



# Emmanuel News



# 2016

## New Parking Lot Taking Shape!



Work began the first week of June on removing the old parking lot asphalt, grading and packing the ground and forming for pouring new concrete. These two pictures were taken on the afternoon of June 7<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to have the area to the right on the completed portion of the bottom picture poured to the street and ready to use for the Garage Sale on June 11<sup>th</sup>. We will still be asking everyone to park on the street or in the grass behind the church on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. We should be able to use the parking area on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

We have been invited to participate and help with the Vacation Bible School at Berea Baptist Church this month. If you would like to enroll your children/grandchildren or are able to help, please contact Liz White (680-8317), Carol Karmer (373-6135) or Laurel Noland (967-2583).

### Berea Baptist Church Vacation Bible School 2016

Join us June 27 - July 1  
6pm - 8:15pm

Kindergarten - 7th grade  
Pre-registration not required

7715 12 Mile Road - Shepherd, MT 59079



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

As I write this, I am fresh off our Montana Synod Assembly held in Billings this year. The Synod Assembly theme was Deepen Faith and Witness—this is one of our Bishop's Benchmarks for the Synod. This assembly was also our Theological Conference and we had workshops dealing with this Benchmark. You can read more about this in Dawn Petty's Report on the Synod Assembly in this newsletter.

I would like to share some information about a process that the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, has called our church to engage in this year. It is called: Called Together in Christ. This process is designed to help the leaders of our church make decisions about the future identity, direction and priorities of the ELCA. It involves three main stages:

- Having a conversation across this church about the future
- Consulting on directions and priorities that emerge
- Reaching decisions as a church about where we are headed.

The conversation stage is about the wrap up in July. The conversations are taking place in congregations, synods, and among the churchwide staff. I have been posting the questions that we as members of the congregation have been asked to consider on our Emmanuel Facebook Page. I encourage to look at them and make a response through the Facebook page. The questions are these:

- What are your hopes for the future of this church?
- What drew you to this congregation and what helps you feel connected?
- What important things should this church do in the future — in your community and in the world?



- Who would you like to see joining your congregation, and how might this happen?
- What are the two biggest challenges facing your church right now? Do you have any ideas to address these issues and move us forward?

- ELCA is a church of more than 9,000 congregations, with a presence across the U.S. and the world. What would you like to know about the wider church?

Our individual responses are important and will be catalogued analyzed and lead to a paper to be released in July to let everyone know the main messages coming through, and to share some options for the future that can be test through further consultation in August and September. At this stage the ELCA will get more structured feedback from congregations, synods and ministries and the churchwide office before developing firm recommendations to the ELCA Church Council.

It is important that we participate in these conversations about the future of the ELCA and the future of our Congregation as well. The Emmanuel will be talking about the paper that comes out in July at our Council Planning Retreat in September. Please take advantage of giving your feedback to the larger church through our Facebook page or by going to the Called Forward Together in Christ web site at [elca.org/future](http://elca.org/future).

We had conversations on Saturday afternoon at the Synod Assembly using some similar questions and I found this process very helpful and enlightening.

God's Blessings as you help us contemplate the future of the ELCA and our Congregation—and enjoy the summer as well!

*Pastor Mark*

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Hello June, I've been expecting you. What a wonderful month with lots to do and celebrate. First of all, Mrs. T.C. and I will be celebrating our silver anniversary! Yep, twenty-five years of marital bliss. Or as I like to refer to it, twenty-five years of successful co-habitation. Happy Anniversary, Pooky! Time sure flies when you see it in the rear view mirror. Then on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Flag Day, so be sure to fly Old Glory proudly at your place, in honor of the colors that don't run.

Father's Day is on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully you can spend some quality time with Dad on this day. A fishing trip sounds like fun, and if you are successful, you will have something to throw on the old grill later in the day. "Happy Father's Day to all the Dads out there. Then on the 20<sup>th</sup>, summer officially arrives. Let the outdoor adventures begin. I hope to do some special day hikes this summer to special mountain lakes that I have read about. Every year I plan to do this, but never seem to take the time to just get'er done. It always seems like the toils of life get in the way of doing what I want to do. I have always said that if I didn't have to work forty hours a week, I could complete many more adventures, but without the job, I'd have no money and couldn't afford to play. It's a vicious circle. I just need to plan my free time better.

