

# EMMANUEL LUTHERN CHURCH

## AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



*Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.*

*-James 5:7-8*

We're in that stretch of summer where time can feel slow and fast all at once. The big push of spring has passed, but harvest isn't quite here yet. For a lot of us, this is the in-between. Our lives are shifting from the energy of early summer to steady and preparing for the upcoming fall season. Watching the sky, tending what's been planted, and hoping it all pays off.

It's a rhythm that mirrors our lives more often than we realize. Sometimes we're in a season of action with new jobs, new kids, new challenges, big decisions. Other times we're in the season of waiting. For a diagnosis, for healing, for a breakthrough, or just for something to change. The hard part is, those seasons don't come with a calendar. You can't plan when the rain shows up.

That's what I love about this passage from James. It speaks right into the quiet tension of this season. It's not just about waiting for something to happen, it's about the kind of waiting that trusts the process. The kind of waiting that's rooted in hope, even when the crop isn't showing yet. And that kind of waiting isn't passive. The farmer doesn't sit back and hope for the best, there's still tending to be done. Weeds pulled. Fences checked. Soil watched closely. The patient work of someone who trusts that something good is coming, even if they don't see it yet.

This time of year, we ask ourselves: what kind of ground are we tending? What kind of care are we giving to the parts of our lives that matter most? Our relationships? Our faith? Our communities? Are we watering the right things, or just getting through the day? Are we making room for growth, or letting the weeds take over?

I think God meets us in this in-between. Not just in the growth, not just in the harvest, but right here in the middle, when the ground looks quiet and we're not sure what's next. It's in that quiet, steady space where God reminds us that growth is still happening underneath the surface. That the work we're doing, even when it feels small, is preparing something good.

So if you're feeling a little worn out or uncertain this month, know this: God sees the ground you're tending. The prayers you whisper when no one's around. The kindness you offer without fanfare. The quiet faith you carry even when the days are long. That's the good work. That's the kind of tending that brings life. Not all at once, but in time.

So hang in there. Keep tending the ground. The rains will come. The harvest will too.

God Bless,  
Pastor Josh





## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

August 2025 – ELCW newsletter

This has been quite a busy summer, with all the problems resulting from the June 16<sup>th</sup> hailstorm that devastated the trees, plants and many buildings in the Shepherd area. With the flooding in our church basement, we were unable to hold any meetings or activities in it. We had to cancel the community BBQ's for this summer but look forward to holding the BBQ's again next summer.

The McSweyn family gave a generous donation to the Women's Group in memory of their mother, Willa McSweyn. Willa was always an active member of the ELCW and will be greatly missed.

Our July council meeting was held at the home of Dawn Petty and that will be the place for the next meeting in August. Vacation Bible School will be held at the Community Center this summer the week of July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Emmanuel and American Lutheran members were among the volunteers at the July 10<sup>th</sup> St John's concert at the Shiloh Campus. Our two groups passed out water bottles, programs, and helped carry chairs to the concert grounds for older people who needed help with their items.

The church basement will be undergoing many repairs to walls, floors and storage areas. Boxes of supplies were packed up, and a crew of helpers worked on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, to carry all of that outside to the big storage unit moved into the parking area. A separate group worked on clearing the storm debris outside the church. Kevin Kincheloe brought a large dumpster for the lawn debris and ruined items from the water damage. That was such a great help. We had volunteers from the church members, plus about a dozen teenagers from the high school, which included teens from the football team and the student council. What a blessing they were! Then a delicious meal was served by Connie Halvorson. She had made a Mexican buffet of beef tacos, chicken fajitas and a large bowl of mixed fresh fruit. Desserts were furnished by Kristianne Wilson and Dawn Petty while Sam Murnin provided the drinks.

Dawn Petty

ELCW President

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE



Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

## ODE to the Kernel

Sweet Golden Kernel I do love you so. In faraway fields I watch as you grow.

Starting out as a sprout then quickly knee high. With love, hope and water you reach the sky.

The Dog Days of Summer force your tassels to show. But now my attention is focused below.

You grow sweeter each day tucked neatly in the ear. Now August is upon us and the end is quite near.

Your journey is now over, but mine has just begun. I cannot keep from drooling on my first sweet corn run.

