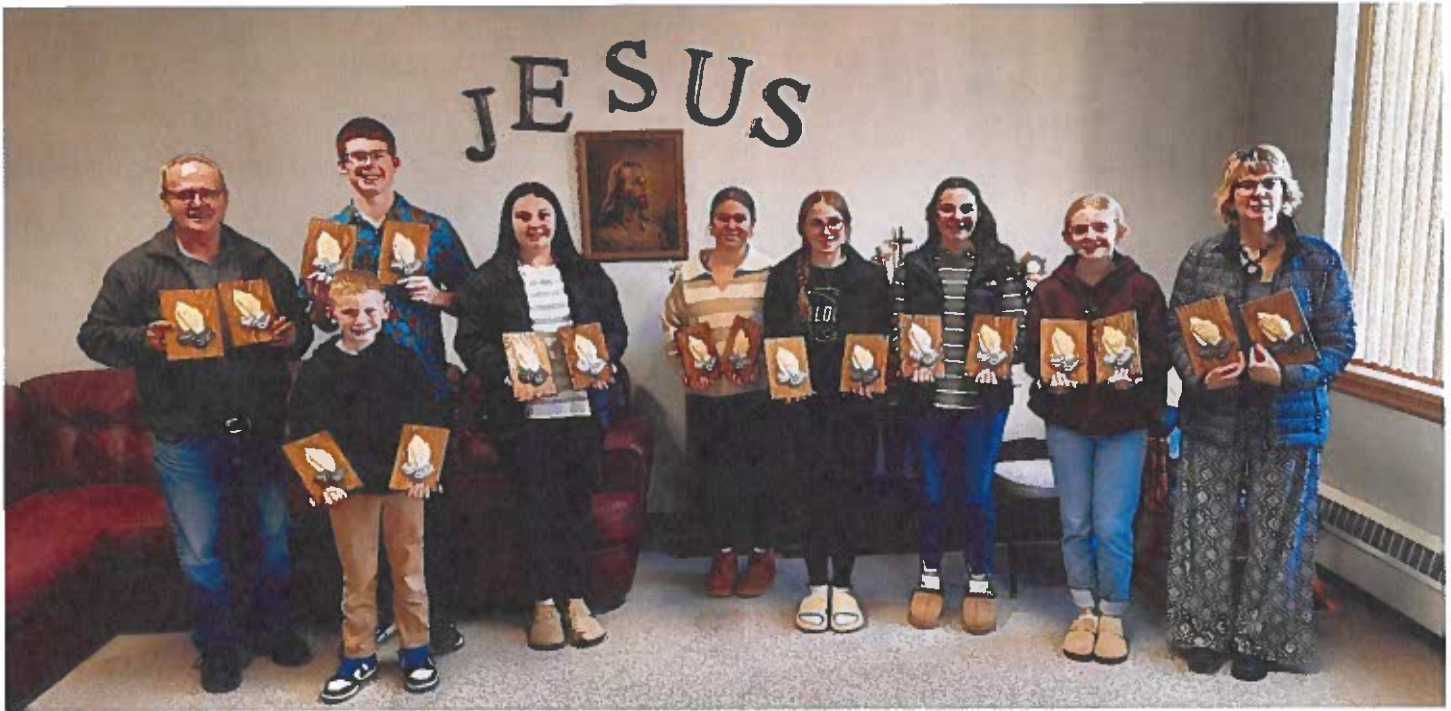
Carol Halter – Hong Kong





## ***Emanuel Youth:***

Wayne Dragt with the help of our youth group have put together praying hands. These hands are being distributed to Nursing Home and Homebound Members.



## ***Sunday School:***

The Christmas program will be December 14<sup>th</sup> during worship service time at 9:00 a.m.



GOD gave us a CHRISTmas present for every day of the year---when He sent the gift of His Son to heal the world. Wishing all a Wonderful Christmas and Joy in His love always.

OGT will have a Christmas tree at the Grant County Courthouse. Packing Mercy Meals will be the emphasis. Packing Mercy Meals with family and friends is a great time while helping many. If you are interested in packing Mercy Meals please contact this phone number, 605-924-6831, to line up a time.

The OGT side of the building will be closed December 20 and reopen January 3rd.

