

# The VISITOR

Volume 55 February 2025 No. 2

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



**Pastor Chris Davis**

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Preschool: [elcpreschool@itcmilbank.com](mailto:elcpreschool@itcmilbank.com)

Emanuel Website: [www.elcmilbank.org](http://www.elcmilbank.org)

[www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank](http://www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank)

**Worship Schedule**

Sunday 9:00 am Service

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

Sun. School/Bible Study 10:30 AM

Midweek Wednesday 2:00 pm

Sunday livestreamed on YouTube

## LOVE

Valentine's Day is the time of year when our culture emphasizes love, and that's a good thing. That being said, love is sort of a squishy word that gets overused and misused. Do you really love pizza? Maybe...but not really "love," just really, really, "like." Do you love winter? Right now, I sort of doubt it. Do you love chocolate or ice cream or fishing for smallmouth bass? There are no doubt times that I would have emphatically said "Yes" to all three. Yet those are examples of overusing the word love. No harm done...most people know what you mean when you say, "I love hunting pheasants with my boys!"

But love is also misused in our society. People use the word love as an excuse to overlook what is clearly contrary to God's will. People use the word love to try to pigeonhole those who genuinely love others as "haters," "bigots," and "phobias" ...you know how that works. Love is used as a bludgeon to tell those who believe God has revealed His will for us in Scripture that our beliefs are not valid and will not be allowed in society. But that is a misuse of the word love...at least as Jesus used it.

In John 13:34, when Jesus says, "A new commandment I give you, that you *love* one another, just as I have *loved* you, you also are to *love* one another." The word used by the Lord three times in that verse is *ἀγαπάτε* (agapate...the present, indicative, active version of the verb agape). Agape is the word Jesus uses most often to describe true love for others...the kind of love God has for us. This kind of love has nothing to do with feeling and emotions per se; it is pure love that wants what is best for others...no

matter what...no matter the cost. How did Jesus love the world? He gave Himself for us. Jesus' agape love for you and me meant doing whatever it takes and losing everything for our benefit. People hated Jesus for what He came to do. People wanted nothing to do with Jesus because of what He stood for. People wanted to kill Jesus because of what He said. Yet Jesus still so loved – agape – the world that He came to be our substitute for sin...to tell us that in Him we are no longer condemned, but also to go and sin no more (see John 8:11).

Truly loving someone as our faith moves us involves caring more about them and their eternal wellbeing than about the temporary state of our relationship or what they might – in the interim – call happiness. As Christians, let's take back the word "LOVE" and apply it the way our Lord asks us to. A good example of this is found in James 5:19-20... "MY brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." Now, that is an example of agape love...and after all, "We love (agape) because He first loved (agape) us" (1 John 4:19). Happy Valentine's Day, everybody! In Christ, Pastor Davis

### **Official Acts**

#### **Funerals:**

Doreen Schultz

#### **Transfer In from LCMS:**

Daniel, Christine, August, and Nora Bordt



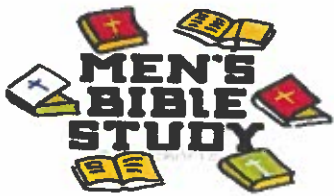
### **Deaconess Intern**

My winter class will have ended by the time these print. It was a course on visiting all sorts of different conditions, like nursing homes, assisted living homes, and hospitals, and even just talking with people during church activities. I am fortunate to have done several of these visits with the Pastor's direction, whereas my classmates were learning much as they aren't doing visits yet.

My next class is in February for the Spring course. Christian Education is the topic that I have been looking forward to. Please keep me in your prayers as I progress in my deaconess training. My hours will return to the regular hours posted. Lisa and Lori have a few schedule changes, which we will post on the door. God bless my Emanuel Church family, as you helped me through the most significant suffering I have felt thus far. It can't be said enough that God is with us always—especially in our suffering. Lisa

Lori's hours: Tuesday 10-5, Wednesday 1-5, and Fridays 10-5.

Lisa's hours: Monday 10-5, Tuesday---School, Wed 10-5, Thursday 10-4, Friday--School



The next Men's Bible Study will be on February 8th, 2025, will include coffee and donuts at 9 AM. All Men Are invited!!!



**Handbells and Choir**  
Handbell is at 5:30 PM. The choir is at 6:30 PM.  
All are welcome to join.



### READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Festival	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Feb. 2	The Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord	1 Sam. 1:21-28	Psalm 84	Heb. 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-32 (33-40)
Feb. 9	Fifth S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	Psalm 138	1 Cor. 14:12b-20	Luke 5:1-11
Feb. 16	Sixth S. after the Epiphany	Jer. 17:5-8	Psalm 1	1 Cor. 15:(1-11) 12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Feb. 23	Seventh S. after the Epiphany	Gen. 45:3-15	Psalm 103:1-13	1 Cor. 15:21-26, 30-42	Luke 6:27-38



The Ladies of Emanuel will meet on Feb. 11, 2025, at 1 p.m. in the Social Hall. Our lesson this month is on page 17 of the Winter Quarterly, "The Third Article."

Phyllis Schultz and Joyce Johnson will serve

lunch. Our focus for the month is visiting/sending cards to our shut-ins.

Serving coffee on Feb. 2 will be Phyllis Schultz and Diann Dauwen, with donations going to our missionary.

### Mission Sewing



Mission Sewing will meet on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM. All are welcome, and we can always use extra hands to help tie quilts, cut squares, thread needles...etc.

## SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES

For February, the Special Mission envelope contributions will go towards:  
**Lutheran Family Service**

**There will also be a door offering for LFS on February 9<sup>th</sup>, going to the Convention, as the District picked that as its offering mission.**

### SOUND/RADIO BROADCAST FEBRUARY

Feb 2 9 AM Tracy Pinkert  
Feb 9 9 AM Charles Schamber  
Feb 16 9 AM Harlan Monson  
Feb 23 9 AM Dave Schamber

### ACOLYTES FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 2 9 AM Sydnee Weyh; Whitney Weyh  
Feb 9 9 AM Jaxson Gores; Alyssa Rethke  
Feb 16 9 AM Finley Hunt; Sean Nicholson  
Feb 23 9 AM Eliana Richardt; Alanna Vogel

### **Couples Retreat at the Abbey of the Hills one-day event on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

Join us for a wonderful day of study, discussion, and time together at the beautiful Abby of the Hills near Marvin, SD. We will look at and discuss marriage from God's perspective and see how He uses marriage to strengthen our faith, bring us joy, help us grow, and benefit society. We will gather at the Abby around 8:30 on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be coffee and refreshments. We will study and discuss until noon (with periodic breaks for looking around and spending time together). We will enjoy lunch together at the Abby and more free time to look around. We will get back together for study and discussion after lunch and finish up around 4 in the afternoon. Please join us for a great day at the Abby of the Hills. Please sign up by January 19, 2025; the sign-up is by the south bulletin board.



***Relief for Human Need Worldwide***

### **OGT IS ON TRACK : South Dakota Orphan Grain Train Collection Center**

**"Praise God from whom ALL  
Blessings Flow"**

Milbank's OGT collection center building has many busy days with new and old volunteers. Those of us "old timers" wear smiley faces as more people find out it's not just sorting clothing that happens in our building. COME check it out.

At this time, we've been seeking people to make diapers---flannel type or those made from t-shirts. If you have flannel pieces in your sewing box that you don't need, reach out to us. If you are downsizing/cleaning out drawers, think of OGT-

kitchen utensils, pens, pencils, thread, needles, crochet hooks, rulers, clipboards, dolls, and softballs-- these are a few ideas. We cannot send glass or most electric articles. We have an overabundance of used blue jeans that can't be sent- so if you can use them for a project, let us know.

We are grateful for so many who are involved with Milbank OGT. We would like to express our gratitude to Phyllis Henze and Dorothy Schwandt, who have done so much for us. They are examples of serving our Lord by helping others. Also examples that you are never too old to learn new things.

Mercy Meals- Fortified Rice meals- are needed all over the world. Please, please consider getting a group together for about 2 hours. ----Men's club, LOE, Singers, Emanuel's boards, youth groups, your friends, your family ) Contact Duane Folk at 605-924-6831 to set up a time.

Hours - Tuesday 3-5pm Wednesday and Saturday 10am -noon

Mercy Meal monthly packing, is the first Wednesday of the month.

---PS. The boxes from our collection center head to Norfolk, so if you read that a shipment came from a Norfolk warehouse, that shipment more than likely contains some of our boxes. OGT headquarters is working with Pastor Ken Frese, a retired pastor in Los Angeles. He is familiar with the area that has and continues to burn. OGT gave him \$50,000.00 to share \$1,000.00 checks with families that lost everything for immediate needs. To read more, go to [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org).

We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Thank you. Linnea and Joyce.

## **EMANUEL YOUTH GROUP**

### **Camp Minneboji - June 15-21, 2025**

- **Christian Summer Camp led by pastoral and lay volunteers from the SD LCMS District for 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Honors camp is available for those who have just finished 9th grade.**
- **The registration website has changed this year. Registration is open and will be done through the SDDL CMS.ORG website:**

**<https://sddlcms.org/service-areas/youth-service-area/#camp-minneboji>**

- The family contribution per camper is \$150 for Emanuel Lutheran Members and must be paid while registering. The Emanuel Youth Board pays the remainder of the bill!
- You can sign up independently, or Brandy Blauert can assist you with any questions. If you need assistance, she will host an in-person meeting on February 16th after church. We will meet in the fellowship room, and then we will go somewhere quieter.
- Brandy is available by phone or email anytime - 605-467-1542 or [brandyblauert@hotmail.com](mailto:brandyblauert@hotmail.com)
- There are pamphlets available at the back of the church.



...a fun place to  
play and learn!

## Preschool News

by Karen Tillma

Greetings from Preschool! As we did last year, we are covering two letters a week. We started the second time by practicing writing lowercase letters. I am so glad I

decided to do this, as the children will be more prepared when they go to kindergarten screening on January 31st.

As we reach the end of January, there is already talk of Valentine's Day activities. The children will sing for one of the earlier Lenten services. (Easter is late April this year and very close to our spring program!). March will bring our yearly trip to the Children's Museum in Brookings.

In January, we gained one new four-year-old, bringing our total to 14 four-year-olds and 8 three-year-olds.

**\*\*\*If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed monthly or if names aren't spelled correctly, it means the office does not have your required information—please call us to update our records.\*\*\***

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Fischer, Trystan L.	2-Feb
Rudebusch, David	2-Feb
Seehafer, Suzanne R.	2-Feb
Zubke, Christopher R.	5-Feb
Keller, Madison L.	6-Feb
Meister, Ron	6-Feb
Krause, Jason L.	7-Feb
Purcell, Liam	7-Feb
Saeger, Mae	8-Feb
Street, Geoff	9-Feb
Beyer, Kent H.	10-Feb

Schell, Olivia C.	10-Feb
Bordt, August	12-Feb
Fraasch, Jaylynn B.	16-Feb
Smith, Sandra	16-Feb
Weinkauf, Dominic J.	17-Feb
Ackerman, Brittany M.	18-Feb
Schell, Blaine E.	19-Feb
Weinkauf, Stacey M.	19-Feb
Wojahn, Reece J.	19-Feb
Selken, Annie R.	21-Feb
Larson, Evan D.	22-Feb

Schwandt, Louis R.	22-Feb
Tietjen, Donna	22-Feb
Mueller, Dusty	23-Feb
Trapp, Debbie	23-Feb
Ackerman, Jason J.	24-Feb
Poel, Donna	24-Feb
Mertens, Darlene G.	25-Feb
Selchert, Walter L.	25-Feb
Tietjen, Jasmine R.	25-Feb
Mueller, Melissa	26-Feb
Reil, Christopher W.	26-Feb

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Harms, Gary and Audrey	10-Feb
Adelman, Crystal J. and Mark	26-Feb

**BYD SIGN UP-- BYD Group for February--Group 3, Darwin Wojahn**

**Please refer to the sign-up sheets outside the sanctuary. There are several open spots currently for Usher, Greeter, and Communion Set-up/Clean-up. Thank you!!!!**

**February Group--#3 Darwin Wojahn, Elder**

Berkner, Charles P. (Chuck)
Berkner, Corley M.
Berkner, Curtis (Curt)
Berkner, Diane R.
Berkner, Shelly M.
Bogenrief, Gail R.
Bogenrief, Steven J.
DiNatale, Karmen A.
Ehlebracht, Alyssa C.
Ehlebracht, Frieda
Ehlebracht, Jeffrey G. (Jeff)
Ehlebracht, Kimberly K.
Ehlebracht, Wayne A.
Graf, Caitlyn K.
Graf, Jackson P.
Heffron, JoEllen
Heffron, Robert H.
Ivers, Marie (Reenie)

Johnson, Michelle
Karges, Michelle
Kasuske, Joyce R.
Larson, Connie L.
Larson, Kevin G.
Mielitz, Barbara A. (Barb)
Monson, Carolyn M.
Monson, Harlan
Mueller, Gary
Mueller, LaVonne
Nies, Brenda E.
Nies, Karlie M.
Nies, Krista M.
Polkinghorne, Barb
Polkinghorne, Dick
Poppen, Richard P.
Reil, Ryker W.
Rudebusch, Courtnie M.

