



Emmanuel News

december 2015

December Worship Opportunities

December 2 — 6:30 p.m.

Advent Worship—Holden Evening Prayer

December 6 — 10:00 a.m. — Second Sunday of Advent

December 13 — 10:00 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent

December 16 — 6:30 p.m.

Advent Worship—Holden Evening Prayer

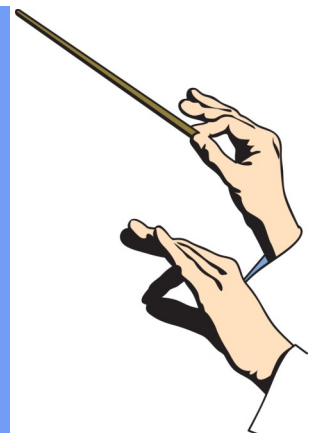
December 20 — 10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Program

December 24 — 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

In *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperOne), Frederick Buechner compares Advent to the moments right before a symphony conductor raises the baton to begin a much-anticipated performance. "You hold your breath to listen," he writes. "You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

During December, silence can seem elusive, Buechner admits. But "if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world holding its breath."



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

It's been a rough couple of weeks. Not for me personally, but for our nation and for our world. First on Friday the 20th of November terrorists carry out a deadly attack in Paris. That even has set the world on edge and had leaders of the nations meeting to try and figure out how to end these terrorist acts.

Yesterday, December 2, news flashes came on over the TV and radio that there had been another mass shooting in our country—this time in San Bernardino, California. As of my time of writing the motive for the shootings is still unclear. One can't help but wonder when all the violence in our world and nation will come to an end.

This has all made it a bit difficult for me to get into the Christmas Spirit this year. Perhaps you may feel the same way. This time of year that is supposed to be filled with "peace on earth, good will to all" seems to be only hopeless wishful thinking. This season of Advent and the Season of Christmas is supposed to be a season of hope. I can't help but ask myself, just exactly where is the hope?

Then I start thinking . . . The world that Jesus

PASTOR'S

P O S T S

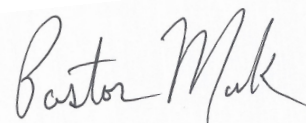
was born into some 2,000 years ago wasn't exactly a very peaceful place either.

Rome was the top dog among the nations and the Roman Empire didn't exactly have a reputation as being a peaceful nation. No, they were a concurring nation and that meant violence.

The place where Jesus was born was under Roman occupation and they felt the harshness of that occupation. The lives of those living in Judea were neither easy nor peaceful. That is the world that Jesus was born into. That is the world that God chose to come to as a helpless baby. That is the world that God so dearly loved and wanted to redeem.

The hope is that God still loves this world and God is still working to redeem this world. There is hope and that hope is named Jesus! That is why, even in the midst of the violence of our world, we observe Advent and celebrate Christmas. Violence does not have the last word, God does. That is a word of forgiveness, love, peace and eternal hope—made flesh in Jesus.

Merry Christmas!



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our annual Harvest Dinner, Bazaar and Auction were all very successful. The Bazaar items brought in \$598.00 on that day (some items are still being sold, and adding to that number). The Auction items totaled \$1608.00, due to Matt Walsh's persuasive auctioneering, and the Quilt Raffle funds came to \$161.00. The Quilt was won by Laurel Noland. The Dinner tickets took in \$1520.00, so we took in



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

approximately \$4000.00. Thank you to everyone that helped us, from the Youth Group, to the people who donated food items and their time. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

Our group met for Bible study and business meeting on November 12th, at the home of Louise Bischke, with Pastor [Continued on the next page]

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

December is here, and the Rudolf song keeps going through my head, so I thought I would put a twist on it for ya..... I needed to add a couple of verses, that may work or not, but the ending is right up my alley. Enjoy. Merry Christmas everyone. I hope you get what you want from Santa.

T.C. the crazy Church Mouse
Had a very witty mind.
And if you ever met him,
Mild psychosis is what you'd find.

All of the other field mice
Used to laugh and call him names.
They wouldn't let the Church Mouse
Play in all their cheesy games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa made a strange request.
"T.C., with your mind of wit,
Won't you ride with me a bit?"

Through the night the pair would travel.
Guided by the stars that glisten,
Kept awake by T.C.'s babble,
Even the reindeer seemed to listen.

Better than a double espresso shot.
Spirited by the constant Ho, Ho, Ho!
Santa sure seemed to laugh a lot.
You should have seen those reindeer go.

Then all the field mice loved him,
As they shouted out with glee.
"T.C. the Crazy Church Mouse,
You'll go down in history."

Well, look for me in church...I will be wearing that red suit Santa insisted I use, so you can't miss me.

"God bless us ...everyone!"

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C.Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



Mark leading the lesson. It was decided to re-do the Work Group lists for our women, as many phone numbers have changed, and we need to add the e-mail addresses, etc. This will probably be done in January. We will have refreshments (cookies and hot apple cider) at the "combined churches" Thanksgiving Eve services here at our church. We will need to shop for new LED lights for the sanctuary and entry way, and Matt will install them. It was decided to send \$250.00 for

the Montana Synod House building project, and to give the Youth Group \$200.00 for all their help in the dining room, setting up tables, serving, and clearing at the Harvest Dinner. We will also help our church pay for the benevolences budgeted for this year.

Our next meeting will be held a week earlier than usual, it will be December 3rd, at 1:30 PM at Louise Bischke's home.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

November 11 , 2015

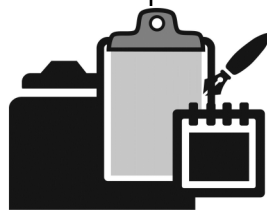
Pastor Mark opened the meeting with devotions, with the theme "Meet the future boldly, dwelling in the love of Christ", from Ephesians 3: 14-21. Here we are, partnering together to deepen faith and to witness, and helping the needy. Pastor's report included officiating at one funeral, "Our House to the Synod House" project, a Thanksgiving Eve combined church service to be held here at 7:00PM, and the Christmas Eve service will be here at 8:00 PM. Also in his plan for worship, are two Advent services, one on Wednesday evening December 2nd, and the other on December 16th, which will feature the Holden Evening Prayer "Service of Light". Pastor Mark has ordered a new Advent wreath, as our old one is falling apart.

Shawn Seedhouse from Thrivent will be here on Dec. 16th to speak to us also.

Secretary: The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer: We reviewed our financial performance year to date and Sharon will have the budget projections for December meeting. The insurance on the parsonage needs to be kept up until the building is moved out. We need to renew the internet fees. We are short in paying our benevolences, so may have to take some special offerings in December. The Food Pantry checking account has been funded by the garage sale, Sunday in the park, the summer BBQ monies, and the Ash Wednesday offering. Sharon will be updating signatories for our checking accounts given current Council membership. The Treasurer's report will be held for audit.

Deacons Report: Liz reported on getting contributions from the Billings Food Bank which will probably occur every few months. Jim McKenney picks them up and brings them to Emmanuel. The Deacons are getting the wine for communion, and want to know what other duties need to be carried out.



Church Council Minutes

Trustees Report: Jim McKenney has been working on the website for the church. He also discussed the need to relocate the food pantry from the church building into the garage, and the remodeling of the garage which needs to be done first. He will check with Matt concerning the building materials needed. Matt has purchased a used heating source for that area of the garage to be remodeled.

Kristianne reported on an effort by the FCCLA club at Shepherd School and her contact with Edie Vogel faculty sponsor. They will be providing healthy food for selected children in weekend "back packs". We are exploring how our food pantry can become involved in that project. Kristianne reviewed the revision to our "mission and vision" statement discussed at our fall retreat. Mission--to read

"Emmanuel Lutheran is a welcoming church in a rural community called by God to joyful worship, caring relationships and loving service".....a motion to accept the re-wording was made by Sharon and seconded by Liz, and passed.

Our vision is "to follow God's plan for us to grow in faith, family, building and community", motion to accept made by Sharon, seconded by Laurel, motion passed.

New Business: We talked about the Food Pantry use or mis-use, as the supplies are often emptied in just one day. Someone is coming in and totaling wiping out the supplies. The question was: "How do we watch and handle the amount people take at one time?" Do we need more communication? Do we need to have the pantry open only a few hours a day, and then have someone staff it while it is open. Laurel volunteered to make up signs regarding the amount of food taken at one time and encourage users to identify the number of people served as an initial effort to encourage desired behavior.

Parsonage replacement: Do we need to remind people to give regularly over the next three years, to have funds available when the eventual replacement of the parsonage is needed? David will review the history on

[Continued on page 5]

LOVING SERVICE

[continued from page 4]

this topic, past congregational decisions and current considerations at the annual meeting.

As follow up to the Council retreat and the discussion regarding the need/desire for selected policies, the

Council reviewed the ELCA's social statement on human sexuality and the role for local congregations. How should we deal with this issue at Emmanuel Lutheran? It is up to the individual churches to decide whether their pastor should perform the marriage ceremony for same sex couples. How does our mission guide our decision-making? We will have a discussion and seek congregational feedback on this topic at the annual meeting

Dawn and Sharon agreed to serve on a Nominating Committee. They will seek 1-2 additional members to join them and identify a slate of individuals willing to serve on open Council positions and other church representation positions, i.e., Lutheran Center. Elections will be held at the Annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be December 9th, and it will be our Christmas Party, so spouses will be attending also, and it will be held at Dawn Petty's home with a pot luck meal and brief meeting.

Respectfully submitted;

Dawn Petty, Secretary

Counter Communion Assistant

11/15 Sharon Wolske Sharon Wolske

11/22 Dawn Petty

11/29 Liz White (talk on Joyful Worship)

12/6 Kristianne Wilson Kristianne

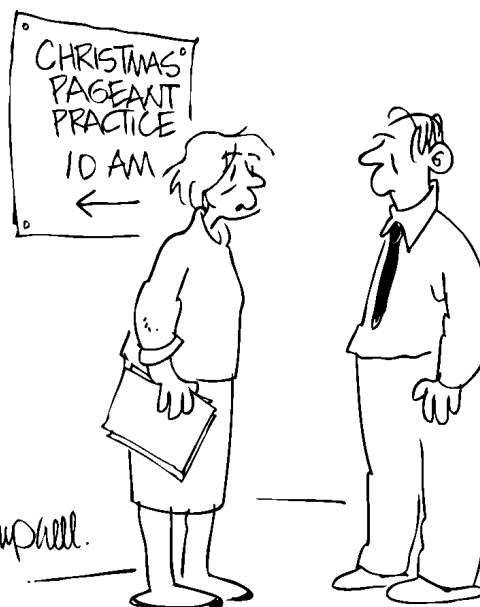


The Special offering for the month of December is for *Lutheran Campus Ministries in Montana*. We will receive the special offering during worship on Sundays December 6st and December 13th.



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The endowment scholarship is available to students attending post-secondary school. Each applicant must have completed at least one quarter or semester of advanced education to qualify. The application is available from Sharon Wolske. Please contact her at 373-6137 or haybob59079@yahoo.com The completed application deadline is March 1, 2016.



"What a morning! The angels were devils and the wisemen were wise guys."

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates



Members: Terri Hensley's brother on chemo for cancer; Tracy Kern's step-father Ernie Reynolds still on chemo treatments; Esther and Bill Green; Doris Martin (Debbie Cossitt's mother) has surgery for cancer issues and after therapy is back at home and taking treatments; Virgene Steadman, health issues; Ron Quanbeck had surgery for hip replacement, now recovering at home; Carol Kramer's grandson, Riley Barta who has begun active duty in the national Guard; Holly Reitler's great Nephew Trey Reitler, 3 months old and in need of heart surgery; Rita Pickerd, Jim McKenney's mother, recovering from surgery on Oct. 19th; Louise Bischke was in the hospital for testing and has various heart issues. She is back at home now; Dawn Petty's son, Rob Larson, diagnosed with colon cancer.

Children: Andrew Green, tumors on internal organs.

Friends of the Congregation: Cliff Sanchez, cancer; Shirley Sept, cancer; Katie Rightmire ALS; John Barta, cancer; Susan Schmitz (friend of Lori Johnson) who is in the final stages of pancreatic cancer; Tom Weichel, cancer; Sandy Green's brother's mother-in-law, Leta Lytton, who is in her 90's has fallen and broke her pelvis. Recovery is expected to be very long; Kenzie Cooper, injured in a truck accident.

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

Community Living:

St. John's:

Eva Swenson, Esther Green

West Park Village: Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Mavity,

Rob Larson, MN



12/01 Lisa Strecker
12/01 Laura Vanberg
12/02 Jim McKenney
12/05 Sue Hawthorne
12/12 Connor Reitler
12/13 David Nelson
12/19 LuAnne Super
12/22 Holly Reitler



12/13 Scott & Durene Green
12/14 Robert & Peggy McSweyn
12/18 Lauris & Nancy Byxbe
12/18 Charles & Laurel Noland
12/28 Randy & Laura Vanberg
12/29 Tom & Roseanne Plath
12/30 Bill & Holly Reitler



DECEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																																
		1	2	3 1:30 WELCA @ Louise Bischke's 6:30 Bears Cub Scouts	4 5																																																																																																																	
6 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:00 Kountry Critters 4-H	7 6:30 Tigers Cub Scouts	8	9 7:00 Church Council @ Dawn Petty's	10	11	12																																																																																																																
13 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	14 6:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H	15 6:30 Cub Scouts	16 2:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Advent Worship	17 18	19																																																																																																																	
20 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	21	22 23	24 8:00 Christmas Eve Worship 25	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26																																																																																																																	
27 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	28 29	30	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">November 2015</th> <th colspan="7">January 2016</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		November 2015							January 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30														31	
November 2015							January 2016																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1	2																																																																																																									
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																									
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																									
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																									
29	30						24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																									
													31																																																																																																									

Adore Him
Let Us
Come



Address Service Requested

Shepherd, MT 59079

P.O. Box 66

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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.”



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING