

The VISITOR

Emanuel Lutheran Church
& Christian Preschool
701 S. First Street
Milbank, SD 57252

Volume 51

December 2021

No. 12



Pastor Timothy Koch

Office: 605-432-9555

Cell: 605-216-6849

Pastor Koch: Revtimkoch@gmail.com

Church office: elc@itcmilbank.com

Preschool: elcpreschool@itcmilbank.com

Emanuel Website: www.elcmilbank.org

www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank

Worship Schedule

8:00 am Service

10:30 am Service

Pastor's Post

100+ on Christmas Day!

Friends in Christ,

It happens once every so often. When it does happen, I call it "Murderers' Row." I'm talking about those times when Christmas Day falls on a Saturday or a Tuesday. This year is one of those years. Christmas Day falls on a Saturday.

Why do I call it "Murderers' Row"? Because it's an exhausting week. Take this year for example. Christmas Eve will fall on a Friday. Christmas Day falls on a Saturday. And Sunday always has regular worship services. Christmas is always an exhausting time of year for pastors and parish musicians, but on years like this year, it is extra exhausting.

And it's totally worth it.

I'm not looking for pity.

A lot of churches will look at a schedule like this and say, "You know, that's a lot of church, let's just forego one of the services." I disagree—strongly.

I invite you to do a little informal survey. Ask your friends and relatives who worship at a congregation other than Emanuel, "Do you have a Christmas Day services?" And notice how many of them say, "No." It's a lot.

In my last parish in Cresbard and Wecota, SD. We were the only non-Roman Catholic church in the county that had worship services on Christmas Day.

And in Milbank? Well, there are fourteen Christian congregations in Milbank, SD (if you include Countryside Covenant near Labolt, and Bethlehem Lutheran by the quarries) and more than half will *not* offer Christmas Day services.

So, why do I bring this up? I want you to know that I am aware that more and more frequently, congregations are foregoing worship on Christmas day. They offer services on Christmas Eve (often the highest attended services of the year), and that is it. Christmas Day then turns into a day of travel, or some other such thing. This is not good.

I know it's a lot of worship. Trust me! I write the sermons. I *KNOW* it's a lot. But I want to encourage you strongly to prioritize worship on Christmas Eve *and* Christmas Day.

So, I'm asking for your help. I want you to help me reach a goal that I've had. My goal is this: I want Emanuel Lutheran Church to have over 100 people in worship on Christmas Day. Will you help me get there?

Now, this doesn't mean you skip Christmas Eve and come to Christmas Day instead. No . . . let's do both. Let's keep the Christmas Eve service jam-packed with people and enjoy the singing of Silent Night to candlelight. Then let's go home after that service and enjoy the family, the food, the gifts, and the fellowship. And then let's come back the next morning, and sing Joy to the World, and participate in the Lord's Supper.

Please do not let Emanuel Lutheran Church become one of those congregations that only has a handful of people in worship on Christmas Day.

Jesus Christ has come to earth. The eternal son of God has taken on human flesh and he will remain as a human for all eternity. He did this for you. He did this to rescue you from the eternal torments of hell. It's a pretty big deal. Not only that, but Jesus *continues* to come to you in the Lord's Supper. Which means that the Jesus who was first seen by the shepherds on Christmas, will also be available to be seen by you. The shepherds made haste to see this thing that had been told them. Let us also make haste to worship on Christmas, and see Christ's gifts benefit our lives.

The most counter-cultural and Christian-y thing that you can do to honor Christmas is to gather around the altar where the incarnate Christ offers you his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

Let's have over 100 people in worship this Christmas Day!

Pastor Koch

Pastor Koch

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism

Ryan Meeker

Affirmation

Funerals

Linda Neitzel

Phyllis Silberstein

Weddings

NURSING HOME BULLETIN DELIVERY

Dec: mailing

Jan: Joan Smith

Feb: Vonnie Forman

March: Evy Hilbrands

April: Debbie Trapp

May: Steve Bogenrief

LOE

The LADIES OF EMANUEL will meet on Dec.7 for their Christmas party. Mary Rethke will give the lesson on a topic of her choosing, and the lunch will be Potluck. Our focus for December will be to bring items for the Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train. Serving coffee for Sunday Bible Study on Dec.5 are Evie Nelson, Joyce Johnson, and Diann Dauwen. All ladies in the congregation are invited to join us for Bible Study and fellowship.

Karin, S.D.

Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing will meet on December 2nd at 8:30 AM for their Christmas Party. We have quilts & baby quilts for sale all the time.

Tabitha Ladies Aid – will meet at 11:30 PM on December 16th.

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE

For December, the Special Mission envelope contributions will go towards:

Mercy Meals

Orphan Grain Train

Come and join Orphan Grain Train volunteers on the 1st Wednesday of every month to pack Mercy Meals! These fortified rice packets are urgently needed throughout the world (including USA). Each package will make 6 servings. We place 36 bags in a box and soon the boxes turn into a pallet full. Please consider volunteering 1 to 1½ hours any 1st Wednesday of the month. We start at 9:30 AM. On November 3rd, we had plenty of smiles and laughter when 8+ Emanuel members joined 6 members of Mt. Olive, Watertown to pack meals. They packed 19 boxes and over 4,100 meals. There is an open invitation for YOU to join others to ready these packages to be sent all over the world. Please come join us from 9:30-11:30 AM every 1st Wednesday of the month. The next Mercy Meal packing day will be December 1st.

Any group – family group, neighbor group, men’s group, women’s group, extension group, book club group, 4-H group, church group, etc.. can pack. Please call Duane Folk at 605-924-6831 to schedule your group. Hey! You can have your birthday or anniversary party at Mercy Meals!

OGT decorated a Christmas tree for the display at Milbank’s Court House. We want people to know about this non-profit organization that provides a way for anyone to help others who aren’t blessed as most of us are. Come check it out!

OGT will be closed on Saturday, November 27th. We will also be closed Thursday, December 23rd through Saturday, January 3rd, 2022.

Thank you so much to so many of you who help us out. We appreciate your generosity. God Bless You!
Linnea Schwandt

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2021

Date	Festival	1st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Dec 5	Second Sunday in Advent	Mal. 3:1-7b	Psalm 66:1-12	Phil. 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-14
Dec. 12	Third Sunday in Advent	Zeph. 3:14-20	Psalm 85	Phil 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
Dec. 19	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-5	Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Is. 7:10-14	Psalm 110:1-4	1 John 4:7-16	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Is. 52:7-10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12)	John 1:1-14 (15-18)
Dec. 26	First Sunday after Christmas	Ex. 13:1-3a, 11-15	Psalm 111	Col.3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40
Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus	Is. 30: (8-14) 15-17	Psalm 90:1-12	Rom. 8:31b-39	Luke 12:35-40

Advent Suppers @ 5:30 PM

December 1st - Soup – hosted by the Elders

December 8th – Walking Tacos – hosted by the Youth

December 15th - Supper - hosted by LOE

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Emanuel Education Facebook Site-

<https://www.facebook.com/EmanuelMilbankEducation/>

December 8th – Youth will do Advent Supper – Walking Tacos

December 31st – Youth and families New Year's celebration from 6:00 PM- 12:00 AM. All kids must be picked up by 12:15 AM!

Preschool News

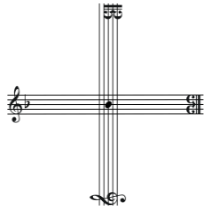
by Karen Tillma

Happy Thanksgiving from the Preschool children and staff! It has been a very busy week preparing crafts for Thanksgiving and for the program which is quickly approaching. Next week will be a short week for us with the Thanksgiving holiday. The week after Thanksgiving, the children will come in the morning each day to practice. The four-year-old children will present "Our First Nativity" a musical play. The three-year-old children will sing many songs with actions. We are inviting family members to watch the programs in the afternoon at 3 PM and 4 PM on Dec. 5th. If you would like to see the program and do not have a child or grandchild in the program, please contact me about coming during a dress rehearsal or I can send you a link to see it online.

Sometimes we are in need of a volunteer to help in the classroom if Ms. Nora or myself are sick or need to be out of town. If you would like to help in this way, please talk to me.

Coming up: We will be dismantle the "jungle" scene that is currently in the classroom. (For the letter J we turned the classroom into a jungle! There were vines hanging and 'snakes' crawling! It was quite a hit with the children.) We will then be decorating for Christmas and getting the stage ready for the Christmas programs.

