



The Vine

The monthly newsletter of Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Greenvine, Texas
April, 2024

Our Mission Statement

Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church shows our loyalty to Jesus Christ through:

- devotion in **WORSHIP**
- excellence in **EDUCATION**
- and **SERVICE** that is faithful to the needs of our members, families, neighbors, and community.

Dear Friends,

Alleluia. Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Welcome to the Season of Easter. We will return to the Narrative Lectionary until Pentecost Sunday on May 19 th . We will be learning from the book of Acts in April. I think you will enjoy hearing new stories once again. We will go back to our liturgical setting from the ELW, as well. It has been a very creative several months with our series in Advent and our Series in Lent from Sanctified Art. It is always good to explore new things to help things stay fresh. It opens our hearts and our minds to new ways of seeing and hearing scripture and liturgy. We will also be looking for a summer of themed worship services, at least one each Month starting in May.

I would like to thank all the wonderful ministry teams that made our Lenten season very special. They assisted in so many ways behind the scenes and for all the Lenten worship services. I could not have done it without them. Also, thanks to the Fellowship team who organized the Maundy Thursday meal and the Easter Breakfast. Of course, thank you to all of you who participated in all the worship services that were planned. We hope you found them meaningful and lifegiving. Worship is such an important part of our life together, it's what grounds us in our faith.

Here are some things to be looking forward to during our summer months. We will be offering three different Bible Study groups in homes. We will have a sign-up list with the locations of the homes who will be hosting in May. I am still working on the details for the study and will announce it when I have it completed. I will lead the study but hope that people can learn how to lead it on their own, as well, in the future.

We will be planning a celebration for our 140 th Anniversary of the church. There will be details available along with the date of the celebration in our next newsletter. If you would like to be on the planning team, contact anyone from the council and let them know you are interested.

On May 4 th the outreach team is looking forward to providing a free meal for the community of Burton. We will hold it at the Roadhouse in Burton. This is the first of many events we hope to host for the community and to build relationships with those in the community who may be in need of a meal. We will hopefully expand it to working with other churches in the area, as well. We received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Gulf Coast Synod to support our efforts to do outreach in the community to see if it bears fruit in a space other than our church building. Being in community with others and building relationships can be lifegiving for all those who participate. It is a way of loving our neighbor and sharing God's love with all those we meet. We are looking for different ways to engage in our community to make a difference. If you would like to be a part of this planning or dreaming, let someone from the council know and we will get you connected.

As always, thank you for your partnership in ministry in this place. I continue to see God's blessings daily and know that the Holy Spirit continues to move in and among us in so many ways.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen. Christ is risen in deed.

Pastor Cindy

Please keep in prayers.....

APRIL BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 02-Mark Shepherd
07-Debbie Kieke
08-Hayden Bartels
09-Denise Brode
Brooke Kaminski
Drake Eckert
12-Jeff Witte
15-Trinten Rolling

Apr. 15-Cori Kmiec
20-Jerri Linke
23-Marilyn Dreyer
28-Sheila Rolling
29-Janie Dreyer

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 07-Ruben Robles
11-Janie Dreyer
12-Jeanette Schwartz
15-Brooke David
16-Melissa Diehl

Apr. 25-Ruby Wagner
27-Julie Weidemann
29-Grace Muegge

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Apr. 04-Gary & Sherry Krinke
10-Louis & Kareen Resendez
17-Marlyn & Thelma Doppellhammer
21-Josh & Brooke Kaminski

Apr. 22-Jimmy & Kelley Shuford
24-Richard & Pearlie Hanath
Luke & Stephanie Eckert
30-Ruben & Cindy Robles



PRAYER LIST

SHUT-INS: Vernell Mertz, Lois Jurries, Rosalie Moehring, Jeanette Schwartz, Daulene Hopmann, Billie Eckert, & Richard Hanath.

MEMBERS of our CONGREGATION: Cathy Ganske, Carrie Busch, Diane Boehnemann, Glenn Linke, Ralf Thiemer, James Chapman, Lee Sikes.

FRIENDS and FAMILY MEMBERS of OUR CONFREGATION: Dusty Morgan, Pat Joswiak, Lynnlee Kocurek, Albert & Caroline Linke, Bill Holland, Jeffrey Pittman, Otto Kemper, Michelle Dees, Stan Knuepper and Randy Lewis.

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

04-56 11-44 Ash Wednesday-39 18-63 21-22 25-45 28-25



THRIVENT CHOICE \$\$\$

Special thanks to the following who have designated their Choice Dollars to our church: Daulene Hopmann, EJ Muehlbrad, Glenn & Jerri Linke, Pastor Cindy Robles and Ralf Thiemer. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



CLEAN OUT

During a recent de-clutter day, we have put things in the old youth room (parish hall). There are lots of trophies and other items that need to find a new home. First come and it is yours!!

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

When we hear the word “Stewardship” we usually associate it with that frenzy of activity near the end of the year when members of the congregation are urged to think about their “giving” in relationship to the church budget - both for the current year and for the next year. But that is not what stewardship is really about.

The broad definition of stewardship as defined by the Merriam-Webster Thesaurus is “the job or act of taking care of something, such as an organization or property.” This definition is what we need to remember as we go through this year’s spiritual journey. Stewardship is something we need to be mindful of each day, each week and each month of the church year - and, yes, having members of this congregation think about their giving is a part of stewardship but it is not the main objective.

So as you go about your daily lives, keep stewardship in your thoughts. Think about how you can be involved in being a good “steward” of this congregation and this congregation’s property.

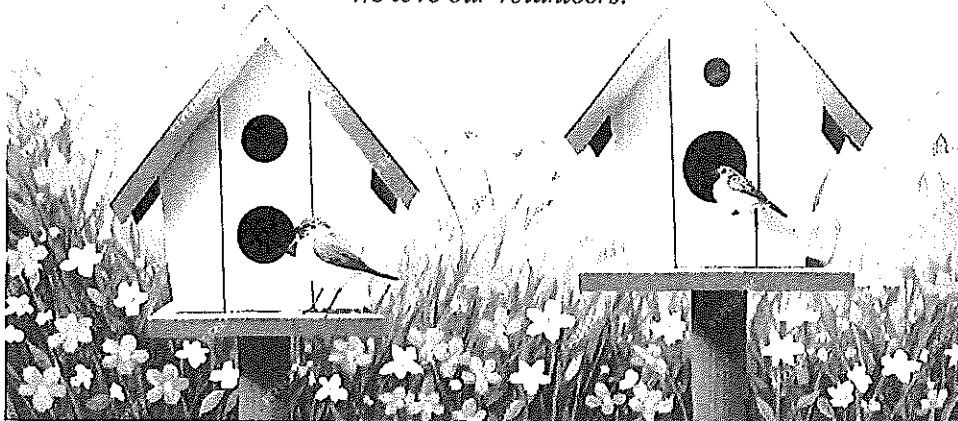
As the year progresses, it is the intent of the stewardship ministry to gently remind you of the importance of stewardship to this congregation - and , yes again, this will include some emphasis on giving but also (and more importantly) on your personal involvement and commitment to the stewardship of the God-given resources of Greenvine Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church.

All volunteers are invited to Burton Bridge Ministry’s
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT
Saturday, April 13, 4-6 p.m.

Oliver Whitener-Roy Winkler Pavilions, 307 North Main, Burton

We’ll be serving fried chicken with all the sides; please let us know you’re coming.
RSVP by Monday, April 8 to burtonbridgeministry@gmail.com or 979-337-3370.

We love our volunteers!





I am so excited to announce that we have implemented a new giving source, Tithely! Tithely is user-friendly and used by millions of churches including some of our local churches. You can set up how often and how much you would like to give. Your contribution will automatically be deducted from your bank account. Even if you are not able to make it to church one Sunday, you can still give through Tithely. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Alexis Antkowiak



THE CHURCH THAT FEEDS, LEADS, AND LOVES

Church Council Meeting

Date: February 19, 2024

Attendees: Troy, Lacy, Alexis, Marlyn, Betty, Carolyn, Cindy, Donna

The meeting started with a prayer from Troy and was called to order at 6:07 PM.

Minutes from the January council meeting were passed out and read amongst council members. Marlyn motioned to approve the minutes as written. Betty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Alexis. Alexis stated that January's congregational giving was down from last year (January 2023) and also down compared to December 2023 giving. Lacy made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as given. Marlyn seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved as given. Council approved printing and distributing quarterly giving statements to congregational members to help members meet their personal stewardship goals for this year.

Rev. Cindy passed out the Pastor's Report and was read amongst council members. Rev. Cindy was excited to report that we received a \$5,000 grant from the synod for outreach ministry. Rev. Cindy also wrote and received a grant from **Live On** for \$1,500 for youth ministry within our conference. Council approved to make line items within the SuperNow fund for the specific grants as well as future fundraisers for outreach ministry, conference youth ministry, fellowship, etc.

Troy and Tonja will be working together to update our church bylaws and updates to our constitution to bring to the council for approval within the year.

We are still seeking 2 voting delegates for Synod Assembly May 17-18, 2024. Registration needs to happen ASAP.

Clean-out of the youth room for Sunday School -- Godly Play will be ongoing and items will be offered to the congregation for taking before donating or disposal. Thank you to Rev. Cindy and Janette Shepherd for volunteering to find places for the items to be kept for Sunday School, fellowship, ministry, etc.

Council approved the clean-up and removal of the side flower beds on the sanctuary to make them match the front of the sanctuary. The cost will be donated from the Grace Boehnemann Family. We appreciate their generous gift.

Rev. Cindy completed the SMART goal worksheets and Troy made copies to distribute to the council member liaisons. These SMART goals will help keep our ministry teams on track for the goals/dates the council set for each ministry team during our council retreat in January.

Alexis gave a short presentation on the giving platform Tithely. Tithely is a free mobile and online giving platform for churches which is more user friendly than our current platform Vanco. Betty made a motion to switch from Vanco to Tithely. Carolyn seconded the motion. Council approved creating an account for our church on Tithely. Alexis will work to phase out Vanco for Tithely for our mobile / online giving members. Once setup is complete more information will be given to our congregation in regards to how to access, download, use, and switch from Vanco.

Lacy reported that she has created a YouTube account for our church to post services, sermons, videos, etc. @GreenvineEmmanuelLutheran This could possibly replace our Facebook Live or be an additional way to access services for people who do not have Facebook. If anyone is knowledgeable in YouTube, video cropping, or interested in helping with our YouTube channel please contact Lacy.

Ministry Teams Updates:

- **Youth & Family - Troy:** The "Church Family Sunday Funday" on February 18th after worship was a success. Troy wants to increase attendance for the next event by reminding ALL members are welcome as church family. Next meeting date for Youth and Family is set for Sunday, March 3rd
- **Fellowship - Carolyn:** at the last meeting on February 11th the group planned the Maundy Thursday meal and Easter breakfast. Thanks was given to the Kieke Family for donating eggs for Easter breakfast. The Thiemers and Ruben Robles will be filling out Thrivent grant applications to try to help offset Easter breakfast costs. The congregation is welcome to bring fruit trays and desserts for Easter breakfast. The group will meet prior to Maundy Thursday to decorate the Parish Hall and also on Saturday, March 30th @ 3:00 PM to prep Easter breakfast. We have tentatively scheduled our 140th Church Anniversary Celebration for Sunday, June 23, 2024 -- more details to come.
- **Worship / Music - Lacy:** Instruction manual binders are being created by Lacy with help from Troy (ushers), Thelma Dopplehammer (altar guild), Cindy (assistant ministers), Kylie (Powerpoint) to help with streamlining and transition. The Worship Team met with Pastor Cindy prior to Lent to plan worship services. Thank you to Debra Eckert for planning readers for Palm Sunday. The next Worship & Music team meeting will be Sunday, March 10th after worship.
- **Outreach - Betty:** Prayer at the Pole (for students, families, and community) will take place Friday, March 8th @ 7:30 AM at the Burton Elementary Flagpole. Donna gave Lacy the copied fliers to distribute to students at BES. Donna will deliver fliers to BHS. Lacy will continue to promote the event on Facebook. Lacy will create a permission slip for teachers who will be bringing students to Prayers at the Pole. A free Community Meal is scheduled for May 4th location will be at the Burton Roadhouse - more details to come. Rev. Cindy along with the Outreach Team will be planning a one-day fun event prior to summer break "The Best Day Ever" for our youth in Burton with the grant received from Live On. The next Outreach team meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4th @ 6:00 PM
- **Memorial - Tonja:** Tonja will be working with Marilyn Dreyer to create a "Memorial Needs List" of items we may need or items to be replaced. Donna and Rev. Cindy are looking into ordering new candles to replace the broken candles on the altar.
- **Endowment - Alexis:** Marlyn will be passing the torch to Alexis to work closely with E.J. Muehlbrad for all Endowment needs and actions. Thank you Marlyn for your dedication and service.
- **Stewardship & Cemetery - Marlyn:** Marlyn will be working on 'Temple Talks' throughout the year to highlight stewardship stories. Thanks was given for Linda Gaskamp for joining the Cemetery Committee.
- **Building Task Force -** Committee members are Marlyn Dopplehammer, Luke Eckert, Josh Kaminski, Russell Klump, Jimmy Shuford, Mark Shepherd, and Ronnie Schulte -- The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27 @ 6:00 PM. We thank them for their time and dedication to this project.

A workday is scheduled for grounds and clean-up to prepare for Easter on Saturday, March 23rd @ 9:00 AM - noon.

A motion was made by Marlyn that the three persons authorized to write checks against the General Fund, the SuperNow account, and the 2nd Mile Giving Fund, shall be Donna Putnam - Bookkeeper, Troy Weidemann - Council President, and Alexis Antkowiak - Treasurer. All other persons previously authorized shall have their names removed as part of this authorization. The motion was seconded by Troy Weidemann and the motion passed unanimously.

The next council meeting will be Monday, March 18th at 6:00 PM

The Lord's Prayer was said in unison and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacy Eckert -- Secretary -- Greenvine Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Emmanuel Lutheran Monthly Banking Financial Data
As of February, 2024

Total Cash
Balance
Amounts

2/29/2024 General Operating Fund

Year 2024 Total Budget Income Amount	\$17,252.00	
Year 2024 Total Checks Written for Budgeted Expense	\$11,889.04	
Year 2024 Net profit/deficit	\$5,362.96	profit

2/29/2024 General Fund Balance \$16,152.94

2/29/2024 Total SUPER NOW Fund

Year 2024 Total Income/Deposits	\$509.19	
Year 2024 Total Checks Written for Non-Budgeted Expense	\$350.00	
Year 2024 Net profit/deficit	\$159.19	profit

Portion Balances of the SUPER NOW Fund

Memorial Fund Balance	\$13,282.26	
Property Fund Balance	\$9,132.03	
Cemetery Fund Balance	\$3,924.91	
LYO Fund Balance	\$2,843.98	
Camp Fund Balance	\$7,558.65	
Parish Hall Upgrade Fund Balance	\$2,873.60	
2/29/2024 TOTAL Money Market Fund Bank Balance		<u>\$39,615.43</u>

2/29/2024----2nd Mile Giving Fund \$7,304.78

2/29/2024 Emmanuel Lutheran TOTAL Cash Balance \$63,073.15

Worship Ministry Schedule-APRIL

Date	Altar Flowers	Communion Committee	Assisting Minister	Acolytes	Head Usher – Marilyn Dreyer	Tellers
Apr 07	Jeff & Judy Witte	Stephanie Eckert Emily Siemsglusz	Alexis Antkowiak	Ronson Muegge	Russell & Jonna Klump	Troy Weidemann Sharon Chapman
Apr 14	Marilyn & Thelma Doppellhammer	Denise Brode Kareen Resendez	Thelma Doppellhammer	Jacob Brode	Ronnie Schulte Brandon Schulte	Carolyn Thiemer Melissa Diehl
Apr 21	Roy & Carol Schmidt	Tonja Scheer Mary Jane Sikes	Luke Eckert	Paige Fritsch	Tonja Scheer Nikki Boehnemann	Tonja Scheer Betty Clark
Apr 28	Ricky & Debbie Kieke	Carolyn Thiemer Carolyn Wickel	Chris Siemsglusz	Gracyn Kaminski	Donna Putnam Josh Kaminski	Lacy Eckert Marilyn Doppellhammer

Memorials –

Gifts received this past month were given in memory of Doris Penkert, Grace Boehnemann and Evelyn Fuchs. Thank you for honoring our loved ones with a gift to our church's Memorial Fund.