Thank you for the many blessings shared with our Collection Center. In the future if you are able to share with others, many people will be blessed by your kindness and actions. Please join us.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, Glad tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

-With Love from the volunteers of Milbank OGT Collection Center





### **2025 Voters' Meeting Minutes (November 2, 2025)**

Emanuel Lutheran Church Voters held their annual meeting on Sunday, November 2 following the morning church service. Pastor Davis opened the meeting with prayer. There were 62 voters in attendance.

Dick Schwandt moved to approve the minutes from the 2024 voters meeting; Dan Wagner seconded. Motion carried.

Howard and Brandy gave the financial report. A question was raised on the discrepancy in the previous years voted on budget and the numbers that are being presented. Brandy explained that during the office transition, some accounting discrepancies were found. The office is moving forward and believes to have things on the right path.

#### **Treasurer Report:**

General: \$59,330.81

Dedicated: \$21,850.93

Reserve: \$20,124.36

Liquid CD: \$25,940.43

The parish report and membership reports were reviewed.

#### **Board Reports:**

**Elders:** The elders have been busy with the office transition after Lisa's passing. They continue to support Pastor and the confirmands with the BBQ cookout fundraiser. They met with Sunday School teachers and feel things are going in the right direction. They continue to gather for an annual retreat and book study.

**Evangelism:** Continuing to send milestone birthday and anniversary cards and support the Adopt a Grad program. Supported the church in serving at The Banquet in June. They hosted a New Member Sunday in June and plan to host one annually. They plan to go caroling December 7. They are working on a new church directory.

**Preschool:** Instituted October 1, 1979 and closed May 16, 2025. It was reported that the preschool in Brookings is very appreciative of the items we donated to their preschool.

**Stewardship:** The budget is done and special missions are on the ballot. They are working on envelopes for the upcoming year.

**Youth:** The youth group has been very active with an average of 12 youth attending events. They have attended devotionals, team building days, Easter Breakfast, Camping, Camp Minneboji, National Youth Gathering, and many more events.

**Cemetery:** The cemetery has an address now: 47797 140<sup>th</sup> St, Corona, SD 57227. They are working on installing the new sign. Brandy is working on putting information on the church website.

**Endowment:** No meetings were held in 2025. A question was asked on the purpose of the endowment. The original plan was to invest funds so we could call a second mission worker. Funds have grown from \$67000 to over \$92000.

**Trustees:** Boilers are in. The water fountain has been fixed. New dishwasher, water softener, and stainless-steel table installed. In the sanctuary, the ceiling fans have been replaced, light bulb changed, and smoke detectors installed. Many smaller projects were also reported. Looking ahead, possibly adding mini splits in the upstairs confirmation rooms. The hot water heat in the parsonage needs to have some work done.

#### **Old Business:**

Hearing devices: Those with hearing issues are encouraged to speak with Brandy or an elder so we can look into getting the right equipment.

Screens: Dewey Athey moved to look into the possibility of installing screens in the sanctuary; Doug Dexter seconded. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

**Election:** Doug Dexter moved to accept the ballot as amended with Misty Weyh joining the Board of Youth and Harlan Monson joining the Endowment Board; Eric Mueller seconded. Since there were no contested positions, an election was not needed. Motion carried.

#### **Special Missions:**

Please use the "Special Mission Offering" envelope or make mention on your form of payment that you wish to contribute to the special monthly mission. If you are giving offering through our direct pay option, you may choose to direct funds automatically to our monthly mission or any other category that is listed on the offering envelopes. Reach out to the church office for more information or to make changes to your automatic giving.

**Budgeted:** There are six months that have a set schedule and a budgeted giving goal of \$1,100 per year. These Budgeted Missions and giving goals are determined by the Board of Stewardship:

January – Main Street Living

April – Together In Mission

May – Lutheran Family Service

June – Main Street Living

October – Together In Mission

December – Lutheran Family Service



**Non-Budgeted Special Missions, voted on by our congregation:** The remaining six months are set by our congregation during the voters' meeting. The floor was opened for discussion on what special missions we should focus on this year. Max Athey moved to add Lutheran Heritage Foundation to February. Doug Dexter seconded. Motion carried. Diann Dauwen moved to leave special mission envelopes as they are and have the food pantry be designated for November. Kim Kolb seconded. Motion carried. Linnea moved to have Orphan Grain train be the mission for March; Dewey Athey seconded. Motion carried. Wayne Dragt moved to have Mercy Meals be the mission for September; Linnea Schwandt seconded. Geoff Street moved to have Native American Ministry be July; Kim Kolb seconded. Motion carried. Curt Berkner moved to have LCMS Disaster Response be the mission for August. John Weyh seconded. Motion carried.

