

# The VISITOR

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

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## Pastor Timothy Koch

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## Pastor's Post

Confirmation at Emanuel Lutheran Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let's talk about confirmation at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

In August of 2019, I wrote a Newsletter article titled "Confirmation Changes." I explained how Christianity as a whole no longer enjoys the "favored status in society" that it once did. I explained how the world is only getting *more* hostile to the Christian faith. In light of these realities, I explained that now is not the time to "skimp" on theological education.

I also explained that our confirmation program is now moving to a point-based system.

We are now a year into this "point-based" confirmation program. Though the parents of confirmation aged students are aware of what is going on, I thought I would publish the information in the church Newsletter so that everyone is aware of what's going on. Transparency is a good thing.

The point-based confirmation system at Emanuel Lutheran Church is designed to instill good habits (worship, Bible study, Bible reading, acts of service) among those who participate in the program. If you neglect the habits, you'll miss out on the confirmation.

The system holds everyone accountable and works like this.

### Values

Attending worship service .....10 points

Each completed "Service Notes" .....	5 points possible
Sunday School .....	5 points
<b>Missing Sunday worship service .....</b>	<b>-5 points</b>
Attending catechism class.....	10 points
Each Quiz.....	10+ points possible
<b>Missing Catechism class .....</b>	<b>-5 points</b>
Special Project .....	100 points possible
Reading a Gospel out loud to an adult.....	100 points.
Attending an OAFc weekend.....	75 points.
Completed Lenten Reading Challenge .....	200 points possible

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Opportunities

Worship: 65 services/year x 3.75 years .....	2430 possible points.
Service notes: 65 services/year x 3.75 years .....	1215 possible points.
Sunday School: 30/year x 4 years .....	600 possible points.
OAFc weekend: 75/weekend. Min. 4 wknds/year.....	300 possible points.
Catechism class: 31 classes/year x 4 years.....	1240 possible points.
Quizzes: 30/year x 2 years.....	600+ possible points.
(there are no quizzes the first two years)	
Special Project.....	100 possible points.
Reading Gospel: 100/year x 4 years.....	400 possible points.
Completed Lenten Reading Challenge.....	800 possible points.
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>7685 points possible</b>

**THE STUDENT ISN'T ELIGIBLE TO GET CONFIRMED UNTIL HE/SHE HAS ACCRUED 4100 POINTS.**

In addition to these requirements, the student must say all his/her memory work. Memory work is identical every year. It's the same memory work four years in a row.

Sunday Worship is, simply put, the single most important thing we do as a congregation. In worship people hear the word of God. People hear the word of God explained in the sermon. People receive the forgiveness of sins. People sing their faith. People see and experience the communion of saints as others are in the pews around them. The shape and structure of the worship service gives shape and structure to people's own lives of faith.

The point totals reflect the primacy of Sunday Worship's importance.

That's why you'll notice that I subtract points from people who neglect worship. The reason I do that is because skipping worship is not a spiritually neutral decision. It's always spiritually detrimental. It's a 3rd Commandment issue, "Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy." *What does this mean?* "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

In the rite of confirmation, students stand before God and the congregation and confess that they would rather die than fall away from their faith in Jesus. If students can't give up their Sunday morning to worship Christ, then in what universe is it fair to ask them to give up their LIFE for Him?

Galatians 6:6 says, "God is not mocked."

I will not be party to the mocking of God. If you chronically neglect worship and the study of God's word and then stand before the congregation and say that you'll die for this faith that you've habitually been neglecting, well, that is a mockery of God.

There is no perfect confirmation system. Our current point-based confirmation program is not different, but it does have a strength. It's objective. There is a fairness to it. Everyone is held to the same standard. And those who put in the work can be confident they didn't waste their time. And those who neglect the work will know exactly why they weren't confirmed. This program allows families to show good faith. And it helps keep everyone's conscience clean. It also prevents accusations of "pastoral favoritism."

Another advantage of this confirmation program is that it reflects our current reality. Being a Christian isn't easy. You have lots of things working against you. It takes hard work to keep the faith. That's why St. Paul compares "keeping the faith" to a "fight" and a "race."

The point-based system is ultimately inconsequential. If you don't do the work, the worst that happens to you is that you don't get confirmed. It's not ideal, but there are no eternal consequences there. The Bible never says you need to be "confirmed" to be saved.

