



Emmanuel News

July 2015



Montana Synod Assembly Report



Hello fellow Lutherans,

I had the pleasure of joining Pastor Mark and his wife Maryann on the trek to Great Falls for the annual Montana Synod Assembly. I represented Emmanuel Lutheran as a lay voting member. The meetings focused on Global mission.

“Serve the world, especially the poor and those in need.”

Having never gone to an assembly before, I can say that

is was a wonderful experience. I learned a lot. It was great to see what the bigger Lutheran picture is, what our focuses are regionally, and our missionaries globally.

During the voting portion of the meetings, several things were voted on. The budget was approved without too much discussion. We affirmed our membership in the Montana Association of Christians, recognized New Hope Lutheran Church of Great Falls as an ELCA church, renewed our agreement between the Montana Synod and the Montana Association of Jewish Communities, and voted to enter into partnership with Intermountain Children’s Home.

The key note speaker was Pastor Justin Eller, ELCA Global Mission Regional Rep in Southern

South America, whose talk focused on “Accompaniment.” Within Accompaniment, there are five values: Mutuality, Inclusivity, Vulnerability, Empowerment, and Sustainability.

Mutuality is recognizing that we all have skills to offer God’s mission and focuses on developing reciprocal relationships. Vulnerability is the giving up of power that leads to an openness to relationships. Sustainability must include embedding the project or work in the community as a whole, so the project does not depend only on one or two people and can continue over time. In accompaniment, we need to stop teaching, and instead, learn to sit down and listen to the communities. We need to be co-fishermen and women!

Thank you all for the opportunity to be a part of the Montana Synod Assembly. It was a very educational and spiritual experience. I look forward to going in the future.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth White



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

During the past year, Bishop Crist and the Synod Staff have been meeting with Pastors and congregational leaders at the request of our Churchwide Bishop, Rev.

Elizabeth Eaton, to discuss sacramental practices in local congregations with particular attention to Holy Communion.

The ELCA passed a statement at the Churchwide Assembly in 1996 entitled *The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement of the Practice of Word and Sacrament*. This statement is meant to be a guide for congregations as they develop their own worship and sacramental practices. The statement is not mandatory law, but merely a guide based on theological study and discussion. Bishop Eaton is wanting to know where congregations are at in the process since the statement first came out.

Many of the items discussed in the statement are in regards to the practice of Holy Communion and includes such issues as age of first communion, preparation for first communion, frequency of the celebration of Holy Communion, the means of distribution (common cup vs. individual cups, intinction, communion by table vs. station, etc.).

The pastors of the Beartooth and Shepherd clusters met with assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Jason Asselstine a few months ago to discuss what congregations are doing and what other congregations we have served are doing. This information is being shared with Bishop Eaton.

I raised the issue of Communion Practices with the Church Council at our meeting in June. I want to know what the



members of Emmanuel are thinking and feeling about our communion practices.

After discussion with the Council last year, I offered the option of training younger children to receive their first communion.

Several families expressed interest and

were provided with the study materials. We have yet to complete the process of preparation with these young people.

In the two previous congregations I have served in Montana, Communion was offered weekly. Both congregations had multiple services on Sunday. In one congregation communion was celebrated at every service; in the other it was offered every week, but alternated between the early and late service. Weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper was the norm the early church and in the Lutheran Church during the early years of the Reformation. The Statement suggest that congregations return to the practice of weekly communion (this is a suggestion, not a requirement).

We also discussed methods of communion: communion by table (as we do most frequently) or by station; using individual cups or intinction.

I am interested in your thoughts on these issues as is your Church Council as we talk about our worship practices for the future. Please let me or a Council Member know that you think. Give me a call, write me a note or e-mail—it doesn't matter what method you choose. My goal is that our worship be meaningful and meet the needs of our community of faith here at Emmanuel.

God's summer Blessings to you all!

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The ladies decided to take a break from meetings Sunday in November, the 1st.

this summer, and we will not be getting together again until in September. There are always so many things going on these nice months, with vacations, company arriving, trips to take, and it's hard to fit it all in. So mark your calendars for the 10th of September for our next meeting. We have already set the date for our annual Harvest Dinner and Bazaar, which will be the first



The Synodical Women's Convention will be held in Great Falls the weekend of September 27th to the 29th, and do consider taking that in. The speakers are always great, meeting with old friends is delightful, and we come back so inspired!

Enjoy your summer! Safe traveling.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors:

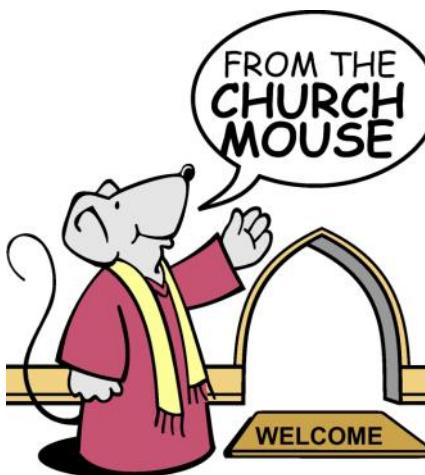
Mother Nature is turning up the heat now that summer is in full swing. I predict that it's going to get "hotter than a firecracker", or as Grandpa used to say, "Hotter than a frog in a frying pan." I'm really looking forward to celebrating America's birthday on the 4th, especially when it turns into a much needed three day weekend. I'll be up at the crack of dawn to post Old Glory high on the flag pole in celebration of this great day. I still can't get Mrs. T.C. to play reveille on the old kazoo when I raise the flag, or even taps in the evening when I take it down! It's a fond memory of my Navy days. I was always amazed at how the whole base came to a standstill when either of those events happened. No matter what you were doing, or where you were at, you would stop, face the flag, and salute! Anyway, Happy 4th of July to everyone. Be safe out there and enjoy the day with family and friends.

The summer barbecues are off to a good start, and it is great to see so many people showing up in the church parking lot each Wednesday evening for some grilled delectable. I wonder if we will have any special performers at any of the barbecues again this year. I wouldn't count on Mrs. T.C. and her kazoo! I'm beginning to wonder

if she can even play that thing or not.

By the way, have you been out fishing yet? I was out on the river a couple of weeks ago and caught a couple of real whoppers! Of course, for a creature of my size, it doesn't take much of a fish to make it a real big catch. My son hooked on to one that immediately snapped his line, which was probably best anyway. I could just see him holding on for dear life, water skiing up river, being towed by this monster of the deep. It's such fun, being out on the river, spending quality time with the family.

Have you seen those corn fields around here? The corn is supposed to be knee high by the



Fourth of July, and it's already beyond that! Even the corn in the church garden is growing well....I went out to the garden the other night, trying to hear it growing (I've been told that you can actually hear that!) but the noise of the traffic racing through town made that impossible. I didn't want to stay out there too long...too many predators around looking for a tasty morsel. Well, enough for now....as I always say "Stick a fork in it, she's done. Gone fishing".

See you in church....your faithful friend,

T.C. Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



Church Membership Records

We are beginning the process of putting our church membership records into a computer database. In order to do this accurately we would like to update everyone's records. There will be sheets available to do this on the table in the back of the church. Please fill out one sheet for

each member of the family. You don't need to re-enter address and phone information for the children. Please pick up the sheets at worship and return them as soon as possible. Your help with this update is very much appreciated. Thanks!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2015

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with devotions from "Proclaiming the 'L' Word" and a discussion on the topic "Jesus is Lord".

Pastor's Report: He will be on vacation leaving Sunday afternoon, the 14th, and returning the 24th. He would like to have the July newsletter out by the 1st of the month and will need reports in the week before that.

He officiated at a graveside service in May, and did the Memorial Day prayer service at the cemetery. A discussion was held on having a church credit card available, and Terri Hensley motioned to get one, seconded by Liz White, motion was carried. The possibility of a grant for the food pantry from the ELCA was explained in a message from Sharon Wolske, and to receive the grant according to the IRS regulations, we need to become an organization under the 501-C3 non-profit code, which is not feasible for us.

Pastor would like to have feedback from the congregation regarding our worship services: should we have more liturgy, or be more informal? Should we use some newer hymns, or the traditional? Should we have communion every Sunday, or just the two Sundays each month, as we are doing now?

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as printed and held for audit. It was noted that the Youth Group special offerings taken in May totaled \$361.00.

Deacon's Report: Terry talked about the upcoming "God's Work, Our Hands" weekend this fall, and wanted to know if we should request a certain section of highway as our clean-up project. There is a stretch of Hwy. 87 that would be available, and needed to have trash picked up three times a year, and she would make arrangements for that. Safety jackets and bags are provided for those helpers. Another suggestion was checking with the Lions' Club, as they may need help in building the Community Center,

which is in progress now. She has also put an ad in the Yellowstone Co. News about garden space available here at the church, if someone is interested in planting, weeding, and harvesting their own little plot, but received no response to the ad. Summer Community BBQ's will be starting on June 17th, and continuing each Wednesday evening through August. Terry will be available to work on those each week except for July 22nd. We should have a sign-up sheet passed around in church for other people who could help on a BBQ evening.

