



THE SHEAVES

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Newsletter of Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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cameronemmanuel.org



Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church

God's Beloved People,

"The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:14b (NRSVue).
2025 Northwest Intermountain Synod Assembly theme: "Wellsprings of God's Love."

2025. A New Year. A Year of New. New means new. A new year is just that, new. It is not the same year, it is not the old year one more time, it is a different year, a new year. Ah, therein lies the rub. We don't do new well. We are better with the familiar, we are creatures of habit.

You are different. You have changed. It is easy to fall into the trap when remembering the past (whether as individuals, or groups, or organizations), to consider it a simpler time, remembered as abundant, thought of as all good, perhaps more alive and vital. Here's the thing, the past wasn't without problems or easy, everything wasn't better. The past was once the present, and the present is not the past, and the present is not yet what will be, it is the present. Stuck in the past can rob you the joy of this day. It is not about erasing the past but rather not allowing it to overshadow the present, 2025.

The end of **2023**, we said goodbye to Pastor Craig Groseclose who had served among us for 10 years (2013-2023). The first three months of **2024** brought supply clergy, the remainder of the year, an interim pastor, serving half time, commuting from Pullman, during July an 8 day supply pastor from Texas. It is now **2025**.

What would you like to ask the congregation?

What would you like to share with the congregation as to what you receive from this congregation through worship, from them as a community of faith today?

What is your greatest fear for this congregation going forward?

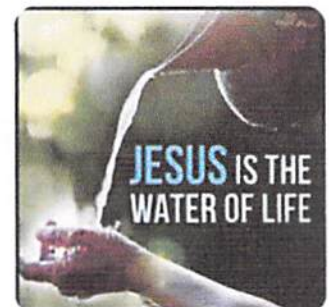
What excites you as a good option for Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church moving forward?

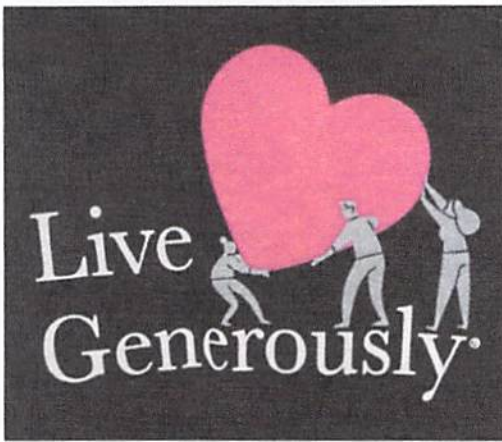
It was once the case that the pastor was a traveling missionary from Oregon who conducted services in a school or farmhouse about every six weeks. Once the pastor lived elsewhere, in Genesee, and commuted on occasion to lead services. Once the pastor resided here for the first time, and a parsonage and church building were built, "his" family lived in the parsonage, stabled the horses in the "parsonage barn," the pastor led the worship service in "German." Memory can be selective, incomplete, or just plain wrong. We tend to remember the positive more, the negative less, embellish the good, diminish the struggle.

Every year you live is another chapter in your story, filled with lessons, growth, experiences, every year another chapter in this congregation's story. How you view and think about this day, this month, this January of 2025, can directly impact how you experience it and live into it. Instead of focusing on what has changed, what is no longer the case, celebrate what you have this day, and what this congregation has this day, embrace change. Every beginning in life is preceded by an ending.

Early morning, still dark out, you sit near the front window with your coffee, the cup warms your hands. Outside, the January sky is taking on light, the moon softens. Then, for a moment, it is neither night dark nor day light, it is no longer what was but not yet what shall be, for a moment you are lost in the beauty and wonder and mystery of it all, something is stirring, a new day is coming, a new world is being born, in you, around you, you sense it, you feel it, you know it in your bones, you sit silent, and yet you want to sing...

+Pr. Nick Nicolai
Interim Pastor





“Live generously” is the motto printed on T-shirts we see often around our church. They can be shades of blue or black or gray – or one year it was turquoise – and each one has a heart on the front of it, often with a cross overlaying it. Where do they come from? They are a gift from Thrivent when someone applies for one of their \$250 grants for some charitable or out-reach project: the bazaar turkeys, the cantata, VBS, quilt batting, or some big event that needs funding. Many of us have several shirts in the different colors – they are great for night shirts and with jeans!

