



February 2025 Newsletter

Another month closer to Spring!

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our annual meeting. It was a brutally cold day to expect people to be out. Continued thanks to everyone who helps make our church run smoothly. There are so many things that need to be done and everything little thing is important. Thank you to our past council members who have given their time. I know each of them will continue to be very involved in our church. Congratulations to the newly elected council members. I am very excited to begin working together to continually make our church community better.

At our Annual meeting, the congregation gave approval for the council to move forward with the flooring project in the church. This will include the flooring in kitchen, fellowship hall, bathrooms, hallway, and front entryway. This is very exciting but please beware that this will come with some mess and disorganization again. Items will need to get moved around temporarily. Hopefully we won't have as much dust this time! It has been so nice to have our church back to a comfortable place for a bit, but it will be even better when the rest of flooring is completed.

The congregation also voiced options for the placement of our pews within the sanctuary. We will be making some changes again soon to help us determine what our long term option will be.

Please continue to pray for all of those on our prayer list and let us know of any additions. Take time to do something special for someone else. We have so many people who are struggling or are missing someone special.

We will not be having a regular meeting in February. Our next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12th at 8pm. Please let us know of any questions or concerns that you may have. We are here to serve.

Peace and Blessings,

Sandi

sraderma@hotmail.com 701-269-0706

Is January too late for a Christmas gift?

A running joke in my family is that we are busier than we should be and, consequently, often late with everything. An I.O.U. under the Christmas tree is an annual occurrence for at least one member of the family. My mother's favorite joke about this was, "Well, even Jesus didn't get his Christmas gifts on Christmas." She was referring to the celebration of the Epiphany, when the wise men, or the magi, finally made it to the manger to honor the newborn King of kings, our Lord and Savior. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since we celebrate the Epiphany on January 6th, they were 12 days late.

Last year, a few days after the epiphany, I received a generous and wonderful gift. All of you pitched in and invited me to serve my internship with you. When I arrived, I was greeted with immense hospitality and a big welcome sign on the front of the church. I moved into the parsonage, which is literally more than ten times larger than the apartment I'd just left. Furniture, bedding, towels, the fridge, and larder were chock full of wonderful food; everything I could possibly need was there waiting for me. I am flabbergasted by your generosity.

Thank you for your willingness to help me finish my seminary requirements. My Candidacy Committee Approval interview takes place at the end of the month (so prayers are welcome.) This will mark the close of the formal portion of my education, and I know I still have a lot to learn, but I pray that my first call will extend some of the same grace you have shown me here.

Your hospitality and generosity have been far more than sharing things; I have been invited into your homes and into the community with open arms. I have been a grateful recipient of your generous ministry. Because that is what your grace, generosity, guidance, feedback, and, most of all, your patience are: a ministry. You have helped to shape what my future work as a pastor will look like. You have helped a California seminarian become a midwestern pastor-to-be. I will cherish the time I have spent with you in North Dakota.

Now, I don't want to say goodbye and not leave, but apparently, I have learned the "midwestern goodbye." So, although I will no longer be a seminary student after January, I will be continuing on here, serving the church in a similar role through February. I am not willing to say whether I am more hesitant to drive across North Dakota and over most of the mountain ranges on this continent in the coldest month of the year, again, or actually to say goodbye to all the nice folks here.

God's peace be with you,
Andrew Stephens

February Calendar of Events for our Church & Community

February 7th- Coffee with Kids at School 9am

February 16th- Farewell Service for Vicar Andrew with Potluck following worship

February 18th- home BB games at school 6pm, Soup and Chili cookoff at school

March 15th- CIA meeting at Emmanuel Lutheran

We want to continue to improve our monthly newsletter. Do you have something to add? Please let Haleigh know. Send her your information to her via email: haleighjlewis@gmail.com

Those in need of continued Prayer:

Ave Maria: Nedina Denning, Lavern Morlock

Gackle Care Center: Helen Elhard, Wilbert Denning, Wilbert Gutschmidt

Wishek Living Center: Violet Diede

New Salem: Karen Miller

Also in need of prayer: Dawn Veil-Stein, JD Dahl, Craig Koenig, John Henke, Haleigh Hermanson, Jim Lewis, Callan Dockter (grandson of Clydell & Mary Dockter), Family of Melvin Muller

February Worship Support

Ushers	Ardell & Barb Schmidt, Wayne & MaryAnn Widmer
Greeters	Ardell & Barb Schmidt
Altar Guild	Barb Schmidt & MaryAnn Widmer
Steward/Acolyte	Lisa Zenker

March Worship Support

Ushers	Patrick & Sandra Rivinius & Family
Greeters	Patrick & Sandra Rivinius & Family
Altar Guild	Sandra Rivinius
Steward/Acolyte	Denise Wittmier

WORSHIP SUPPORT LIST FOR 2025

As always the list will remain the same from year to year unless there's a request to change it. If you need a sub please refer to the list posted in the sacristy or contact stewards Lisa Zenker or Denise Wittmier.

