

The VISITOR

Volume 52

January 2022

No. 1

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



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Emanuel Website: www.elcmilbank.org

www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank

Worship Schedule

8:00 am Service

10:30 am Service

Pastor's Post

Happy New Year!

I love the New Year. Admittedly, January 1st is my birthday, but it's not just that. I love the New Year because it is a time of possibilities. All the baggage of the previous year is gone. It's behind us. What power does 2021 have over 2022? All of 2021 is behind us, all of 2022 is ahead of us. Let's go!

A clean slate invites introspection. People can evaluate their own lives. They discover what has been lacking, and then they adopt their resolutions to improve upon their lot. Yes, I know, I know, New Year's Resolutions have an overwhelming failure rate, but *that* is why New Year's Day is so amazing! The joy of New Year's Day is the joy of knowing that we haven't failed *yet*. Like the starry-eyed Minnesota Vikings fan who really does think this is their year on the first day of the football season because the record still reads 0-0, the average joe loves New Year's Day for the same reason. You're always undefeated when you haven't played any games.

I'm this way too. I'm always thinking about ways to improve Emanuel Lutheran Church. It's part of the leadership responsibilities placed upon me as the pastor. Here's my New Year's Resolution list of self-improvement projects for Emanuel Lutheran Church that is sure to fail.

1. **Orphan Grain Train (OGT).** We have an OGT facility that does incredible work to combat poverty and need throughout the world. Connected to the same facility is a Mercy Meals packaging center. I would like to be more vocal in encouraging people to participate and help out with OGT. If you've never been to OGT, make 2022 the year you visit it for the first time.
2. **Ushers.** It's been a long long time since we trained ushers how to do their job. 2022 would be a great year for "Usher training." The shared knowledge of what an usher is supposed to do and how they are to do it is slowly evaporating. Like renewing a driver's license, it's time for ushers to get together again and learn afresh their tasks.
3. **Communion Set-Up and Take Down Training.** This is actually already on the calendar, so if it fails, it's because nobody showed up. On February 6th, after the 10:30 church service, Pastor, along with others, are going to teach anyone who desires to learn how to set-up and take-down communion. This is a massively important volunteer role at our congregation, and it's high time to train more hands to do it. We'll also need someone to run "point" on maintaining an orderly and reliable schedule, but we can do it.

4. **Visitation:** My non-emergency, non-evangelism home visits have really taken a hit since Covid. Be prepared to receive a phone call from me. I'm going to invite myself over to your house, and we're going to visit.
5. **Evangelism:** Our youth are being well trained in evangelism thanks to Jesus Door-2-Door. Our adults, however . . . that's a bit thinner in participation. It'd be good to put an evangelism team together. One that knocks on doors and shares the love of Jesus and invites others to join us for worship.
6. **Music:** If you have any music ability at all. If you have a child who is learning to play an instrument. Have them learn some sacred music, and then have them play during worship. If you can't make both services, that's fine, but we'll gladly listen to you play at just one. We can always use someone to play during communion, or as a prelude or postlude. We should normalize children playing and singing music. Contact myself and Kristy Tostenson. Let's put you on the schedule.
7. **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** If you have a Thrivent account, you have until March of 2022 to direct "choice dollars" to a particular organization. A massive amount of these direct-able dollars go undirected every year. It's illegal for our congregation to ask Thrivent to supply us with a list of their clients so we can solicit the directing of choice dollars. But wouldn't it be great if Emanuel members voluntarily supplied that information we had a list of all the people at Emanuel who have a Thrivent account? Wouldn't it be great if we had a volunteer who would call everybody on that list in February and walk them step-by-step through directing these choice dollars to Emanuel Lutheran Church. I suspect there is a significant chunk of money that is "left on the table" each year, simply because people forget to direct their dollars.
8. **Bible Studies:** The single greatest indicator of a healthy church is Bible Study attendance. This is a fact. And it's the most predictable one. The church where *more* people are gathered around the Word of God results in greater health. Well, of course it does! That's what God's Word does. We have Bible Studies between worship services in the fellowship hall, and we a Bible Study most Fridays at 1pm. If you have not attended a Bible Study at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 2022 is the year to make that change. Come join us. Ask questions. I promised I won't call on or embarrass anyone for not knowing their way around a Bible. As I said since the day I got here, "Nothing makes pastor happier than seeing people in Bible Study."

There are many other ways that we can "improve" in our life together. And these dreams in January of 2022 may remain fruitless by 2023, but we won't know that until 2023 gets here.

Of course, if you've been a part of the church for any amount of time, you know that the gospel (i.e., the Good News) is that our salvation isn't dependent upon any self-improvement projects: personally or corporately. Our failures, in all their failing miserableness, do not disqualify us from a salvation that is purchased by the blood of God's Son, solely out of His gracious disposition toward us. And it is for this reason that I am optimistic for 2022. Because even if I fail, even if the dreams listed above don't come to fruition. I've still lost nothing. We've still lost nothing. For we have all that we need in Jesus.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Koch

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism

Affirmation
Rodney Smith

Funerals

Weddings

LOE

LADIES OF EMANUEL will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at 1 PM in the church fellowship hall. Joyce Kasuske will give the topic from the Fall Quarterly, "Merciful Care" on page 22. Judy Sackreiter will be the hostess. After refreshments, we will assemble Gospel bracelets for our monthly focus. Karin Mueller, Wanda Bohn and Edna Angerhofer will serve coffee on Sunday, Jan. 2nd. 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 January 6, 2022 at 8:30 AM. We have quilts, baby quilts, and pillows for sale all the time. If you would like to purchase one, you can contact Kim in the church office or a sewing member to view them. Large quilts - \$40, baby quilts- \$10, pillows -\$5.

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE

For January, the Special Mission envelope contributions will go towards:
Emanuel Lutheran Preschool

Orphan Grain Train

Happy New Year from Milbank Orphan Grain Train---

January will find us putting together Hygiene Kits. We have been collecting and buying items for the kits. Following the devastating storms in Kentucky we expect many of them will end up there. In December we happily received many quilts --ex. Pastor Broder from Pipestone arranged for 80 to come to us. Linda Brandt from the Clinton/Graceville area along with 7 of other ladies made 35 quilts. Many others have been delivered. Some of these were given to the local foster program. It's a great feeling to package quilts.

One of our designated boxes is Sewing items. If you're doing some winter decluttering, we can always use spools of thread, sewing, stick pins, knitting and crochet needles. Tape measures, material of 1 yard or more. Basically anything sewing.

Remember OGT packs Mercy Meals 1st Wednesday of every month at 9:30.

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

Linnea Schwandt

READINGS FOR JANUARY 2022

Date	Festival	1st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Jan. 1	Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Num. 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Gal. 3:23-29	Luke 2:21
Jan. 2	Second Sunday after Christmas	1 Kings 3:4-15	Psalm 119:97-104	Eph. 1:3-14	Luke 2:40-52
Jan. 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord	Is. 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-11(12-15)	Eph. 3:1-12	Matt. 2:1-12
Jan. 9	The Baptism of Our Lord / The First Sunday after Christmas	Is. 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Rom 6:1-11	Luke 3:15-22
Jan. 16	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Is. 62:1-5	Psalm 128	1 Cor. 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan. 23	Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19: (1-6) 7-14	1 Cor. 12:12-31a	Luke 4:16-30
Jan. 30	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Jer. 1:4-10 (17-19)	Psalm 71:1-6 (7-11)	1 Cor. 12:31b-13:13	Luke 4:31-44

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Emanuel Education Facebook Site-

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

Jan. 30 – Youth will have the Coffee Hour. Please bring a dozen cookies/ bars by 8:30 so that we can get them ready to serve. We also need some youth to be there by 8:30 to help with set up and making coffee and juice.

Preschool News

by Karen Tillma

I am so happy to report that the children presented their Christmas programs very well! We didn't have any criers this year and everyone stayed on stage and sang for Jesus! We had a nice crowd with goodies provided by the parents of the four year old classes.

We did not exchange Christmas presents among the children this year but instead everyone was encouraged to contribute to the class Christmas Jar. We put it out at our program also and everyone has been so generous! We were able to bless three teenagers abundantly (from the Angel Tree). One of the families has special needs as they have a child with cerebral palsy and have recently made trips to his doctor in Sioux Falls. I told the mom that we had collected more money after buying the gifts and I asked her if there was anything that she needed for her family. She told me that she could really use gas money so that she could take her children to their grandmother's (her mom's) for Christmas. Because of the expense of the trip to Sioux Falls, she did not have enough to travel to Sisseton for the holidays. When I told her I had \$100 to give her for gas, she began to cry and was so grateful for everyone's generosity. The children learned so much from this experience!

I would like to keep this family in our prayers and if you would like to help in any way, I know that she would be so grateful. Her son will face upcoming surgeries and gas cards would be so helpful. I know that they do not spend money on eating out and they live humbly. Thank you for your prayers for this mom, her two teenage daughters and her three year old twin sons.

I hope this finds your family well and that you have a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year!

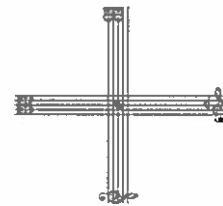
Mrs. Tillma



EMANUEL MUSIC 2020-2021

Music Notes

Dear Emanuel Lutheran,



Dear Members of Emanuel,

What beautiful Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services we were blessed to part of of! A HUGE THANK YOU to all the special music! What talent our congregation has with present and past members! For a list of all who participated please see the bulletins.

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!**



I had the members write “**Why they come to do music**”. The second one is the following:

“I love making music!  I love the people I play and sing with!”

Wed. choir rehearsals: 5:15 Adult Handbells– interested? please contact me
6:30 Joy Choir - Anyone is welcome to join!

In Christ's Love,
Kristy 949-1372

2022 CHURCH OFFICERS

President: Wayne Dragt Vice President: Jackson Graf
Financial Secretary: Diann Dauwen Secretary: Rita Grabow
Treasurer: Lisa Miller

2022 Board Members

Education Board

Talia Athey
Tammy Mielitz
Sandy Schell

Youth Board

Angie Bowen
Melissa Mueller
Max Athey
Kim Burke

Endowment

Howard Mueller
Wayne Grabow
Wayne Dragt
Jackson Schwandt
Pat Blauert

Evangelism Board

Joyce Johnson
Elizabeth Radil
Kris Street
Kristin Tostenson
Susan Underwood

Elders

Howard Mueller
Josh Radil
Peter Barthel
Darwin Wojahn
Charles Schamber

Stewardship Board

Karin Mueller
Wanda Bohn

Trustees

Curt Berkner
Dick Schwandt
Steve Hilbarnds

Communion Service Assistance

Jan. 2nd	8:00 AM Darwin Wojahn	10:30 AM Howard Mueller	Jan. 30th	8:00 AM Darwin Wojahn	10:30 AM
Jan. 16th	8:00 AM	10:30 AM Peter Barthel			

This month (January): Group 1, Elders: Josh Radil
Next month (February): Group 2, Elder: Howard Mueller
Next special event: Group 5, Elder: Darwin Wojahn

BE YE DOERS – TEAM 1, Josh Radil (January 2022)

GREETERS/USHERS

(SUNDAY 8:00 a.m. Service)

January 2 Phyllis Schultz, Judy & Bob Sackreiter /
Josh Radil, Lyle Schultz

January 9 Elizabeth Radil, Judy & Bob Sackreiter /
Josh Radil

January 16 Phyllis Schultz, Linda Berens /
Josh Radil, Lyle Schultz

January 23 Elizabeth Radil /
Josh Radil

January 30 /
Josh Radil

(SUNDAY 10:30 a.m. Service)

January 2 Jessica Spanton /
Dewey Athey, Derek Athey

January 9 Natasha Zubke /
Chris Zubke

January 16 Natasha Zubke /
Dewey Athey, Derek Athey, Chris Zubke

January 23 Natasha Zubke /
Chris Zubke

January 30 Jessica Spanton /
Dewey Athey, Derek Athey

FLOWERS: Mary Rethke

BANNERS:

COMMUNION WORKERS

January 2-----Set up for 8:00 AM service: **Josh & Elizabeth Radil**
Clean up / set up for 10:30 AM service: **Josh Radil**
Clean up after 10:30 service: **Josh & Elizabeth Radil**

January 16-----Set up for 8:00 AM service: **Phyllis Schultz**
Clean up / set up for 10:30 AM service: **Phyllis Schultz**
Clean up after 10:30 service:

January 30-----Set up for 8:00 AM service:
Clean up / set up for 10:30 AM service:
Clean up after 10:30 service:

SOUND SYSTEM/RADIO BROADCAST FOR JANUARY

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
January 2	Ezra Koch	Roger Schwandt
January 9	Larry Underwood	Kylene Bowen
January 16	Tracy Pinkert	Dale Rethke
January 23	Charles Schamber	Dave Schamber
January 30	Ezra Koch	Roger Schwandt

ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

January 2	8:00 AM <i>A. Robinson, J. Fraasch</i>	10:30 AM <i>A. Morton, P. Bauer</i>
January 9	8:00 AM <i>K. Nies, B. Hunt</i>	10:30 AM <i>J. Spiering, B. Blauert</i>
January 16	8:00 AM <i>M. Mueller, D. Mueller</i>	10:30 AM <i>Z. Karges, E. Rethke</i>
January 23	8:00 AM <i>J. Fraasch, E. Henderson</i>	10:30 AM <i>S. Garcia, E. Koch</i>
January 30	8:00 AM <i>T. Vogel, S. Vogel</i>	10:30 AM <i>J. Dexter, L. Dexter</i>

SELLING OUT Matthew 13:44

Heaven is worth everything!! The man in the parable in Matthew 13:44-45 considers heaven to be more valuable than the sum of all his possessions. Jesus teaches this lesson because He loves us and wants us to share in the glories of heaven that He generously prepared for us.

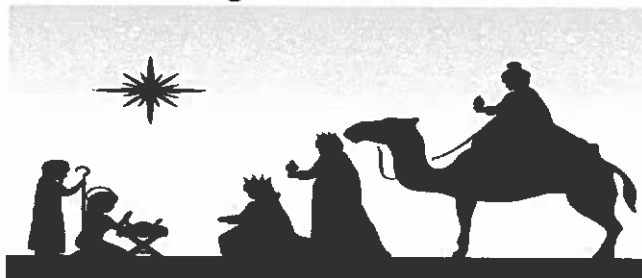
Are we sad that the man has given up everything? Not at all!! Earthly assets are temporary and will be lost anyway. They cannot compare to the eternal blessings of heaven. This man has no regrets; he joyfully sells all that he has!

In grateful response to our salvation, we sacrificially give our money, talents, and time to the Lord. In truth, there is only one who has fully given His all for the Kingdom and did so to win for us a place in it -- Our Lord Jesus Christ. Though rich, He became poor for us in order to give us the riches of forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation. He gave all of Himself to buy that field -- and to make us His treasure.

.....Dear Lord Jesus, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, help me to more fully value the glory of Your heavenly kingdom and joyfully offer sacrifices of thanksgiving to You. Amen.

From the office, we wish you God's blessings in the New Year!

Lisa and Kim



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barthel Charles A.	1-Jan	Thibeault Kasen	12-Jan	Linngren Veronica S.	24-Jan
Koch Timothy	1-Jan	Gabriel Lisa	13-Jan	Hofhenke Irma R.	25-Jan
Lindberg Matthew	1-Jan	Myers Nathan L.	13-Jan	Peiker Maxine S.	26-Jan
Peiker Joann	1-Jan	Steffen Stella M.	13-Jan	Bogenrief Gail R.	27-Jan
Peschong Shannon	1-Jan	Rethke Diane	14-Jan	Hunt Landrie J.	27-Jan
Bray Daniel	2-Jan	Berkner Cara J.	15-Jan	Schweer Kendra A.	27-Jan
Koepke William G.	2-Jan	Bowen Shirley M.	16-Jan	Jibbens Debra J.	28-Jan
Weinkauf Mackenzie R.	2-Jan	Graf Mona J.	16-Jan	Mueller Braden	28-Jan
Opitz Sheila	3-Jan	Loeschke Alexander W.	16-Jan	Settje Ron	28-Jan
Peiker David M.	3-Jan	Riley Holly A.	16-Jan	Athey Duane (Dewey)	29-Jan
Bates Jennifer	6-Jan	Pinkert Jesse E.	17-Jan	Klemm Kasey M.	29-Jan
Graf Jackson P.	7-Jan	Weissenfluh James D.	17-Jan	Hilbrands Alexander L.	30-Jan
Sackreiter Bryan R.	7-Jan	Bear Evonna M.	18-Jan	Meyer Anieta A.	30-Jan
Schmieg Brytten M.	7-Jan	Tietjen Logan R.	18-Jan	Stemsrud Tatiana R.	31-Jan
Seehafer Eleanore R.	7-Jan	Bowen Daniel L.	19-Jan		
Berkner Diane R.	9-Jan	Karges Zackary E.	19-Jan		
Christians Natalie	9-Jan	Rethke Evan J.	21-Jan		
Lee Amber	9-Jan	Tostenson Kristy	21-Jan		
Bilben Morgan A.	10-Jan	Berry Justin L.	22-Jan		
Schell Rylee M.	10-Jan	Schamber Charles	22-Jan		
Poppen Richard P.	12-Jan	Ackerman Angela M.	24-Jan		
Stensland Ralph W.	12-Jan	Lee Tyler D.	24-Jan		

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSRIES

Smith Brian and Sandra	8-Jan
Mertens James E. (Jim) and Darlene G.	11-Jan
Holtquist Robert A. (Bob) and Brenda	16-Jan
Rethke Mark P. and Niki	27-Jan
Linngren William T. (Travis) and Veronica S.	28-Jan
Werner Tom and Barbara (Barb)	31-Jan
Mueller Thomas P. (Tom) and Roberta J. (Bobbie)	9-Feb
Harms Gary and Audrey	10-Feb
Adelman Crystal J. and Mark	26-Feb