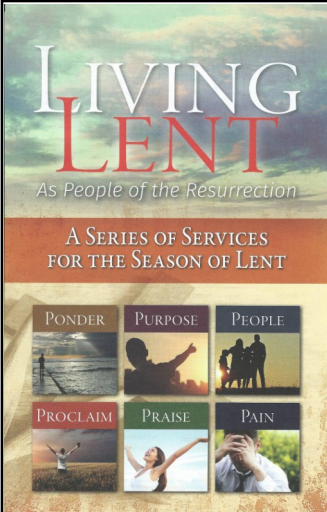




# Emmanuel News

## february 2016



The theme of our Lenten Services this year will be **Living Lent As People of the Resurrection**. Each service focuses on a word to consider while living Lent as Easter People. We will have a pulpit exchange again this year with Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Laurel. A Soup Supper will precede each service. Soup will begin at 6:00 with worship to begin around 7:00. Services this year will be held at the church.



Ash Wednesday will be celebrated with our Ecumenical Partners on February 10 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Huntley United Methodist church

Be watching for more information about our Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Good Friday Service.

## A New Opportunity for Loving Service

### Backpack Food Program

We have an opportunity to expand on our Food Pantry service for the community in the form of the Backpack program. The Shepherd High School FCCLA club has taken on the task of preparing sacks of food for those children who would otherwise go home hungry on the weekends. These sacks are prepared on Friday and placed in the children's backpack by the school counselors. This is the first year they have done this. There are a total of 15 children from seven different families. The FCCLA members try to send home healthy snacks that are easy for the kids to transport and prepare. Some examples of these snacks are cheese sticks, instant oatmeal packets, granola bars, fresh fruits, canned soup,

and vegetables.

Starting in February, you will see a grocery cart in the church entry way with backpacks in it. This will be where members can drop off donations to help feed the children.

Perishables, nonperishables, individual carrot packets, yogurt, trail mix, use your imagination!

With everything kids have to deal with today, wondering where their next meal will come from shouldn't be one of them. Fortunately for us, we can help keep this from happening.



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

The Season of Epiphany is amazing short this year. The first Sunday in February (the 7<sup>th</sup>) is The Transfiguration of Our Lord. (the last Sunday in Epiphany).

February 10<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. That means that Easter comes early this year, on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

It seems as through the Christmas decorations have just come down (although I much admit I don't have all our outdoor Christmas lights taken down yet) and already we are thinking about Lent.

Lent can sometimes feel like a very heavy season of the Church Year. There is usually a lot of talk about sin, and repentance and Jesus having to die because we are such wicked people. It is the Season that Garrison Keillor calls "Lutheran Bliss" since we Lutherans sometimes like to wallow in our wretchedness and sinfulness.

I would like to suggest a different approach. I think it might be better to use Lent as a time for some self reflection. Now, this may very well lead to some serious confession and repentance, but



more positively, it could lead us to consider and commit how we can make our relationship with God a more constant and important part of our lives each day.

We often hear people talk about "giving up" something for Lent.

The of this is to make a sacrifice by giving up something we like (desert, alcohol, chocolate, etc.) to remind ourselves of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. I'm not sure how successful this really was or is. I always said that I was giving up eating liver for Lent, something I also gave up for the rest of the year as well.

Why not try "taking up" something which might have the effect of deepening our faith and relationship with God. For example, if you don't do devotions on a daily basis, give it a try during these 40 days of Lent. If it is not your custom to pray on a daily basis, give it a try for the 40 days of Lent. If you usually don't attend Wednesday Lenten Services, give them a try this year. We may well find that our faith will grow stronger and deeper and we may well develop some spiritual practices that will continue throughout the year.

Blessings on your Lenten Journey this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Mark".

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Activities for this past month: Work Group B served the luncheon for Esther Thaut's funeral. A special thank you to them for the delicious meal and their hospitality. The Pineview Homemaker's Club, which includes many of our ladies, worked on quilts in the basement. Several of our women served meals and were overnight hosts at the Family Promise week at Peace Lutheran Church. Emmanuel's donation to the auction at the Beach Blizzard fundraiser is a theme



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

basket of family movies, popcorn, candies and sodas.

Our monthly Bible Study will be February 11th at 1:30 PM at the home of Louise Bischke.

Everyone is invited to our monthly Bible studies from the "Gather" magazine and led by Pastor Mark, who does an excellent presentation, including background information and sidelights. Won't you join us?

