



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

Emmanuel News

march 2016



HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday Worship, March 20th
at 10:00 a.m. with the reading of
the Passion according to the
Gospel of Luke.



GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday
Services will be held
at the Ballantine
United Church of
Christ on March 25th
beginning at 7:30
p.m.



A Seder meal (the Passover Dinner), will be held on the Thursday before Easter, March 24th, 2016, at 6:30 PM. This is a family affair including children, so come and join us for this wonderful event. Re-learn the history of the Passover, and the institution of communion, while enjoying the food and companionship of friends. A sign-up sheet for those planning to attend will be available ahead of time and passed around during Sunday services. This will include the menu for the meal, a list of necessary items, and where help will be needed and appreciated. For more information, please call Dawn Petty, 373-6673.



Seder Meal



Sunrise Service at Bill
Green's pasture
beginning at 7:00 a.m.
8:30 — Easter
Breakfast at Church

10:00 Easter Festival Worship at
Church

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

Are you as tired as I am of all the political banter that is going on in the run-up to our national elections in November? I find it as irritating as the relentless wind that we've been experiencing recently. I'm not sure any of the candidates are really presenting themselves as trustworthy and reliable people to lead our nation. We have yet to see how candidates for congress and the senate are going to behave.

What I find most disturbing is how the candidates are making religion (read here "being Christian") a major issue in the election. I'm not quite sure what they mean by "being Christian." Do they mean that they attend a church service once in a while? Do they mean that given the choice between many religious options such as Islam or Buddhism, they would choose Christianity as their religion of choice? My cynical side believes that candidates are identifying as "being Christian" to simply court the religious right that has become a power influence in the political process in our country. I'm not sure that the religious right is so much about "being Christian" as it is seeking power and authority—something that is very political, but not always very Christian.

So, the question becomes for me, what does it



mean to be a Christian, not just for political candidates, but for all of us? It certainly means more than going through the motions of religion (attending church every so often, wearing cross jewelry and saying I believe in God). I think (I am owning this one) that being a Christian means living in a daily relationship with the God who is revealed in Jesus. That daily relationship then effects how we live our lives and how we treat others; our family, our friends and even our enemies. In his parable of the Last Judgement, Jesus suggests that the ones who are living in relationship with God are the ones who feed the hungry, who give water to the thirsty, who welcome the stranger, who clothe the naked, who care for the sick, who visit those in prison and who love one another as God has loved us. For me, this seems to be what it means to be a Christian.

I am not endorsing any candidate for any office, but my suggestion is, as we try to determine who we will vote for to be our leaders, we look not only at their words, but at their actions, how they treat the "least of these" to determine if they are really "being Christian."

Here ends my political tirade for the year!

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our monthly Bible studies were canceled for the past two months due to illnesses, schedules, etc. We decided to put them on hold for the time being, as March is busy with extra worship services, soup suppers, Passover dinner, Good Friday and then Easter. Our "Gather" magazine has an excellent study each month, which is led by Pastor Mark. If anyone would be interested in an evening study once a month, let me know, and we will set it up. This study could



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

be varied as we are open to suggestions. I would like to hear from you. Remember, all the women in the church are part of the ELCW, and we are re-working the lists for the work groups, with new phone numbers for some and e-mail addresses. We are very grateful for the co-operation and willingness of all the women, when it comes to short notice to serve for funerals and other occasions. God bless you always. Dawn Petty 373-6673.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

March is here and you can tell that a lot of folks already have spring fever. I've seen people breaking out their boats and campers, getting ready for the adventures of summer to arrive. I myself, still have the snow shovel out, as there is still that chance of a big, set, and heavy March snow storm that tends to break branches and gives everyone a reality check on who's really in charge!

Anyway, along with March comes that old familiar smell in the air. Yeah, I know it's still a couple of weeks away, but if you tilt your head just right, face into the prevailing breeze and you can catch the faint aroma of corned beef and cabbage! St. Patrick's Day is just around the bend! One day of the year, when everyone is Irish for the day. Green beer flows like the upper falls of the Yellowstone, and the daily special on every menu is "corned beef and cabbage". I can hardly wait!

Prior to the "O Wearing of the Green", we have the biannual "mess with the clocks" day! Don't forget to spring forward your clocks before you go to sleep on Saturday night, the 12th. If you fail to adjust to the new time, you could risk being late for the Sunday morning service on the 13th. I also know that we are supposed to change the batteries in the smoke detectors as we change our clocks, so I have some new batteries on hand for that. (Some thoughtful person left a pack of new batteries in the kitchen drawer here at the church). By the way, I love to listen to the exciting stories told by Fire Chief Phil whenever he's around here....sometimes I think I should have been a firemouse.

Spring officially begins on the 20th, so I guess

the early birds with spring fever already, aren't too crazy.

Then on the 27th, we have Easter! Wow, that's early, too. Somehow I always thought Easter was in April !

I wonder where the Sunrise Service will be held this year, if the weather is really cold and snowy?

You know, that really is my kind of worship, being outside and getting the full effect of the dawning of a new day. Of course, weather plays a big factor! As I get older I appear to be fair weather mouse. I don't like to stand out in the rain or cold or sleet or snow (which explains why I never pursued a job with the post office!).

My little family has really been blessed with all the "food"

events to be held at the church in March. The weekly soup suppers and services each Wednesday night are great. Then there are the regular treats during coffee hour after Sunday worship, and the sports teams from the High School have dinners the evening before their games. This means I have a good supply of crumbs in my personal pantry! Besides all that, we have the Passover Dinner to look forward to, the week before Easter, with matzoh, lamb and turkey! Fantastic! I've invited some of my relatives over to share all the goodies, but we will try to stay out of everyone's way, keeping as quiet as a "church mouse"..... I'll see you around, but you won't see me.

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C.Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

February 3, 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 with a passage from a book by Frederick Buechner called Whistling in the Dark. The message was about Lent and reclaiming the "C word." Church.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Mark, Kristianne, Carol, Karen, Liz, Laurel, Sharon, Jim, and Matt
Thank you Liz for the yummy popcorn treats.

REPORTS

SECRETARY: Minutes from January were approved as printed.

TREASURER: As per prior meeting, office supplies & newsletters were combined as one entry in the budget as well as Pastor's salary & housing. Kristianne asked about standard Sunday music/pianist payment. Sharon told us about the salaries and discussion ensued.

**We need to start showing an expense for all musicians for budget purposes. If they choose to return it to the church, make sure that the funds get allocated to the appropriate fund (building, youth, food pantry, etc.) however they choose.

When counting offering trays, it was discussed that there should be 2 people counting. Usher and council member discussed as options. Need to make sure funds are going to the appropriate places. Make sure to check memo lines on checks and that funds get allocated to the appropriate fund (building, youth, food pantry, etc.) Attendance counts are also very important and is a responsibility of the usher.

**We need to discuss usher duties with the congregation so they know what they are in charge of when they sign up. Maybe something we publish in the bulletin or hang a check-list in the church somewhere.

DEACONS: Liz shared a printout of the Deacon's duties. Restocking the wine and communion items needs to be tracked more now as we are doing Communion on a weekly basis. Talked about the Backpack Program. Getting a cart

from Project Merc in Worden to place at the back of the church for the backpack items. There is a tote in the council room designated for the backpack program and perishables need to be placed in the fridge or freezer. Some Deacon duties may need to be shared with the Trustees to make sure all gets taken care of.

TRUSTEES: Matt contacted the school and is working with the shop kids in regards to the shelving and set up of the new pantry in the garage. Matt went to the storage unit and said there are 2 beds, no bunkbeds, some kitchen stuff, and an oversized chair. Jim would like to have the Annual Report on the church's website and is working on getting that lined up.

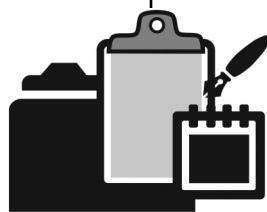
PASTOR: Activities included the senior meetings, bible study, and a meeting with the Bishop at St. John's in regards to handling ourselves through the political year. Also discussed the purpose of the church and has 6 questions for the church to reflect on. Lent starts on 2/10 and we will be having Ecumenical services again this year with Huntley United Methodist, Bethlehem Congregational UCC, and Ballantine. Good Friday service will probably be in Ballantine at 7pm. Palm Sunday is 3/20 and Easter Sunday is 3/27. Will have Easter Sunrise Service on Bill Green's property as usual, weather permitting. Regular Easter Sunday service at 10am at ELC. Having problems with the church email service. May need to look at getting a new provider and CenturyLink was recommended. Pastor has two

weddings scheduled for this summer. Rev. Tom Schlotterback, St John's Lutheran Ministries will be a guest Pastor in February and will do the sermon and also help with Communion. Will have a Q&A after the service. New council members will be installed on Sunday 2/7.

OLD BUSINESS

Sharon shared a draft of a Church Use policy. We recently had an issue where a Cub Scout group and a 4-H group crossed. Need to give schedule and church use policy to each group yearly as leaders change. Need to have someone to handle all groups and church/ground usage. If not a congregation member, this will probably fall back on the trustees. If the church is used, we need to have someone to check afterward to make sure the heat has been turned down, lights are off, no water running, etc. This would keep all scheduling in one person's hands and should help to reduce any schedule conflicts. Sharon and Matt will incorporate something about borrowing chairs, tables, etc. It

(Continued on next page.)



