



# Emmanuel News



September 2017



Our Project this Year for "God's Work, Our Hands," Sunday is completing the remodel of the garage for the Food Pantry. We will meet following worship on September 10<sup>th</sup> for a pot-luck meal and then get to work on the garage!

Please plan of joining us for this important project.

Children's Sunday School begins a new year on September 10th. This year we will

begin Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. This will allow more time for teaching and music. The children will join worship when we begin the Holy Communion portion of the service.



Our study this year will start with the Lord's Prayer.

**SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

You are invited to a free class on the religion of Islam, taught by Steven Benson, a retired Montana pastor. The class is sponsored by the Montana Synod and NRIT.

**Tuesday Sept. 26 6:30pm to 8:00pm Bethlehem Lutheran in Billings**



## THE MUSLIM THREAT? - OR THE THREAT TO MUSLIMS?

We have seen an explosion in recent years of information about Islam and about Muslim people. TV specials, magazine articles, books, specially-produced DVDs - each presenting its own viewpoint on the world's second-largest religion. Some are produced by Muslims and portray a tolerant, peace-loving religion practiced by a culturally diverse population. Others challenge this with a picture of a backward religion and culture which is completely incompatible with modern Western civilization and which fosters violence and extremism. Which are we to believe? How can we evaluate such conflicting claims? And is there an unseen force behind this flood of publicity?

Pastor Steven Benson will shed some light on these and other issues. He will draw on his experiences and conversations over many years with Muslims and Christians in America, the Middle East, and South Asia. He will also bring to bear insights from the past 1400 years of Christian-Muslim encounters and studies of modern propaganda campaigns.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

This month, I defer to our Bishop, Rev. Jessica Crist and print her article for the Synod News Letter for the last week of August.

## Acts of God?

*“For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5: 45)*

I have always been a little uncomfortable when I hear someone referring to a natural disaster as an “Act of God.” Of course it is a legal term, meaning a natural disaster outside human control. God doesn’t need me as a defender, but when people refer to a flood or an earthquake as an “Act of God,” I want to blurt out: “Don’t blame God for this!” There is a human tendency, especially among religious folks, to suggest that anything tragic or unimaginable must be God’s will. Great damage has been done to people’s faith when they are told that a loved one’s murder must have been God’s will. Rather than giving comfort, it frequently drives people away. Who wants to believe in a God who allows, even delights in the suffering of innocents?

Natural disasters abound, both in the United States, and across the globe. Right now the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is active in:

Hurricane Harvey Relief  
South Sudan Relief  
Hurricane Matthew  
Louisiana Gulf Coast Flooding  
Africa Drought  
West Virginia Flooding  
Nepal Earthquake  
Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis  
AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

Lutheran World Relief, a pan-Lutheran agency, works in 32 countries, doing 118 relief and development projects.

Closer to home, the Montana VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster), chaired by LPA Dick Deschamps, has been keeping close watch on the Montana fires, from the range fires in the eastern part of the state to the forest fires in the west. We have also been in conversation with synods in North and South Dakota, and with ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response about drought and possible donations of hay from the Midwest. The Montana Synod maintains a disaster fund, available to those experiencing disaster. It is made up



FROM OUR  
**PASTOR**

entirely of congregational and individual contributions. You can send checks to our office, 3125 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Great Falls, MT 59405, with “Disaster” written on them.

If Montana and other states in the west are too dry, Texas and its neighboring states are too wet, as they suffer the havoc wreaked by powerful Hurricane Harvey. ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is already helping. They send this message to all of us:

Lutheran Disaster Response’s affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. Together we have a strong history of working with disasters in the Gulf Coast area. Recovery effort are expected to take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those affected through every phase of this disaster.”

How can you help?

- First, pray.
- Second, help share information through bulletin inserts.
- Third, give to Lutheran Disaster Response. If you write “Hurricane Relief—United States” 100% of your gift will go to this disaster. Or you can give locally to the Montana Synod Disaster Fund.
- Fourth, do not organize in-gatherings of anything. Right now money is needed. Donations of items are more of a burden than a help.
- Fifth, do not self-deploy. When volunteers are needed, you can sign up with a reputable group.

Early Christians in Rome stayed around the city to care for the sick when everyone else who could do so fled. I am grateful that our church has maintained that tradition of care for those in need. I believe in a God who understands human suffering, and who sends us out to respond.

*“In my distress I called on the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.” (Psalm 18: 6)*

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Thank you Bishop Crist!

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Pen to paper.

Patriot Day is up next.

Paper to pen.

Pray for those that we lost.

The end of the month,  
Evil wanted our attention.  
so here I go again!  
No matter the cost.

No longer summer.  
Old Glory should fly  
Too soon to call fall.  
on the porch all month long.

