

April 2026 Newsletter

Spring is what comes to my mind when I think of April. The new life that comes after a long winter. The first rain that comes after the snow melts and cleans everything off. That warm rain also awakens the growth of green grass, trees, and flowers. So many things come back to life. In the first few days of April, we will journey with Jesus as he has his final moments on earth and gave the ultimate sacrifice of himself to save us. This journey also gives the hope found in his resurrection. Let this spring be a time of drawing closer to God, trusting his promises, and sharing his love with those around you. He is Risen!

We welcome your ideas, questions, and feedback about our Church. Please spend a moment and share any ideas for events or issues with any council member. We are here to serve. The power of prayer is also very important to us. If you know of someone that could use a visit or could be added to our prayer list, reach out to us. We want to lift them up. Lastly, a number of Thrivent shirts are available. New and old! We have some available in the front entry and on a table in fellowship hall. Have a great month everyone!

Peace and Blessings,

Sandi

sraderma@hotmail.com

701-269-0706

I love flowers of all kinds! All the colors and smells. Tulips, Crocuses, Lilacs...



Easter Joy

We are 'Easter' people! Every week we get to celebrate the event of a lifetime, when Jesus rose from the grave that first Easter morning. May we never forget God's power to bring the dead back to life. Although it defies human nature, it's true! After three days in the tomb, Jesus took a breath and then another, and forevermore. Christ is Risen! Hallelujah. Death has been defeated and the good news of great joy which the angels sang about at the time of Jesus' birth is now complete: Christ was born out of God's great love for us. Christ sacrificed his life and died on the cross for our sins. Christ rose again so that we might rise again on the last day. What joy this should bring to our hearts! And not just on Easter Sunday but on every day of our lives.

The church calendar extends the season of Easter from Easter Sunday through Pentecost; a period of 50 days. The emotional heartbeat of this season should be one of joy—death-defying joy. That doesn't mean that difficult times will not arise during this period. Hardships, grief, and loss come and go throughout our lifetimes...perhaps you are experiencing one or more of those difficulties even now. But what might happen if we took time each day to embrace the joy of Easter...to pray for joy to sneak up on us, to surprise us, and to reveal to us the goodness and beauty of God's creation? What if we lived as people filled with the promise of joy and looked for joy every day...the joy completed by Christ's very own joy dwelling in us? Jesus told his disciples of this joy in the Upper Room on the night of the Last Supper as he describes the relationship Christ has with the Father and wants to have with us. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:9-11) We have the joy of Christ living in us! When we are one with Christ, our joy is complete. Christ was God's gift of love for us and his resurrection gives us a joy that no one can take away. And that, dear friends, is a joy we can share with others...so they too might experience the love that only God can give...a love filled with Easter joy! May the joy of Christ's resurrection be with you now and forever.

Your sister in Christ,
Shar Gumke
Synod Authorized Minister



April/May Calendar of Events for our Church & Community

April 2nd - Maundy Thursday service with Communion at 7pm

April 3rd - Good Friday service at 7pm

Coffee with kids at school 9am

April 5th - Easter Sunday Service with Communion at 10:30am

No Sunday School classes

April 12th- Worship service 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

Noisy Offering

Youth Painting event in Gackle

Streeter Pancake feed 9:30-1pm

April 17th- Blood drive at the church

April 19th- Worship service with Communion 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

April 25th- Legion Auxiliary Bingo

April 26th- Worship Service 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

April 30th- High School Spring Concert 7pm

May 1st- Final Coffee with kids at the school

May 3rd- Worship service with Communion 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

May 7th-9th- Jane use of kitchen and Fellowship Hall

May 7th- Elementary Spring Concert 6:30pm

May 9th- Mother's Day Tea Gackle Care Center Fundraiser

May 10th- Worship service 10:30am, Sunday School 9:45am

May 17th- Worship service 10:30am, Final day of Sunday School! 9:45am

GS High School Graduation Ceremony 2pm

May 26-29th- VBS- half days, program on 29th

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, Savannah Dockter, Kenny Gumke, Duane Suko, Haleigh Hermanson, Jeff Malm, Perry Mertz, baby Emmet, Ruth Staber, Donna Freestone (Cousin of Ardell Schmidt and MaryAnn Widmer), Jim Lewis (father of Haleigh Zenker), Perry Mertz

April Worship Support

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

May Worship Support

Ushers	Al & Peg Kleingartner, Danny & Nathan Denning
Greeters	Al & Peg Kleingartner
Altar Guild	Peg Kleingartner
Steward/Acolyte	Denise Wittmier

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.



Gathered by Grace

Free Community Meals



**April 15th
from 5-6pm**

**Join us for a meal & yard
games!**

Weather permitting



Now offering delivery and take-out meals!

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
Gackle**

Everyone is welcome!



YOUTH
PAINTING
EVENT

SUNDAY
APRIL 12TH

11:30 am-12:30 pm

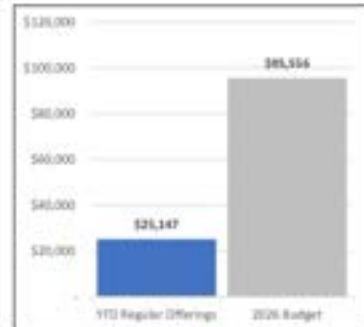
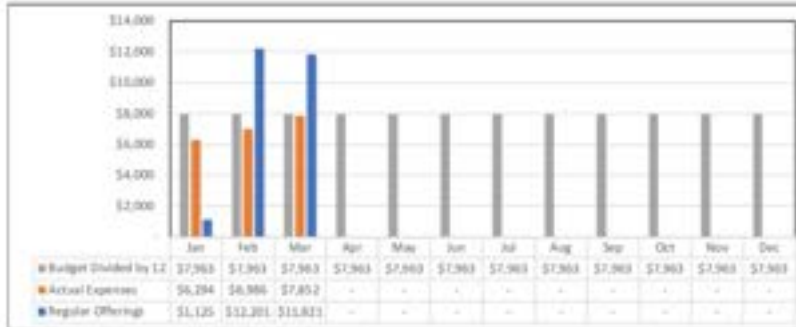


