



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

# Emmanuel News

JANUARY

# 2016



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2015

Our Sunday School presented another wonderful Christmas Program on December 20th. Thanks to our Sunday School Youth! A special thanks to the following:

Jill Hoffman  
Melissa Walsh  
Dawn Sherseth & the  
Sherseth family  
Dawn Petty

Sierra Stahl  
Abbey Emmons  
Conor Reitler  
Karen Vanberg  
Laura Vanberg

The Annual Meeting & Pot-Luck  
of Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
will be held on  
Sunday, January 31, 2016  
at 11:15 a.m.  
in the Church Basement



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

A begin this month by saying **Thank You** for all the Christmas greetings, cards and gifts. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and card. I feel truly blessed to be your pastor. Thanks again!



From the  
**Pastor**

We stand now at the beginning of a New Year; 2016. As a young child I couldn't even imagine living to the year 2016. Maybe that was because the year 1916 seemed so far away in the past—they barely had automobiles then! Well here we are. I wonder and ponder what this new year will bring for us at Emmanuel.

Some things are known. The parsonage will be gone (they are working on the process as I type). Plans are underway to get the garage remodeled and the Food Pantry moved to into its new location in the remodeled garage. During this year we will celebrate the great festivals of the church—Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. We will hold our annual meeting—Don't forget, it's on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 a.m. I know that Annual Meetings aren't always real exciting, but they are important. Please plan on attending.

I'm sure that 2016 will bring us some things we don't expect. Who knows what surprises await us as a congregation.

What will the new year bring to our nation and world? Again, some things are known. We will have a national election and a new president come November. By then we will all have had our fill of political advertising and we will either be happy, angry or indifferent about the outcome of the

election.

I can only imagine what else 2016 has in store for us. Depending on what I imagine I might be filled with excitement and anticipation or fear and dread. That seems to be the way of our world. There is good and bad, joy and sorrow. But I am reminded that all our time—indeed all of our life is in God's hands; the hands of a promising God. A God who promises to love, forgive and give us the gift of eternal life. Whatever comes our way, we need not fear, because our God is with us. The Apostle Paul puts it a little differently, but with the same meaning in Romans 14:7-9: "We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so the, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living." Thanks be to God! God's blessings For the year 2016!

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

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our January meeting and Bible study will be on Thursday, the 14th at 1:30 PM, at the home of Louise Bischke. Our study for the next four sessions is on the book of Philipians, who wrote it, and how it relates to our lives today and invites us to engage on fuller service to the world around us. Pastor Mark leads the study, and always does a great job, filling us in on background to the lessons and answering all our questions.



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

We will need to re-do the work group lists for this coming year, and a date will be set to do this in January or February. The names, addresses and phone numbers for the women in our church need to be updated.

I will contact the leaders of the work groups for a convenient time to do this. If you have any concerns or questions, you can call me at 373-6673. Thanks to each of you for the work you do....Dawn Petty



# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Happy New Year! I trust that you honorably tossed out the old year and welcomed in the new year. For me it was a pretty quiet celebration. A little bubbly at 9:00 PM, with a New Year's toast, then off to slumber at 10:15 PM, shortly after the highlights of the evening news.

Everyone else seems obsessed with staying up until midnight to ring in the new year, but at my age, that is kind of hard to do. Yeah, I rolled over once at midnight, when I heard all of the fireworks going off, but that's about it!

I'm anticipating a smoother year this year, just by looking at the number and the ease of writing it down. Yeah, my son and I had this conversation traveling to town yesterday. I told him that I was glad to be done with 2015, as the five was awkward to write all year. I think 2016 is going to be a smoother year, since the six is such a fluid, smooth number to write down. You don't have to lift the pen to complete it! At my size, lifting the pen is a pretty big deal! So I guess we will see if my "smooth" prediction holds true or not!

This month we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on the 18th. What an incredible man and inspirational speaker he was. I wonder if he knew at the time, how long lasting his "I have a dream" speech would actually be? There are a bunch of politicians that could learn a thing or two from MLK Jr.! Speaking of politics, we are in for a long haul this year with all of the campaign speeches, ads and the like, trying to win our votes. It's

enough to drive a mouse mad! Too often there really isn't a good clear choice for president, but rather one has to vote for the lesser of two evils. I still think that one of the requirements to being commander-in-chief, should be that the person served in the military themselves at one time.

That right there, would weed down the existing field of hopefuls pretty extensively! T.C. for President!



Speaking of elections, there will be one at the congregation's annual meeting on January 31st, so there is still time to get your name on the ballot! Besides, I think it's time for me to retire as night watchman, the doorkeeper, the reporter of missing items, etc. Anybody want one of those jobs? No? There was an old

country music song about "Who's Going to Fill Their Shoes?" Well, if you hear someone humming that old refrain on Sunday mornings, take the hint!

Also, at the annual meeting, there is always a potluck, with a bountiful supply of goodies...which means I will be able to salvage some of the surplus for my own little nest. Mrs. T.C. will be pleased to have more variety in our diet...(it's always good to keep her happy, and I will make a few "brownie" points with her as well.) So see all of you here then, and remember, start campaigning!

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C.Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## December 9, 2015

The Church Council meeting was held on December 9, 2015 at the home of Dawn Petty. Members were asked to bring their spouses along for a potluck meal and Christmas party. Seven members were present.

Pastor Mark opened with devotions from William White's "St. Nicholas Story".

Secretary's Minutes: Approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: We will continue to take special offerings each month, as designated in the March newsletter. In reviewing the 2016 budget worksheet, it was decided to keep the annual convention funds the same, even though the meeting will be held here in Billings this summer. The office supplies and newsletter/postage costs will be combined instead of two separate items. The expenses for renovating the garage into the food pantry will come out of the "building fund". We will need to take a special offering to supplement the benevolence paid to the synod and churchwide for the year. Sharon also said that non-profits need to re-validate property due to 2015 legislative decisions. Sharon, Laurel and Kristianne will meet in a subcommittee to discuss and recommend a value for the pastor's salary line to be finalized at our January meeting.

The Nominating committee has met and the Council reviewed their work to date. Contacts to serve have been met with willingness by members.

Deacons: They are working on the school "back-pack" program, helping to supply food for the weekends for those children in need. They will ask for donations of various items, such as little food cups.

Trustees: Matt reported that the kitchen drain pipe had been plugged, he did get it working again, but thought it may need to be roto-rooted to clear it out completely. He repaired the base of the pocket door upstairs, and needs

to re-stain that area. Regarding the remodeling of the garage for the food pantry:

The furnace from the old house can be given away, as he picked up a better used furnace from an auction, plus sturdy metal shelving. Matt had drawn up plans for the remodeling of the garage. We don't have a time frame for that as yet. We learned that the Industrial Arts students at SHS have offered to help with the pantry remodel.

Pastor's report: Pastor Mark shared that the community ecumenical Thanksgiving service was sparsely attended and we will be re evaluating whether to continue. The first Advent worship was a beautiful service with the Holden Evening prayer. The Sunday School program will be held on the 20th during the worship service.

Christmas Eve worship will be a candlelight service at 8:00 PM. Pastor will be gone from December 26th to the 30th, to visit family.

Annual reports will be needed for the Congregational meeting by January 11<sup>th</sup>. Our next council meeting will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Liz White will give a brief talk at the church services on January 10<sup>th</sup> on "Caring Relationships". Sharon Wolske made a motion to have our annual congregational meeting on

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, following the worship service and potluck, seconded by Matt, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Dawn Petty, Secretary

### Counters: Communion Helpers

12/13 Liz White

12/20 Sharon Wolske Sharon Wolske

12/24 Sharon Wolske Sharon, Dawn, Laurel, Kristianne

12/27 Laurel Noland

01/03 Kristianne Wilson Kristianne Wilson

01/10 Liz White



# LOVING SERVICE



Our rotation for hosting the Family Promise meals and overnight stays is coming up in mid-January. We will be doing the meal and overnight for Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and the overnight for Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, and the meal for Friday evening, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We always share the duties at Peace Lutheran Church, with Bethlehem, Messiah and Peace for this week. Who is able to make a meal for the families, and who can stay at the Peace Lutheran Church for the two overnights? Let me know who is able to help, and I will get the count for the number of families that will be there...at present, there are 5 adults and 6 children. I will let you know if there are any food allergies, etc. for these people. Thanks for your help.

Dawn Petty 373-6673

Thanks  
for Your  
Help



Thank you to everyone who helped purchase presents for our Angel Tree this year. Thanks also to those who helped with the shopping and the youth who helped with the wrapping after worship on the 13<sup>th</sup>. You did a great job!

A special thanks to Nancy Bixby for all her work gathering names for the Angel Tree and organizing the whole process. Nancy has been doing this for years and her organization certainly has helped the process go smoothly.

Everyone involved helped make a Merry Christmas for those in need!



Our Special Offering this month is for Freedom In Christ Congregation at the Montana State Prison. Pastor Rob Nedbalek is the Pastor of this congregation and a former member of Emmanuel.



Freedom In Christ  
Prison Ministry  
(A brief overview)

Montana State Prison (MSP) has not had a resident chaplain for a number of years. To address this unmet need for pastoral care, the Montana Synod Council of the E.L.C.A. (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) appointed a task force in 2008 charged to lay the ground work for establishing a prison congregation at MSP open to all inmates.

The overall goal of the task force was to establish a prison congregation at MSP through identifying and creating working relationships with Christian denominations and the Montana Department of Corrections. Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry became a worshipping community in 2012 and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to transform lives at Montana State Prison through the power and presence of Jesus Christ.

Our prison ministry is unique in that the inmates are the inside congregation with an ordained and called pastor from outside. The inmates host worship guests from participating congregations and churches on a weekly basis inside the prison walls. The congregation also relies on these outside congregations to support them financially as well as spiritually.

Check out our leadership page at [www.ficprisonministry.com](http://www.ficprisonministry.com) to get acquainted with Pastor Rob, staff and Council members.

# 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; Rita Pickerd, Jim McKenney's mother, recovering from surgery on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>; 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; 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.

*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



01 Kaycee Kern  
01 Willa McSweyn  
06 Connie Herberg  
08 Ashton Christman  
08 Sandie Green  
12 Vivian Pierce  
14 Chisum Green  
14 Taylor Green  
19 Elias Nelson  
26 Seeley Christman



25 Clarence & Agnes  
Beddes







# January 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