

Eye on Zion

Zion Lutheran Church
492 7th Street
Phillipsburg, KS 67661
(785) 543-2005

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www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org



EMMANUEL ENLIGHTENER

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church
355 Main Street
Stuttgart, KS 67661
(785) 543-6210

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www.emmanuelutheranchurchofstuttgart.org

November & December 2024

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is November 3, 2024. Remembrance tables are set up in both churches. Please feel free to leave a picture or object that reminds you of someone who has gone before us. You may also record names to be remembered during our November 3rd services.



Daylight Saving Time ends early in the morning on Sunday, November 3, 2024 – All Saints Sunday. Remember to set your clocks **BACK** before you go to bed on Saturday night.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 27, at 6:30 pm
Zion Lutheran Church



MISSION FESTIVAL

10th Anniversary of Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry

November 17, 2024

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

10:00 am – Worship followed by meal.

Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry will celebrate ten years of collaboration this year. As part of our annual Mission Festival, Rev. Bishop Susan Canda will be with us. Sign-up sheets to bring dishes or provide help are posted at each congregation in the parish. A fellowship meal featuring barbecued ribs and hotdogs for the children will be after the worship service. During the fellowship meal, we will also have a presentation from those who attended the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The offering from the 2024 Mission Festival will be dedicated to supporting seminarian Ryan Bose and costs related to training Pastoral Minister Associates (PMAs) for the parish, including current PMA Candidate Andrea Keese.

EMMANUEL TREE LIGHTING

December 1, 2024

*Afternoon TBA – Decorating Emmanuel
for Advent and Christmas.*

5:00 pm – Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Treats

6:00 pm – Tree lighting service

Emmanuel Lutheran Church



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

December 18, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Zion Lutheran Church

Longest Night Service, also known as “Blue Christmas,” is a Holy Communion service that recognizes that the holiday season can be a difficult for those who are mourning, sick, unemployed, or otherwise struggling. Music and Biblical texts uplift this theme of ongoing struggle with the hope of the Gospel. All are welcome for mutual support, communion, and celebration.

SIGN UP FOR ADVENT SEASONINGS

Advent Seasonings is the Emmanuel tradition of members creating or sharing devotions for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Last year, Zion was also invited and participated in this ministry. Members were sent a link to their emails on file to sign up for Seasoning dates. Paper sign-up sheets will be put out towards the end of November, but it

is easier and creates less confusion to use the common online sign-up form. If you did not receive a link to the form or if you have misplaced it, please contact Pastor Lee at leebennight@gmail.com and you will be sent one. Seasonings should be approximately two to two and a half minutes in length. They can be recorded at the Phillipsburg radio station or a recorded sound file can be sent to radio@kkankqma.com.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- **Sun. Dec. 1 @ 5:00 pm**
 - Emmanuel Tree Lighting.
- **Wed. Dec. 4 @ 6:30 pm**
 - Advent Evening Prayer at Zion.
- **Wed. Dec. 11 @ 6:30 pm**
 - Advent Evening Prayer at Emmanuel.
- **Wed. Dec. 18 @ 6:30 pm**
 - Longest Night Service at Zion.
- **Tues. Dec. 24**
 - **7:00 pm** – Emmanuel Christmas Program
 - **10:00 pm** – Zion Candlelight Holy Communion.
- **Wed. Dec. 25 @ 9:00 am**
 - Emmanuel Christmas Holy Communion.
- **Sun. Dec. 29 @ 10:30 am**
 - Combined 5th Sunday Holy Communion Service at Zion for 1st Sun. of Christmas
- **Mon. Jan. 6 @ 6:30 pm**
 - Epiphany Holy Communion at Emmanuel.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 12:30 pm
Zion Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 12:00 pm
Emmanuel Annual Meeting

CLARIFICATION ON VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Annual meetings for both Zion and Emmanuel will be held in January 2025 as listed above. Annual Meetings are the main decision-making body for our congregations.

During the last couple of years, both congregations have been striving to make sure that their constitutions are being followed and following the laws governing non-profits for the State of Kansas. This has led to some confusion over who qualifies as a voting member for annual our and special congregation meetings.

To be clear, “voting member” is only a constitutional term and does not reflect our relation to Christ or the larger church. We are members of Christ and Christ’s church by our baptism and God’s grace. Nothing can change this fact about our being in Christ and God’s kingdom.

However, to legally operate in the kingdom of this fallen world, a kingdom based on corporate and business models, we must follow our written constitutions. Our constitutions are clear. Voting members are those confirmed and baptized members of the congregation who have communed and have given a contribution of record within the current calendar year and / or the past calendar year.

Now, both congregations have been interpreting “contribution of record” in the broadest possible terms, including either a monetary contribution as little as one penny or any volunteering contribution

of time. But to ensure that our voting membership is accurate, and thus the annual meetings or any special meetings are legal, the congregation councils are **REQUIRED** by our constitutions to maintain updated voting member rosters.