The summer BBQ's will be starting up again on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I sure love to see all of the folks showing up each week to enjoy the flavors of the grill. I wonder what new things we can try this year. During coffee in the church basement, after the Memorial Day service, I heard a couple talking about a grilled dessert that I really must

try. They would grill peach halves, and then serve them with a scoop of vanilla ice cream in the pocket where the pit used to be. Sounds pretty good. I'll test it out on the family to see if it really does taste as scrumptious as they described.

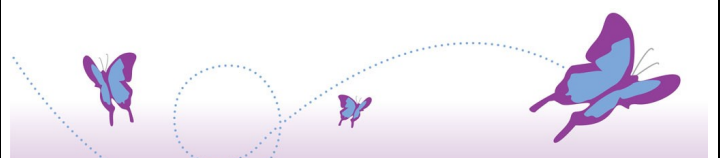
Oh, and we can't forget the garage sale at the church, scheduled for Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. I need

to look for some different furniture this year....mine is getting pretty shabby. I'd like to find a recliner that I would just fit in....you know, Harry Garberg has been saying for years, that he will come up with one that is just my size, but I have yet to see that. Don't give up, Harry....keep looking! Be sure and check out all the items in the sale.. I have seen some great stuff being stored around here, just waiting to be displayed at our annual garage sale. This might be the day...."the best day of my life".

Also, there are things sprouting in the church garden! (Besides the weeds). We will soon have enough greens for a salad, and some peas and beans to munch on. My youngsters love to get out there and play Hide and Seek among the rows of vegetables. Stop by to check it out, pull a weed or two, and help yourself to veggies when they are ready. Well, guess this is all for now....see you in church.

Your Faithful Friend.

T.C. Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 5/11/16**

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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pastor Mark, Kristianne, Sharon, Carol, Laurel, Matt, and Karen

**DEVOTIONS:** Pastor read a passage from a book by Frederick Buechner about Spirit and the word Spirituality. Being spiritual is highly contagious. Spirit = Breath = Life

**SECRETARY:** Minutes from April were corrected and approved as printed.

**TREASURER:** Motion was made to accept the financial report for April. Motion passed. Offering was down and expenses were up due to the quarterly insurance payment. Yearly insurance premium will decrease by about \$500 with removal of the parsonage. We have about \$200 in the food pantry account and just had a couple hundred recently donated. Council agreed that the money raised this summer at the community BBQs will go toward the food pantry. Sharon will be talking with Sheryl Sandy of the Billings Food Bank regarding organizing the best hours for the pantry to be open.

**DEACONS:** Liz is still working on the backpack program but was not present to give an update. Needing to follow up with Jill about Vacation Bible School. Need information and registration form or sign-up sheet for those interested. Matt will be talking to Adam Steadman with Berea Baptist to get the information. Their VBS is 6/27-7/1 from 5p-8p. Needing helpers to supervise and help with activities. Vista volunteer is on Facebook and can help with volunteers if needed.

**TRUSTEES:** Due to recent vandalism and church security, **CAMERAS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED.** One is located above the a/c in the window by the side entrance which shows part of the parking lot and the front doors. The other camera is located in the hallway above the door to the sanctuary and shows the stairwell and Pastor's office. The system purchased allows us to add 2 additional cameras, one of which will be installed on the garage once the food pantry is moved. Matt will purchase the additional cameras and install them. System records for 64 hours at a time but will only record when movement is detected. Works on Wi-Fi and can be connected to a smartphone which will help with monitoring. Council will update again in 2 months once there has been a chance to watch and

