



# December 2025

## Newsletter

I am a little slow getting my newsletter information together for the final month of the year. The final month of the year! Wow, how did that happen! We just finished celebrating Thanksgiving and now Christmas music is playing today. I have begun the grueling process of wrapping gifts. I am not going to lie, a few of the larger items are going into fancy garbage bags. I mean, dual purpose, you need the bags to clean up all the mess from unwrapping too!

One thing that I am doing differently this year is not mailing out Christmas cards. I have sent a card out every year for over 20 years with a letter of some sort updating about our family. This is a huge change for me! Instead of sending cards to my family and friends, I am going to put into practice something I include in my letter each month and take the time to send a card to someone else. I am not sure where I am going to generate this list from yet. I may have to find a phone book and randomly pick some names. I am still thinking a picture collage and message on social media might be necessary to let people know we are still doing great! We are happy and healthy and not to worry!

The holiday season can bring great joy and also great sorrow for some. We all have lost loved ones, and we tend to miss them even more around this time of year. Please take a moment to think of someone who could use an extra hug, or prayer. Send a random Merry Christmas card or Happy New Years greeting to someone not on your list. These little gestures can mean so much to someone. Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list and in nursing homes and especially to those who have lost a loved one recently.

Council will be meeting this month and going through budget planning and wrapping up another great year. Our congregation has done such great things this past year and we hope to showcase that a little bit differently in our annual report.

Peace and Blessings,

Sandi

[sraderma@hotmail.com](mailto:sraderma@hotmail.com)

701-269-0706

# The Season of Advent

The season of Advent is a significant period in the church year, characterized by a spirit of anticipation and preparation. During this time, we turn our attention to the themes of expectation and reflection, considering the meaning and importance of Advent in our faith journey.

Advent traditionally encompasses the four weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a season of looking forward, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. This period encourages us to focus on the promise and hope that accompany the arrival of Jesus, cultivating a sense of eager anticipation within the Christian community.

While Advent is commonly associated with the anticipation of Christ's birth, its significance reaches beyond this event. It is also a time for believers to prepare for the second coming of Christ. The season invites us to wait in hope for Jesus's glorious return, when his eternal kingdom will be accomplished. In this dual aspect, Advent embodies both remembrance of Christ's first coming and hope for the future, urging us to remain vigilant and spiritually ready for his return in glory.

Throughout the four weeks of Advent, we mark our journey by lighting candles on the Advent wreath. Each candle represents one of the gifts we receive in Christ Jesus: hope, peace, joy, and love. This tradition serves as a visual and spiritual reminder of the blessings we celebrate during Advent.

Additionally, I encourage everyone to read the short Advent devotions prepared by members across Christians in Action. These devotions are available on the Christians in Action website [CHRISTIANS IN ACTION - Home](#), and hardcopies can be made available if needed. These readings offer meaningful reflections to guide us throughout this special season.

Prayer is a beautiful way to prepare our hearts and minds during Advent. The following prayer, written by Renee Swope, offers a heartfelt expression for this season:

*This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.*

*Fill me with Your presence from the very start.*

*As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,*

*Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.*

*The first Christmas gift was the greatest gift ever.*

Merry Christmas,

Shar Gumke, Synod Authorized Minister



### December/January Calendar of Events for our Church & Community

December 4<sup>th</sup>- High school Christmas Concert 7pm

December 6<sup>th</sup>- Gackle Care Center Bake Sale and Silent Auction 10-1pm Senior Center, Youth group outing to Heavens Helpers Bismarck

December 7<sup>th</sup>- Fill my Cup 10am, Worship service with communion 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

December 8<sup>th</sup>- Yoga at the school 7pm, use east doors

December 9<sup>th</sup>- Elementary Christmas Concert- School 6:30pm

December 10<sup>th</sup>- Church Council (Estate planning, Budget, regular meeting) 6:30pm

December 14<sup>th</sup>- Noisy offering, Worship service at 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

December 17<sup>th</sup>- Gathered By Grace free meal 5-6pm

December 20<sup>th</sup>- Streeter Santa Day- Legion Hall Streeter 2:30pm

December 21<sup>st</sup>- Christmas Program during worship service 10:30am with meal to follow