The life of faith in Christ, however, is much different. If you lose your faith. Well, that's eternally consequential, and the worst that happens to that person is eternal fire.

I hope this newsletter has helped you see how our confirmation program works and the rationale behind it. Let's all encourage one another, at all times and places, to prioritize God's Word, to be in worship, and to experience the joy that is the salvation of God among the communion of saints. Pastor Koch

**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Funeral**

**Charlie Meyer**

**Wedding**

**Megan Grabow and Darris Olson**

**Junior Confirmation**

**Rylee Schell**

**Braydon Bauer**

Sophia Whitlow  
Lydia Street  
Kaitlyn Krause

November: Vonnie Forman  
December: Evy Hilbrands  
January: Debbie Trapp  
February: Steve Bogenrief  
March: Joan Smith

**NURSING HOME BULLETIN DELIVERY**

October: Mailing

**READINGS FOR OCTOBER 2020**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Festival</u>	<u>1st Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Oct . 4	Eighteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 5:1-7	Psalm 80:7-19	Phil. 3:4b-14	Matt. 21:33-46
Oct . 11	Nineteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 25:6-9	Psalm 23	Phil. 4:4-13	Matt. 22:1-14
Oct . 18	Twentieth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 45:1-7	Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13)	1 Thess. 1:1-10	Matt. 22:15-22
Oct . 25 (observed)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19-28	John 8:31-36 or Matt. 11:12-19

**Ladies of Emanuel:**

LWML Sunday is October 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a special worship service. Ladies of Emanuel will meet on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the church fellowship hall for Bible Study and a short business meeting, All ladies are welcome to come and join us.

**Corrections to the Friendly Reminders:**

- **We do collect used eyeglasses here at Emanuel but they do not go to the Lions' Club as previously reported. The eyeglasses collected go to M.O.S.T. Ministries (Mission Opportunity Short Term) which is affiliated with LCMS. This mission was started many years ago by Doris Enquist. Now the eyeglasses (glasses, sunglasses and even kids sunglasses) are taken to Tim and Sue DeJong who send them to Ann Arbor Michigan, M.O.S.T. headquarters.**

**Tabitha Ladies Aid will meet at 1:00 PM on October 8th at the church.**

**SPECIAL MISSION ENVELOPE**

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

**Grant County Food Pantry**

**Mission Sewing will meet October 1st at 8:30 AM. We always have quilts and pillows for sale.**

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**Treasurer Report**

August 2020 Income: \$30,941.57  
August 2020 Expense: \$25,407.99  
Difference: \$5532.58

YTD 2020 Income: \$251,365.03  
YTD 2020 Expense: \$265,677.68  
Difference: -\$14,312.65



**From the desk of the Office  
Manager(s)**



**Karissa McFaden continues to work in the church office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 to 4:00 pm. Karissa is responsible for Pastor's messages/schedule, bulletins, yellow sheet information, address changes, attendance, scheduling for acolytes/sound system, mailings for the church (except newsletter), special service coordination (funeral/baptism/wedding) and coordinating the church calendar.**

**Lisa Miller is responsible for contribution documentation, finance inputs of expenses, preparing checks for treasurer, newsletter compilation, supply ordering, preschool budget/payment processing, payroll human resource/benefit issues, and coordinating the overall office flow. If you need assistance from Lisa during this time, please use her cell phone number (605-467-3209) or her email [ljf0312@gmail.com](mailto:ljf0312@gmail.com). Lisa does utilize the church email as well. There are not posted hours in the office for Lisa; but weekly office time will**

occur. Please note that Lisa and Hannah Barthel need more than a day's notice to process checks. If you need a check; please let Lisa know a week in advance if possible. Also, if you need supplies ordered please give a week notice for those as well.



**Thank you to all for meeting the additional budget need for the new sound/video system. If you haven't seen our new livestream service, look up our YouTube site and watch any of our services on our page. The quality of the recordings is significantly better. We apologize for the inconsistency of the recordings for tv and radio and hope these have been resolved. Please let us know if there are any concerns.**

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Emanuel Education Facebook Site-<https://www.facebook.com/EmanuelMilbankEducation/>

Rally Sunday was a success! We had 48 kids participate in the Rally Sunday activities. These activities consisted of fellowship, lessons (1: The Good Samaritan and 2: The Lord's Prayer), donuts, juice, chalk drawings and balloons. During the second week of Sunday School the third graders received their Bibles and lessons 3: The Good Shepherd and Lessons 4: Zacchaeus were covered. We look forward to the continued fellowship with the children, through Sunday School. Matthew 19:14 "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

In Christ's Love,  
Talia Athey, Pam Vogel, and Megan Grabow

# You're Invited!

Kids grade 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> are invited to participate in the Emanuel Lutheran Church kids' choir!