The word ‘generous’ is a broad word – dictionary definitions say kindly, magnanimous, copious and open-handed. It is most often thought of in terms of money and possessions, although it is much more. It implies that we have something we can share. We give at

church. We support charities that we know are safe and necessary. We give our teenage son \$10 when his car is out of gas. We give to Christmas appeals for dinners for those who don’t have enough. We give to local or national disasters, such as last summer’s awful fires. We support groups by attending fundraising events. We CARE for each other. That’s living generously.

‘Open-handed’ sounds risky, but think of the opposite: a closed fist, and you get the picture. ‘Copious’ sounds even riskier – sometimes we don’t HAVE ‘copious!’ In terms of money, no two families are in the exact same financial situation – the spectrum goes from very poor to the very rich. Generosity is being willing to share whatever you have, even if it’s just the Biblical examples of the widow’s penny or a simple cup of cold water. What’s in your heart – your love and care for others – is what matters. That’s living generously.

Generosity is an attitude – a way of living. There are homes in every town and neighborhood that are sort of kid-magnets where there always seems to be extra children in the house. They are safe there. They are welcome there. If they happen to still be there at lunchtime they are fed. You may all have good memories of one home – yours, maybe, or some relative, where you could drop in and visit at any time and be welcomed - and fed if you happened to hit a mealtime. That’s living generously.

Generosity is sharing your gifts with others. Those who raise big gardens share the produce with others (but don’t ever leave your car unlocked at church during zucchini season!) Those who can quilt help with the bazaar quilts or tie quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Those who can sing join the choir. Good leaders share their talents by taking offices or leading activities. The farmers clear out the parking lots in the winter. Handy people install new toilets and fix broken things at church. Those who can drive take shut-ins to appointments or pick up people who can’t drive any more. Those who like to bake cookies take them to new neighbors or lonely people. There once was a cement company with its big trucks all labeled ‘Find a need and fill it’ – a great slogan that illustrates how we live generously.

Generosity is sharing your time and yourself with others. Go visit with those confined to their homes or a retirement facility. Call them and see how they’re doing. Send an encouraging card to those who are sick or in a difficult situation. Offer to bring food to someone who’s ill. Pray for others. Pray WITH others. The Bible tells us to carry each other’s burdens, and praying for them is a very good way to do that.

Mother Teresa and her life-long devotion to the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, India was the epitome of sharing herself with others. She founded a group called Missionaries of Charity that spread to 133 poor areas in the world - generosity always grows things! Albert Schweitzer was a gifted (and somewhat controversial) theologian, writer, organist, and physician who could have had a huge career in just about anything, but chose to spend a good part of his life building and working in a hospital in Africa serving the natives. He chose to spread the gospel by example of healing, not preaching, so that ALL people would see God’s message in action. That’s living generously.

Then there is the incredible generosity of our God, who already owns everything that is. He shared His Son, Jesus, with us. Jesus DID preach, and showed us by example what generosity is in His dealings with the poor and the lost and the needy. God’s Son died for us so that we could be with Him: a matchless gift. That’s sharing generously almost beyond our understanding!

Let us all live and share generously in this new year of 2025!

~Ann Taylor

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 Adult Sunday School

10:00 Worship

January (by John Updike)

*The days are short,
The sun a spark
Hung thin between
The dark and dark*



January Birthdays

- 1 Doug Silflow
- 6 Loeda Reil
- 7 Emerson Schneider
- 11 Jim Silflow
- 12 Max Schaefer
Spencer Preece
- 22 Ryan Lawrence
Caisen Brown
- 25 Emma Proctor
- 28 Joanne Gertje

January Anniversaries

- 01/01/97 Ted/Peggy Dennler
- 01/06/67 Horst/Loeda Reil

VISITS FROM THE SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church is blessed to have had **Bishop Meggan Manlove** with us in person for worship and then conversation with the congregation following worship on Sunday, **December 8, 2024**. And now a month later, to have **Pr. Phil Misner** from the Synod to be with us in person for worship and have conversation with congregation leadership following worship this Sunday, **January 5, 2025**. We are grateful to the synod for walking with us during this time of transition and change.