Again, this has nothing to do with membership as part of Christ’s church or detract for one’s history with Zion or Emmanuel. But without maintaining accurate voting member rosters as our constitutions require, and have required for decades, we technically cannot make any legally binding decisions for the congregations. Congregations who have not abided by constitutional provisions in this area can, and have had, the decisions of their annual meetings be legally challenged and voided.

If a member finds himself or herself as being removed from the voting member list due to constitution provisions, such a person can be restored to the voting member lists by renewed participation in communion and contribution of record. Or, if a person feels that they have been excluded from the voting member list in error, such an error can be brought up to any council member or at the start of any annual meeting.

Hopefully, this clarifies why maintaining a list of voting members is necessary and that it does not in any way place a judgment or comment on a person’s relationship to Christ.

TEXTCASTER

Remember that you can stay informed about prayer requests, schedule changes, and weather cancellation from all four congregations of our parish with Textcaster. You can sign-up by going to the Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry website at www.disciplesoftheplains.com and choosing the sign up for Textcaster link. You may also change your notification settings by following this link if you already have signed up.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO
RECEIVED FIRST COMMUNION ON
OCTOBER 27 AND NOVEMBER 3.**

- Bryson Stites - Emmanuel
- Hayden Dettmer – Zion
- River Asher – Emmanuel
- Fischer Asher - Emmanuel
- Peyton Gannon - Emmanuel



CALENDARS AVAILABLE ON WEBSITES

Updated to the minute calendars are just one advantage of our congregational websites.

www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org
www.emmanuelutheranchurchofstuttgart.org
www.disciplesoftheplains.com

**ZION WOMEN OF THE ELCA FALL
FUNDRAISER SUPPER**

*Sunday, November 10, 2024
Beginning at 4:30 pm*

Zion Women of the ELCA will sponsor a fundraising supper of pulled pork beginning at 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 10, 2024. This will be a take-out only meal where people only need to pull into the parking lot and give their orders to the volunteers who will then bring out the meals. Proceeds go to fund the ministries of the Zion Women of the ELCA, which includes relief kits and supplies to Lutheran World Relief.



EMMANUEL FALL CLEAN-UP

*Sunday, November 10, 2024
After Sunday Worship
Pizza will be provided.*

From the Desk of Pastor Lee for November & December 2024

O LORD, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more.

-Psalm 10:18

The Bible addresses issues of social justice as often as it does the subject of prayer. Levitical laws and the prophets are filled with references to justice for the poor, widows, orphans, oppressed, and aliens. Jesus spoke in solidarity with the poor and marginalized many times, putting himself in conflict with Rome and his own religious leaders. The notion that our Christian faith can neither advocate for others nor speak to issues of justice because they are

“political,” fails to recognize the entire Bible was created from the crucible of politics. And while in our American Constitution, we (individuals and the church) are freed from an establishment of religion, this does not abdicate what we have been freed in Christ to do. As the letter of James reminds us, “If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?”

The 2024 elections are just around the corner. Most of us are tired of the hyper-partisanship that is leading up to them. We are extremely sensitive to it to the point that we are confusing the destruction that hyper-partisanship creates with our God-given Christian responsibility to be politically active for the sake of our neighbor. Martin Luther spoke to this, reminding us that in our baptism we are called to be good citizens by obeying lawful authority and by ensuring lawful authority is rooted in love of neighbor. So, the idea that our faith and our politics never meet is untenable.

This does not and should not mean that we will always agree on the proper ways to live out the Christian call to justice for the poor and oppressed. This is where the confusion comes. Because we live in a hyper-partisan world that promotes the lie that people cannot disagree and still maintain unity in purpose, we make the mistake of promoting faith and politics as never touching each other.

The church, however, is and must be such a place where difficult political conversations can be spoken. Our unity is in Christ, and this is fundamental. Christ is not a band-aid to hide the wounds of hyper-partisanship that plague our world. Christ is the bedrock of faith upon which we are sent to live out our baptismal callings, and to struggle together in finding ways to do this. We are freed from the powers of this world that tell us we must vilify those who have differences of thought. We are freed to enter difficult discussions about how we can live out our baptismal callings to be the body of Christ to the world.

On Sunday, November 10, the election will be over. We cannot control the events that will follow this. Most certainly, there will be voices trying to pull us apart no matter the possible outcomes. But on that Sunday, we will still gather at the font to remember our baptism. We will hear words of confession and absolution that free us. The Bible as the written Word of God will be read. And Christ, the Word of God made flesh, will gather us around his table to be nourished by his body and blood. These things are true; they are uniting; they are fundamental; they are eternal; they are our future.

Your Friend in Christ,



Pastor Lee

From the desk of Pastor Kathy....

I want to share some excerpts of a book I've been reading this last month for my Spiritual Direction class. It is titled "Eat this Book" and is by Eugene H. Peterson—A Conversation in the art of Spiritual Reading". Dr. Peterson is a contemporary theologian who also put together "The Message: The bible in contemporary language".