It will be during the same time as catechism--Wednesday's after school until 4:30 and will be starting September 16<sup>th</sup> (we know this letter is coming to you after the start of choir. Please forgive us for being late). A small snack will be provided for the children (either goldfish, peanut butter or cheese crackers, granola bar, popcorn, pretzels, etc). If your child has dietary restrictions please let us know.

If you want your child to wear a mask, please send them with one and let us know so that we can make sure they wear it. We are placing large vinyl stickers on the ground to encourage social distancing. Each social distance sticker is a symbol of the church. Throughout the year the children will learn what each symbol means. Below is a list of dates that the kids will sing. They will be singing at the end of the first service and the beginning of the second service.

Also, the choir kids were given the option to sing with the catechism students on November 1. They will be singing two songs at the 10:30 service. One song will be sung during communion and the other will be sung after the sermon. Note that this is a different time layout than all the other times that the choir kids will sing.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!  
Psalm 100:1

We look forward to making a joyful noise to the Lord with your children this year!  
Blessings in Christ Jesus our Lord,

## Contact Information

Pam Vogel  
(314) 719-9608 call or text  
[pvogel2011@hotmail.com](mailto:pvogel2011@hotmail.com)

Emily Koch  
(605) 377-8065 call or text

[peponita.duo@gmail.com](mailto:peponita.duo@gmail.com)

## Dates Kids Sing

18-Oct



1-Nov (with catechism students at 10:30 service.)

15-Nov

13-Dec...Christmas Program

20-Dec

17-Jan

21-Feb

21-Mar

18-Apr

16-May...Last Sing Date for Children

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### Preschool News By Karen Tillma

School has begun, but we find it more stressful than other years. We are frequently cleaning, washing hands, and checking temperatures. We are often set on edge when we have been informed that a child has a family member who has tested positive for Covid. We continue to ask for prayers of protection over our staff and students. Even if the public school goes to online learning, we will continue in the classroom unless one of the teachers should get sick. Our enrollment is down from other years, which I guess this year may be a blessing. When a student is out sick or is quarantined because of a positive test in their family, I video the lesson and share it with the family so their child can watch it at home.

We would love to take the children on field trips as we do other years, but it doesn't look like that will be a possibility. We do not have cadet helpers from the high school as we have every year, and we are really limiting extra people in the classroom. Parents drop their child off at the door, and very few have come inside. Thank you for refraining from visiting this year. You know I love the helping hands and the children love visitors, but that just isn't a possibility this year. Hopefully next year we can go back to the way it used to be before Covid started.

Blessings to all! Thank you again for your continued prayers.

## EMANUEL MUSIC 2020-2021

### Wednesday Schedule

3:30 Youth Singing Choir. **Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>**

4:45 Youth Music. **Grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** (will begin at the end of Oct.)

5:20 Adult Handbells. **8<sup>th</sup> - Adult**

6:30 Joy Choir. **7<sup>th</sup> - Adult**

### Sunday Schedule

First Sunday - Open for special - Youth Music

Second Sunday - Joy Choir

Third Sunday - Youth Choir

Fourth Sunday - Adult Handbell Choir

Fifth Sunday - Open for Special



Please join us we will warmly welcome you!

We need pianists! Please contact Kristy 949-1372

### SOUND SYSTEM/RADIO BROADCAST FOR OCTOBER

October 4      8:00 a.m.      Tom Werner      10:30 a.m.      Roger Schwandt

October 11	8:00 a.m.	Larry Underwood	10:30 a.m.	Dan Bowen
October 18	8:00 a.m.	Tracy Pinkert	10:30 a.m.	Dale Rethke
October 25	8:00 a.m.	Charles Schamber	10:30 a.m.	Dave Schamber

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### **ACOLYTES FOR OCTOBER**

October 4	8:00 a.m.	Evan Henderson, Brock Thyne	10:30 a.m.	Peyton Bauer, Krista Nies
October 11	8:00 a.m.	Bennett Hunt, Bryton Blauert	10:30 a.m.	Jaylynn Fraasch, Trey Reil
October 18	8:00 a.m.	T. Vogel, S. Vogel	10:30 a.m.	M. Mueller, D. Mueller
October 25	8:00 a.m.	Evan Rethke, Devon Dexter	10:30 a.m.	C.J. Street, Logan Robinson

This month (October): Group 1, Elder Dewey Athey/Josh Radil

Next month (November): Group 2, Elder Howard Mueller

Next special event: Group 5, Elder Larry Underwood

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

Bogenreif Sharon J.	1-Oct	Thibeault Katelyn	10-Oct	Dexter Jacy	20-Oct
Whiting Mary J.	1-Oct	Campbell Sharon	12-Oct	Hilbrands Kennedy L.	20-Oct
Dragt Kathryn A.	2-Oct	Gapp Evan	12-Oct	Schwandt Richard R. (Dick)	21-Oct
Vogel Alanna	2-Oct	Henderson Jamie L.	12-Oct	Smeins Rhonda	22-Oct
Hyatt Teresa E.	3-Oct	Peiker Eugene (Gene)	12-Oct	Lee Shelby K.	24-Oct
Wagner Daniel	3-Oct	Angerhofer Zachary B.	13-Oct	Newman Olivia R.	24-Oct
Bohlen Earl D.	4-Oct	Dietmeier Micah M.	13-Oct	Schweer Kayla	24-Oct
Greiner Brian A.	4-Oct	Toft Lilly M.	14-Oct	Barthel Whitney J.	25-Oct
Pinkert Alicia M.	4-Oct	Pinkert Armin R.	15-Oct	Bogenrief Steven J.	26-Oct
Geyer Rita J.	5-Oct	Pinkert Scott R.	15-Oct	Koch Lois	26-Oct
Berkner Charles P. (Chuck)	6-Oct	Skovbo Philip A.	15-Oct	Wieber Ramsey T.	27-Oct
Bloom Jaime L.	6-Oct	Wittrock Hallie E.	15-Oct	Mueller Devon E.	28-Oct
Stemsrud Shawn R.	6-Oct	Morton Jesse R.	16-Oct	Wittrock Emily E.	28-Oct
Gilliland Damien J.	7-Oct	Hofhenke Trent L.	17-Oct	Newman Isabel E.	29-Oct
Koch Clifford L. (Kip)	7-Oct	Kasuske Joyce R.	17-Oct	Schwandt Linnea M.	29-Oct
Schellberg Rueben F.	7-Oct	Underwood Larry A.	17-Oct	Smeins Michael	29-Oct
Barthel Daniel J.	8-Oct	Wagner Benjamin M.	17-Oct	Smith Joan M.	29-Oct
Borchert Marie	8-Oct	Dexter Logan B.	18-Oct	Schell Peyton D.	30-Oct
Peiker Heather L.	9-Oct	Schwandt Klynn M.	18-Oct	Heffron Robert H.	31-Oct
Poel Leone	9-Oct	Henderson Naomi R.	19-Oct	Koch Todd E.	31-Oct
Spanton Ryan P.	10-Oct	Trapp Ryver L.	19-Oct	Schell Heidi	31-Oct

Skovbo Kaja R. 31-Oct

Wagner LaVonne 31-Oct

### OCTOBER WEDDING ANNIVERSRIES

Pinkert Tracy E. and Kimberly 1-Oct

Berkner James (Jim) and Patricia (Pat) 5-Oct

Spanton Ryan P. and Jessica M. 5-Oct

Stensland Ralph W. and Jeanette M. 6-Oct

Skovbo Lee R. and June M. 9-Oct

Fish Richard J. and Kerry L. 11-Oct

Rethke Leslie E. and Regina A. 11-Oct

Graf Jackson P. and Caitlyn K. 12-Oct

Berens Tom and Linda 13-Oct

Lee Amber and Brandon 15-Oct

Morton Jesse R. and Nicole 15-Oct

Schamber John and Eileen 19-Oct

Bowen Daniel L. and Angela M. 20-Oct

Haigh Jessica L. and Ross Haigh 26-Oct

Grabow Wayne L. and Rita 27-Oct