



August 2025 Newsletter

The Joy of Discipleship

Over the past month, our gospel texts from Luke take us on a journey with Jesus; a journey where Jesus teaches the disciples and others what it means to follow Jesus. It's not always easy to follow and we make many mistakes along the way, but thanks be to God, we belong to a God who loves us, forgives us, and lets us start over again.

Michael Foss in his book, The Disciple's Joy, talks about six practices for spiritual growth. As I read this book, I wondered if this pastor was writing from the gospel of Luke for there were many similarities. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, what it means to serve our neighbor, and that remembering to love God and one another needs to be central in our faith journey. Our relationship with God should be a priority in our lives for God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and always present as we live day by day. We can come to God with anything, at any time, and anywhere. A relationship, however, is not just one-sided. Are we willing to let God lead our lives in that same way...with anything, at anytime and anywhere?

Foss, in his book, states we simply cannot grow in our relationship with God if we do not tend to that relationship and if we do not allow God to send us out into the world. This inward-outward movement of faith continues throughout our lives. When Foss talks about inward movement, his focus is on three personal disciplines that help us grow deeper in faith: daily prayer, weekly worship, and daily bible readings. "Daily prayer creates within us the vision to see God at work within our world as well as the ability to trust that God is at work when we cannot see it clearly." (p.63-64). Prayer gives us a new perspective on the ordinary realities of life.

Worship, our second discipline, is that sacred moment when each person gathered meets the Risen Savior. As we sing and pray and say our liturgies together, we are often transformed about our understanding of who God is. In worship, we place ourselves in the presence of a God who calls us to follow Jesus in ways that are pleasing to God. "The person who says that they love God and yet does not regularly participate in corporate worship is like the man who says he loves his wife but never spends any real time getting to know her, letting her get to know him. Love is just an abstract idea with no power to touch the life of the other or sustain the relationship when temptations come or life gets hard." (p. 72).

The third inward movement is daily Bible readings. The benefits of daily reading in God's word include the courage to stand up for what ultimately matters. We live in a time when inner strength and courage are vital. We face many temptations in today's world and the grounding of the Bible provides a place to stand when struggles of complex issues arise. However, the crisis of Biblical illiteracy is of real concern. If we don't spend time in God's Word, how can we know the Christ-like stand to take? This Biblical illiteracy will only end when Christians begin to read the Bible in light of the questions that trouble and challenge us as we live and work in our complex world.

Well, I'm out of space for this month. I'll continue with the other three outward movements and disciplines next time. Until then, I hope you will consider how these three disciplines apply to you.

Shar Gumke, Synod Authorized Minister

Ok, ok, I had a few too many ideas last month and not enough time to actually work on any of them. The month of July just flew by for me. Harvest season is getting close to a starting, fall practices have already started for some sports and school is right around the corner! Enjoy these last few days of summer break! Keeping it short this month. Thank you to everyone who keeps things going.

Please remember those that could use a visit, a card, or a phone call. Take some time to brighten their day. We have many names on our prayer list and in our local nursing homes. Please share a moment with them. If you have any additions to our prayer list, let any council member know. Our next council meeting will be August 13th at 8pm.

Peace and Blessings,

Sandi sraderma@hotmail.com 701-269-0706

August Calendar of Events for our Church & Community

August 1st- Sebring/Koenig wedding- use of church

August 2nd- Gackle Ambulance Kickball Tournament

August 3rd- Worship service with communion 10:30am

August 10th- Noisy offering, Worship service 10:30am

August 11th- Gackle Market, AF Lehr Park 5-7pm

August 13th- Church Council meeting 8:00pm

August 14th- First day of school!