Rudebusch, David
Schell, Sandra K. (Sandy)
Schultz, Lyle
Schultz, Phyllis I.
Schwandt, Janice
Seehafer, Brady
Seehafer, Jimmie R.
Smith, Joan M.
Staehling, Christina L.
Staehling, Nicholas (Nick)
Underwood, Daniel W.
Underwood, Hailey R.
Underwood, Larry A.
Underwood, Ray Ann
Underwood, Steven M.
Underwood, Susan R.
Will, Ann H.
Wojahn, Darwin N.

## **2025 CHURCH OFFICERS**

President: Tyler Henderson  
Financial Secretary: Diann Dauwen  
Treasurer: Howard Mueller

Vice President: Dan Wagner  
Secretary: Melissa Mueller

## **2025 Board Members**

### Education Board

Kellie Christians  
Tammy Mielitz  
Sandy Schell

### Youth Board

Brandy Blauert  
Max Athey  
Cydney Hunt

### Endowment

Howard Mueller-ex facto  
Wayne Grabow  
Wayne Dragt  
Jackson Schwandt  
Pat Blauert

### Evangelism Board

Joyce Johnson  
Elizabeth Radil  
Regina Rethke  
Kristin Tostenson

### Elders

Dave Schamber  
Josh Radil  
John Weyh  
Darwin Wojahn  
Charles Schamber  
Dewey Athey

### Stewardship Board

Kim Kolb  
Geoff Street  
Adam Hunt  
Diann Dauwen---ex facto  
Howard Mueller—ex facto

### Trustees

Curt Berkner  
Dick Schwandt  
Cheryl Pauli

## **2025 LADIES OF EMANUEL OFFICERS**

President: Karin Mueller  
Secretary: Joyce Kasuske

Vice President: Linnea Schwandt  
Treasurer: Joyce Johnson

**Please contact Lisa Miller exclusively if you have suggestions for any of our documents (bulletins/newsletters/etc.). It is my job to ensure that things are edited and reviewed accurately. If I am not in the office, please leave a note or call me at 605-467-3209.**



# February 2025

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 5TH—NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES, 3/5/25-4/16/2025. It is Pastor's expectation that confirmation students attend Lent services!!**

									1 9:00 AM Men's Group Bible Study
2 9:00 AM—Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:30 AM SSI/Adult Bible Study	3	4 Winkel—Revillo	5 9:15AM Mercy Meals OGT 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 PM Bells 5:45 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 7:15 PM Book Study 8:00 PM AA	6 9:00 AM Mission Sewing 11:00 AM Communion at St Williams Nursing Home 1:00 PM Bible Study	7	8 8:30 Am Couples Retreat at The Abbey.			
<i>9 Scout Sunday</i> 9:00 AM—Service of the Word 10:30 AM SSI/ Adult Bible Study <b>CONVENTION DOOR OFFERING—LFS</b>	10	11 1:00 PM LOE 4:30 PM Board of ED 5:30 PM Youth Board 6:00 PM Evangelism 7:00 PM COUNCIL MTG 7:00 PM Stewardship 7:00 PM Trustee Mtg	12 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 PM Bells 5:45 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 7:15 PM Book Study 8:00 PM AA <i>Lori off</i>	13	14	15			
16 9:00 AM—Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:30 AM SSI/Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM Camp Minneboji ??? With Brandy District Convention Sioux Falls	17 District Convention Sioux Falls 7:00 PM Elders Meeting *** newsletter Deadline***	18 District Convention Sioux Falls	19 2:00 PM—No afternoon church 5:30 PM Bells 5:45 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 7:15 PM Book Study 8:00 PM AA	20 1:00 PM Bible Study	21 <i>Lisa off</i>	22			
23 9:00 AM—Service of the Word 10:30 AM SSI/ Adult Bible Study	24 <i>Pastor off</i>	25 <i>Pastor off</i>	26 <i>Pastor off</i> 2:00 PM—No afternoon church 5:30 PM Bells 5:45 PM No Confirmation 6:30 PM Choir 8:00 PM AA	27 <i>Pastor off</i>	28 <i>Pastor off</i>				