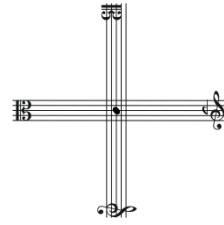
We will once again be collecting money into a Christmas Jar to help a family. The children take part in this, helping with chores at home to earn money. We have discussions in class in how we can help someone who may need our help. How can we be the answer to someone's prayers? We will use the money to buy things like a new outfit, pajamas, socks and underwear and a toy for a child on the angel tree. If you would like to contribute to our project, you can drop off your donation in the church office or stop by the preschool during the school day. Be sure to mark your envelop "Preschool Christmas Jar". We will be collecting money from now until December 10th.



EMANUEL MUSIC 2020-2021

Music Notes

Dear Emanuel Lutheran,



Dear Members of Emanuel,

We need Joy choir members! The beautiful music that comes from the balcony is a blessing to all of us! The music you hear takes sacrifice in commitment of the members. That commitment comes from the love Christ bestowed upon us! The commitment of **YOU** can be made to fit your life! We are creative! So **JOIN!**

Last week I had the members write **“Why they come to do music”**. The first one I pulled out is the following:

“It is a fun and laid back environment. It is nice to give back to the church through music!”

Wed. choir rehearsals. 5:15-6:10 Adult Handbells

6:10-6:50 Joy Choir - Anyone is welcome to join!

(These times are during Advent)

In Christ’s Love,
Kristy

Communion Service Ushers

Dec. 5 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	Dec. 19 th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
	Josh Radil	Peter Barthel		Larry Underwood	Peter Barthel
Dec. 25 th	10:00 AM – Howard Mueller				

This month (December): Group 5, Elders: Larry Underwood

Next month (January): Group 1, Elder: Josh Radil

Next special event: Group 5, Elder: Larry Underwood

BE YE DOERS – TEAM 5, Larry Underwood (December 2021)

GREETERS/USHERS

(SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. Service)

December 5 Regina Rethke, Beverly Hanson /
Leslie Rethke, Kim Kolb, Dean Hanson

December 12 Kim Pinkert/
Tracy Pinkert, Kim Kolb

December 19 Regina Rethke, Kim Pinkert /
Leslie Rethke, Dean Hanson

(SUNDAY 10:30 a.m. Service)

December 5 Gloria Selchert /
Arvid Hofhenke, Larry Underwood

December 12 Sharon Wieber /
Arvid Hofhenke, Larry Underwood

December 19 Gloria Selchert /
Arvid Hofhenke, Larry Underwood

Advent services @ 7:00 PM **Dec. 1st**
Kim Kolb

Dec. 8th
Kim Kolb

Dec. 15th
Kim Kolb

Christmas Eve services **4:00 PM**
Sharon Wieber, Kim Pinkert / Tracy Pinkert

6:00 PM
/ Larry Underwood

Christmas Day @ 10:00 AM Sharon Wieber /

December 26th @ 9:00 AM Sharon Wieber / Leslie Rethke

FLOWERS: Regina & Leslie Rethke

BANNERS: Roger & Linnea Schwandt

COMMUNION WORKERS

December 5-----Set up for 8:00 AM service: **Larry Underwood / Susan Underwood**
Clean up / set up for 10:30 AM service: **Gloria Selchert**
Clean up after 10:30 service: **Gloria Selchert**

December 19-----Set up for 8:00 AM service: **Larry Underwood / Susan Underwood**
Clean up / set up for 10:30 AM service: **Vonnie Forman**
Clean up after 10:30 service: **Vonnie Forman**

December 25-----Set up for / clean - up for 10:00 AM service: **Roger & Linnea Schwandt**

SOUND SYSTEM/RADIO BROADCAST FOR DECEMBER

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
December 5	Ezra Koch	Roger Schwandt
December 12	Larry Underwood	Kylene Bowen
December 19	Tracy Pinkert	Dale Rethke
December 26	Charles Schamber	Dave Schamber

Special Services

Advent @ 7:00 PM:	Dec. 1st Tracy Pinkert	Dec. 8th	Dec. 15th
--------------------------	---	----------------------------	-----------------------------

Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM Tracy Pinkert **6:00 PM**

Christmas Day: 10:00 AM

ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

November 7	8:00 AM P. Bauer	10:30 AM K. Schwandt, C. Street
November 14	8:00 AM A. Robinson, E. Henderson	10:30 AM Z. Karges, J. Spiering
November 21	8:00 AM K. Nies, B. Blauert	10:30 AM J. Fraasch, S. Garcia
November 24	7:00 PM B. Schwandt,	
November 28	8:00 AM E. Rethke, B. Hunt	10:30 AM S. Giossi, A. Morton

EXALTING WHOM? Proverbs 30:32

Coffee, bread, car, work, store, home, repeat.....What percentage of our day is invested in doing something nice for other people who are not related to us and for which we will not receive something in exchange? Have we been foolishly exalting ourselves instead of doing God's work?? Are our selfish actions saying to the world that God doesn't exist??? Our sinful hearts crave what is convenient for us and no one else. Instead of exalting ourselves, we should put our hands on our mouths.

Jesus died to rescue us from our sins by His sinless life and perfect death, He rose again and conquered death, empowering us to face this world with confidence and wisdom. Gifted by the Word, we can do deeds that exalt Him and tell the world that there is a God.

.....Lord, we have been foolish, saying with our actions, "There is no God." Forgive us in Jesus so that we can exalt You only. Thank you for turning our lives around. You gave us Jesus and, with Him, the joy of Your salvation and the courage to do Your work. In the name of Jesus. Amen

(Portrals of Prayer, April 21)

From the office, we wish you a Merry Christmas and God's Blessings in the New Year!

Lisa and Kim



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Steltz Peter R.	1-Dec	Ruhr Buffie	11-Dec	Frickson Dwight	25-Dec
Bowen Angela M.	2-Dec	Anderson Molly	12-Dec	Pollock Shelbi	25-Dec
Bilben Shane	3-Dec	Behrens Karen J.	12-Dec	Dauwen Orville A.	26-Dec
Bogenreif Daniel L.	3-Dec	Barthel George A.	13-Dec	Dockter Lowell D.	26-Dec
Schwandt Breanna L.	3-Dec	Fish Alan R.	13-Dec	Schmieg Jaxton R.	26-Dec
Karges Jacob D.	4-Dec	Melham Linda J.	13-Dec	Wieber Sharon M.	26-Dec
Morton Addison L.	4-Dec	Mueller Eric	13-Dec	Lundborg Ronald A. (Ron)	28-Dec
Schmeling Paige K.	4-Dec	Opitz Stephanie M.	13-Dec	Newman Jason D.	28-Dec
Athey Maxine	5-Dec	Schmeling Dylan R.	13-Dec	Riley Mason M.	28-Dec
Koch Evelyn	5-Dec	Poppen Gerald E. (Jerry)	14-Dec	Skinner Oaklynn R.	28-Dec
Saeger Kenneth R. (Ken)	6-Dec	Schmieg Brandon J.	15-Dec	Hunt Arnold L.	29-Dec
Stemsrud Robin	6-Dec	Bogenrief Casey A.	17-Dec	Keller Adam D.	30-Dec
Stemsrud Steven C. (Steve)	6-Dec	Dexter Brandon L.	18-Dec	Lee Tamara J.	31-Dec
Myers Derek L.	7-Dec	Ehlebracht Wayne A.	18-Dec	Mueller Angel	31-Dec
Barthel Peter	8-Dec	Thyne Brock D.	18-Dec		
Gores Chelsea M.	8-Dec	Gabriel Jr Ray	19-Dec		
Berkner Jimmie R.	9-Dec	Sackreiter Hunter R.	19-Dec		
Lee Peyton J.	10-Dec	Selchert Gloria	19-Dec		
Meyer Charles P.	10-Dec	Gesswein James B.	20-Dec		
Skovbo June M.	10-Dec	Poppen Dixie J.	21-Dec		
Mork Savannah S.	11-Dec	Krueger Brianna M.	22-Dec		
Pond Niah D.	11-Dec	Stuckey Jensyn E.	23-Dec		

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSRIES

Essington Kevin M. and Cindy L.	6-Dec
Pinkert Scott R. and Jennifer (Jenny)	7-Dec
Hunt Adam and Jennifer M.	13-Dec
Dauwen Orville A. and Diann E.	15-Dec
Mueller Howard W. and Karin L.	19-Dec
Mueller Stephen (Steve) and Darcille A. (Dusty)	26-Dec
Henderson Tyler C. and Jamie L.	27-Dec
Hanson Calvin D. (Cal) and Laci	30-Dec
Negen Steve and Kay	30-Dec
Wilde Susan K. and Roger Briggs	30-Dec