Shuck, boil, butter, eat. My mantra you see. Come join my friends. There is too much for me!

Sweet Golden Kernel I do love you so. Thank God for farmers who help you grow!

Your faithful friend.

In residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse



# Christikon Clips

August, 2025

*Information for our Congregations*

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 74<sup>th</sup> season. We hosted over 500 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at-risk youth. We have retreats scheduled through mid-October.

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available.

Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and our campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and your generous donations. We are grateful!

Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

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**Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Agenda**  
**July 8, 2025, 7pm**

**Mission:** Emmanuel Lutheran is a welcoming church in a rural community, called by God to **joyful worship, caring relationships, and loving service.**

**Vision:** We will follow God's plan for us to grow in **faith, family, and community.**

Opening Devotion

Attendance: Dawn Petty, Jeanne Larson, Jill Hoffman, Carol Kramer, Samantha Murnin, Devin Murnin (via phone), Pastor Josh Wyman

Meeting opened with a thank you to Dawn for hosting our council. Dawn graciously served refreshments during the meeting,

I. Standing Reports

- a. Secretary Report (Abbey): No report available at time of meeting
- b. Treasurer Report (Lindsey): Treasurer report was reviewed. Carol made a motion to approve and Devin seconded it. Motion passed.
  - i. Giving Units
- c. Pastoral Report
  - i. VBS: Pastor Josh is in talks with the Community Center to find alternate dates for VBS. It may move to an afternoon time slot.

II. Old Business

- a. Mid-Year Financial Check-in: Jill evaluated budget numbers to provide a percentage of budget used YTD. This document provided a clear picture of where expenses have been larger than budget for (specifically insurance premium). The council discussed areas of cost savings and will continue to bring ideas forward on increasing giving/income. Samantha will create a summary of mid-year budget check-in and highlight how to give via Vanco to be used as a bulletin insert and printed in the newsletter.
- b. Congregational Planning/Coaching: Council discussed timing of coaching due to status of budget and upcoming financial and time needs to work through the storm damage. Jill made a motion to table the coaching/congregational planning discussion until September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Jeanne seconded the motion and the motion passed. Council discussed ways ELC can carry out our church mission through creation of committee.
- c. Storm/Insurance: Adjuster has been out to the church and Samantha reported that we are waiting for the estimate to come back from the

insurance. Jill will order N95 masks that are needed for cleaning contents from the basement. The Reynolds family brought a storage container to the church parking lot that can be used to store basement contents.

- i. Synod Support: Synod team members met virtually with council members available on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Synod is sending \$1,000 from the Hunger Fund to the Food Pantry to help replenish plants lost in the storm. Additional support from the Synod includes funds for ELC to hold a community BBQ and provide resources for insurance assistance, mental health support and more. A committee of Jill, Dawn, Jeanne and Kristianne was formed to plan the community BBQ.
- ii. Asbestos Report: Asbestos testing was completed on July 3. There were initial findings of asbestos in the basement office, storage room next to the office and hallway area that connects those rooms and the staircase. Samantha is waiting for the official report to be emailed to her. These findings will impact cleanout and repair of the basement.
- d. Cleaning Update: Due to the condition of the basement, cleaning services have been put on hold indefinitely. The council will all work to be sure the sanctuary and reaming upstairs rooms are cleaned up for Sundays.
- e. Congregation Feedback Committee Update: Not discussed

### III. New Business

- a. God's Work Our Hands – Sunday, September 7: Carol looking into options for cleaning up the cemetery. Dawn to check with the Lion's Club on any cleaning up or repairs needed at the Community Center.

### IV. Sunday Service Attendant(s) –Offering Counter/Communion Assistant

- a. July 13th - Jeanne
- b. July 20th - Jill
- c. July 27th- Carol
- d. August 3<sup>rd</sup>- Dawn
- e. August 10th- Carol
- f. August 17th- \_\_\_\_\_

### V. Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, August 6th, 7pm at Dawn Petty's house

VI. Mission Cornerstone-what have we talked about today that raises itself to: Joyful worship, Caring relationships, and/or Loving service.

### VII. Closing-Lord's Prayer

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a welcoming church in a rural community, called  
by God  
to joyful worship  
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**We have a vision . . .**

“We will follow God’s plan for us  
to grow in faith, family,  
and community.”  
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**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING