



March 2026 Newsletter

It feels like I just finished putting something together for last month's newsletter and here I am again. Will March come in like a Lion?

We are at the beginning of the Season of Lent. A full schedule of Lent Services and Holy Week is included in this newsletter. Please remember to come early and enjoy a simple meal each Wednesday. I sincerely hope that you can come and join us during this special time. I am so sorry that we had to cancel the Ash Wednesday service. It is never easy to make these decisions. Everyone's safety is most important. We are tough but we need to be smart too.

In a recent sermon given by Shar, she talked about how during the season of Lent, many give up something, and maybe instead of giving up something, we should add something good. Well, maybe that isn't the best interpretation of what she said but it's what I took away that day. What can I do to better myself during this time. So when I seen a posting about interest in a Bible study, I didn't hesitate to sign myself up! Along with attending Lent services, it will be a busy time. What are you doing for yourself or someone else?

Thank you again for the ones who get things done behind the scenes. Whatever it is, it makes Emmanuel so much more special. Please let myself or any council member know of things that need to get done or ideas you have for events that can be held at our church. Also, if you know of someone that could use a visit or could be added to our prayer list, reach out to us. Please help yourself to a Thrivent t-shirt. We have some available in the front entry and on a table in fellowship hall. I won't be surprised if new ones will be added soon. Have a great month everyone!

Peace and Blessings,

Sandi

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Lent Ponderings

We are in the Season of Lent, a time of deep self-reflection and introspection, where we recognize the frailty of our human existence, the reality of our sinful nature, and our deep need for God's saving grace. Lent reminds us that it is God who saves. As we open our hearts and minds and meditate on all Jesus has done for us, it deepens our relationship with God who has created us, Christ who has redeemed us, and leaves us to follow the Holy Spirit's calling us to love and serve the neighbor.

Lent is an invitation from God that calls for our response. We don't earn salvation; we know that Christ has done the work for us already when he died on the cross and rose again. Our response is simply one of gratitude as our hearts are overflowing with love as we know and experience the grace that has been so freely given to us.

This Lent we will hear stories of four individuals who have encounters with Jesus. Each of these stories are different but help us understand that in Jesus we are reborn and that God loves each of us unconditionally. We will hear how God walks with each of us through all aspects of our lives and how we can walk along side others who might be experiencing difficulties in their own lives. Along with that we will hear the invitation to share this good news with those around us.

Learning how to share God's story is a part of discipleship which is the focus of this year's Lenten series. We will be using several parables which are not as familiar as those of the Good Samaritan or the Lost Sheep, but parables recorded in the book of Matthew that Jesus used to teach his own disciples. Discipleship is about being open to the call, being prepared to follow, having a firm foundation of faith, serving others, and experiencing forgiveness. We will start each Lenten service with a Soup and Bread meal in the fellowship hall at 6:15 pm with the actual service beginning at 7pm. Please join us as together we walk through these parables to deepen our own journey of faith.

Our Holy Week celebrations begin with our Palm Sunday worship service on March 29th at 10:30 am. I'm hoping we have many who will join in the parade of palm branches. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion will be on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm and Good Friday services will be on Friday, April 3rd at 7pm. These services, as well as our Easter Service on April 5th, are open to anyone. As I was reviewing some old bulletins, I noticed some of the Holy Week services were ecumenical. Although we have not had a focus on joint services in the past few year, please invite others to join us as we celebrate all that God has done and continues to do for us.

Your sister in Christ,
Shar Gumke,
Synod Authorized Minister



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March/April Calendar of Events for our Church & Community

- March 1st- Worship service with Communion 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am
- March 4th - Simple Supper 6:15pm, Lent service 7pm
- March 6th- Coffee with Kids 9am at the school
- March 8th- Worship service with Noisy Offering at 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am
- March 11th - Simple Supper 6:15pm, Lent service 7pm, Church Council meeting following lent Service at approximately 8pm
- March 14th- Gackle Fire Department Supper
- March 15th- Worship service with Communion at 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am
- March 18th – Gathered By Grace Community Meal 5-7pm, Lent service 7pm
- March 22nd- Worship service 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am, Youth Bowling in Jamestown
- March 25th - Simple Supper 6:15pm, Lent service 7pm
- March 28th- Jamestown Conference Gathering- 10:00am and CIA Retreat 11:30am – 3:00pm both events at Atonement Lutheran Church in Jamestown
Prom at Gackle/Streeter School 8pm Grand March begins
- March 29th - Palm Sunday worship service at 10:30am with Waving of the Palms, Sunday School 9:45am
- April 2nd - Maundy Thursday service with Communion at 7pm
- April 3rd - Good Friday service at 7pm
- April 5th - Easter Sunday Service with Communion at 10:30am
- April 12th- Youth Painting event in Gackle
- May 9th- Mother's Day Tea Gackle Care Center Fundraiser

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:

Gackle Care Center: Helen Elhard, Wilbert Denning, Arlyss Mertz

Edgewood: Quentin Mertz

Wishek Living Center: Violet Diede

New Salem: Karen Miller

Also in need of prayer: Dawn Veil-Stein, Nicole Olson, JD Dahl, Kenny Gumke, Duane Suko, Haleigh Hermanson, Perry Mertz, Ruth Staber, Carol Erbele, and Donna Freestone (Cousin of Ardell Schmidt and MaryAnn Widmer), Jim Lewis (father of Haleigh Zenker), Perry Mertz, Mark Wegner, family of Delmer Sukut, and family of Marge Tarno