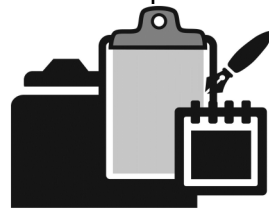
review tapes and to see how everything is working. Matt added a striker plate on front door to make more secure. The parsonage is scheduled to be moved on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Waiting for power lines to be moved between Huntley and Worden so the house can be moved through that area. Rob Emmons will be the point of contact for Ostermiller as Matt will be out of town. Assuming the house is moved, the concrete people can start on 5/30. They are bringing a stump grinder with them and will take care of the stumps as well. Sharon will work with them to get the down payment for their services with the remainder being paid when complete. The well for the parsonage was filled when the house was moved. Discussion about having a new well installed so there is water to the garage/food pantry/garden but was nixed at this time. Will discuss at another time if a need arises. Garage cleanup and work-day scheduled for 5/14 from 8am-12pm. Kristianne is working with the parents of the vandals to have them present for this cleanup project. Matt will have a trailer

and will go through the storage unit. Bill Green has donated a freezer that needs to be moved. The piles of debris in the yard will also be removed and additional garden space will be tilled up on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**PASTOR:** Busy with senior meetings, premarital meetings, a baptism, and St John's annual meeting. Also had home visits with Ed Thaut prior to his funeral, which Pastor also officiated. Community BBQs start June 15<sup>th</sup> and still needing helpers. Talked to Chris Mackey with United Way and they have asked us to participate in the ReadCycle Book Drive to keep

kids reading through the summer. Last year we donated all children's books that were left after the garage sale and we will do that again this year. Would also accept donations at the church if anyone has children's books they would like to part with. Books should be appropriate for Kindergarten through ages 13-14. Wednesday 5/25, Dr Ira Byock MD will be at Petro Hall at MSU-Billings from 6:30-8:00 pm discussing the "4 Things That Matter Most" if anyone would like to attend. Officiating Linda Hinkle's granddaughter's wedding on 5/28 at Chauncey's Event Center and Talia Super's wedding in August at The Depot. Will be having Memorial Day Service on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Need to get a more accurate count on food pantry usage. Cameras will help assist in seeing how many come in and at what hours. Pantry will be locked on Saturdays by Kelly, who handles cleaning at the church. Willa Jean will be helping LuAnn with the alter cloth. The kids that vandalized the church will be giving 10 hours each of service to the church. Connie Halvorsen will help



## **Church Council Minutes**

# LOVING SERVICE

(continued from previous page)

with the kids and their time at the church with the garden and the BBQs. Will revisit member database in 2 months. Revisited the ELC User Policy and made some minor changes. A motion was made to accept the policy changes and the motion was carried. Usher duties were outlined and will be discussed at our next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Lenten services and Ecumenical participation is down. Need to add this to our next congregational meeting or do a survey sheet to find what is preferred and to try and determine why attendance is low. The potluck and church service, first Sunday in August, at Barkemeyer Park is the one most attended by our congregation. Council has decided that we will be having our retreat September 16-17. Matt and Melissa would like to donate some playground equipment to the church and would like to have it installed by end of July. This will be discussed more at another meeting as will need to plan where and have the appropriate materials in place to install it. One of the Council responsibilities as per the bylaws is to make sure we have adequate insurance and that we have open discussion about it. Sharon spoke with our insurance agent through Street Brothers Insurance and shared the information with the council. Rich stated said that our insurance is good and that we have adequate coverage. Our liability coverage is good, we have ample coverage for Sexual Misconduct and Employee Practices (i.e. wrongful termination) and the addition of playground equipment should not be an issue.

## Counters/Communion Helpers

5/15 Sharon  
5/25 Laurel  
5/29 Carol  
6/5 Kristianne

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Our next monthly meeting will be June 8 at 7pm. We will continue with the Mission Cornerstone updates at the Sunday services.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary



## The Lutheran Center

The June Special Offering will be received during worship on June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>

Thank You!  
THANK YOU!

Emmanuel Lutheran,  
Thank you so much for your support with our Core's Pantry Backpack program at Shepherd Schools. Your support has been wonderful in sustaining our project, we have grown to 20 students. Looking forward to continuing this next fall & working with you to keep our students fed & healthy. Shepherd H.S. PCCA

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Our total deposits for January through May are \$34,900 and the total expenses for same period are \$35, 220. The special offerings totaled about \$1000. Those are the extra offerings we have the first and second Sundays of the month. The Food Pantry is getting low in funds and council has decided to have the monies from the summer BBQ's go to the Food Pantry. The monies raised by the garage sale will go into the general fund of operations.