Church Council Minutes

LOVING SERVICE

was questioned if 2 adults need to be present and Sharon will check with the insurance to see if this is necessary. Will discuss the policy and a draft job description at next meeting. Family Promise gave Dawn 3 bags of laundry to do (7 loads worth). Need to either get new volunteers or discuss further if we want to continue participating. Same volunteers all the time and they are getting burned out. We are obligated each 4 months to do 3 nights of dinner and 2 overnights. Laurel and Dawn will discuss this further but need to decide if we can continue to support this ministry. Will report on this next month. At the Annual Meeting, it was voted on that Pastor can perform same gender weddings. Fees were discussed and Pastor said he will add same gender weddings to the policy. Will discuss at the next meeting. Also needing to get a Sexual Misconduct Policy in place and Pastor will bring a draft for discussion next month. Will be doing communion every Sunday. Discussed maybe doing 1st & 3rd Sunday with bread and wine cups and the 2nd & 4th Sunday by intinction with wafers. Pastor is looking in to some new intinction chalices. Discussed bread and Communion helper on a monthly basis but not all can make it every Sunday. Will discuss at next meeting. Also decided that we may need to have another congregational meeting to discuss the parsonage issue. There were too many topics brought up at the Annual Meeting to come to any decisions. This meeting needs to be specific and we need to come to an agreement about our plans, as a church, regarding the parsonage. Once the existing parsonage is removed, we need to have a plan in place for the next phases and stick to the plan.

Counters/Communion helpers

2/7 Sharon
2/14 Karen
2/21 Liz
2/28 Laurel
3/6 Carol (Kristianne as backup if Carol cannot)

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Our next monthly meeting will be March 9 at 7:30 pm, following Lenten services. We will continue with the Mission cornerstone updates at the Sunday Services.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary



Our Special Offering this month is for St. John's Lutheran Ministries.



Family Promise[®]
of Yellowstone Valley

News from Caitrin, the Case Manager : Family Promise will have their Grand Opening, Friday, March 4th, 2016 at 12:00 PM , at the **Family Promise Fortin Foundation Day Center**. There are now four families involved in the system, totaling 14 members.

Needed: volunteers for their annual golf tournament fundraiser. Also needed: a volunteer for a Saturday afternoon/ morning van driver.

Thank you to First United Methodist for providing Family Promise with over 10,000 diapers, in their annual diaper drive. We are extremely grateful!

Peace Lutheran Church has ordered 5 additional air mattresses to accommodate more families during their host week. Emmanuel will share the expenses, along with Messiah, and Bethlehem churches, as we all share the duties for the "host" week. Our next host week will be April 17th to the 23rd. Watch for the April newsletter, which will list the needs for that schedule.

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; Holly Reitler's great Nephew Trey Reitler, 3 months old and in need of heart surgery; Nancy Byxbe having thyroid issues; Matt Walsh recovering from surgery on March 5th.

Children: Andrew Green, tumors on internal organs.

Friends of the Congregation: Cliff Sanchez, cancer; 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; Kenzie Cooper, injured in a truck accident; John Ferguson suffering with pneumonia; Pierre LaVe recovering from open heart surgery; Haley Irene Knickerbocker, infant daughter of Kerry Knickerbocker recovering from 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,

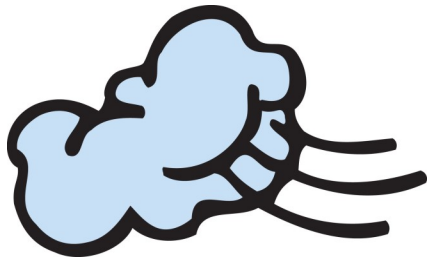
Rob Larson, MN



03/16 Clinton Byxby
03/13 Stella McCloud








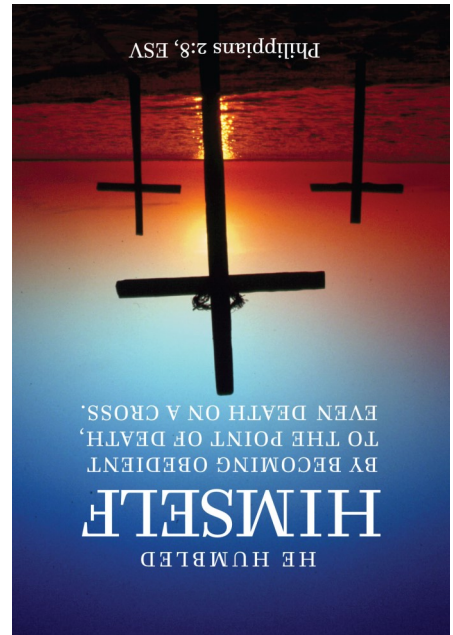
03/21 Gene & Dianne Lundhagen
03/21 Scott & Jennifer Ingram
03/26 Mark & Maryann Morgenstern
03/30 Rob and Abbey Emmons



March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																	
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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.”



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