March Worship Support

Ushers	Pat & Sandi Rivinius
Greeters	Pat & Sandi Rivinius
Altar Guild	Sandri Rivinius
Steward/Acolyte	Denise Wittmier

April Worship Support

Ushers	Bill, Stacy & Family
Greeters	Wayne & MaryAnn Widmer
Altar Guild	Nichole Seigman
Steward/Acolyte	Liezl Ferreira

Synod Assembly- June 5, 6, & 7, 2026

We are looking for delegates to attend this year's synod assembly. Please contact any council member if interested.

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 Bonnie Denning know. She will get them to you!! Thanks.



Our synod website has so much information to share with us about events happening in our area, training courses that we can attend or participate over Zoom, and so many more resources. They also have a newsletter that you can subscribe to through email. Please take a look!

www.eandsynod.org



Online Donations

Forget to bring your offering to church, haven't made it in for a while, or just want an easier way to donate to our church? You are able to donate online. Just a few clicks and you can share funds with us. Go to the address listed below, click on the donate button on the top. Select contribute under select support a specific congregation, click on another partner congregation, and then you can select Emmanuel Lutheran from the listed congregations.

www.ndchristiansact.org

Those members who bank at Dakota Heritage can also donate easily by setting up regular transfers between accounts. Contact the bank directly and see how they can help set this up for you.

CIA Update

Lent is here, a time that we reflect on our lives of faith. Some of you may give something up for Lent. Some of you may add a spiritual practice like a devotion or a guided prayer and many of us add Wednesday evening worship, sometimes the gathered community meet for a meal before worship. It is a holy time and gives us great opportunities in our lives of faith.

As members of CIA congregations, we have another opportunity for reflection on the ministry we have shared and the future ministry we share together.

Coming up on March 28 are two opportunities for engaging in the synodical church and then the ministry of CIA. On Saturday March 28 at 10:00 a.m. is Jamestown Conference gathering and is part of the Bishop Election process.

Following the Conference Gathering at 11:30a.m.-3:00 p.m. is the annual Christians In Action retreat. And anyone who is interested is encouraged to attend, you don't have to be on the board or only a part of your church's council. This is an opportunity for anyone to be involved as we do ministry not only as individual congregations, but as Christians in ministry together.

Think about what this retreat has created! CIA started as a dream at one of these retreats. Before we had a name we had congregations coming together to figure out how we could do ministry together and how congregations that do not have pastoral leadership also had pastoral care in the midst of not having clergy.

Last year at this retreat, the dream of an online faith community came out of discussion. Development of an online faith community that would share the gospel with those who may not enter into our congregational doors was discussed. Now, 281 Bold is a reality and it was launched in January. This retreat was where that idea was born, how exciting!

Maybe you have ideas you want to share. Maybe you just want to know more about CIA. Maybe you are just curious. Any of these reasons are great, so we hope you think about coming.

In addition to the upcoming retreat. We want to welcome two new board members. Bonnie Hoffman comes from English in Medina and Carol Berntson comes from Zion, Kulm. We are excited that they are taking on this responsibility and look forward to hearing more from them as the year continues.

So, everyone. Put on your calendar. March 28, 2026. 11:30 a.m. for the CIA retreat. Ask a member of the board of one of the pastors if you have any questions.

Gathered by Grace



Free Community Meals

NOTICE:
Extended
hours this
month!



**March 18th
from 5-7pm**

**Join us for a meal & activity
before the Lent service!**

**We will be assembling
Birthday Boxes for those in
need.**



Now offering delivery and take-out meals!

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
Gackle**

Everyone is welcome!

March

“March is the month of whisperings
Of what has been and what's to come
When winter's snow may dust the earth
But blink and find it gone
And in its place, a subtle change
That speaks of warmth and waking blooms
Of sun-drenched fields and daffodils
For spring will be here soon.”

Laura Jaworski

March Member Life Events			
Day	Birthday	Baptism	Marriage
1	Steyn DuPreez		
2			
3	Patty Moos		
4		Wanita Titus, Dan Suko	
5		Jacob Nitschke	
6	Tom Remboldt, Tim Remboldt	Janelle Schmidt	
7			Mike & Lisa Zenker - 2015
8		Deb Gienger	
9			
10			
11	Robin Iszler, Shar Gumke Scott Remmich		
12			
13	Norman Zillmer, Orin Zillmer	Carol Henke	
14	Madelyn Burkle, Luke Nitschke		
15			
16	Brent Koenig		
17			
18	Rochelle Hummel		
19	Quentin Mertz		
20	Deb Holmstrom	Myron Zenker	
21	Dale Elhard		
22		Taylor Lund	
23			
24	Elora Burkle		
25			
26			Troy & Deb Zillmer - 1982
27	Helen Elhard	Emery Schmidt	
28			
29		Danny Denning, Brenden Zenker	
30			
31			

Church Records

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

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SAM-Shar Gumke 701-320-1920
SAM- Joel Zenker 701-997-9047

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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)
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Other Contacts:

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