Thank you for your continued support of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Summer offerings are usually lower each Sunday than at other times. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

# LOVING SERVICE

## Deepen Faith and Witness

The 2016 Synod assembly was held June 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> in Billings. Such a great learning experience! The Assembly had several brief business sessions, but there were many workshops and great speakers. This was the Theological Conference and the keynote speaker was Dr. Mary Jane Naemig, professor of Church history at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She titles her first talk “Free, Free, Free . . . For what?” She expounded on “Freedom . . . From what? For What? So What?” The first (from what?) explained how in today’s world all vocations are being constantly evaluated. Are we happy as we should be, are we as successful as we should be, etc.? Evaluation can be oppressive. In Luther’s day, the medieval theology was that we should be as righteous as Jesus, because God keeps score. People feared displeasing God, even in their everyday lives. Grace was not enough, you had to work to be reconciled by God. Luther realized that “God gives it away” . . . . As power, wisdom, righteousness are all gifts from God and the result is freedom. We don’t have to worry anymore about whether we are measuring up.



Free for What? For instance, we are free to please our neighbor, we are perfectly free to be dutiful servants of God. Just how do we please our neighbor? 1. Really listen to their needs. Really listen to someone whose opinion differs from ours. 2. Strive for a good relationship with our neighbor. Try new things. Take risks. “Sin Boldly.” It is Freedom for neighborliness.

So What? We do not live for ourselves. We have the freedom for service—for relationships—we do not live for ourselves. Look, really look around, at your neighbors. What do they need? How can you help? We have the freedom to proclaim the

Gospel boldly. With our church involvement we are free people to live in God’s world as God intended us to. It is God who intended we should be involved; in our church, in our world—as he commanded us, “Love Your neighbor.”



There were a number of workshops on the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Twenty new Lay Pastoral Associates were recognized as completing the two year course. There

was the installation of newly elected Synod Council members and the ordination of Tonia Fischer.

Another very intriguing workshop was one on interesting young adults on becoming an active part of the congregation. Their religious beliefs, current trends, negative attitudes are all teaching us that the young people’s image of church is not positive, not neutral, but quit negative—and we need to help them look at things differently.

Another interesting workshop was on Prison Ministry; conducted by Pastor Rob Nedbalek, the current chaplain at the Men’s Prison in Deer Lodge. (Rob and his family were former members here at Emmanuel before he decided in mid-life to go on to the seminary and become a pastor.)

I would like to thank you for the opportunity for Jill Hoffman and I to be the delegates to the Assembly and to represent Emmanuel.

Gratefully,

Dawn Petty



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God’s work. Our hands.

# CARING RELATIONSHIPS

2016 ST. JOHN'S  
**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**



7 PM ON THURSDAYS  
OPENERS BEGIN AT 6 PM

ON THE CATHARS IN MISSION RIDGE & ST. JOHN'S

Fred & Marie Miller Pavilion  
CORNER OF BIRKBECK & STITCH

7TH OF JULY Black Irish Band  
OPENER: MICHAEL & CHERIA MYERS

14TH OF JULY John Roberts & Don-Bianco  
OPENER: JOHN FLORIDIS


21ST OF JULY Midlife Changers  
OPENER: ELLEN & THE OLD SCHOOL

28TH OF JULY High Country Cowboys  
OPENER: ALMERA BRADSHAW

4TH OF AUGUST Guthrie Brown & The Family Tree  
OPENER: JESSICA LECHNER

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HAZEL CITY W.I.S.E.S.

*In my*  
**FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS**



Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

### What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

### What you do:

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same one) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.

## Christikon Clips

June, 2016

Information for our Congregations



### It's not too late to register for camp this summer!

Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults. You can register online at [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) or use the forms distributed with the youth and family/adult brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information.

**Christikon Director Installation: Pastor Mark Donald will be installed as the Christikon's director at the MT Synod Theological Conference on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the evening service at the Radisson Hotel. Join us for worship!**

Christikon covers the full costs for each at-risk kid participating in Sojourners Camp. (We expect to have 24 this summer) We invite individuals, congregations and their auxiliaries to consider special giving for camp scholarships this summer.