August 17th- Worship service with communion 10:30am

August 24th- Worship service 10:30am

August 25th- Gackle Market, AF Lehr Park 5-7pm

August 31st- Worship service 10:30am

September 7th- Rally Sunday! More information to come

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:

Ava Maria: Duane Suko

Gackle Care Center: Helen Elhard, Wilbert Denning

Wishek Living Center: Violet Diede

New Salem: Karen Miller

Also in need of prayer: Dawn Veil-Stein, JD Dahl, Haleigh Hermanson, Jacob, Ken, Jessica, Carol
Family of Wilbert Gutschmidt and Richard Krutsinger (father of Linda Gutschmidt)

August Worship Support

Ushers	Jane Schoonover & Marella Sebring
Greeters	Judy Schultz
Altar Guild	Jane Schoonover
Steward/Acolyte	Lisa Zenker

September Worship Support

Ushers	Warren Zenker Family
Greeters	Katy Ruff
Altar Guild	Linda Zenker
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 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

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

Memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for Nedina Denning & George Koenig

Danny and Bonnie Denning

Herbert Meyer

Marella Sebring

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

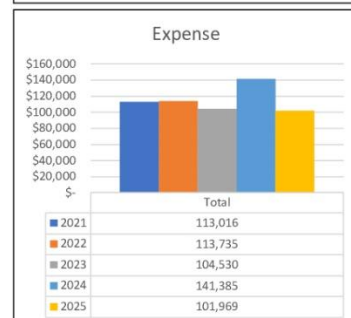
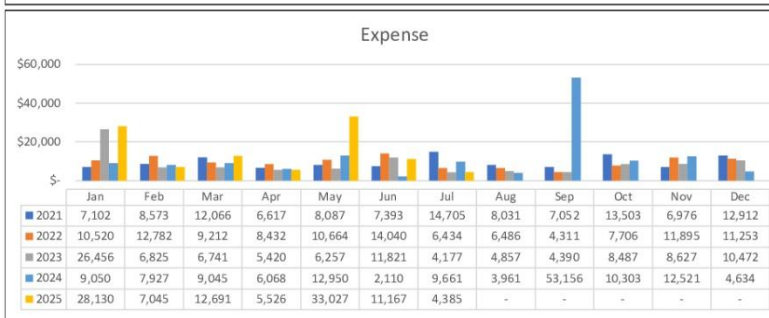
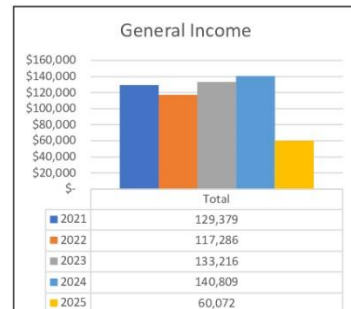
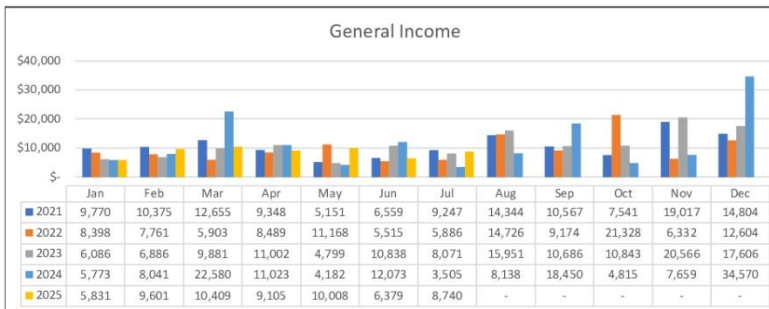
As of 07/28/2025

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	-	-	-	-	-	\$60,072
Actual Expenses	\$28,130	\$7,045	\$12,691	\$5,526	\$33,027	\$11,167	\$4,385	-	-	-	-	-	\$101,969
Balance	(\$22,299)	\$2,556	(\$2,282)	\$3,579	(\$23,018)	(\$4,789)	\$4,355	-	-	-	-	-	(\$41,897)



Year over Year



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

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. 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 <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)
Bonnie Denning, Organist Church Work Groups <i>sports@daktel.com</i>	701-485-3798 (home) 701-320-5864 (cell)
Izabel Rivinius, Custodian	