December 24<sup>th</sup>- Christmas Eve Service- 4pm

December 28<sup>th</sup>- Worship Service 10:30am, No Sunday School

January 4<sup>th</sup>- Fill My Cup 10:00am, Worship service with communion 10:30am, No Sunday School

January 9<sup>th</sup>- All Annual meeting reports due to Haleigh

January 11<sup>th</sup>- Noisy offering, Worship service 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am- New Member Sunday

January 14<sup>th</sup>- Church Council meeting

January 18<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service with communion, Annual meeting, and Potluck following the meeting

January 21<sup>st</sup>- Gathered by Grace community meal 5-6pm

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](mailto: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, JD Dahl, Haleigh Hermanson, Ruth Staber, The family of Tommy Wegner, The family of Harry Ruff

### December Worship Support

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Ushers          | Nichole Seigman Family |
| Greeters        | Debbie Zillmer         |
| Altar Guild     | Corne & Liezl Ferreira |
| Steward/Acolyte | Lisa Zenker            |

### January Worship Support

|                 |                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Ushers          | Mike & Chris Zenker, Taylor Lund, Derek Hust |
| Greeters        | Chris & Christina Zenker Family              |
| Altar Guild     | Christine Zenker                             |
| Steward/Acolyte | Denise Wittmier                              |

## WORSHIP SUPPORT LIST FOR 2025

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](mailto:lisamzenker@gmail.com)

Denise- 701-269-1475 or [denwitt@daktel.com](mailto:denwitt@daktel.com)

### Fill My Cup

Have you had a chance to try our new beverage station? The first Sunday of each month, we invite you to come in a little early (or stay a little late) and enjoy some fellowship with others and a treat. We are looking for others who would be willing to donate, bake, purchase, etc. - treats for these times or provide assistance/clean up if needed on these days. Let Denise Wittmier know what you are willing to do. Upcoming dates January 4<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>....

### 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.

### 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.



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](http://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](http://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.



Memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
For Nedina Denning & George Koenig

Alan & Julie Meyer  
Clifford & Delores Klundt  
Mary Konrad  
Oneil & Peggy Kauk  
Pat & Sandi Rivinius

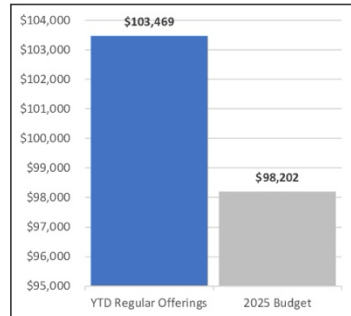
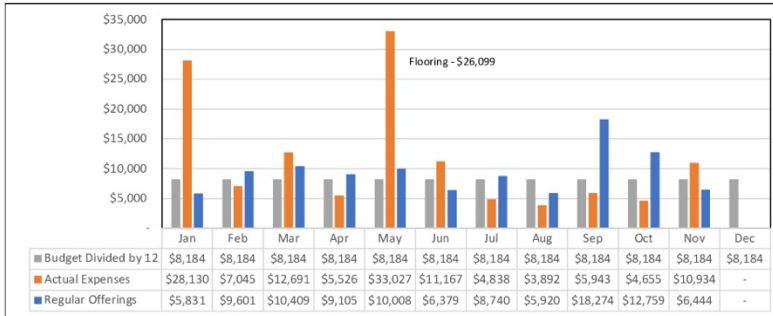
This is to show our appreciation and eliminate the need for the church to send individual thank you cards. We apologize if anyone is inadvertently missed.

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Financial Report

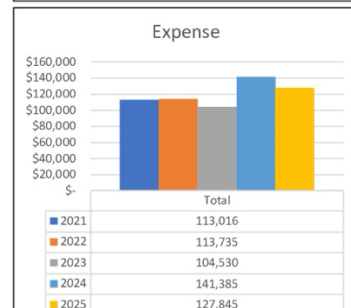
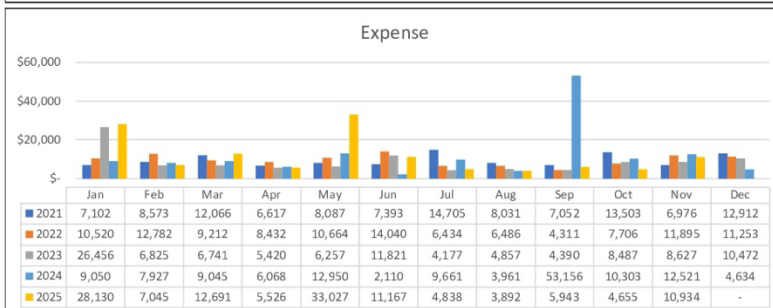
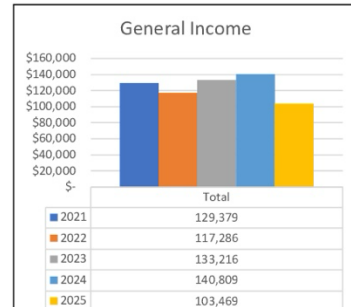
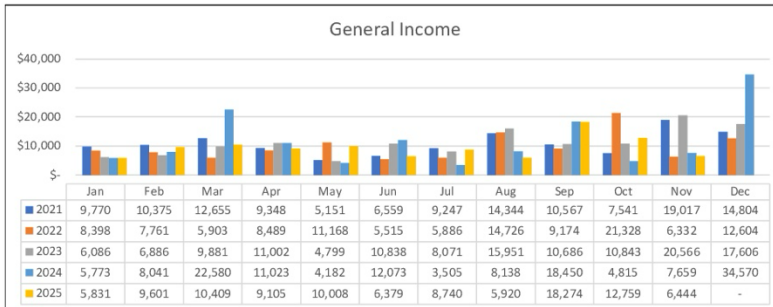
As of 11/24/2025

### 2025 Year to Date

| Item              | Jan        | Feb     | Mar       | Apr     | May        | Jun       | Jul     | Aug     | Sep      | Oct      | Nov       | Dec | Total      |
|-------------------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----|------------|
| Regular Offerings | \$5,831    | \$9,601 | \$10,409  | \$9,105 | \$10,008   | \$6,379   | \$8,740 | \$5,920 | \$18,274 | \$12,759 | \$6,444   | -   | \$103,469  |
| Actual Expenses   | \$28,130   | \$7,045 | \$12,691  | \$5,526 | \$33,027   | \$11,167  | \$4,838 | \$3,892 | \$5,943  | \$4,655  | \$10,934  | -   | \$127,845  |
| Balance           | (\$22,299) | \$2,556 | (\$2,282) | \$3,579 | (\$23,018) | (\$4,789) | \$3,902 | \$2,028 | \$12,331 | \$8,105  | (\$4,489) | -   | (\$24,376) |



### Year over Year



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



## Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, January 4th  
starting at 10am

It's coffee  
& treat  
time

## Time

Relax with your  
cup of coffee



# Gathered by Grace



Free Community Meals

**December 17th  
from 5-6pm**

**Enjoy the meal and pick  
up your Angel Tree gifts!**

Must be registered with Angel Tree to pick up  
gifts. Contact Lisa Zenker for more information.

**Now offering delivery and take-out meals!**

**Emmanuel Lutheran  
Church, Gackle**

***Everyone is welcome!***

# Join us in making a difference!



Youth, please join us in this volunteer opportunity to further their Ministry serving others and spreading God's love!



At Heaven's Helpers  
Closet in Bismarck



**Dec 6th @9:30 am**

## Church Records

### We Need Everyone Please Fill Out!

Have you filled out and submitted your information yet?  
Bonnie has been working very hard to collect information.  
She still has some more work to do.

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](mailto: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

Church Office 701-485-3368  
SAM-Shar Gumke 701-320-1920  
SAM- Joel Zenker 701-997-9047

## **Council Members:**

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

## **Other Contacts:**

|                                                                            |                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Haleigh Zenker, Church Office Secretary<br><i>haleighjlewis@gmail.com</i>  | 952-270-1747 (cell)                        |
| Bonnie Denning, Organist<br>Church Work Groups<br><i>sports@daktel.com</i> | 701-485-3798 (home)<br>701-320-5864 (cell) |
| Julia Friez, Custodian                                                     | 435-256-5631 (cell)                        |

