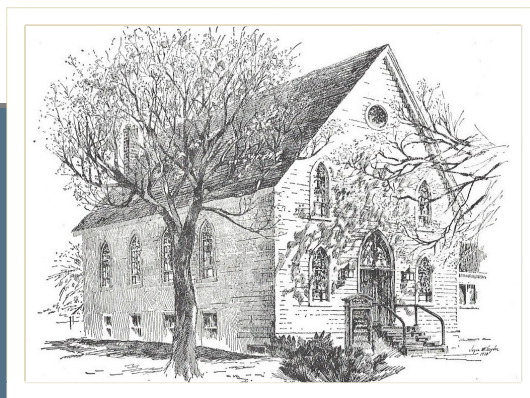


Emanuel's Word

monthly newsletter of
Emanuel Lutheran Church

December 2023



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Connect with us.....

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WORSHIP: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Long

Organist: Lugene Mitchell Hamilton

Secretary: Brenda Passmore

Secretary's Office Hours:

Thursday - 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran Church

149 West William Street
Corning, NY 14830

*We live to know Christ
and make Christ known
in our church,
our community,
and the world.*



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Pastor Jennifer's Message:

Come, Spirit come, our hearts control.
Our spirits long, to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed.
By this we worship, and are freed. (from anthem *The Gift of Love* by Hal Hopson)

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Cor. 13:7)

As Advent approaches, too quickly as it always seems to, I find myself thinking of the candles: hope, peace, joy, love. Congregations across the globe will find themselves longing for light and sharing in the ritual of Advent candles each Sunday. Though I value each of the candles, I find love bubbles up again and again throughout this season.

Paul reminds us that the greatest gift we have ever received from God is, in fact, love. God loves us without reservation and requirement, for no other reason than because we *are*. What an amazing truth. We receive God's love without doing anything to deserve it. A love greater than what is felt for family and friends, a love greater than is felt on a wedding day, delivered to us at no cost, from the One who created us.

I know these are all things heard before and known before, but God's love bears repeating. For it is in repeating the ways God's love has shaped lives that it can be a witness in the lives of others. Who knows how much that person you work with or sit in class with or carpool with needs to hear today that *they are loved by God?*

Perhaps daily reminders would do us all good. What if each one of us reminded just one person every day? How would that change our community? What if each one of us reminded just two people? Could that possibly change the world?

If you try this out... I'd love to hear what you learn.

Peace,
Pastor Jennifer

From the Vice President:

Change. Many of you know I have a new puppy. He is like a lab on speed and my house may never be the same. We are raising him in the hopes that he will become my next service dog as Patch is already at retirement age. It will take two years before I can safely expect Blue to support my weight.

This last month with him in our house has been chaos to say the least. It is like having a two and a four year old living here. Toys Patch has not played with in years are suddenly his favorites. Blue wants everything his big brother has. Wrestling matches are loud and can escalate out of control. One tug of war match ended in Blue needing a few stitches in his cheek.

What does all this have to do with you and Emanuel Lutheran Church? Well, Advent is upon us. For many families this is a time of chaos. There are cookies to make, decorations to put up. The furniture needs to be moved to make room for a tree (no tree in my house this year, it would not survive Blue). There are holiday parties and school programs to attend. Some of us have favorite TV shows we want to watch. Gifts must be bought, wrapped and maybe even mailed. Christmas cards need to be sent (yes, some still do this). We need to plan to visit family or make room for them to visit us.

During all this chaos; remember the reason for the season. We are looking forward to the coming of a special baby. We are looking forward to the birth of Jesus Christ. It is true that Jesus was actually born over two thousand years ago, but as Christians we know he will come again to save us from our sins. Take time this season of Advent to stop and remember a tiny human came into this world. He was crucified to save us all from the hand of the devil. He will come again with glory.

Have a peaceful and Merry Christmas,
Annette VP



Happy December Birthday!

2 Phyllis Groeger
16 Michael Kalinich
16 Tom Kleckner
17 Maclaine Zink

From the Church Office:

The Annual Meeting is
Sunday, January 28th.

Ministry Team Leaders -
please have your reports
emailed to
office@emanuelconring.org by
Tuesday, January 2nd.



Have a blessed Advent Season and Christmas!
Brenda Passmore

2023 Church Council

President:	Sharon Trova
Vice President:	Annette Gardner
Secretary:	Caren Listopadzki
Financial Secretary:	Mike Hamilton
Treasurer:	Phyllis Brandes
Council:	
Marcia Ashworth	Brenda Passmore
Josephine Sauer	Janette Smith
Theresa Welfling	

*The deadline to submit newsletter
articles is the **25th** of **each** month.

Please email your articles to
office@emanuelconring.org.



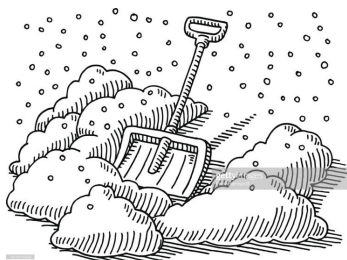
Church Council Update

- Council met on 11/08/23 via Zoom
- Pastor Jennifer reports that Confirmation classes will be January 2024 - May 2025, with Confirmation in May 2025.
- We need a Worship & Music Team meeting and invite the youth to discuss how they would like to serve as Acolyte/Technical Assistant.
- YTD Budgeted Expense is \$7,239.47 more than Budgeted Income.
- Continuing Resolutions regarding Stewards and Ecumenical Relationships were accepted.
- Sharon presented a provisional budget for 2024.
- Property: The filters for the air purifiers have arrived.
- RIC: The sample surveys worked well. The actual surveys will be sent out next week.
- Outreach: There will be no angel tree. WELCA will be doing care packages for the homeless, and will ask the congregation to put them together on 12/17.

Calendar Planning

11/19 - Stewardship Coffee hour
 12/06 - Next Council Meeting
 12/21 - Annual Reports due
 12/24 10am Advent 4
 5pm Christmas Eve
 1/28/24 - Annual Meeting

Caren Listopadzki
 Council Secretary



The 2023/2024 snow shoveling season has begun. We are looking for able bodied people to sign up for a week from December to February. It's a long season and we would love help. This is only for the church sidewalks and not the parking lot. A key to the shed can be provided along with snow blower training.

Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for a spot before they are all taken (joke). Or you can contact the church office to schedule your week.

Thanks, and have a wonderful advent season and Christmas.
 Jim Passmore,
 Property Team



It would be great to have some
 new worship volunteers!

Worship Assistants, Readers, Technology, Altar Guild
 How about being a Greeter or Usher?

Some people are scheduled a lot, so we'd love more people on the lists. Please email the office and let Brenda know if you're willing to add your name to the schedule. Thanks!!!!



WELCA met November 2 with 10 ladies in attendance! Our bank accounts continue to rise. The kitchen account is creeping toward \$30,000! The Veterans' Easter Basket fund is \$370.72.

We were saddened to hear of Nan Beer's passing October 29, 2023.

Discussions revolved primarily around the annual Christmas Trays. Each of us will bring our goodies in serving-size baggies and place on the 10 holiday trays.

Another project we talked about was to help Salvation Army and Red Cross with whatever they suggest would be a top priority at this time of the year.

December 7 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall is our next meeting. Marcia will update us on the kitchen remodeling project. We will plan the Salvation Army and Red Cross projects and prepare our holiday Christmas Trays.

All ladies are welcome to join us.
See you soon!
Julie Miller

WELCA Salvation Army Personal Care Kits

WELCA's coordinating with the Salvation Army to assemble "personal care" kits to be distributed to mainly homeless folks in the community. We'll purchase cloth backpacks and personal care items from a list provided by the Salvation Army.



WELCA is extending an important "God's Work, Emanuel's Hands" opportunity to congregational members, family and friends: to assist with assembling the kits **Sunday, December 17th after worship in the Fellowship Hall.**

YOUR time and
YOUR hands are valued!



Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias will again brighten the Christmas Eve altar this year.

If you would like to place a poinsettia on the altar as an honorarium or a memorial for Christmas Eve, please fill in the information below and drop it, along with your payment of \$8 for each poinsettia, into the offering plate by Sunday, December 10th or contact Theresa Welfling with your order.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Donated by: _____

- I would like to take my poinsettia.
 My poinsettia can be given to someone.



Corning Community Food Pantry Collection:

We will continue to collect boxed side dishes, including rice (similar to Rice-a-Roni types), potato (au gratin, scalloped, instant) and stuffing.

The Food Pantry tells us that clients really appreciate these little extras that they are allowed to choose beyond the basics they receive each visit.

*Thank you for supporting the Corning
Community Food Pantry.*

Reconciling in Christ at Emanuel



Thank you everyone who took the time to answer the quick survey question, would you support the following RIC Welcome Statement, yes or no.

EMANUEL'S WELCOME STATEMENT:

Emanuel Lutheran Church welcomes ALL because God loves ALL, regardless of race, culture, class, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and whatever other terms are used to define people. Join us as we celebrate the God who gathers us, with all our gifts and differences, and sends us, as the living Body of Christ to make Christ known in our church, community and ever-changing world.

The survey goal was to find out if we had at least 75% in favor in order to schedule the vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ Church at our Annual Meeting on January 28th. We received an overwhelming majority in favor, so we will vote on January 28th.

While researching our RIC Journey, I stumbled upon Pastor Bill's September 2015 newsletter message. Much of it resonated, but especially this part.....*A church that remains committed to humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another and speaking the truth in love is a church that can maintain unity of the Spirit and oneness in Christ. A church with integrity.*

Thank you to all who made the time to prayerfully engage in this conversation—doing our best to respect and understand biblical themes and values, while opening our minds to new awareness. Please continue to share your questions and thoughts as we move forward.

In Christ,
Brenda Passmore, RIC Team Leader

The Mailbag.....



November 3, 2023

Dear friends at Emanuel Lutheran Church:

On behalf of everyone at Steuben County Habitat for Humanity, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your recent very generous donation of \$1,865.50 in response to the recent fire that severely damaged the ReStore.

Your generous contribution has provided us with a means to continue to support our mission of building safe, affordable housing, as well as hope of rebuilding the ReStore.

With your commitment to our mission, you have shown us that even in the face of adversity, the spirit of giving remains strong. Your generosity carries huge significance, no matter the size of your contribution, and it will be utilized effectively to strengthen our community.

So please accept our heartfelt thanks for your invaluable support, your selflessness and kindness. Your compassion has given us renewed hope and strengthened our resolve to continue our vital work in your community. We are truly honored to have your support.

Sincerely,
Steven Daniels, Executive Director
Steuben County Habitat of Humanity

Dear WELCA Friends,

I just wanted to say thanks and let you know that beyond the money you raised during your Fall Sale, is the joy found in recycling items no longer used by one person that go on to be treasured by someone else.

Below is a photo of my Thanksgiving table, made even more festive by a tablecloth I purchased from your sale. I'm not sure who donated it, but it brought me great joy—how lovely it looked on my table!

Thanks for your hard work!
Brenda





Hanging the Greens at Emanuel

Sunday, December 3rd after worship

Many hands make light work.
Help prepare the sanctuary for Christmas!

There will be two services on Sunday, December 24th.



Advent 4 Service will be at our usual Sunday morning worship time, 10am.

Then later at 5pm, we'll enjoy our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion.



Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service

December 24th at 5:00 p.m.



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Steward Schedule

Date	Dec. 3 <i>Advent 1</i>	Dec. 10 <i>Advent 2</i>	Dec. 17 <i>Advent 3</i>	Dec. 24 <i>Advent 4</i>	Christmas Eve
Worship Leader	Pastor Jennifer	Pastor Jennifer	Pastor Jennifer	Pastor Jennifer	Pastor Jennifer
Worship Assistant	Annette Gardner	Mary Ellen Brennan	Sue Doyle	Brenda Passmore	Caren Listopadzki
Reader	Annette Gardner	Mary Ellen Brennan	Sue Doyle	Brenda Passmore	Caren Listopadzki
Technology	Jacob Hufnagel	Gage Machuga	Josephine Sauer	Ben Hufnagel	Gage Machuga
Usher	Augie Andrukat	Jim Passmore	John Rector	Augie Andrukat	Jodi Machuga
Greeter	Charlotte Estep	Jodi Machuga	Laura Link	Charlotte Estep	Janette Smith
Altar Guild	Sharon Trova	Linda L. & Eileen Sands	Julie & Duane Miller	Phyllis B. & Julie Miller	Phyllis B. & Julie Miller
Counters	Hamilton Team	Hamilton Team	Hamilton Team	Hamilton Team	Hamilton Team

*If you are scheduled to serve and find you're unable to attend,
please call someone to substitute for you. Thank you!*

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Corning, NY 14830

Epecially prepared for:



EMANUEL'S WORD

Emanuel Lutheran Church
Corning, NY