It's almost as if,  
A symbol we'll fight  
I don't know you at all.  
and stand up against wrong.



Too nice to call winter.  
You probably wonder.  
Surely not spring.  
Has T. C. lost his head?

Is it all in my mind,  
A poet he's not.  
or just a calendar thing?  
From the words that were read.

We take your first Monday off.  
Welcome September  
Kind of a tribute they say.  
and all that she brings.

Been working too much,  
I'm sure that this winter.  
so enjoy Labor Day!  
I'll think crazier things.

Your Faithful Friend.  
T. C. "Longfellow" Mouse  
In residence at Emmanuel

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We have only two months to our annual Harvest Dinner, Bazaar and Auction event, scheduled for Sunday, November 5th. We will be serving our famous Roast Beef dinner, after the regular worship service, from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. We were lucky enough to purchase our beef roasts at Albertson's again, at a fantastic price. One of our ladies saw the great sale price in the Wednesday paper, and we went right in to the store to order the roasts.



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

Remember, you have time to come up with some craft items, homemade jams and jellies, decorations for houses, baked goods, and needle work for the bazaar and auction. How creative can YOU be? We need your ideas and your help. We will be contacting each of you several weeks ahead of time with the work schedule for that weekend. If you want to volunteer for something ahead of time, I would be delighted to accommodate you. God bless each and every one of you. Dawn Petty, President of ELCW (373-6673)

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**08/09/2017**

Members present: Pastor Mark, Carol, Laurel, Kristianne, Randy, Liz, and Karen

**DEVOTIONS:** Read the Sacrament of the Altar from the Catechism

**SECRETARY:** July meeting minutes were approved as written.

**TREASURER:** Parking lot loan balance is down to \$8731.13. ELC Women gave us \$500 to help with the garden expense. Thrivent needed an updated signature card and council decided we will leave Sharon Wolske on and add Laurel Noland and Karen Vanberg. E-Giving is averaging between \$2,000 - \$2,200 per month.

**DEACONS:** None present

**TRUSTEES:** We have been discussing a new camera/security system. Council feels that with the pantry being out of the church, security is already a little better. We have a current camera system in place and a motion was made and passed to table the discussion about a new security system until we have the parking lot loan paid off.

**PASTOR:** Has been doing text studies, senior meetings, and premarital counseling. The service in the park was better attended this year. Had a nice time on vacation. Still working out the details for confirmation classes to start in the fall. Sunday School will start on September 10. September 10<sup>th</sup> is also God's Work Our Hands day and our project this year will be completing the community pantry at our church. Pastor will be attending the Corporate Board meeting for Pacific Lutheran University on 9/3.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The constitutional review committee has gone through chapters 1-10 and 14-20 and we reviewed them at our meeting. There are about 15 mandated provisions of the 2016 Model Constitution and a few other suggested provisions. A summary of these provisions, and the 2016 Model Constitution, are available to read. If you would like a copy, please let one of your council members know and we can email it to you. The next step for the review committee is to make a checklist and document to go to the Synod for review and if

approved, a congregational meeting will follow.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jill would like to use the old pantry room for Sunday School. A motion was made and passed to allow this room to be used for Sunday School. This room may also be used for other things if needed. Will have workers available on God's Work Our Hands day 9/10 if any maintenance needs to be done to the room. Need to look in to water rights from the ditch or other options as the church lawn needs some love. Looking at possibly getting a disaster relief group/contact together to help with urgent needs within the church or the community. Will discuss this more at our next meeting.

### **Counters/Communion Helpers**

8/13 Kristianne  
8/20 Carol

8/27 Randy  
9/03 Carol  
9/10 Laurel

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting is September 13th at 7pm.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg,  
Secretary



**"Charlotte is always willing to substitute on very short notice."**

# LOVING SERVICE

Pearls Of



WISDOM

Speaking of altar cloths, did you see the one for Pentecost that has been crocheted and then backed with green? Who did all the time-consuming work to crochet this beautiful work of art? Not very many of us know her at ELC but she is a special lady that loves to crochet. Her name is Pat Radden. When I spoke with her and asked her why she made these special crocheted things for our church, she simply answered, "I love to crochet." It's her way of relaxing and yet doing good for others. As a matter of fact she has done four pieces now for our church. The other three are The Lord's Supper that hangs in the sanctuary, Mary holding Jesus' body after His crucifixion (that was displayed during the Easter season), and the cross that is hanging downstairs in the fellowship area. And not just for us, she said there are two other churches that she has crocheted The Lord's Supper for. What a beautiful way to display your passion and more-importantly show your love for Our Creator! Thank you Pat. (And who did the green backing for the altar cloth? Stay tuned—that's next months' Pearls of Wisdom.)