In a sentence, this book is an invitation to "go deeper" in how we read the bible, the primary text in our lives as followers of Christ. It is about spending time with, savoring, thinking and reflecting upon it, and let it take root in your very soul.

Peterson had me at page 3 when he talked about the kind of reading "that is congruent with what is written in our Holy Scriptures, but also with all writing that is intended to change our lives and not just stuff some information into the cells of our brain."

He also described the writers of the Old and New Testaments (and apocryphal literature) as "a school of writers employed by the Holy Spirit to give us our Holy Scriptures and keep us in touch with and responsive to reality, whether visible or invisible: God-reality, God-presence.

This is writing that is infused with a deep trust in "the power of words" to bring us into the presence of God and to *change our lives*. The opening page of the Christian text for living tells us that the entire cosmos and every living creature in it were brought into being by words. St. John selects the term "Word" to account, first and last, for what is most characteristic about Jesus, the person at the revealed and revealing center of the Christian story. Language, spoken and written, is the primary means for getting us in on what IS, on what God is DOING.

These are words intended, whether confrontationally or obliquely, to *get inside us*, to deal with our souls, to form a life that is congruent with the world that God has created, the salvation that he has enacted, and the community that he has gathered. Such spiritual reading anticipates reading something more than once, but reading, listening, pondering, making space for what God is trying to tell us. This kind of reading anticipates and counts on a certain kind of reading, intentional, a "dog-with-a-bone" kind of reading.

If you have the time and inclination, I would highly recommend Dr. Peterson's book, on of many on the topic of the bible and living the spirit-filled life.

ZION AND EMMANUEL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Please note: Both congregations have recently been reconciling membership files and entering the information in new software. In some cases, the information has been conflicting or those entering the information have not been aware of membership or marital changes that have occurred. Please know that errors are not intentional and are part of the updating processes. If you do find something in error, please forward such information to Emmanuel at emmanuel@ruraltel.net or (785) 543-6210, or to Zion at zionlu@ruraltel.net or (785) 543-2005.

11/01 – Sue Jackson (Emmanuel)	12/11 – Savannah Ewing (Zion)
11/03 – Max Schick (Emmanuel)	12/11 – Karen Ryan (Emmanuel)
11/04 – Sheri Wilson (Zion)	12/13 – Cailyn FitzPatrick (Emmanuel)
11/07 – Louis Beyerlein (Emmanuel)	12/13 – Betty Zillinger (Zion)
11/07 – William Patton (Zion)	12/14 – Isabella Estrada (Emmanuel)
11/08 – Cathy Dusin (Emmanuel)	12/14 – Drayden Simpson (Zion)
11/08 – Kylie Solida (Zion)	12/15 – Dennis Merklein (Emmanuel)
11/09 – Dennis Deschner (Zion)	12/15 – Kristi Tien (Zion)
11/09 – Layton Johnson (Emmanuel)	12/16 – Sonja Jackson (Emmanuel)
11/11 – Hunter Shields (Emmanuel)	12/17 – Mary Jackson (Emmanuel)
11/12 – Lacey Breon (Zion)	12/19 – David Rankin (Zion)
11/12 – Niko McCall (Zion)	12/20 – Eli Zillinger (Emmanuel)
11/12 – Laura Umbarger (Emmanuel)	12/21 – Sara Biggs (Emmanuel)
11/14 – Corbin Grote (Zion)	12/21 – Dylan Kinter (Emmanuel)
11/14 – Easton Grote (Zion)	12/21 – Anya Preuss (Emmanuel)
11/16 – Sue McFarland (Zion)	12/22 – Colin Kirchhoff (Emmanuel)
11/16 – Brantlee Minkler (Emmanuel)	12/23 – Jerry Keesee (Zion)
11/18 – Katie Grote (Zion)	12/23 – Kitt Zillinger (Zion)
11/18 – Ardes Lawyer (Emmanuel)	12/26 – Madison Brackney (Emmanuel)
11/20 – Lindsay Gannon (Emmanuel)	12/27 – Doris Kampfe (Zion)
11/21 – Paula Lyon (Emmanuel)	12/27 – Wendy Shaw (Emmanuel)
11/22 – Daniel Weinman (Emmanuel)	12/29 – Dennis Keesee (Zion)
11/22 – Bob Yates, Jr. (Zion)	12/31 – Andrea Zillinger (Zion)
11/23 – Emma Estrada (Emmanuel)	
11/23 – Skylar Stephen (Emmanuel)	
11/23 – Alyssa Stites (Emmanuel)	11/01/2003 – Emilie & Curtis Kaiser (21)
11/25 – Peggy King (Zion)	11/07/2020 – Sean & Linday Cravens (4)
11/26 – Jayden Minkler (Emmanuel)	11/10/2018 – Austin & Katlin Shields (6)
11/26 – Jamie Wright	11/21/2020 – Eric & Katie Wagner (4)
11/28 – Alissa Krafft (Emmanuel)	11/30/2019 – Lynette & Mike Ehm (5)
11/28 – Brad Lare (Zion)	12/04/2013 – Robbie & Tyler Asher (11)
11/30 – Dorothy Hanke (Emmanuel)	12/05/1981 – Denton & Sharon Krafft (43)
11/30 – Devin Johnon (Zion)	12/10/2005 – Chad & Joell Wagenblast (19)
11/30 – Joell Wagenblast (Emmanuel)	12/13/1990 – Debbie & LeRoy Hays (34)
12/02 – LeRoy Hays (Zion)	12/13/1980 – Blaine & Candy Krafft (44)
12/05 – Emily Zillinger (Zion)	12/13/1997 – Shawn & Becky Merklein (27)
12/06 – Ross Bugbee (Emmanuel)	12/19/1998 – Kathy Whitney & Lee Bennight (26)
12/06 – Curtis Swarts (Zion)	12/23/1967 – Carola & Dennis Deschner (57)
12/07 – Sandi Preuss (Emmanuel)	12/25/2021 – Steven & Ceshalyn Rust (3)
12/08 – Ivan Wagner	12/29/1963 – Kay & Joyce Kinter (61)
12/09 – Cheryl Keesee (Zion)	
12/09 – Sylvia Swarts (Zion)	
12/10 – Coy Leggett (Emmanuel)	

Please notify of corrections or additions through emmanuel@ruraltel.net or zionlu@ruraltel.net .

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes
August 12, 2024
(Unofficial Until Approved)

Steven Rust called the meeting to order at 7:56 pm. Present were Pastor Lee, Dennis Keesee, Steven Rust and Christina Driggs. Nathaniel Grote, Shellie Lare, and Howard King were absent. Pastor started with a prayer and devotion around Chapter 6 and 7 of “Reclaiming the “C” Word” followed. Meeting agenda was reviewed. Dennis made a motion to accept the meeting agenda, Christina seconded, and the motion was approved. Minutes from June 10th meeting were reviewed. Motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded and approved.

Ministry Reports:

- A. Highlights of Pastor’s reported included that the Constitution is almost done. Pastoral evaluations are completed. Combined worship will take place on the 5th Sunday of September, the 29th, at Emmanuel. Worship time will be 10:30 a.m. and a potluck will follow. Dennis made a motion to accept the report, Christina seconded, and the motion was approved.
- B. Dennis provided July 2024 financial documents for the Treasurer’s Report and asked that we start thinking about ways to replenish the NOW account. Pastor Lee made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Steven seconded, and the motion was approved.
- C. Committee/Organization Reports
 - 1. Congregational Life: none
 - 2. Education Ministry: Confirmation this year will have 9, maybe 10 students. Two will be from Zion.
 - 3. Property: Jordan Dettmer has volunteered to fix the wood on the bell tower.
 - 4. Worship & Music: Setting 4 will be used until the end of August, then something new.
 - 5. Trust Fund: Scholarship checks were sent. One check was sent for the entire year with instructions to the institutions to apply one half of the amount to first semester and one half of the amount to second semester.
 - 6. Parish Council: did not meet

Od Business:

- A. Items need to be hung in the conference room/library.
- B. The Constitution and Bylaw Amendments is almost done.
- C. Carpeting has been tabled.
- D. Training on Breeze software implementation is ongoing.
- E. Mission Festival will take place at Emmanuel on November 17th with Bishop Candea in attendance.
 - a. An email was sent out to all congregations in terms of each’s responsibilities
- F. Picture of Council members for website is tabled until all members can be in attendance.
- G. Church insurance: Steven sent an email. Smoke detectors need to be installed.
- H. Volunteer Secretary Work (make copies of bulletins, etc): ask for volunteers and contact Altar Guild about adding to their responsibilities

New Business:

- A. Mission Statement: in the Constitution it states that the Mission Statement will be reviewed from time to time.

- B. ELCA Social Statement Workshops: information has been included in the bulletins. There is a small cost involved and if anyone wants to attend, members can possibly attend together. Dennis made a motion that if there is any attendance, members can be reimbursed for cost. Steven seconded, and motion was approved.
- C. Quarterly Newsletters: Emmanuel has asked that they be done bi-monthly rather than quarterly because of the calendar. Zion Council has no issues with this so Pastor Lee will move forward with a bi-monthly time schedule.
- D. Thanksgiving Eve Service: tabled until more Council members are present.
- E. Recording Attendance: keep on agenda for future discussion

Next meeting will be September 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Christina Driggs,

Secretary

**Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 9, 2024
(Unofficial Until Approved)**

President Steven Rust called the meeting to order at 7pm. Present were Steven Rust, Pastor Lee, Shellie Lare, Dennis Keese, and Nathaniel Grote. Absent were Howard King and Christina Driggs.

Pastor gave devotion on chapter 8 from “Reclaiming the “C” Word followed with a prayer. Shellie made a motion to accept the agenda with the additions. Nathaniel seconded the motion, motion was approved. Minutes for August 12, 2024 was reviewed. Dennis made a motion to accept the minutes and Steven seconded and the motion was approved.

Pastor gave his ministry report. Dennis made a motion to accept the report, Shellie seconded, and the motion was approved. Dennis gave the treasurer report and made a motion to get all banking reports on line. Pastor seconded, motion approved. Pastor made a motion to authorize Dennis to take funds out of account #1028 to pay bills for October if need be. It was seconded by Nathaniel, motion approved. Nathaniel made a motion to approve the treasurer report, seconded by Steven and motion approved. Check book audit was done by Shellie.

Committee / Organization Reports:

Congregational Life—WELCA Baby, School, and Personal care kits will be put together on October 6, Pastor has asked Emmanuel Sunday school children to help.

Education Ministry—Ten youth will be attending Confirmation this year.

Property—Jordan Dettmer has offered to fix the bell tower. Council will leave it up to Jordan to fix it to his expertise. Council will help with funding.

Worship & Music-- Is using setting 5 out of the old With One Voice.

Trust Fund – no meeting

Parish Council – Met September 8, 2024. The Council would like each Parish to give their offering at Mission Festival to Ryan Bose and Andrea Keese in their on going education. Discussion on the budget with no action taken. Next meeting October 27, 2024 at Phillipsburg.

Old Business: The sign will be put up on the outside of the Library door. Pastor made a motion to buy a smart tv (monitor) not bigger than 50`, giving Dennis discretion on where to pull the funds from. Shellie seconded the motion, motion approved. Pastor still working on Constitution and By Laws. Breeze software is ongoing to

combine each church information. Mission Festival will be November 17, at 10am. There will be a sign up sheet put up in October.

No council picture taken. Steven is checking on the Church insurance. Jerry Keesee has volunteered to help with the bulletins. There will be paper in the narthax to record attendance. There must be a count of people each week. Our Mission Statement will be brought up next meeting. There will be a Thanksgiving Eve service again this year.

New Business: Cub scouts, not sure if there will be a troop this year.

Next meeting will be October 14, 2024 at 7pm. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Shellie Lare
Acting Secretary

Emmanuel Church Council Meeting

Sunday, August 11, 2024

7:00 PM

(Unofficial Until Approved)

The regular meeting of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church council was called to order by President Lindsay Gannon. Paula Weinman and Alyssa Stites were absent. Pastor Lee led opening devotions by leading a discussion on chapter 7 of "Reclaiming the C Word." The author had stated that people plus the Holy Spirit could equal trouble. When the Holy Spirit moves people in unexpected ways, we should expect messes. But we should always remember that Jesus shows up anyway.

The July minutes were approved as written, following a motion by Mark Conn and a second by Anthony Kirchhoff to do so. Anthony then presented the treasurer's report. Sue Jackson made a motion, seconded by Mark Conn, to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor Lee presented his Pastor's report and highlighted upcoming events. He reported that the evaluation committee had met earlier and that their evaluation should be ready for the September Disciples of the Plains council meeting.

Sunday school will begin September 15 at 10:00, immediately following the church service. Worship and Music committee will meet Tuesday, August 20, to plan September services. The next parish council meeting is September 8 at 5:00 P.M. Special orders were left for Paula and Alyssa. The council shared joys and concerns.

In old business, Pastor Lee presented the bids for smart boards which were approved as part of the technology updates at the 2022 annual meeting. Pastor Lee made a motion to purchase the 86" smart board from Eakes Office supply per their proposal, using the remainder of the allocated amount from the annual meeting and paying the difference using funds from a memorial, to be determined by the treasurer. Anthony Kirchhoff seconded the motion. Discussion regarding the two different sizes presented by Eakes led to a general consensus that the larger smart board would be better for use in the sanctuary (funerals and presentations) and will also work well for the Sunday school. It will be attached to a rolling cart and will be able to be moved up and down stairs via the elevator. The motion carried.

Mission Festival is scheduled for November 17 at Emmanuel. Volunteers for various duties will be needed. Plans will be made at the next two council meetings. Church cleaning will be scheduled early in November.

The fifth Sunday combined service with Zion on September 29 will be at 10:30 at Emmanuel. It will be an outdoor service, weather permitting, followed by a potluck meal. The food will be served from the office

building. Emmanuel will provide tea and water and table service. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs and something for the pot luck.

Pastor Lee and Sue Jackson have worked on the constitution updates. Lindsay Gannon will proofread the document before it is sent to the synod for approval.

Mark Conn and Anthony Kirchhoff will check on the septic system at the parsonage.

Pastor Lee is planning on a first communion group and will coordinate the details with the parents and children involved.

In new business, a discussion was held regarding the ELCA Social Statement online workshops. Since there is a fee for taking the workshop, Pastor Lee made a motion, seconded by Anthony Kirchhoff, to reimburse anyone who requests it for taking the workshop. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding quarterly versus monthly newsletters. Bi-monthly was suggested, and Pastor Lee will discuss it with Janet. The “Serving in Worship” list will still be available monthly.

Pastor Lee asked the council their opinions about the Thanksgiving Eve service. It was the general consensus that it would be okay to discontinue scheduling a Thanksgiving Eve service.

Emmanuel’s constitution requires that we have a mission statement. Ideas will be shared at the next council meeting.

The next meeting will be Sunday, September 8, at 7:00 PM.

With no further business to discuss, Mark Conn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Heersink. Motion carried, and the meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Jackson, Emmanuel secretary
Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, September 8, 2024
(Unofficial Until Approved)

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Council President Lindsay Gannon. Pastor Lee led a discussion of Reclaiming the “C” Word, chapter 8, Daring to be Hopeful. Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, wrote of how scary it is to dare to be the church. Although the scariness today is more subtle than it was in Paul’s letter, we as the church still need to ask the difficult questions of “Why?” or sometimes “Why not?” We need to work for change for the sake of ministry, not change just for the sake of change. Devotions closed with prayer.

The minutes of the August council meeting had been emailed to council members and were approved following a motion by Mark Conn, seconded by Paula Weinman. Anthony Kirchhoff presented the treasurer’s report. Mark Conn made a motion to approve, seconded by Dave Heersink. Motion carried.

Pastor Lee presented his monthly report, detailing his many activities and upcoming events.

Pastor Lee reported that the Sunday school will begin September 22.

Worship and music committee had met to plan services. The liturgy was changed and will be used until Advent.

Disciples of the Plains Parish Council had met prior to this meeting. Sue Jackson and Pastor Lee reported that the council had worked on the budget and had reviewed the pastors’ evaluations, in addition to regular business. The offering received at this year’s Mission Festival will go to seminary student Ryan Bose and PMA candidate Andrea Keesee.

Members of the council shared joys and concerns.

In Old Business, Pastor Lee reported that he is working on formatting the Constitution and By-laws, and will submit them to the Synod Council for approval.

Pastor Lee and Dennis Keesee are working to combine the Breeze accounts of Zion and Emmanuel and forming a Disciples of the Plains account. When this is done, American and St. John will add their information to that account. This is being done to help with the expense of the program.

At the October meeting, the council will work on a Mission Statement for Emmanuel.

Mission Festival plans were discussed. Bishop Candea will be here to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry parish. Students who attended the Youth Gathering will make a presentation during the meal after the service.

The fifth Sunday service on September 29 at 10:30 AM will be followed by a potluck meal. Weather permitting, it will be an outdoor service with the meal being served from the church office. Inclement weather will move the service and meal to the church sanctuary and church basement.

The septic system was checked. No service is needed at this time.

The first communion group will meet on Sunday, October 20 from 2:00 - 4:00.

Scholarships were approved for three students upon application. The amount remained the same: \$200 for first year students and \$400 for subsequent years.

In New Business, Sue Jackson asked that the council provide a financial donation for the Mission Festival offering. Mark Conn made a motion, seconded by Anthony Kirchhoff, that \$1000 be added to the offering from Emmanuel. Motion carried.

Paula Weinman noted that the carpet outside the front door needs to be repaired or replaced. Anthony Kirchhoff made a motion to replace the carpet and will contact someone to install the carpet. Sue Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Meeting dates remain scheduled the second Sunday each month. The next meeting is October 14, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Jackson, Emmanuel Council secretary

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting
October 13, 2024
(Unofficial Until Approved)

The regular meeting of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church council was called to order by President Lindsay Gannon at 7:00 PM on October 13, 2024, with all members present. Pastor Lee led opening devotions, telling

about Henry Muhlenberg, a well-known name in American Lutheranism from the 1700s. Our present day church will hopefully be remembered, as Muhlenberg is, for its mission and ministry.

The minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting were approved as written, following a motion by Mark Conn and a second by Dave Heersink. The treasurer's report was presented. Mark Conn made a motion, seconded by Alyssa Stites, to approve the report. Motion carried.

In Pastor Lee's report, he reminded the council that he and Pastor Kathy would be gone October 15-17 to the Fall Theological Conference. He reviewed activities on his calendar with the council.

Alyssa Stites reported that the Sunday school is using the new smart board during their singing and their lessons. They are learning the Kyrie and plan to lead it for the Mission Festival worship service.

Sue Jackson reported that the worship and music committee will meet Tuesday to plan services for November and that the next meeting of the DOTP parish council will be October 27 at 5:00 at Zion. The parish council will finalize the budget so it can be presented to congregational councils at their November meetings.

The council shared joys and concerns.

Old Business

- Pastor Lee suggested and the council agreed to table the update of the church's mission statement until the new council begins in 2025. Ideas for the mission statement could be offered at the annual meeting.
- The constitution updates have been submitted to the synod.
- The Breeze software now includes all of Zion and Emmanuel members and is ready for St. John and American congregations to be added.
- Plans for Mission Festival were discussed.
 - Fall church cleaning** will be immediately after the service on November 10. The side rooms in the basement will be made ready for overflow for the Mission Festival meal. Alissa Krafft will help make a list of other cleaning projects that need to be completed. Tables for Mission Festival meal will be set up after the cleaning is completed. Council will provide pizza for the cleaning crew. Everyone is invited to stay and help with the cleaning.
 - Kathy Merklein will purchase table covering and decorate tables.
 - Altar care will order flowers for altar.
 - Lindsay Gannon will order 10th anniversary cake for the Disciples of the Plains parish.
 - Mark Conn will order dinner rolls for the meal.
 - Alan Hanke will grill ribs for the meal. The cost of the meat is reimbursed by the DOTP parish.
 - Emmanuel will provide tea, coffee, and water, as well as BBQ sauce and butter. Paper plates, cups, and table service items have been restocked.
 - Sign up sheets for workers and extra food are in the back of the church.

New Business

- Sue Jackson made a motion to donate \$250 to Lutheran World Relief for recent hurricane victims and also to put out a basket for two weeks for additional donations from the congregation. Anthony Kirchhoff seconded, and the motion carried.

- Pastor Lee asked that the council be aware that fluorescent lighting in the parsonage and in the basement of the church will need to be updated. Mark Conn suggested replacing with LED lighting and will order the appropriate bulbs. (Fixtures can be rewired without replacing them.)
- Pastor Lee reported on grants from the Merklein Foundation. One is to be added to the cemetery fund, and the other is to be added to the Good Samaritan account. Since Pastor Lee is sometimes contacted by people in immediate need of help, Sue Jackson made a motion, seconded by Anthony Kirchhoff, that for amounts under \$200, Pastor Lee can make a decision to help someone in need and then be reimbursed by the Good Samaritan account. Motion carried.
- To attempt to eliminate the sewer gas odor in the basement and office building, Anthony will purchase a septic tank additive. Other remedies were discussed.
- Midweek worship services will begin at 6:30 throughout the year. This will enable the students in confirmation classes held following the services to get home earlier.
- Next month the nominating committee will begin seeking nominees to replace two trustee positions (Sean Cravens and Anthony Kirchhoff) and a deacon (Sue Jackson). The nominating committee consists of Sue Jackson, outgoing deacon, Alan Hanke, and Tina Terry.
- Pastor Lee asked for clarification on who is to purchase batteries for the wireless microphones. The deacons agreed to be responsible for this.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday November 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Paula Weinman made a motion, seconded by Anthony Kirchhoff, to adjourn. The meeting closed at 8:10 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Jackson, Emmanuel Council secretary

**Disciples of the Plains Parish Council
Minutes of the September 8, 2024 Meeting
5:00 PM at St. John
(Unofficial until approved)**

Parish Council President John Terrill called the meeting to order at 5:25 PM. Members in attendance were Pastor Lee Bennight, Pastor Kathy Whitney, Treasurer Russell Dettmer, John Terrill, Barbie Timmons, Melissa Westbrook, Dalyn Diercks, Shellie Lare, Doug Zillinger, Brock Johnson, and Sue Jackson.

Doug Zillinger made a motion to approve the agenda. Melissa Westbrook seconded, and the motion carried.

Pastor Kathy led opening devotions by reading from the book Small Church Advantage. The author reminds us that God joins us wherever we are in Christian worship, no matter the size of our congregation. She closed with prayer.

The minutes of the February 25, 2024 regular meeting and the May 12, 2024 special meeting were approved, following a motion by Doug Zillinger and a second by Shellie Lare.

Barbie Timmons presented the Treasurer's Reconciliation Report. She said that the congregational treasurers audited two years of the Disciples of the Plains treasury records and found the books to be in order.

Russell Dettmer presented the treasurer's report. He also reported that each congregation is current in their DOTP parish payments. Doug Zillinger made a motion to receive and file the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Barbie Timmons. Motion carried.

Russell Dettmer then presented two models of the 2025 budget. Following some discussion on ways to save money, especially for the pastors' insurance policies through Portico, the approval of the budget was tabled

until the next meeting. Pastor Lee and Russell Dettmer will explore some insurance options. Local church councils should expect to receive the budget for their approval in time for their November meetings.

Pastor Lee and Kathy presented pastors' reports, detailing activities and important upcoming events. They also reported on how the mutual ministry committee is valuable to them.

In Old Business, Pastor Lee explained how he and Dennis Keesee are working to combine the Zion and Emmanuel information in the Breeze software. When they accomplish this, they will make a Disciples of the Plains account, and then St. John and American can add their membership to that account. With all four congregations sharing one account, it will save each congregation money each month.

In New Business, Doug Zillinger presented the report from the Evaluation Committee. The committee found no real problems and believed that the strong points were in word and sacrament. They encouraged congregations to be supportive and offer to help however they can. Members need to play an active part in worship. The committee concluded that both pastors are serving us well.

Mission Festival which will be November 17 at Emmanuel was discussed. Bishop Susan Candea will be here to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Disciples of the Plains parish. Doug Zillinger made a motion, seconded by Melissa Westbrook to donate the Mission Festival offering to support the education of Ryan Bose, seminary student, and Andrea Keesee, a PMA candidate. All churches will be asked to send their offerings to Russell Dettmer who will send 75% to Ryan and 25% to Andrea.

The discussion of the sick leave policy was tabled until the next meeting, which will be at Zion on October 27 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by DOTP secretary, Sue Jackson
Minutes are not official until approved at the next meeting.

COMBINED NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024 EMMANUEL & ZION CALENDAR

Updated calendar information can be found on our congregational websites at

www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org

www.emmanuelutheranchurchofstuttgart.org

November 3, 2024: All Saints Sunday

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship

November 5, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion

November 6, 2024 - Wednesday

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion

November 10, 2024 – Sunday (Lectionary 32B)

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship

- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Fall Clean-up
- 10:30 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 4:30 pm – Zion Women of the ELCA Fall Fundraiser
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Council Meeting

November 11, 2024 – Monday (Veterans Day)

- 7:00 pm – Zion Church Council

November 12, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion

November 13, 2024 - Wednesday

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion

November 14, 2024 - Thursday

- 7:00 pm – Bible Study at Zion

November 17, 2024 – Sunday (Lectionary 33B)

MISSION FESTIVAL

- 10:00 am – Parish Mission Festival Service at Emmanuel.
- After worship – Parish Mission Festival Meal

November 19, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Worship Committee

November 20, 2024 - Wednesday

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion

November 21, 2024 - Thursday

- 7:00 pm – Zion Bible Study

November 24, 2024 – Christ the King Sunday

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School

November 26, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion

November 27, 2024 - Wednesday

- 6:30 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 28, 2024 - Thanksgiving

December 1, 2024 – 1st Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 5:00 pm – Emmanuel Tree-lighting gathering

December 3, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion

December 4, 2024 - Wednesday

- 6:30 pm – Advent Evening Prayer at Zion
- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion

December 8, 2024 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School

- 10:30 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship

- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Church Council

December 9, 2024 - Monday

- 7:00 pm – Zion Church Council

December 10, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion

December 11, 2024 - Wednesday

- 6:30 pm – Advent Evening Prayer at Emmanuel
- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Emmanuel

December 12, 2024 - Thursday

- 7:00 pm – Zion Bible Study

December 15, 2024 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship

December 16, 2024 - Monday

- 7:00 pm – Zion Worship Committee

December 17, 2024 - Tuesday

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Worship Committee

December 18, 2024 - Wednesday

- 6:30 pm – Longest Night Service

December 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship

December 24, 2024 – Tuesday – Christmas Eve

- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Christmas Program
- 10:00 pm – Zion Candlelight Holy Communion

December 25, 2024 – Wednesday – Christmas Day

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel

December 29, 2024 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

- 10:30 am – Combined 5th Sunday Holy Communion Worship at Zion.

2024 November & December

Lesser Festivals and Commemorations

Date	Event Name	
Friday, November 1, 2024	<i>All Saints Day</i>	The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.
Sunday, November 3, 2024	<i>Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639</i>	Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed Black woman from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.
Thursday, November 7, 2024	<i>John Christian Frederick Heyer, died 1873; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, died 1719; Ludwig Nommensen, died 1918; missionaries</i>	Heyer was the first missionary sent out by American Lutherans. After teaching at Gettysburg College and Seminary he was assigned to the Andhra region of India. A worker among the Tamil people on the southeast coast of India, Ziegenbalg was opposed both by local Hindus and by Danish authorities who favored a different missionary style. He was known for caring about the welfare of the whole person. Nommensen was born in northern Germany and was sent to Sumatra as a Lutheran missionary. Working among the Batak people, he translated the scriptures into their language, and honored their native culture.
Monday, November 11, 2024	<i>Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397</i>	Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.
Monday, November 11, 2024	<i>Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855</i>	Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.
Sunday, November 17, 2024	<i>Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231</i>	Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

Date	Event Name	
Saturday, November 23, 2024	<i>Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100</i>	Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.
Saturday, November 23, 2024	<i>Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927</i>	Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"
Sunday, November 24, 2024	<i>Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America</i>	Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.
Monday, November 25, 2024	<i>Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748</i>	Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.
Saturday, November 30, 2024	<i>Andrew, Apostle</i>	The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.
Tuesday, December 3, 2024	<i>Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552</i>	A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).
Wednesday, December 4, 2024	<i>John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749</i>	A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.
Friday, December 6, 2024	<i>Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342</i>	Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.
Saturday, December 7, 2024	<i>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397</i>	While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a

Date	Event Name	
		writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.
Friday, December 13, 2024	<i>Lucy, martyr, died 304</i>	Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.
Saturday, December 14, 2024	<i>John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591</i>	John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.
Monday, December 16, 2024	<i>Las Posadas</i>	This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.
Friday, December 20, 2024	<i>Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552</i>	Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.
Thursday, December 26, 2024	<i>Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</i>	Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.
Friday, December 27, 2024	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.
Saturday, December 28, 2024	<i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

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