The Special Mission Giving Goal was discussed and Kris Street moved to aim for \$1,000 each month as our giving goal. Darwin Wojahn seconded. Motion carried.

**2026 Budget:** After reviewing the Special Mission giving goal \$6,000 (\$1,000 per month) this information was added to the special mission giving income and expense section. Darwin Wojahn moved to approve the 2026 Budget. Josh Radil seconded. Motion carried.

**Volunteer Recruitment:**

- No Volunteers came forward to lead the Thanksgiving Community Meal for 2026.
- No Volunteers came forward to be on the list to deliver meals in May and October 2026.
- The following volunteers came forward to deliver nursing home bulletin packets:

Kim Kolb, Linnea Schwandt, Cheryl Pauli, Regina Rethke, Joyce Kasuske, Gloria Selchert.

John Weyh moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Schwandt seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Mueller

Secretary

**COPY OF BALLOT FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**  
**All approved due to no contested positions. Full Board Member listing will be**  
**available with the January 2026 newsletter.**  
**FOR 2026 Board Members - Effective January 1, 2026**

**President (vote for 1)**

☐ **Wayne Dragt**

**Vice President (vote for 1)**

☐ **Tyler Henderson**

**Secretary (vote for 1)**

☐ **Melissa Mueller**

**Financial Secretary (vote for 1)**

☐ **Diann Dauwen**

**Treasurer (vote for 1)**

☐ **Howard Mueller**

**Board of Elders (vote for 2)**

☐ **John Weyh (Incumbent)**

☐ **Dan Wagner**

**Board of Trustees (vote for 2)**

☐ **Dick Schwandt (incumbent)**

☐ **Mike Bogenreif**

**Board of Stewardship (vote for 1)**

☐ **Kim Kolb (Incumbent)**

**Board of Education (vote for 3)**

☐ **Tina Whitlow**

☐ **Wanda Bohn**

☐ \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Youth (vote for 2)**

☐ **Brandy Blauert (Incumbent)**

☐ **Misty Weyh**

**Board of Evangelism (vote for 2)**

☐ **Joyce Johnson (Incumbent)**

☐ **Joy Berry**

**Endowment Board (vote for 2)**

☐ **Wayne Grabow (Incumbent)**

☐ **Harlan Monson**



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>AA Meetings are held at 8:00 pm on Wednesday's here at Emanuel.</p> <p>Preschool Chapel Services are Wednesdays 10am and 12pm</p>	<p>1 7pm Elder Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9am Mercy Meal Packing at OGT Bldg 2pm Worship 5pm Advent Meal 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:10pm Choir 7pm Advent Service</p>	<p>4 9am Mission Sewing 11am Communion at St. Williams 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 8-10am Youth Pancake Fund-raiser at Milbank Elementary School</p>
<p>7 9am Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:15-11:30am Sunday School 10:30am Fellowship followed by Bible Study 3:00pm Caroling—Meet in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8 6pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>9 12:30pm LOE (LWML) Meeting 5:30pm Youth Board 6pm Evangelism and Stewardship Board 7pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>10 7am HS Bible Study Breakfast 2pm Worship Service 5pm Advent Meal 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:10pm Choir 7pm Advent Service</p>	<p>11 11am Park Place Service 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9am Bible Study—Men's Group</p>
<p>14 9am Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship followed by Bible Study 6pm Bible Study—Couples</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 2pm Worship Service 5pm Advent Meal 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:10pm Choir 7pm Advent Service</p>	<p>18 1pm Bible Study</p>	<p>19 Newsletter Articles Due</p>	<p>20 6pm Movie Night Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>21 9am Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship followed by Bible Study</p>	<p>22 6pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 2pm Worship Service 4pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 10am Christmas Day Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9am Service of the Word 10:30am Fellowship followed by Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 2pm Worship Service 7pm New Years Eve Service</p>			