Trustees Report: Jim McKenney is working on our facebook information and suggested that we could have an online payment system, and also have the church services available. David Nelson felt we should have a definite time frame for the parsonage removal, perhaps an ad in the newspaper, or on Craig's list, that the building is available., and have this information by the July 8th council meeting.

Matt Walsh had submitted an article on both material and spiritual gifts of being part of a church, and would like to have this printed in our newsletter.

Secretary: Minutes from the last meeting were approved as printed.

Old Business: Kristianne passed around information on a pastoral evaluation tool, which was discussed, and modified, then to be completed by the council this fall. A fall retreat is being planned, for a Friday evening from 6:30 to 8:30PM, and then again on Saturday morning from 9:00 AM to 11:00AM, and the date will be September 18 to 19th. At this time, the evaluation will also be discussed, so we can get feedback on the process.

New Business: The Synod Assembly was held the weekend of June 5th to 7th, and Pastor Mark and Liz White were our delegates. Liz reported on the event. One of the decisions of the group was to become part of the Intermountain Children's Home, based in Helena, joining the ministry of our full-communion partners: the United Methodists, Presbyterians and



(continued page 5)

SERVICE

Church Council Minutes

(continued from page 4)

United Church of Christ, touching hundreds of children and families through both the in-house and outreach programs. The Synod welcomed a new congregation, New Hope Lutheran in Great Falls, and also commemorated the 20th anniversary of our historic agreement with the Montana Association of Jewish Communities. We are also part of the Spirit of Life Congregation on the Fort Peck Reservation. Churches are also finding new and creative ways to be part of the effort of raising funds for the new Synod House.

Our next meeting will be July 8th, following the Community BBQ. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Counters Communion Helpers

6/14 Dawn

6/21 Kristianne Kristianne

6/28 Liz

7/5 Terri H. Terri

Community BBQ

Emmanuel will continue hosting the Community Barbecues again this summer on Wednesday evenings. The barbecues will continue through August 26th. We can use your help and there will be sign-up sheets available in worship so you can choose your day or days to volunteer.



Community BBQ's

Invite your family and friends to join us on Wednesday evenings this summer for a time of community food and fellowship!



The Special Offering this month is for **Lutheran Social Services of Montana**. We will receive the offerings on July 5th and July 12th.



Lutheran Social Services of Montana is committed to bringing hope and help to those in need. We are a ministry of St. John's Lutheran Ministries and a non-profit organization sponsored by Lutheran churches and friends in Montana and Northern Wyoming. Our team of qualified professionals has been providing services to Montanans of all religious denominations and affiliations since 1954.

Our statewide staff of counselors offer birthparent counseling, adoptive family preparation, mental health services, search and reunion services and post-adoption counseling.

Our Mission

We share St. John's Lutheran Ministries' mission, "to provide living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love."

"Joining Hearts in Hope"



FAMILY PROMISE SCHEDULE:

Bethlehem, Messiah, Peace and Emmanuel Churches share this week. The families will be staying at the Peace Lutheran Church, and having their suppers there.

Our church is scheduled to serve the evening meals and be overnight hosts for the families in the program the week of **July 12th to the 19th**, at the Peace Lutheran Church. We will do the **meal and overnight on Tuesday, July 14th**, then we do the **overnight hosting on the 15th**, and the evening meal on Friday night, the 17th. Who is able to help with this? Please call Dawn Petty 373-6673.

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church



Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members: Laurel Noland's sister-in-law Cindy, gradually failing, getting weaker every day; Terri Hensley's brother on chemo for cancer; Tracy Kern's step-father Ernie Reynolds still on chemo treatments; Esther and Bill Green; Clarence Beddes, scheduled for 3 bi-passes and Agnes Beddes wearing a heart monitor; Brad Green walking with a cane, much improved; Connie Herberg's mother, Lois Sneva, returned home and doing therapy there; Cathy Peil's brother-in-law, Mike LaSorte has pancreatic cancer; Kevin Kincheloe recovering at home after surgery; Linda Welch, now home and doing well after surgery in Salt Lake; Noah Smelser, son of Stacie Grandpre having treatment for issues of depression.

Children: Andrew Green, tumors on internal organs.

Friends of the Congregation: Cliff Sanchez, cancer; Stephanie Lunder, end stage liver disease; Shirley Sept, cancer; Darlene Robillard very ill with cancer; Katie Rightmire ALS; Mary Elizabeth Aude, friend of Lori Johnson, multiple back surgeries; Paul LeClaire, friend of Bobbi Smith, in hospital with severe head injuries and seizures; John Barta, cancer; Parker Richard, 18 yr. old had heart surgery in June; family of Marcy Strever, 59, who passed away after heart surgery.

(If you have anyone you want on this list, please call Dawn Petty.)

Community Living:

St. John's:

Eva Swenson, Vista; Charles Pederson – Dorothy Haaland's father; Esther Green, Jensen Cottage & sister Aggie at Fisher Cottage

West Park Village: Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

Yellowstone County Jail: : Chance Mavity, Anthony Allen, now out of jail, but still in the "system supervision" living with relatives in Wisconsin.



July 06 James "Skeet" Kern
July 11 Carol Bennett
July 14 Kristianne Wilson
July 15 Laurel Noland
July 18 Alan Sleaford
July 19 Tim Plath
July 25 Howard Osmundson
July 28 Brad Strecker
July 29 Kyle Reitler
 Pastor Mark
July 30 Esther Green
 Paul Super



July 4 Brad & Sandie Green
July 4 Matt & Stacie Grandpre
July 9 Jon & Connie Herberg
July 20 Bob & Sharon Wolske
July 30 Ron & Susan Quanbeck

The following article was submitted by Matt Walsh for the newsletter. He found it in the internet. The author is unknown.

If Local churches were businesses, and the application of spiritual gifts were currency, most churches would be bankrupt in a few weeks. The full understanding of this phenomenon would end burn out in pastors and leaders once and for all. A church can survive no better then a business when each member/employee is drawing more out of the general fund then they are putting into it. In real life this is offset by pastors and leaders pouring their very last drop of energy and time into the "general fund" and are completely burned out in a few years. The proper understanding of the application of the gifts will make a local body a greenhouse of spiritual gifts.. A church like this will be expanding and blessing all who come in contact with it. The pastors and leaders will be refreshed and encouraged each time they lead out in a service. Each member will have low periods when they need an infusion of love and grace from others but in turn will be blessing others around them at a different time. Instead most churches are a vacuum of needs and few stand up to fill those needs. Instead they look to the spiritual leaders in their local body to take care of each person's need and then complain when those few cannot meet every need.

When each person in a church strives to be a net contributor to the body, the whole is overflowing. We all need help from each other and together we can carry tremendous loads. But when 95% of a church body is not even carrying their own weight, the 5% who give more then they take cannot last. Every other experiment like this in real life fails. Taxes, Government, businesses, etc. For some reason we think a church can run differently and then wonder why pastors are burned out and their children are jaded. We wonder why a church cannot help the down and out who need a hospital of love. We say that we have needs of our own that are not being met, therefore we cannot reach out and help that

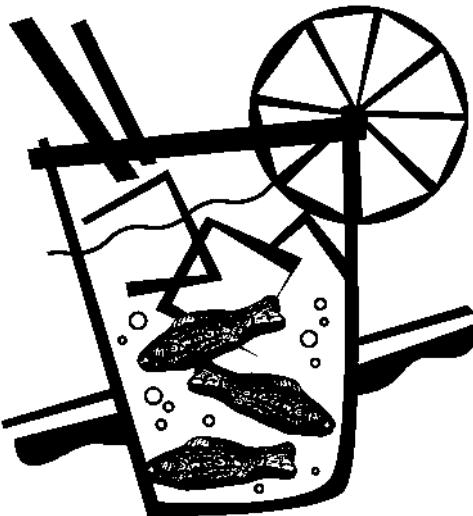
single mom who is fleeing an abusive drugged husband. We shy away from tackling a struggling alcoholic. The thought of dealing with a messy situation like a rehabbed druggie is too scary when we have too many of our own problems to deal with. A lot more I could say but you get the idea.....

Final word on it. If you expect your pastor and or leaders to fulfill even 50% of the needs in your local body, you are part of the problem. If you think you have nothing to contribute to those around you, you need to repent. God gives gifts to every Christian and I fear a lot of people will stand before God someday with a moldy, napkin wrapped talent and wonder why they never thought to unwrap that gift and bless others.....



OCEAN WATER

After a busy summer day, relax in the shade with this cool drink.



What you need:

- 3 Tablespoons water
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 3 drops blue food coloring
- 24 oz. (2 cans) lemon-lime soda
- Clear cup or glass
- Ice
- Swedish Fish candy

What you do:

1. In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the water and sugar. Heat for 1 minute. Stir until sugar is dissolved.
2. Pour the mixture into a pitcher. Add coconut extract, food coloring and soda. Stir.
3. Pour into cup. Add ice and fish. Enjoy!

Mark your calendar!

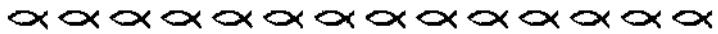
Community Worship Service on August 2nd at Barkemeyer Park in Huntley. Begins at 10:00 a.m. and potluck will follow. There will be no worship at Emmanuel on that day. Plan on joining us at the park!



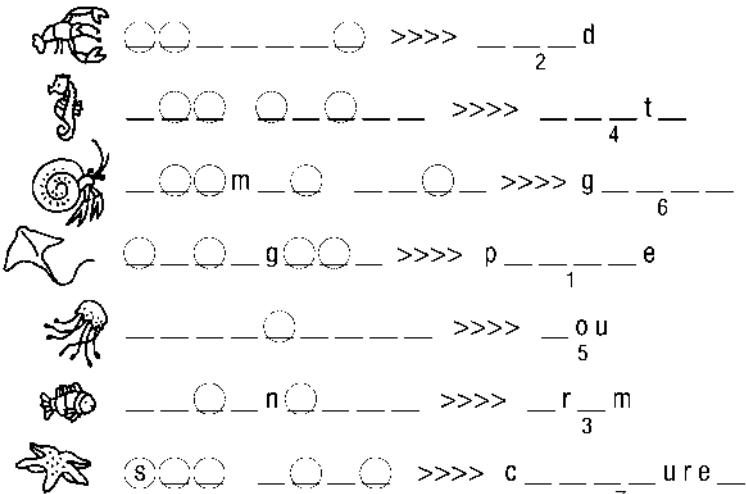
"You're supposed to be on vacation, Ed."

PUZZLE UNDER THE SEA

This summer, consider God's marvelous creation under the sea.



Directions: Write the animal names on the blanks. Then use the circled letters (they may not be in the right order) to create a new word from Psalm 148:7, NIV. Finally, match the words to their numbered blanks below.



the _____ the _____ ,
1 2 3 4
the _____
5 6 7
sea _____ .

PSALM 148:7, NIV

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures. Psalm 148:7, NIV

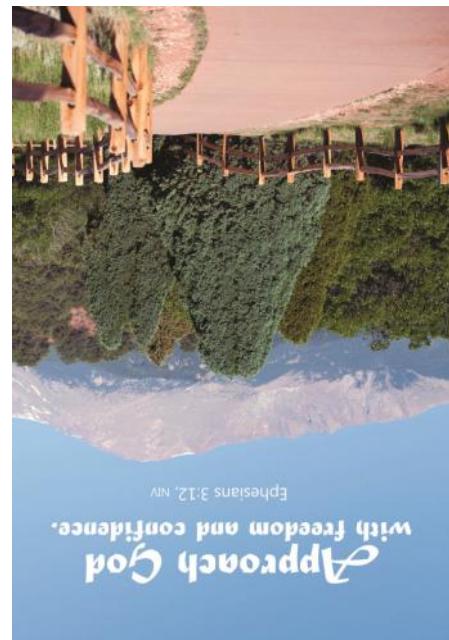
Answers: Lobster > Lord, sea horse > earth, clownfish > from, sea star > creatures
praise, jellyfish > you, clownfish > from, sea star > creatures
Answers: Lobster > Lord, sea horse > earth, hermit crab > great, stingray >



JULY 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August 2015 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1 6:00 Community BBQ @ church  We're Havin' a BAR-B-Q!	2 9:00 Quilting Homemakers	3	4 
5 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	6 	7	8 6:00 Community BBQ @ church 7:00 Church Council @ Church	9	10	11
12 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	13 6:00 Shepherd Pioneers	14	15 6:00 Community BBQ @ church 	16	17	18
19 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	20	21 	22 6:00 Community BBQ @ church	23	24 	25 
26 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	27	28	29 6:00 Community BBQ @ church 	30	31	



Address Service Requested

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 66
Shepherd, MT 59079

We have a mission . . .

Emmanuel Lutheran is called
by God
to joyful worship
caring relationships and
loving service.

We have a vision . . .

to "follow God's plan for us
to grow in faith, family,
building and community."

elcshepherd.org — elcshepherd@gmail.com
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EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL + CARING + LOVING