Emmanuel Lutheran Church Financial Report

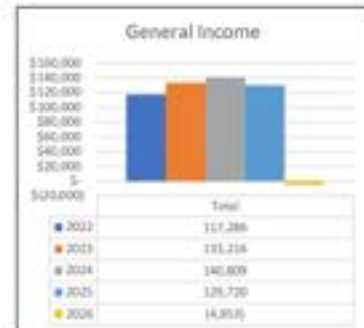
As of 03/25/2026

2026 Year to Date

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Regular Offerings	\$1,125	\$12,201	\$11,821	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$25,147
Actual Expenses	\$6,294	\$6,986	\$7,852	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$21,132
Balance	\$5,169	\$5,215	\$3,970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$4,016



Year over Year



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

Memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church for

Harvey Fiechtner

Delmer Sukut

Marge Tarno

Edna Mertz

Alan and Peggy
Kleingartner
Dale and Janene Donat
Danny and Bonnie
Denning
Fern Sukut
Mark and June Lehr
Pat and Sandi Rivinius
Quentin and Arlys Mertz
Trent Dockter

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.

Christians in Action Partnership- April

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! As you read this, we will have had the opportunity to have gather at a CIA retreat (March 28). And I look forward to sharing what came out of that retreat. It's amazing that at the retreat last year the initial idea came up for an online faith community...Now, we have **281 Bold**. This shows what we can do when we do it together. Here are prayers that the Spirit continues to inspire those who have found this new ministry and feel connected to Christ and to our communities.

Think about how much we see resurrection in our communities of faith through Christians in Action. We have worship at each congregation every Sunday. That is amazing! Can you imagine what would have happened at congregations in our area if we were not working together?

We have pastors at congregations 1-2 times each month to lead bible studies, to have visitations and provide communion to our shut-ins. These are congregations without regularly called pastors and this ministry wouldn't be possible without us working together.

Our congregations are our communities of faith, but I think we have opportunities to rejoice that CIA expands our communities of faith. We together have the opportunity to share the gospel together and with one another.

Think about the time before we formed CIA. Everyone was treading water on their own and trying to cobble things together. The congregations of CIA had a gathering. Congregations with pastors, ones without, larger congregations, smaller congregations, pastors and synodical ministers, council members, other congregational leaders: we came together to ask, "What can we do together to serve the people of God?" And what could have felt daunting, instead became opportunity.

The forming of CIA feels in many ways like a resurrection. I often think about how the disciples felt after the crucifixion. Things have to have felt pretty helpless, not to mention the grief and loss. How were our congregations feeling? I'm guessing for some, it was feeling rather frustrating and even sometimes helpless. Now, I hope that everyone has the opportunity to feel the new energy that comes with CIA. Together we have amazing opportunities to support and care for one another and from that we have the ability to care and support our wider communities. That is an amazing sign of resurrection!

Together we can do more than we do alone. We have opportunities to see Jesus in our neighbors and together share the love of Jesus. Ask how your congregation can invest more in the ministries of CIA. Talk to your board members about what is happening. If your board member asks for volunteers for a project, take the opportunity to get more involved. Together we can do more than we can on our own.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action Ministry:

	Board Member	Officers
Atonement, Jamestown		
Christ the King, Ellendale	Dianne Billey	Vice-Chair
Emmanuel, Gackle	Joyce Spitzer	
English, Medina	Bonnie Hoffman	
Montpelier, Montpelier	Abram Valenta	Chair
St. John's, Jamestown	Paulette J Ritter	
Trinity, Jamestown	Christopher Flann	Secretary/Treasurer
Zion, Kulm	Carol Berntson	
Pastor Representative	Pastor Lucinda Nygard Lien, Atonement	

Gathered by Grace



Free Community Meals

**We are taking a break for the
summer!**

**April 15th will be the last
community meal, we will begin
again in September.**



Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
Gackle

Everyone is welcome!

April Member Life Events			
Day	Birthday	Baptism	Marriage
1	Oakley Marshall		
2	Marcene Veil		
3		JoAnn Janke	
4		Michael Needham	
5	Arliss Mertz	Luke Nitschke	
6			
7			
8		Ardell Schmidt	
9			
10	Christian Burkle, Dexter Lehr		
11		Carol Muller, Isla Zenker Neil Suko	
12		Dean Entzinger, Alan Meyer	
13			
14	Steve Wentz		
15	Fern Suko	Christian Burkle, Izabel Rivasias	
16			
17	Deb Zillmer		
18	Serenity Sykes	Deb Holmstrom	
19	Chase Martin		
20	JD Dahl, Grant Heflin		
21		Shar Gumke, Denise Wittmier	
22		Helen Elhard, Scott Remmich Alyssa Moldenhauer	
23	Lisa Zenker	Orin Zillmer, Norman Zillmer Trevor Marshall	
24		Tammy Kline	Trevor & Melissa Marshall - 2010
25			
26	Jay Reed	Ken Gumke	Mike & Susie Martin - 2008
27			Warren & Linda Zenker - 1991
28		Quentin Mertz	
29	Pat Ebele, McKenna Zenker		
30			

Note: If your birthday, baptism, or marriage date is missing or wrong, please notify Bonnie Denning

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

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)
Julia Friez, Custodian	435-256-5631 (cell)