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

February is finally here and there is a lot happening. Busy, busy, busy. Busier than a mouse in the church basement after coffee hour! If you know what I mean. First off, we have Groundhog's Day on the 2nd. Yes, an entire day for my over-rated rodent cousin to bask in the limelight and give the entire nation a clue as to how much winter we have left. I feel that I could do just as good a job, if not better, by looking out the stained glass window in the church every morning! Yep, it's snowing, so winter is sticking around for a while.

Next, we have Valentine's Day on the 14th, so don't forget that someone special in your life. A little planning and effort can pay back big dividends, possibly changing the course of the entire year. I'm thinking a nice card, maybe flowers, perhaps a special dinner and possibly rose petals, if I feel that I'm already half way through the dog house door. Anyway, I hope you enjoy this day with your special someone.

On the 15th, we have President's Day, as we honor all presidents, past and present. Too bad it's not a day off from work for "we the people", but I'm sure the government workers and banker types will get the day off. This being an election year, may I suggest that all of the wannabe presidents take this day off as well! We the people could use a one day break from the nonsense! T.C.Mouse for President. It's a write-in option.

Then we come to the most important day of the year. So important, that I plan to fly Old Glory to

celebrate. Yes, it is my Birthday once again! Just thinking about it, I begin to hear that 60's song in my head....."This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius...." I always take a day off from work on my birthday, so I can focus and reflect. My mind still thinks that I'm 25, but my body knows that I'm 25 times 2, plus 2. I usually go skiing to celebrate. I'm quite good, you know. It's really quite simple,



just point them downhill and go! If something gets in your way, turn! There's really no better feeling in the world than to be on top of the mountain, seeing the beautiful scenery and feeling the rush of wind in your whiskers. Maybe I'll see you on the slopes. Just watch for that blur of fur!

"Watch out....coming through....make a hole....on you're left....Yippee! Happy Birthday to me!"

And how could I forget to mention that Lent starts on the 10th of the month....with Wednesday nights, soup suppers and services. Any time there is food around or even mentioned, you'll see my ears perk up! I love to sample everyone else's cooking, don't you? And what are you going to give up for Lent? Have you thought about it yet? Chocolate? Sweets? Second Helpings? I think I will quit tantalizing the neighbor's cat, even though it's such fun to stay just out of it's reach, and watch it sit there and lick its chops! That's down-right mean, isn't it? Well, who said I was purrfect, just because I live in church? See you there!

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C. Mouse,

In Residence at Emmanuel

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## January 13, 2016

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

**Vision:** We will follow God's plan for us to grow in faith, family and community.

Pastor Mark opened the meeting with devotions from 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 highlighting the gifts of the Spirit.

Members present were Pastor, Kristianne, Sharon, Liz, Dawn, Matt and Jim.

Reports included: Secretary's minutes from the December meeting, approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: The proposed budget for 2016 was discussed, with a projected total of \$94,090.00. Liz made a motion to recommend the proposed budget to the congregation at the annual meeting, seconded by Matt, and the motion was carried. Several of the line items in our monthly budget will be combined into one category, such as office supplies will include the newsletter/postage expenses. It was suggested that the difference in propane and electricity costs be computed, since the parsonage is no longer included.

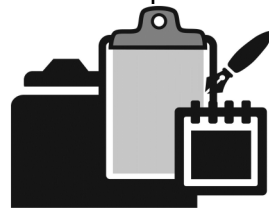
Deacon's Report: Liz reported on the Backpack Program, being conducted by the Shepherd High School FCCLA: To aid in our participation, a grocery cart will be placed in the back of the sanctuary for donations, which can include snack bars, fruit cups, etc. Liz also has been researching the duties of the Deacons, to inform the new members, and listed those as involved in the Splash program, supplying communion wine and bread, co-ordinating the food pantry

deliveries from the Billings Food Bank, lining up people to conduct the church services if the pastor will be absent, and picking up donated bread for the food pantry from bakeries in Billings. The By-laws also state that the Deacons shall aid the pastor in the spiritual care of the congregation and the Altar Guild. We should also include community outreach, such as the BBQ's, and God's Work, Our Hands projects.

Trustees: Matt talked about the Food Pantry remodeling to be done in the garage. Ron LaFurge, a former church member, is now with R and T Refrigeration and Heating, and will stop by to hook up the furnace in the garage. The High School Shop Class will also be involved in the remodeling process. Matt installed different lighting in the sanctuary, and suggested making the altar rail a portable unit, easier to remove if needed. He also plans to have the drain in the kitchen roto-rooted this spring, as it doesn't drain sufficiently.

Pastor's Report: His activities included the weekly text study with other pastors, officiated at two funerals outside of our congregation, had a Christmas Eve service with a good attendance, and was out of town for four days after Christmas to visit family. He discussed plans for Lenten services, and he will do a pulpit exchange with the church at Laurel, there will be ecumenical services here at Emmanuel for Ash Wednesday, and suggested soup suppers followed by worship for Lent. He will have a Seder service here at our church for Holy Week, and Sunrise Services up in Bill Green's pasture for Easter, and then the 10:00 worship here at church. He also suggested getting feedback for next year's Christmas Eve service as to the time of day, the type of service, etc. and ask the congregation several months ahead of time to make the plans.

Old Business: Sharon gave the Nominating



## Church Council Minutes

# LOVING SERVICE

Committee report, stating there are people agreeable to running for each vacancy on the council. It was suggested that we have a "Building Use" policy draft for the February council meeting. For the February newsletter, we need to have an article about the "Church Shower" to be held February 21st, which will include various items and supplies to stock the church...this is a new idea we will try out. Our Facebook page for the church will have information about the Food Pantry's "Feed Me More". To be discussed at the annual meeting: David Nelson will review the past history of congregational decisions regarding parsonage replacement and lead the discussion. We will also be sharing information and seeking congregational feedback prior to the Council's development of a policy regarding same sex marriage and use of our church/pastor as officiate.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Our next monthly meeting will be February 3. New officers will be installed at the worship service on February 7th. We will continue with the mission cornerstone updates at the Sunday services.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Petty, Secretary

## Counters Communion Helpers

1/17 Sharon Wolske Sharon Wolske

1/24 JimMcKenney

1/31 Liz White



Our Special Offering this month is for Lutheran World Relief.



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief is a non-profit organization that works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering.

### ***Long-Term Solutions to Poverty***

**We work with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty.**

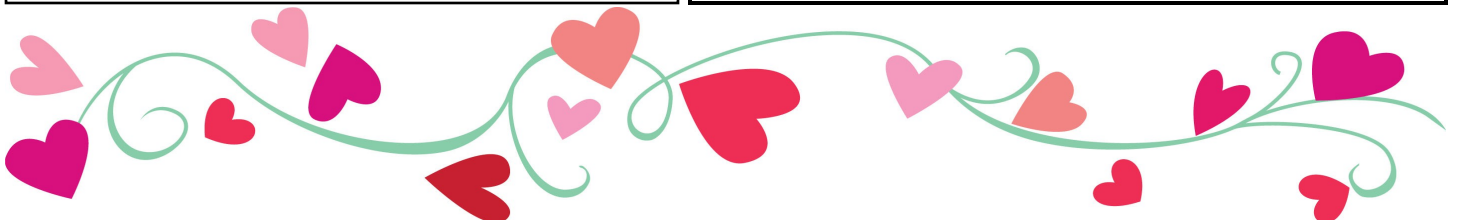
Our staff and partners in the countries where we work know the local languages, traditions and customs necessary to provide appropriate solutions. And they have access to the knowledge and expertise of their colleagues in other countries around the world.

### **Agriculture, Climate & Disaster Risk Reduction**

Our goal is to improve the lives of millions of small-scale farmers and their families, and to help them adapt to and mitigate the effects of changing weather and environmental conditions.

### ***Emergency Operations***

**Our goal** is to help communities cope with and recover from emergencies in ways that promote lasting improvements in people's living conditions.



# LOVING SERVICE



Family Promise<sup>®</sup>  
of Yellowstone Valley

The annual fundraiser will be held February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Northern Hotel. BEACH BLIZZARD will begin at 5:30 PM with champagne, 6:30 PM Dinner, Dessert, and Auctions and 9:00 PM Dancing to the Midlife Chryslers. For reservations, contact by February 1<sup>st</sup>. This year's theme is "An Elegant Evening on the Titanic—Help us Keep our Ship Afloat!"

For your calendar: Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>:  
Coordinator's Meeting at the new Day Center

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> BEACH BLIZZARD at  
the Northern

Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Opening at the new Day  
Center

A special thank you to the volunteers from Emmanuel for hosting the families at the Peace Lutheran Church on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>:  
Roseanne Plath, Lindsey Carroll, Laurel and Charlie Noland and Dawn Petty.

The youth are doing their Super Bowl subs fundraiser again this year. The subs are very large

Super Bowl  
Sub Sandwich  
**SALE**



and cost \$12 each. Super Bowl Sunday is February 7<sup>th</sup>, all orders need to be into Melissa by February 5<sup>th</sup>. You may call in your order to her at 671-2371. You may pick up your subs following church on

the 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will be having our annual lock-in (normally done in December) on February 27<sup>th</sup>. All Junior and Senior youth are encouraged to come and *invite your friends*. We will start at 8:00 and go through 5:00 the next morning. At this time we will also be having a finicky fork dinner (younger kids are welcome to come from 8-10 to help with the dinner, and we will be baking items to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Each kid should bring their favorite baked goods recipe **and** the ingredients to make it.



Thanks, Melissa Walsh

I am excited to announce that I will be traveling to Europe this summer. Beginning June 15th, I will depart for the trip of a lifetime. I will be traveling with 5 other students from Shepherd High School and one of my teachers and wrestling coaches.



I will be traveling various places around Europe including Dachau, a concentration camp in Germany, as well as Vienna, Budapest, and finally ending in Frankfurt, Germany. This is where I will be breaking from my group. While they fly home, I will be moving on to stay an additional three weeks in this foreign land exploring with my former foreign exchange student (sister) Marisa. I am excited for this great opportunity, but in most cases with great opportunities comes great cost. In this case, \$5500 due February 24th. This trip will be amazing, but as most of you know I am a student athlete. This makes getting funds of this magnitude a bit of a problem. I would greatly appreciate any donations for this undoubtedly fantastic trip. If you have any work that you would like done please contact me at (406) 647-8433 and I will try my best to figure a time that I can come and work and together we can make this trip possible.

With great thanks and appreciation,

Michael Wark

## Church shower

It's time for Emmanuel Lutheran's first ever Church shower! Save the date, ladies for March 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have snacks and door prizes. Come for two hours full of fun and fellowship! Bring a friend (preferably a non-member) and a shower gift for the church (paper plates, garbage bags, toilet paper, etc). Be looking for invitations to be sent in the mail within the month of February. Hope to see you there!

### Church Shower



"To err is human, to forgive, divine, and well, I've done my part."

## Christikon Clips

February, 2016

Information for our Congregations



**Christikon Youth Camp Brochures** have been mailed to every young person in your congregation who are in grades 4-12. The brochures detail some very special possibilities, and some very special deals for registering early for camp, and for bringing a friend to camp as a new camper. Save by registering before March 15. Additional brochures are available from your church office.

**Do it online!** You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org).

**Save the dates: The annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot** is coming on Sunday, April 24

Too few young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with focused community experience, helping to open people to the deeper realities of the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ — exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

**CHRISTIKON** • 1108 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102  
406 656-1969 • [christikon@aol.com](mailto:christikon@aol.com) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

## FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



### What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

### What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!

# 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; 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; Rob Larson, Dawn Petty's son, recovering from surgery to remove cancerous tumor in the colon; Nancy Byxbe having thyroid issues; Jonathan Welch who had testing done at Mayo Clinic this past week; Sorothy Ley, Sandie Green's mother, hospitalized for a series of mini strokes, now back home in Yuma and being closely monitored; the family of Rachelle Gracis who are mourning the death of her sister Candi.

**Children:** Andrew Green, tumors on internal organs.

**Friends of the Congregation:** Cliff Sanchez, cancer; Shirley Sept, cancer; Katie Rightmire ALS; John Barta, cancer; the family of Susan Schmitz as they mourn her death; 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; the family of Paul Jones as they mourn his death; the family of Pat Goggins as they mourn his death; John Ferguson suffering with pneumonia; Pierre LaVe recovering from open heart surgery.

*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,



01 Brianne Malchow  
02 Dawn Sherseth  
03 Jill Hoffman  
04 Anna Super  
08 Scott Green  
15 Destin Christman  
16 Logan Kern  
19 Clarence Beddes






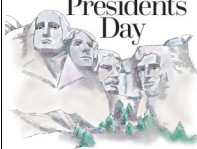
19 Eileen Johnson  
20 Collin Wilson  
23 Rachelle Garcia  
23 Linda Welch  
24 Mark Halvorsen  
25 Bill Reitler  
26 Peyton Christman





# February 2016



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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