**Special guest speakers** become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Mountain Weekend 1 (July 8-10) we feature **James Darchuk**, Senior Pastor of King of Glory Billings. During the Continuing Education Retreat (August 1-4), we are joined by Lois Malcolm, professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary and Tim Westermeyer, Senior Pastor of St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Minnesota. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Mountain Weekend 2 (August 5-7), topic to be announced. Register now!

Check out our Spring Trailblazer on our website. Use the link below:

Newsletter link: <http://christikon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Spring-2016-Trailblazer.pdf>

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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 ● [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) ● [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

# 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; Holly Reitler's great Nephew Trey Reitler, 3 months old and in need of heart surgery; Nancy Byxbe having thyroid issues; Eileen Johnson's niece, Jeanie Schyultz, in California on chemotherapy following cancer surgery, Eileen Johnson's niece, Darlene Robillard, in Dallas with cancer nodes in her neck, and Ron Robillard in Seattle, chemotherapy for non-Hotchkins lymphoma and very ill; Eileen Johnson, at home again, very tired and weak, and a change of medication; Louise Bischke, at home and doing better; Meagan Malchow, various health issues; Linda Hinkle's niece, Roxanne Powell with stomach cancer.

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

**Friends of the Congregation:** Shirley Sept, cancer; Katie Rightmire ALS; John Barta, 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; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her accident; Judy Fetler, friend of Dawn Petty with stage 4 lung cancer; Hailey Irene Knickerbocker, infant daughter of Kerry Knickerbocker recovering from heart surgery; Wesley Barnes; Eileen Harbaugh struggling with numerous health problems.

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

**Community Living:**

**St. John's:**

Eva Swenson, Esther Green

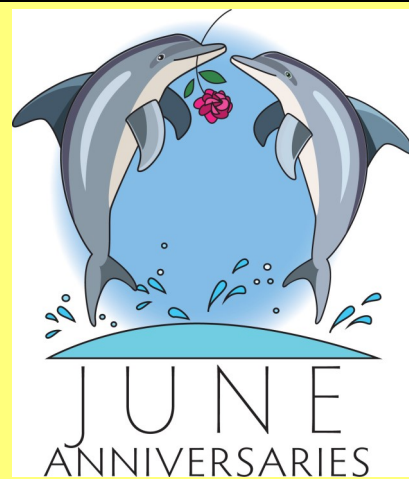
**West Park Village:** Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

**Yellowstone County Jail:** Chance Mavity,

Rob Larson, MN



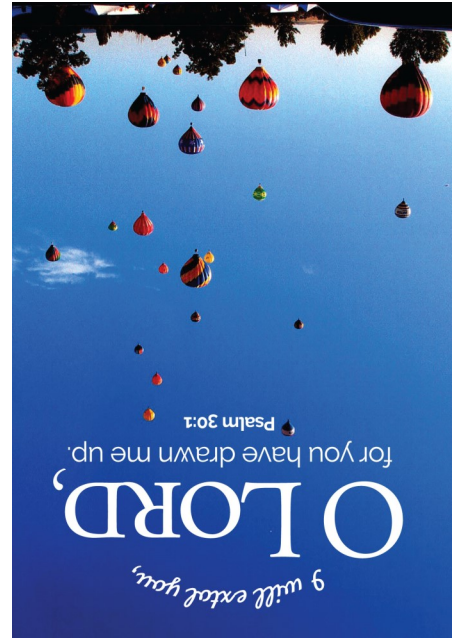
June 02 Louis Garcia  
June 05 Lori Johnson  
June 06 Joseph Leigdowicz  
June 08 Greg Plath  
June 11 Michael Grandpre  
June 15 Daisy Eddy  
June 15 MaryAnn Emmons  
June 18 Noah Smelser  
June 19 Dianne Lundhagen  
June 22 Shane Christman  
June 25 Stacie Grandpre



June 12 Brad & Dawn Sherseth  
June 20 Ed & Sue Hawthorne







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