*Knowing God without knowing our wretchedness leads to pride. Knowing our wretchedness without knowing God leads to despair. Knowing Christ gives the balance.*

*—Blaise Pascal*

## September 2017

Special OFFERING



# Soli Deo Gloria!

A Lutheran  
Hymn Sing in Celebration of  
Reformation 500

## September 23, 2017

6pm – Meal

(Brats, Beer, Root Beer, Gluten-free Cider...)

7pm – Hymn Sing

Atonement Lutheran Church  
1290 Sierra Granda Blvd.  
245-7004



Awakening Hope  
For the Homeless  
Concert

Featuring  
John Roberts  
Y Pan Blanco

September 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:00-7:00pm  
Pioneer Park

Good Will Offering Benefits: Women & Children's Shelter Remodel

There will be a free will offering to benefit the Women and Children's Shelter.

# CARING RELATIONSHIPS

## Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

### Members:

Esther and Bill Green; Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Clarence Beddes, at home; Lee Borgen, Doreen McKenney's father, has various health issues following total knee replacement; Rita Pickard, Jim McKenney's mom is back home and has been diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer; Monty Mavity, who is quite ill with cancer; Nancy Byxbe; Laura Vanberg's niece, Fawne McCleary who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; Colleen Garberg, mother of Rachelle Garcia in now at Tender Nest Assisted Living; The family of Jenny Ingram as they mourn the death of her son, John Ladd; Matt Walsh's friend Danny, who was seriously injured in a car accident; Abbey Emmons, home from the hospital but still recovering from cellulitis; Lois Sneva (mother of Connie Herberg) from Plentywood, at home from the hospital and getting a little stronger; Rose Field (sister of Agnes Beddes) hospitalized; Robert Larson, Dawn Petty's son, in the penitentiary at Rochester, Minnesota, had hip replacement surgery and is in therapy there now; Wesley Barnes (Byxbe's grandson) who was in a car accident, currently in ICU but should be okay.



### Friends of the Congregation:

Katie Rightmire ALS; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her accident; Spencer Beddes, with kidney problems; Caitlyn Beley, a woman in her 30's with brain cancer; Ali McCarty, daughter of Greg and Vicky McCarty, in rehab following a horse accident; Eileen Harbaugh has difficulty walking, problems with her legs, and other difficulties; Debra Ruona; Georgia Wageman, recovering from open heart surgery recently in Salt Lake City; Ardis Hanson of Shepherd, had another surgery and is now recovering at Advanced Care Hospital; Caden Ricky recovering from surgery; Diane Webb, friend of the Christmans, recovering from surgery; Autumn Rightmeier, a 5½ month old "Down's Syndrome" baby of April Rightmeier, recovering from surgery; Keith Dove, many health issues; Judy Smelser, home from the hospital and will be having shoulder surgery later.

### Community Living:

#### St. John's:

Eva Swenson; Esther Green, *Jensen Cottage*

RiverStone Hospice House—St. John's Campus; Esther Bengtson

**West Park Village:** Lenora Weist,

**Parkview Care Center:** Bill Green

**Yellowstone County Jail:** Chance Mavity

Rob Larson, MN

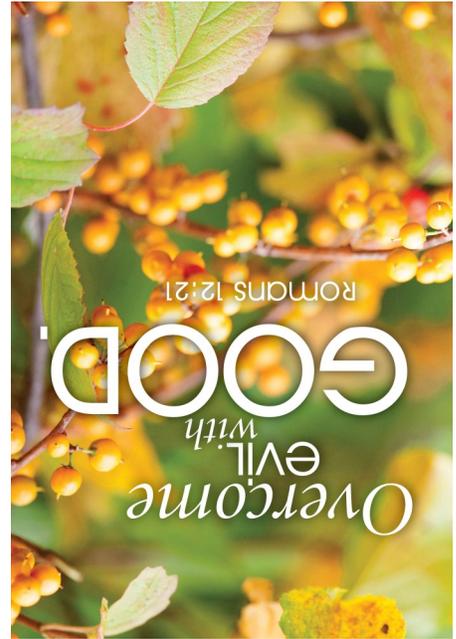


- 13 Chuck Super
- 14 Ron Quanbeck
- 15 Ed Hawthorne
- 17 Kaden Christoferson
- 21 Linda Hinkle
- 21 Melissa Sherseth



- 9/3 Joe & Carla Leligdowicz
- 9/15 David & Jill Hoffman





Address Service Requested

Shepherd, MT 59079  
P.O. Box 66

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

## **We have a mission . . .**

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

## **We have a vision . . .**

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

[elcshepherd.org](http://elcshepherd.org) – [elcshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:elcshepherd@gmail.com)



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING