

The VISITOR

Volume 54 December 2024 No. 12

Emanuel Lutheran Church
& Christian Preschool
701 S. First Street
Milbank, SD 57252



Pastor Chris Davis

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Emanuel Website: www.elcmilbank.org

www.facebook.com/emanuelmilbank

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 am Service

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, 5th weeks

Sun. School/Bible Study 10:30 AM

Midweek Wednesday 2:00 pm

Sunday livestreamed on YouTube

A "REAL" Christmas Carol

Everybody loves *A Christmas Carol*. It is a Christmas classic. Ebenezer Scrooge and Bob Cratchit and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Written by Charles Dickens in 1843, *A Christmas Carol* truly has changed the way we celebrate Christmas for two hundred years. You see, in England at the time, Christmas was considered a minor holiday, at best. In fact, many of the traditions that we associate with Christmas were made popular by Dickens' story. Someone must have truly led a sheltered existence indeed to not recognize phrases like, "Bah. Humbug!", "Christmas. A fine excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!", and "God bless us, Every One!" Yes, *A Christmas Carol* is firmly embedded in our cultural understanding of Christmas, and it has been for quite some time.

If one desires to celebrate Christmas for its true meaning, however, this wonderful little tale leaves something to be desired. Now, don't get me wrong, I love *A Christmas Carol*. I read it every year and watch several of the theatrical adaptations of it. My favorite movie account of the story is the 2009 version starring Jim Carrey as old Scrooge. I am also very fond of "Mickey's Christmas Carol." But again, my fondness for the story doesn't make up for the fact that it is unbiblical in many ways. According to Holy Scripture, for example, there are no such things as ghosts. Additionally, and most significantly, Scrooge's problems and impending doom were not simply the result of him being a mean and selfish old man. Scrooge's problem was and is humanity's problem.... sin. Charles Dickens presents this issue in a way that suggests if Scrooge – and the rest of us – would just be kind to our fellow

man, we would be keeping Christmas well. Yet we Scrooges of the world cannot simply fix our moral dilemmas by striving to be better people. We can't cheat death by having a change of heart. No, the solution to our problems – all of them – is Christmas.... the true and real meaning of Christmas.

This Advent we will be using the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, the Spirits, and Tiny Tim, to focus on our real need for Christmas. By way of Advent Devotions, and our Wednesday evenings together we will be re-evaluating *A Christmas Carol*. We will be looking at the story from a biblical perspective. And in doing so, I pray you come to cherish this story – if you don't already – and begin to see it in a different light. Join us this Advent as we explore "A 'REAL' Christmas Carol." A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas everybody! Or, as Tiny Tim would say, "God Bless us, Every One!

In Christ,

Pastor Davis

Official Acts: Funerals:

Eric Miller
Carol Reil
Rodney Reil

Weddings:

Dakota & Molly Giossi



Deaconess Intern

Thank you, everyone, so very much for all the support, meals, house items, ramps, checking in on me, and all the attendance at Eric's funeral service. I promise I will work on the thank you's, I promise! The top thing on my school agenda is getting my class in Lutheran distinctions completed. This class was really looking at any situation or conversation and trying to discern the difference in looking at any situation by first asking, "why do you ask?" That allows you to hear what exactly they are looking for in this spiritual setting. For example, if there were a visitor who was just standing by the exit door, I would approach with a hello and welcome. Then this person asked if any kind of Christians could come here. This allows me to welcome her warmly in to see the service, and I could make a follow-up conversation with her after the service to talk more about her questions. Possibly the differences between LCMS and ELCA. Or what are our views on being an unwed mother?

I will be almost done with my Fall class; I had to work under an extension from the seminary because of Eric's death. I have my next class on Dec 5th, followed by an extensive winter class for the second two weeks in January. Now back to finish off my final portfolio project. Please stop me anytime to ask any questions. Again, the SD District Office gave me a

scholarship for the entire Fall and Spring tuition gratefully received. Blessings from God and Blessings from the District. I have returned to regular office hours. I am also in the church when there are additional activities to work on. Lisa

Lori's hours: Tuesday 10-5, Wednesday 1-5, and Fridays 10-5.

Lisa's hours Monday 10-4, Tuesday---School, Wed 10-4, Thursday 10-4, Friday--School

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2024

Date	Festival	1 st Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Dec. 1	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thess. 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 8	Second S. in Advent	Mal. 3:1-7b	Psalm 66:1-12	Phil. 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)
Dec. 15	Third S. in Advent	Zeph. 3:14-20	Psalm 85	Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
Dec. 22	Fourth S. in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-7	Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)
Dec. 24	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 110:1-4	1 John 4:7-16	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec. 25	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Midnight)	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Dawn)	Isaiah 62:10-12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-14) 15-20
	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12)	John 1:1-14 (15-18)
Dec. 29	First S. after Christmas	Ex. 13:1-3a, 11-15	Psalm 111	Col. 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40
Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus (New Year's Eve)	Isaiah 30:(8-14) 15-17	Psalm 90:1-12	Rom. 8:31b-39	Luke 12:35-40

****Voters' Meeting: December 15th, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM!****



The next Men's Bible Study will be on January 11th, 2025, and will include coffee and donuts at 9 AM.
All Men Are invited!!!

LOE

The Ladies of Emanuel will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 12:30 (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!!) for their Christmas party. Lunch will be potluck, followed by a Christmas lesson and video presented by Pastor Davis. ALL



WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED TO ATTEND! Our focus for December will be cards/visits to the shut-ins. Serving coffee on Sunday, Dec. 1st, will be Linnea Schwandt, Regina Rethke, and Joyce Johnson.



Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing will meet on Thursday, December 7th at 9:00 AM. All are welcome, and we can always use extra hands to help tie quilts, cut squares, thread needles...etc.



Handbells and Choir

Handbell is at 5:30 PM. The choir is at 6:30 PM.
All are welcome to join.



Are you interested in sharing your musical gifts on Christmas Eve? If you need an accompanist, contact Nancy Meyer (605) 467-1011, Kris Street (605) 237-1797 or Linda Kolb (701) 429-0838. Anyone wishing to share special music for the Christmas Eve Services needs to let the church office or Linda know by December 19th.

SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPES

For December, the Special Mission envelope contributions will go towards:

Mercy Meals

Stewardship

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Couples Retreat at the Abbey of the Hills one-day event on February 15th, 2025.

Join us for a wonderful day of study, discussion, and time together at the beautiful Abby of the Hills near Marvin, SD. We will look at and discuss marriage from God's perspective and see how He uses marriage to strengthen our faith, bring us joy, help us grow, and be a benefit to society as a whole. We will gather at the Abby at around 8:30 on Saturday, February 15th. There will be coffee and refreshments. We will have study and discussion until noon (with periodic breaks for looking around and spending time together). We will enjoy lunch together at the Abby and more free time to look around. We will get back together for study and discussion after lunch and finish up around 4 in the afternoon. Please consider joining us for a great day at the Abby of the Hills. Please sign up by January 19, 2025; the sign-up is by the south bulletin board.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

OGT IS ON TRACK : South Dakota Orphan Grain Train Collection Center

**"Praise God from whom ALL
Blessings Flow"**

The volunteers have been super busy putting many, many disaster buckets together, and assembling hygiene, school, and layette kits.

We've had a good supply of donated items. These are sorted, checked for appropriateness, cleanliness, etc; and sometimes washed. Labeled boxes are packed. Packing beautiful quilts-



baby to adult size as well as the cute pillowcase dresses really makes us smile. The 53-foot semi is expected to load our pallets of boxes during the week of Thanksgiving. More volunteers have come to pack Mercy Meals. 19,304 rice-fortified meals were packed in October and November. **With the Holiday on Wednesday, January 1st, we will not be packing Mercy Meals at all in January of 2025. OGT will be closed from December 22nd, 2024 through January 3rd, 2025.**

Wishing you Peace, Love, and Joy as we celebrate our Lord's birth. Merry Christmas.

OGT volunteers & Linnea Schwandt

In the picture, Whetstone Hardware sold

buckets of cleaning supplies to the public, which were donated to Orphan Grain Train.

EMANUEL YOUTH GROUP



A HUGE THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH FOR THEIR LOCK-IN!!!

There were fifteen kids that attended the lock-in. They enjoyed pizza, snacks, tie blanket making and games. Pastor joined us for a presentation on fellowship. A good time was had by all.

December 7, Saturday, 8:00 to 10 AM Breakfast with Christmas characters at the Craft Fair at Milbank Elementary. Pancakes and Sausage and a

beverage will be served for \$5 a plate. Please come and support our youth.

December 15th – The youth will serve egg bake again prior to the voter's meeting after church.

January 14th, 5:15PM – Meeting for the parents and youth going to National Youth Gathering. Time is running out for fundraising. We need all hands on deck!

February 8th at 6:00PM – Sweetheart Dinner – Early Valentine Dinner – Meal of some type of chicken, potato and vegetable with desert. There will be a sign up sheet out about a month before the date of the event.

March – Possible Krispy Crème fundraising event. Hopefully this will work out and we will be able to have this event.



If you would like to share a poinsettia for Christmas in memory of or in honor of someone, please let us know at the church office by December 17th. You can also fill out a form in the back of the sanctuary and return it to the office by the 17th. We ask that you have the plant(s) at the church by no earlier than after church services on December 22nd. If you wish to take your plant home afterward, please pick it up after worship at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day. If not, they will be disposed of as needed. There are forms on the back tables in the church Sanctuary.

Preschool News

by Karen Tillma



...a fun place to
play and learn!

We have been busy preparing for our Christmas program, which will be held on December 8th in the fellowship hall. The three year olds will sing at 2pm and the four year olds will present the nativity at 3pm. Refreshments will be served after each performance.

We are planning to visit Peaceful Pines Care Center to deliver a Thanksgiving placemat the children made, play a game of bingo, and sing a few songs. We were also asked to visit Avantara in December to sing for the residents.

Christmas will be here before we know it! We are continuing our tradition with the Christmas Jar. (Everyone contributes their change, and we watch the money grow in our Jar. Before Christmas, we choose a child or family to bless and buy presents for them. (Some years we have enough money donated that we buy a grocery card as well.) If you would like to contribute to our Jar, please let us know. Thank you for your continued prayers for our little ones and our staff. Blessings to everyone this holiday season!

BYD SIGN UP-- BYD Group for December--Group 1, Josh Radil

Please refer to the sign-up sheets outside the sanctuary. There are several open spots currently for Usher, Greeter, and Communion Set-up/Clean-up. Thank you!!!!

SOUND/RADIO BROADCAST DECEMBER

Dec 1 9 AM Harlan Monson
Dec 4 7 PM Dave Schamber
Dec 8 9 AM Larry Underwood
Dec 11 7 PM Tracy Pinkert
Dec 15 9 AM Charles Schamber
Dec 18 7 PM Harlan Monson
Dec 22 9 AM Dave Schamber
Dec 24 4 PM Larry Underwood
Dec 24 6 PM Tract Pinkert
Dec 25 10AM Charles Schamber
Dec 29 9 AM Harlan Monson

ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

Dec 1 9 AM Eliana Richardt; Karlie Nies
Dec 4 7 PM Sydnee Weyh; Whitney Weyh
Dec 8 9 AM Sean Nicholson; Maxine Peiker
Dec 11 7 PM Branden Mueller; Leeah Schwandt
Dec 15 9 AM Alyssa Rethke; Alyssa Henderson
Dec 18 7 PM Jaxson Gore; Finley Hunt
Dec 22 9 AM Brytten Schmiege; Alanna Vogel
Dec 24 4 PM Eliana Richardt; Karlie Nies
Dec 24 6 PM Sydnee Weyh; Whitney Weyh
Dec 25 10AM Sean Nicholson; Maxine Peiker
Dec 29 9 AM Branden Mueller; Leeah Schwandt

*****If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed monthly or if names aren't spelled correctly, it means the office does not have your required information—please call us to update our records.*****

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Steltz, Peter R.	1-Dec
Bowen, Angela M.	2-Dec
Selchert, Jessica	2-Dec
Zemlicka, Lane A.	2-Dec
Bilben, Shane	3-Dec
Bogenreif, Daniel L.	3-Dec
Schwandt, Breanna L.	3-Dec
Hanson, Renae	4-Dec
Karges, Jacob D.	4-Dec
Morton, Addison L.	4-Dec
Schmeling, Paige K.	4-Dec
Athey, Maxine	5-Dec
Koch, Evelyn	5-Dec
Saeger, Ken	6-Dec
Stemsrud, Robin	6-Dec
Stemsrud, Steve	6-Dec
Cesenas, Ariana	7-Dec
Myers, Derek L.	7-Dec
Barthel, Peter	8-Dec
Gores, Chelsea M.	8-Dec
Lagred, Quinn	9-Dec
Leddy, Tristan	9-Dec
Meyer, Nancy	9-Dec

Seehafer, Jimmie R.	9-Dec
Eilers, Laura S.	10-Dec
Lee, Peyton J.	10-Dec
Skovbo, June M.	10-Dec
Wellnitz, Rita M.	10-Dec
Eckberg, Brooklynn	11-Dec
Mork, Savannah S.	11-Dec
Pond, Niah D.	11-Dec
Ruhr, Buffie	11-Dec
Behrens, Karen J.	12-Dec
Barthel, George A.	13-Dec
Fish, Alan R.	13-Dec
Melham, Linda J.	13-Dec
Mueller, Eric	13-Dec
Opitz, Stephanie M.	13-Dec
Schmeling, Dylan R.	13-Dec
Fewkes Grant, Kaydence	14-Dec
Rudebusch, Courtne M.	14-Dec
Dunnihoo, Haydyn	15-Dec
Schmieg, Brandon J.	15-Dec
Watters, Emersyn Q.	16-Dec
Wohlleber, Kaitlin M.	16-Dec
Bogenrief, Casey A.	17-Dec

Dexter, Brandon L.	18-Dec
Ehlebracht, Wayne A.	18-Dec
Thyne, Brock D.	18-Dec
Gabriel Jr, Ray	19-Dec
Sackreiter, Hunter R.	19-Dec
Selchert, Gloria	19-Dec
Gesswein, James B.	20-Dec
Poppen, Dixie J.	21-Dec
Krueger, Brianna M.	22-Dec
Stuckey, Jensyn E.	23-Dec
Frickson, Dwight	25-Dec
Pollock, Shelbi	25-Dec
Dauwen, Orville A.	26-Dec
Schmieg, Jaxton R.	26-Dec
Wieber, Sharon M.	26-Dec
Newman, Jason D.	28-Dec
Riley, Mason M.	28-Dec
Skinner, Oaklynn R.	28-Dec
Hunt, Arnold L.	29-Dec
Keller, Adam D.	30-Dec
Lee, Tamara J.	31-Dec
Mueller, Angel	31-Dec

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Schell, David and Lisa M.	1-Dec
Essington, Kevin M. and Cindy L.	6-Dec
Pinkert, Scott R. and Jenny	7-Dec
Gilbertson, Abby and Troy	10-Dec
Hunt, Adam and Jennifer M.	13-Dec
Dauwen, Orville A. and Diann E.	15-Dec

Mueller, Howard and Karin	19-Dec
Wellnitz, Jessica R. and Shawn	21-Dec
Mueller, Steve and Dusty	26-Dec
Henderson, Tyler C. and Jamie L.	27-Dec
Hanson, Cal and Laci	30-Dec
Negen, Steve and Kay	30-Dec

Merry Christmas

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:00 AM—Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:30 AM SS/Adult Bible Study 3:00 PM Dartball</p>	<p>2 6:00 PM Scouts</p>	<p>3 12:30 PM LOE—Potluck & Bible Study 7:00 PM All Boards and Council Meeting</p>	<p>4 9:15 AM Mercy Meals/OGT 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 Advent Supper—LOE 5:15 Handbells 5:45 PM NO CONFIRMATION 6:10 PM Choir 7:00 PM Advent Service 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM Mission Sewing 11:00 AM Holy Communion at St Williams 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM Youth serving Pancakes and sausages at Milbank Elementary</p>	
<p>8 9:00 AM—Service of the Word 10:30 AM SS/ Adult Bible Study Preschool Christmas Programs: 2:00 PM 3 yr olds 3:00 PM 4 yr olds</p>	<p>9 6:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Elder Meeting</p>	<p>10 12:30 PM LOE—Potluck & Bible Study 7:00 PM All Boards and Council Meeting</p>	<p>11 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 Advent Supper—Cem 5:15 Handbells 5:45 NO CONFIRMATION 6:10 PM Choir 7:00 PM Advent Service 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>12 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>13 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>14 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>
<p>15 9:00 AM Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 Voters' Meeting / Youth Serving Egg bake 3:00 PM Dartball 3:00 PM Caroling</p>	<p>16 6:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Elder Meeting</p>	<p>17 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Service 6:00 PM Candle-light Service</p>	<p>18 2:00 PM—Midweek Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 Advent Supper—Elders 5:15 Handbells 5:45 NO CONFIRMATION 6:10 PM Choir 7:00 PM Advent Service 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>19 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>20 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>21 1:00 PM Bible Study</p>
<p>22 9:00 AM— Sunday School Christmas Program</p>	<p>23 6:00 PM Scouts</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Service 6:00 PM Candle-light Service</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion</p>	<p>26 No Bible Study</p>	<p>27 No Bible Study</p>	<p>28 No Bible Study</p>
<p>29 9:00 AM—Service of the Word with Holy Communion 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>30 6:00 PM Scouts</p>	<p>31 No Confirmation Classes (12/4-1/1/2025) during Advent so families are free to attend the Advent meals and Worship services!</p>	<p>No Confirmation Classes (12/4-1/1/2025) during Advent so families are free to attend the Advent meals and Worship services!</p>	<p>No Confirmation Classes (12/4-1/1/2025) during Advent so families are free to attend the Advent meals and Worship services!</p>	<p>No Confirmation Classes (12/4-1/1/2025) during Advent so families are free to attend the Advent meals and Worship services!</p>	<p>No Confirmation Classes (12/4-1/1/2025) during Advent so families are free to attend the Advent meals and Worship services!</p>