Lisa- 701-368-9291 or lisamzenker@gmail.com

Denise- 701-269-1475 or denwitt@daktel.com

Visitations and Personal Communion

We are committed to looking into new options and the best ways to serve our congregation. Are you not able to make it to communion and wish to receive? We want you to know that we can serve you communion anytime. Would you like a personal visit? Let us know and we will schedule a time to get together. Know of anyone that hasn't been able to come to church that could use a visit? Let us know and we will give them a call and check in. We are still looking for people that would like to help with visits too. All you need is the ability to talk, we can help with the rest.

Offering Envelopes:

If anyone does not have or is in need of offering envelopes, please let Barb Schmidt know. She will get them to you!! Thanks.

New Members

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church and we haven't asked you yet, please let a pastoral leader know or any council member. We are looking to plan a new member Sunday in the near future.

Annual Reports

There area annual reports from 2024 available on the narthex table. Feel free to take a copy home!

Easter and Lent services:

Easter and Lent season services will be starting soon! We will have a simple soup and bread meal prior beginning at 6:30pm and Lent service will begin at 7pm.

Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 7pm
Soup and Lent, March 12th at 6:30pm
Soup and Lent, March 19th at 6:30pm
Soup and Lent, March 26th at 6:30pm
Soup and Lent, April 2nd at 6:30pm
Soup and Lent, April 9th at 6:30pm
Maunday Thursday, April 17th at 7pm
Good Friday, April 18th at 7pm
Easter service, April 20th at 10:30am

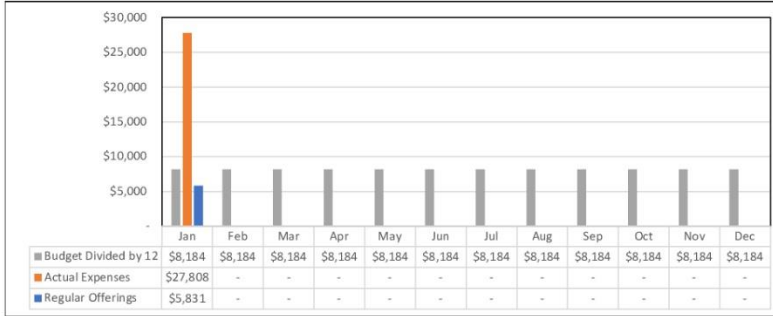
We may add a special Sunrise Service Easter morning. This will be determined sooner to the date and depending on weather.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Financial Report

As of 01/25/2025

2025 Year to Date

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Regular Offerings	\$5,831	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$5,831
Actual Expenses	\$27,808	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$27,808
Balance	(\$21,977)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(\$21,977)

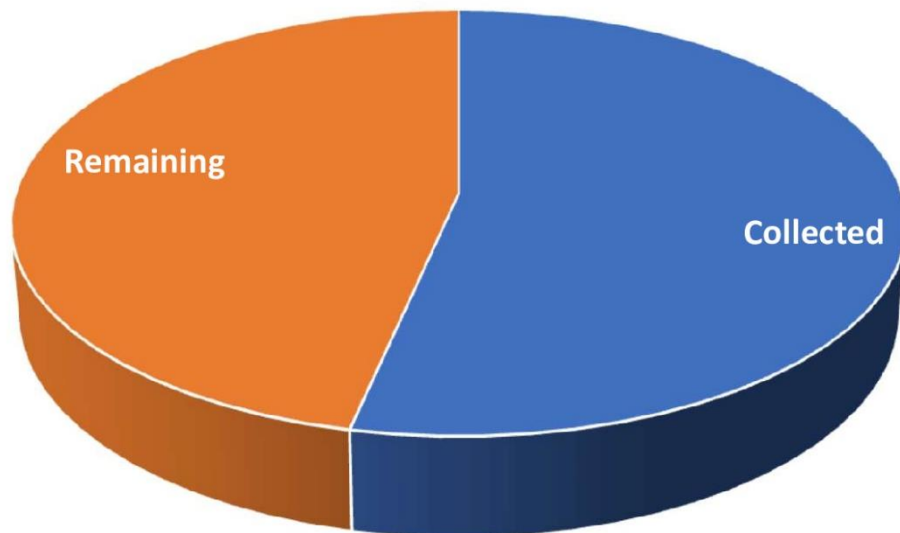


Year over Year



If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Marella Sebring.
 marellasebring@msn.com
 763-228-0599

Sanctuary Repair Funds



To better track additional contributions you would like to give for sanctuary repairs, please note their designation on your check or with a note.

We will not be sending special "Thank You" cards for your generosity in helping with these additional expenses, but please know that they are greatly appreciated.

Upon reconciliation for the monthly newsletter, I identified an error I made in the Annual Report. I double counted the Sanctuary Expenses. The corrected version is below:

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Marella Sebring, Treasurer**

2024 Annual Treasurer's Report

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 63,365.31
INCOME THIS YEAR	
Regular Offerings	\$ 140,808.67
Interest	\$ 864.63
Choir Fund	\$ -
Memorial Fund	\$ 4,815.00
Estate Fund	\$ 13,320.25
St. James Cemetery Fund	\$ 500.00
Mission Fest	\$ 2,877.00
Lenten Fund	\$ -
Organ Fund	\$ -
Other	\$ -
Sanctuary Repairs	\$ 39,190.69
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 202,376.24
TOTAL INCOME PLUS BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 265,741.55
EXPENSES	
Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 86,720.12
Unbudgeted Expenditures	\$ -
St. James Cemetery Fund Disbursements	\$ 600.00
Mission Fest Disbursements	\$ 3,463.50
Estate Fund Disbursements	\$ 8,300.00
Sanctuary Repairs Disbursements	\$ 55,264.51
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 154,348.13
DECEMBER 31, 2024 CHECKBOOK BALANCE**	\$ 111,393.42
CHECKING ACCOUNT SUMMARY	
General Fund	\$ 91,492.62
Memorial Fund	\$ 23,611.00
Estate Fund	\$ 4,034.55
St. James Cemetery Fund	\$ 2,499.70
Mission Fund	\$ -
Organ Fund	\$ 4,829.37
Other Fund **	\$ 1,000.00
Sanctuary Repairs	\$ (16,073.82)
FUND TOTALS	\$ 111,393.42
INVESTMENT SUMMARY	
Mission Investment--CD #4530	\$ 5,931.53
Mission Investment--CD #4634	\$ 3,077.12
Mission Investment--Estate #4648	\$ 3,359.10
Thriver	\$ 3,920.24
Schlenker--CD #493	\$ 25,000.00
Savings Account (Dwight Schmidt)	\$ 60,172.59
Organ Fund--CD #567	\$ 13,481.79
Dakota Heritage--CD #155	\$ 1,345.73
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$ 116,288.10
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	\$ 227,681.52

* Some disbursements will be in 2025 on Giving Hearts Day

** Central Valley Health District Grant

Memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for **Melvin Muller**

Owen and Marsha Ost
Ardell and Barb Schmidt

This is to show our appreciation and eliminate the
need for the church to send individual thank you
cards.

We apologize if anyone is inadvertently missed.

We are very excited about this possible opportunity for our youth. Please consider and you can contact Liezl or Susie with any questions and they will try to get the answers

Summer Youth Trip Opportunity

Are you interested in a summer youth trip? We are looking at partnering with Lutherock and/or Lutheridge Bible camps in the Carolinas to help with hurricane cleanup. This trip would be sometime in June or July 2025 for youth in grades 9-12th. We pick a week one choice and then a week two choice as we are not guaranteed to get our top choice. If you are at interested in this trip or want to know more, please contact Deacon Tara at deacontara@ndchristiansact.org or at 701-659-1226.



"Do your part, use the cart"

This is the slogan for our new clean up cart at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Sometimes we make messes and don't know where or what to use to clean it up. Shoes have some mud, kids left some crumbs, snow turned to a puddle, whatever it might be, we have made it easier for you to clean up. The tools and products you need are on the cart. It is currently located in the back of the sanctuary. Will post if relocated.

Christians in Action Ministry- Submitted by Pastor Kristi Weber

Christians in Action Ministry has been serving ELCA congregations in South Central North Dakota since September 2022. This model for rural ministry has continued to gain interest from congregations around the country.

On Tuesday, December 17 nearly 20 leaders from the eight congregations of Christians in Action Ministry gathered at Emmanuel Lutheran in Gackle to meet with representatives of the ELCA Churchwide offices and Eastern North Dakota Synod Staff to talk about our experiences and to share what we have learned during these years of intentionally working together.

Rev. Phil Hirsch serves as the Executive Director of Christian Community and Leadership at the ELCA. He was in our synod to learn and experience rural ministry and some of the creative work around new models for ministry. Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth of the Eastern North Dakota Synod and Deacon Erin Power (Director of Evangelical Mission for the Eastern North Dakota Synod) wanted him to hear of the challenges, realities, and the creative response to cultivate sustainable gospel witnesses in our area.

The robust conversation of the afternoon gave him much to consider as he interacts with Directors of Evangelical Mission in other synods throughout the church.

Congregation members from rural congregations talked about how our work together helps us feel like we are not alone in ministry. Members from Jamestown congregations talked about how our work together strengthens all our congregations. Christ the King in Ellendale appreciates the variety of voices they hear from different preachers each Sunday.

One goal our congregations set as Christians in Action Ministry in 2022 was to have a minister living in the parsonages in Kulm, Gackle, and Medina. Within 16 months, that goal was met and each of these communities has had a resident minister throughout 2024. The Bishop noted that many congregations along the I-29 corridor now have pastors who live in Fargo or Grand Forks and who commute to the more rural communities. The model of residential ministers is highly valued within Christians in Action Ministry.

Ministers spoke of the importance of Synod Authorized Ministers (SAM) and lay preachers and worship leaders as part of a healthy team approach to ministry. Colleagues are only a phone call or regularly scheduled Zoom meeting away.

Following lunch and conversation, the group shared time for worship together. Then Rev. Hirsch, Bishop Moon Leiseth, and Deacon Power drove to Cogswell to meet with leaders of the Wahpeton Conference who are being equipped for pastoral care, worship, preaching, and evangelism. This Wahpeton area cohort is made possible through a churchwide grant from the unit for Christian Community and Leadership of the ELCA funded through congregational mission support. In our own communities, the

internship for Vicar Andrew Stephens was supported in part by a \$15,000 grant from the Eastern North Dakota Synod Vital Leaders Endowment Fund.

Our afternoon together was a gift of relational support to one another. It shares a model to inspire the whole church.

Participants included:

Back row: Vicar Andrew Stephens, Rev. Linda Schauer, Boyce Kluting, LeAnn Fuchs, Bryan Behm, Rev. Erik Weber, Charlie Wells, Bob Toso

Middle row: Deacon Erin Power, SAM Mary Jo Kinzler, SAM Shar Gumke, Deacon Tara Longden, Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth, Rev. Susan Haukaas, Rev. Stephanie Gossett

Front row: Mary Craft, Kelly Krein, Joyce Spitzer, Rev. Kerry Boese, Dianne Billey, photo taken by Rev. Kristi Weber

Congregations participating in Christians in Action Ministry:

Board Member Officers

Atonement, Jamestown Mona Klose

Christ the King, Ellendale Dianne Billey Vice-Chair

Emmanuel, Gackle Joyce Spitzer

English, Medina Bryan Behm Secretary/Treasurer

Montpelier, Montpelier Abram Valenta Chair

St. John's, Jamestown Paulette J Ritter

Trinity, Jamestown Christopher Flann Takes Notes at Meetings

Zion, Kulm Lucinda Malm

Common website: NDChristiansAct.org

Sunday School Schedule 2024-2025

September 8	Rally Sunday
October 20	No Sunday School
November 10	No Sunday School
December 1	No Sunday School
December 15	Christmas Program
February 23	No Sunday School
February 23	No Sunday School
March 23	No Sunday School
April 20	No Sunday School
May 11	Last day of Sunday School

Church Records

We Need Everyone Please Fill Out!

It has been on our "To Do List" for quite some time to review our Church records and make updates and corrections. Bonnie has begun the process and needs our help. We specifically need all information updated from 2014 to present. Any Marriages, Births, Baptisms, Confirmations, and Deaths we need to know so that we can make sure that it has been properly documented. Any transfers into our church or out of our church would be helpful too. Please take a look at the following form, fill out, and return to Bonnie in person, her mailbox by office, or by emailing her at sports@daktel.com. We very much appreciate your help!

We are updating our Church records. Lots of information is missing.
Please fill out a sheet for each family member with the following information to assist with the records.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: Home _____ Cell: _____

Birth: _____

Date: _____ Where: _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Brothers: _____

Sisters: _____ Baptism: _____

Date: _____ Where: _____

Pastor: _____

Sponsors: _____

Confirmation: _____

Date: _____ Where: _____

Pastor: _____

Marriage: _____

Date: _____ Where: _____ To Whom: _____

_____ Pastor: _____

Children: _____

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Duties of the Ushers

(reviewed on 3/2022)

1. Arrive at church 30 minutes prior to service.
2. Turn Sanctuary lights on and off before and after service.
3. Raise and lower shades on windows before and after service.
4. Put up hymn numbers (numbers are in room to left of altar in cupboard).
5. Turn on the Cross at altar (switch is labeled in room to the right of altar).
6. Turn lamps on for the Lectern and Pulpit. Turn off after service.
7. Fill ceramic pitcher with water and place on baptismal font along with silver bowl that goes in the baptismal font (pitcher and bowl are located in room to the left of altar on the counter by sink).
8. Hand out bulletins, newsletters, etc.
9. Ring church bell at least 3 times just before beginning of the service.
10. Count the number of people attending the service (easily done from the balcony sometime after service has begun) (number in attendance is to be written in the book which is in the fellowship hall).
11. Receive offering plates, gathering offering, and bring offering forward when pastor signals.
12. Usher people forward for Holy Communion (one usher stands towards the front to allow worshipers to advance to front).
13. Usher people out when church service has concluded.

2025
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Council Members

President:	Sandra Rivinius	2nd term/1 st year 2-year term ~ Jan 2025– Jan 2027
Secretary:	Tina Nitschke	1 st term/2 nd year 2-year term ~ Jan 2024 – Jan 2026
Treasurer:	Marella Sebring	2nd term/2 nd year 2 ^{-year} term ~ Jan 2024 – Jan 2026
Financial Secretary:	Bonnie Denning	1 st term/1 st year 2-year term ~ Jan 2025 – Jan 2027
*Steward:	Lisa Zenker	2 nd term/2 nd year 2-year term ~ Jan 2024 – Jan 2026
Steward:	Denise Wittmier	1 st term/1 st year 2-year term ~ Jan 2025 – Jan 2027
*Trustee	Steve Moos	1 st term/1 st year 2-year term ~ Jan 2025 – Jan 2027
*Trustee	Taylor Lund	2 nd term/1 st year 2-year term ~ Jan 2024 – Jan 2026

*Indicates Head Steward/ Head Trustee
(member closest to finishing current term)

2025 EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office 701-485-3368
SAM- Joel Zenker 701-997-9047
SAM-Shar Gumke 701-320-1920
Vicar Andrew Stephens 701-578-2449

Council Members:

Sandra Rivinius, President <i>sraderma@hotmail.com</i>	701-269-0706 (cell)
Marella Sebring, Council Treasurer <i>marellasebring@msn.com</i>	701-485-3543 (home) 763-228-0599 (cell)
Tina Nitschke, Council Secretary	701- 830-1957 (cell)
Bonnie Denning, Financial Secretary sports@daktel.com	701-485-3798 (home) 701-320-5864 (cell)
Lisa Zenker, Steward <i>lisamzenker@gmail.com</i>	701-368-9291 (cell)
Denise Wittmier, Steward <i>denwitt@daktel.com</i>	701-269-1485 (cell)
Steve Moos, Trustee Smoos59@msn.com	701-320-3597 (cell)
Taylor Lund, Trustee <i>bubbalund@gmail.com</i>	701-307-0056 (cell)

Other Contacts:

Haleigh Zenker, Church Office Secretary <i>haleighjlewis@gmail.com</i>	952-270-1747 (cell)
Carol Muller, ELCA President <i>cmllr@daktel.com</i>	701-485-3279 (home) 701-320-6162 (cell)
Bonnie Denning, Organist <i>sports@daktel.com</i>	701-485-3798 (home) 701-320-5864 (cell)
Izabel Rivinius, Custodian	