Pastoral Position:

The congregation's Council has suggested a **half time call with an annual salary of \$28,000 plus** other compensation, i.e. pension/medical, social security offset, continuing education, vacation, etc.

Sunday, January 12, 2025 Discover and Invite Team and congregation conversation during coffee hour following worship. Reports for the annual meeting are due.

Sunday, January 19, 2025 – Lay Led, no communion. Annual reports will be handed out for review.

Sunday, January 26, 2025 Annual meeting following worship and coffee hour. Please come and participate. **Agenda:**

- *Interim Contract
- *Call Process
- *Budget
- *VBS
- *Website Administrator
- * Parsonage electrical box upgrade, furnace, flooring

Wednesdays, throughout day between 9:30 and 3:00

Women meet at the church to sew, tie quilts, hand quilt, work on Bazaar crafts. All Welcome. Bring your lunch.

Monday, January 20, 10:00 a.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

Announcements and Prayer Requests. Send prayer requests and announcements for the Sunday bulletins to **Joanne Gertje** (jgertje28@gmail.com) or **Pastor Nick Nicolai** (lutheranwsu@turbonet.com). After doing the bulletins for a year, Ann Parks has asked Joanne to share the duties this year. Ann will continue to publish the monthly newsletter and is the congregational council secretary.

VBS planning should begin in February. A coordinator and leaders are needed in order to provide it this year.

A website administrator is needed to keep the church's site current, especially if prospective pastors will be checking out Cameron's information and activities.

Gideon was a leader in Israel way before David was king. For several years a nation called Midian had invaded and bossed Israel, and had made life really miserable for them. Israel would have to go to war to get rid of the Midianites, but there was a big problem: they only had a few thousand soldiers to help win a war. Midian had way more soldiers. Then God told Gideon to go to war, but he had too many soldiers - send some of them home. Huh?!? Gideon obeyed, though, and sent 10,000 home. God said, "That's still too many - send more home!" This happened a couple more times, until Gideon was down to 300 men. Yikes! That's like sending out one man all by himself to win a football game against eleven players! But God said not to worry, and Gideon trusted Him.

Sure enough, God told him what to do, and it was wonderful! The three hundred men divided into three groups, and each one of them had a trumpet and a jar with a torch in it. They sneaked to the Midianite camp and surrounded the army in the middle of the night, then on Gideon's signal they broke the jars that had the torches in them and started blasting the trumpets. The sleeping Midianites leaped out of bed in terror and were crashing into each other trying to get out of there. Pretty soon there wasn't a Midianite within miles!!

There's a good lesson in this for each one of us: we might be small and think we're too weak to do something, but if we trust God and ask for His help, He will help us figure it out!



Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Eiffel.
Eiffel who?
Eiffel down the steps!

Say this fast three times:

A skunk sat on a stump
and thunk the stump stunk,
but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Icy
Icy who?
Icy you in there!



What do you get if you cross a dinosaur with a pig?
Jurassic pork

What did the eyeballs say to each other
Just between the two of us, something smells.

**What's the difference between the bird flu
and the swine flu?**
One requires tweetment and the other an oinkment

Why did the bicycle fall over on New Year's Day?
Because it was two-tired.

Why did the sock go to the New Year's Eve party?
It wanted to be with its sole-mates.

Last year, I was able to keep all of my New Year's resolution ...tucked away in a journal on my bookshelf.



.....
PRAYER.
THE ORIGINAL
WIRELESS
CONNECTION
.....



What's a spider's New Year's resolution?
To spend less time on the web.

Why is partying in Times Square overrated?
Because they drop the ball every year.

At the beginning of this year
I made a resolution to lose 10 pounds ...
...only 15 more to go!

What was Dr. Frankenstein's New Year's resolution?
To make new friends.

I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year
but then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.

SIGN POSTS AT INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

I'm going to start collecting highlighters. Mark my words!
Fungi puns are my yeast favorite. There's too mushroom
for error.
Cosmetology student misses class! ... Forced to make up
makeup test!
Ghosts like to ride in elevators because it lifts their spirits
What do you call a hippie's wife? Mississippi



The Discover and Invite team met with the Bishop's Assistant Pr. Phil Misner and started on the Congregational discernment process. What we learn from the discernment process is the basis for writing our Ministry Site Profile. The team invites everyone to stay for a coffee hour after worship on January 12. As part of the discernment process, we want to hear your stories, hopes and concerns. The team needs your input and will be active listeners.

- ◊ **Horst & Loeda Reil** have moved to Brookdale Senior Living in Lewiston. They are in apartment 207
- ◊ Lauralee said that **Karl Heinz Kunder** is settling into Adult Home care and they are making yummy healthy meals and lots of care. It is just a 5 minute drive from daughter Andrea and the apartment Lauralee will be moving to. She said KH would love hearing from y'all with a card or whatever. His address is Lidia's Adult Home Care, 5308 Blvd. Ext. Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98501
- ◊ **Drew & Cindy Brammer** made some renovations and moved into Cecil's house; **Gary Brammer** is considering retirement and has moved to Cameron with **Mildred**. There is a lot of tinkering to do over at the parsonage & church to keep you busy, Gary.
- ◊ A reminder: Cameron Church has a fully stocked **library** just waiting for you to use..lots of novels, children's books, videos, resources. Do you have library skills? A librarian is needed to upkeep the good work started by Mildred Brammer & Marlene Meyer - to promote reading and keep the library organized.
- ◊ **Living Lutheran's** print magazine is returning. One of the agenda items at the Annual Mtg will be if people subscribe on their own or the church should subscribe and pay as before.
- ◊ What is going on outside Cameron Emmanuel? Go to the synod's website nwimsynod.org, scroll to the bottom and hit 'subscribe' and you will receive interesting news bulletins in your email.
- ◊ It is encouraging that **Ray Lohman** is back home after hospital stays concerning his heart.
- ◊ **Lists, Lists, Lists ...** ever wonder how you can help out? Just check the bulletin board and sign up! Lists are up for altar flowers, worship assistants, confirmation lunches, coffee hours, annual committees and maintenance.



Thanks and Recognition

Thanks to all for their stewardship of time, talents and financial support. Here are a few—forgive if some are missed — there are so many to be grateful for

◆To the church council members. Those completing their terms are Chairman Russ Brammer and trustee Ann Taylor, Treasurer Amy Lohman. Continuing are Janet Boyer, Ann Parks, and Brian Silflow. Nominees for vacated offices are Brian Silflow (Chm), Amy Lohman, (treas), Joanne Gertje (trustee) Drew Brammer (trustee). Other nominations are welcome.

◆To our Interim Pr Nick Nicolai, supply pastors, lay leaders and Bob Kenyon for his emailed sermons. It was nice to have Bob & Carma here in person Dec 29th.

◆The Discover & Invite Team preparing us for the Call Process. Don Parks, Patti Silflow, Earl Lawrence, Janet Boyer,

◆Our Bible Study leaders, Ann Taylor & Earl Lawrence

◆VBS Coordinators, Vickie Witt & Connie Reid and all who assisted them to make it a successful venture.

◆Sandy Lawrence for leading Confirmation Class and heading the altar committee (and Earl, too)

◆Amy Lohman for her beautiful piano playing every Sunday and taking care of the church finances.

◆Joanne Gertje for leading the choir and being financial secretary.

◆Ann Taylor as choir accompanist and help with the newsletter

◆We are truly blessed with musicians and singers

◆Jane Brown for lawn care

◆Ann Parks has volunteered as secretary & janitor

◆The maintenance committee (Gary, Brian, Don) for keeping things running. A few prayers are still needed for the finicky parsonage furnace !

◆The Larsons & Silflows for keeping the advent wreath tradition alive and beautiful. To Morgan & Shelby for Christmas décor downstairs, and Joanne, Vicki & Dick, Sandy & Earl, Don & Ann, Ann T for décor upstairs.

◆Sandy & Earl Lawrence for Christmas Eve Treats

◆Loralee Ohrtman printing newsletter labels in 2024

◆Donations for Lutheran World Relief projects, sewing quilts, altar flowers, coffee hours, worship assistants

For Pr Nick: A good sermon helps people in two ways. Some rise from it greatly strengthened, others wake from it refreshed.

~E. C. McKenzie

OVERVIEW

Isaiah prophesied early in comparison to other Old Testament prophets, under the reign of four Judean kings ending with Hezekiah. He most likely met his death under a fifth, the evil King Manasseh.

Isaiah focuses on the people of his day (who were about to be exiled if they didn't amend their ways), and on the times of Christ.

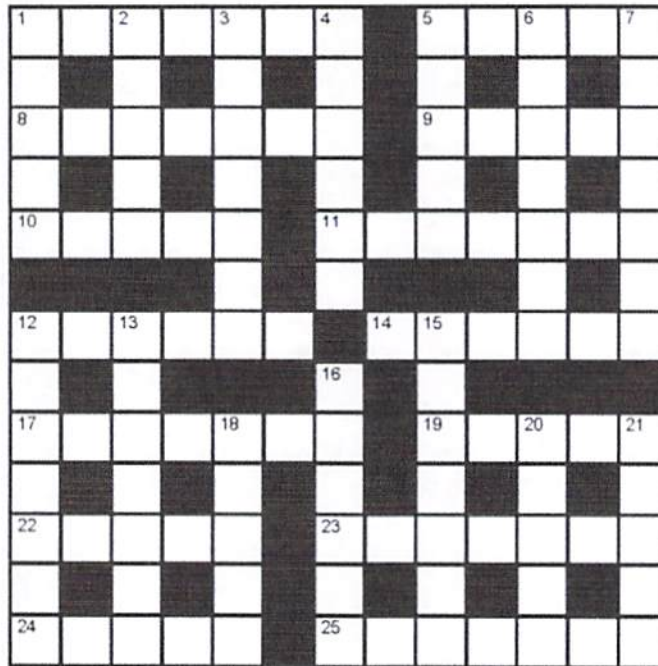
Isaiah



WRITTEN BY:
The Prophet Isaiah



TIME PERIOD COVERED:
700 BC to 25 AD
(in prophecy)



Across

- 1 The mountain of the Lord's house shall be this. Is 2:2 (7)
- 5 "Also I _____ the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Is 6:8 (5)
- 8 This shall be rolled together as a scroll. Is 34:4 (7)
- 9 The waters of this place shall be full of blood. Is 15:9 (5)
- 10 "Thou shalt say unto it, Get thee _____." Is 30:22 (5)
- 11 "I will make thee an _____ excellency, a joy of many generations." Is 60:15 (7)
- 12 "Let us eat and drink; for to _____ we shall die." Is 22:13 (6)
- 14 Wild beasts of the desert shall meet with wild beasts of this place. Is 34:14 (6)
- 17 Sennacherib king of Assyria dwelt in this place. Is 37:37 (7)
- 19 "_____ and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead." Is 26:19 (5)
- 22 "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his _____, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." Is 11:5 (5)
- 23 The vile person will speak this. Is 32:6 (7)
- 24 "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own _____!" Is 5:21 (5)

- 25 "None shall be weary nor stumble among them ... nor the _____ of their shoes be broken." Is 5:27 (7)

Down

- 1 An ancient measurement equal to about a bushel. Is 5:10 (5)
- 2 "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel ... shall no more _____ stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord." Is 10:20 (5)
- 3 "He maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down _____." Is 44:15 (7)
- 4 Isaiah prophesies this about Babylon: "Their children also shall be _____ to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished." Is 13:16 (6)
- 5 This shall be taken away and eaten up. Is 5:5 (5)

- 6 Adrammelech and Sharezer escaped to this land. Is 37:38 (7)

- 7 "Then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be _____ upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem." Is 66:12-13 (7)

- 12 One of the things that God will take away from the daughters of Zion. Is 3:22 (7)

- 13 "And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpillar: as the _____ to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them." Is 33:4 (7)
- 15 "Though your sins be as _____, they shall be as white as snow." Is 1:18 (7)
- 16 "The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the _____ and with the fan." Is 30:24 (6)
- 18 "Lord, in trouble have they _____ ed thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them." Is 26:16 (5)
- 20 "He is come to _____, he is passed to Migron." Is 10:28 (5)
- 21 "In that day shall there be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of _____, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord." Is 19:19 (5)