



Emmanuel News

MAY 2016

Parsonage on the Move, New Parking on the Way!

The Parsonage will be moving soon and changes in the parking for the church are about to begin. The following is an update from Matt Walsh about what is happening:

Things are happening, not as fast as I would have liked them but hey he is older than the house they are moving, as you have seen the house has a few wheels under it and with a permit or two will soon be leaving to its new home. The work in the clean-up department is about to start, a concrete crew has been contacted to "get-r-done". What that includes is removal of the existing parking lot, all dirt work and repack ingredients of such, 4" reinforced with fiberglass reinforcement concrete, drainage issues will be fixed, first step will be leveled off so it is even with driveway, and all material hauled away and work area cleaned up. The cost of this \$50,000, weather we decide to place a



house on the property or not this has to be done, call it phase 1 if you want to, next phases will depend on our choices later this fall. So what does this mean, we need your funds, pledges, cans, chickens, eggs, maybe your first born, that one is still up for decision. Once the house it moved the cleanup crew is ready to start. Pray on it, think about it. Thanks



A Mother's Day Brunch will serve as a Fundraiser to send Chisum Green to Australia to compete for Down Under Sports as a US Representative in both Shot Put and Discus. He will travel and compete in Australia and New Zealand and will make stops at the Great Barrier Reef and 3 days in Hawaii to go visit Pearl Harbor. This is an opportunity of a lifetime and we are so excited to give him this chance to compete for the US.

Chisum is the son of Brad and Sandie Green, Grandson of Bill and Esther Green and has been a member of our church his whole life.

He has to raise about \$7000.00 and has raised \$4000.00. Any and all donations are appreciated.

Cost per person will be \$5.00 per person or \$15:00 for a family. Donations can also be made. Thank you for your support.

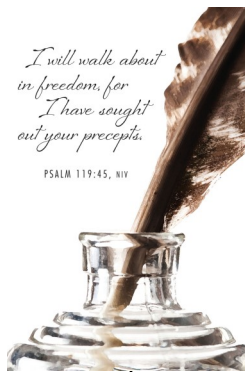
Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

Creation is coming back to life!

The recent spring rains have encouraged the trees to blossom, the spring flowers to bloom, the grass to grow and at least for now, the world around us has a wonderful green glow. Of course, that means yard work had begun. I've already mowed the lawn twice and I need to do it again. All of these things are a sign of the new life that God continues to bring to our lives.

The arrival of spring and summer also awaken in many the desire to go fishing, camping and take a vacation. These too are good things. Part of the commandment to observe the Sabbath means that we need to take time to care for and renew our bodies.

The other part of the Sabbath comment means we also need to take time to renew our spirit. This is the part that can often get neglected during the summer months. It doesn't need to be that way. Sometimes we tend to see summer at



the time to take a vacation from our church community and worship. I encourage you not to let this happen. That doesn't mean you can't go camping or fishing, but you can renew your spiritual life while enjoying God's creation. Think of camping as a great time to do family devotions together. You can take a devotion book (some are available in the back of the church) with you and spend a bit of time on Saturday evening or Sunday morning reflecting on God's word. If you are on vacation, use that opportunity to visit a church in another location. There are many ELCA congregations located throughout the country. Check the phone book and you'll easily find one. You can also visit a Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal or some other church as well. I've always found these opportunities to be enlightening and enjoyable as I meet new brothers and sisters in the places I travel to. Of course, if you are at home, we'd love to see you here at Emmanuel!

God's blessings on your summer!

Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We will be meeting for our monthly Bible study and brief meeting on Thursday afternoon, May 12th, at 1:30 PM at the home of Louise Bischke....Pastor Mark leads the Bible study, which is always interesting, and we have some great discussions. We received a thank you letter from Family Promise, regarding the theme basket of movies and snacks that our group contributed for their fundraiser, saying that it brought in \$225.00! Thank you, ladies for your help.

Also, thank you to the ladies of work group C, who prepared and served the meal for the Thaut funeral on May 2nd. The food

was delicious, and the opportunity to socialize with friends and family was greatly appreciated.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

Please join us for our monthly Bible study...it is always good to get together, study God's Word, and visit with each other.

There has been interest shown in having an evening Bible study, which could be monthly, or bi-weekly, also it could include both men and women. Pastor Mark would lead the studies. If this appeals to you, please let Pastor know, and which evening of the week would work the best

for you.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Here we go....April snow makes May flowers grow! And our yards are abounding with blossoms! The dandelion crop on the lawn behind the church is fantastic! We can finally get some fresh salad greens after a long winter of dried food. Also, I will be able to get my secret batch of dandelion wine brewing in the basement of the church (for medicinal purposes, of course). Although I do sample it on special occasions. Even though I do have a nice cool basement to store it in, it never gets the chance to age.

Well, these colder nights were well spent in our church office, sampling and tastefully selecting some good reading. I enjoyed a book on Martin Luther's teachings, and you know what? He even mentioned me and my family! Imagine that! He called the church...."The Mouth House", referring to the Word being spoken there, but I firmly believe he spoke with a lisp, and was talking about us. As you know, we have always lived in buildings like this, and that expression "poor as a church mouse" came from that.

This month of May is full of special events. Graduation classes, May Day,, Mother's Day....ah, yes, that is the day for remembering Moms, and Frau Maus (my wife) is looking forward to having some special treat, some

thoughtful gift and a fabulous dessert like "No Bake Cherry Cheesecake Mousse".....isn't that just awesome? We will honor her that day, just as you will be honoring your mothers. Then Memorial Day will be May 30th, and that is also a special day for honoring the people who were important in our lives, whether family, servicemen or friends. Usually services are held at cemeteries, and we decorate the graves with flags and

flowers, to commemorate those people who have gone before us.

Graduation Day here in Shepherd is May 22, and there are a number of our young people from church who will be receiving their high school diplomas. One of my sons will be graduating, too, and believe me, it has been a hassle to get a cap and gown to fit him. We will be there to partake in the

ceremonies, to watch all the young people we have grown up with that are celebrating the end of their high school years, and to nibble at the receptions held in their honor. One of my youngest children asked me the other Sunday, "Pops, why do we have to be so quiet in church? Is it because some people are sleeping?" (From the mouths of babes!) Anyway, I'll see you in church...bright eyed, bushy tailed, etc.

Your Faithful Friend,
T.C. Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



Summer Community BBQ's begin June 15th, each Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 PM through August. The BBQ'S are held at the church: burgers, hot dogs, sausages, etc. are provided, and pot luck dishes round out the meal. Plan to take these weekly events in, the camaraderie is great, the food delicious and we get to meet and visit with people in our area. Mark your calendars for each Wednesday evening this summer!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 4/13/16

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, Sharon, Wade, Carol, Kristianne, Laurel, Matt, Jim, and Abbey (acting as substitute secretary and a guest).

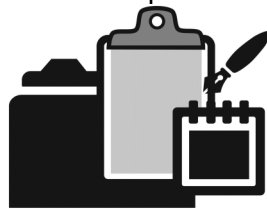
Opened the meeting with Pastor's devotions focusing on the ever present tax season. Interesting and could be topic of a sermon in the future.

Secretary's Report: Report from March was approved. Final tally for the church shower was \$801 for both cash and donated items.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report from March was approved.

Deacon's Report: Laurel discussed Family Promise and **we will still need a volunteer to cook the meal on Friday, April 22nd**. The overnight shifts have been covered and the meal for April 19th. Laurel also is in touch with the volunteer recruitment leader of this ministry and will try to get her to come to church and do a presentation during service.

Trustee's Report: Discussed in length about the follow-up to the church security from the latest break-in and vandalism. Pastor Mark and Kristianne met with the children and their parents. The decision between all parties present was that the children will be held accountable in the form of "community service" at the church, such as lawn care, gardening, helping with summer BBQ's, etc. The council seemed pleased with the outcome. Several factors were involved in identifying the children and the Shepherd School Resource Officer was helpful. Thank you! Matt advised that the ELCW had purchased two cameras that can be mounted inside or outside to assist with security and he will look into what it will take to mount them and what other equipment will be needed to get them up and running. Council learned that the church entry was gained through the front door being "jimmied" and thankfully there was not one of our church keys in the wrong hands. Matt volunteered to find a better way to secure the front double doors. New keys will be made and



Church Council Minutes

distributed to the necessary congregation members and organizations that use the facility. New keys will be numbered, allowing Council to keep better track of them, and will be marked DO NOT DUPLICATE.

The parsonage is up on wheels and a couple council members have been in contact with the movers and sounds like the move will finally be happening soon. With the move comes the safety risk of the "hole" left by the house. Matt has talked to a couple of concrete companies and all but one passed due to the size of the job. The one bid received was from a company that Matt was familiar with and highly recommends. The bid info and company info can be obtained from Matt if anyone is interested. The bid will include clearing the "hole", scraping all blacktop from the existing parking lot up, removing old material, prepping the dirt and packing it properly, filling in the hole, and finally laying the concrete. Concerns for the concrete

is drainage. The company will slope the concrete toward the road and what would have been the back yard of the parsonage and away from the doors. The concrete will be a large square area where the blacktop is now, from the road to the back (north side) of the church, and from the front doors of the church to the backyard where the parsonage was. The cost for site cleanup, preparation and concrete will be approximately \$50,000. The Council discussed the need to proceed with this work using existing

reserves in the building fund with the intention of continuing fund raising to accomplish other near term facility improvements. A motion to move forward with the concrete work and site cleanup was approved. Matt agreed to write an article about this project for the May newsletter.

Plans to relocate the food pantry to the garage are ongoing. Will call on council and congregation members for a work day when ready to move. Matt advised the 200 pounds of meat was donated to the food pantry as per past council notes – thank you Matt and Melissa! Jim shared that a few updates were made to the church's web site - elc.shepherd.org.

Pastor's report: Spoke of upcoming meetings and gatherings. April 24th service will be led by Dawn Petty so the pastor can be in Laurel at a fundraiser for Pastor Mary Ann's church. Spoke of the upcoming BBQ's starting in June through August on Wednesday's. He shared that the Pastor's retreat in

LOVING SERVICE

Chico which included ELCA Bishop Eaton and numerous Episcopalian priest and their national Bishop was educational and inspirational. Seder Dinner was a success and had good congregational participation but Good Friday Service in Ballantine was poorly attended. Both Easter services were well attended. Tabled discussion about how to improve congregational participation in ecumenical services for a later meeting. Spoke also of the special offerings and the council is appreciative of the donations. Very busy due to Easter/Lent season.

Old business: Members discussed the job duties of the new Facility Management team. Drafts of a job description "ELC BUILDING FACILITATOR" and "ELC USER POLICY AND AGREEMENT" were reviewed. The forms explain the foundation/expectation of the position. Council agreed that this will be a role that will evolve but is important for facility security. Rob & Abbey Emmons volunteered to take the first year rotation and will be working with the other organizations that use our church, such as Boy Scouts and 4-H groups. The team will come in after meetings to double check the status of the church, heat, cleanliness, lights, and making sure the doors have been locked. Will also assist with any scheduling conflicts due to unplanned church functions such as funerals. Abbey was asked to type up the new contact list and new church use procedure that will be posted at the base of the stairs where the calendar was. Contacts with the other organizations will begin immediately and attempt to streamline this process will be ongoing. There will also be emergency numbers placed on the building use form in case there is a real after-hours emergency. Sharon will bring the ELC User Policy/Agreement for final approval at the May Council meeting.

Creating new worksheets for usher duties, communion set up duties, and treat duties was discussed. Sharon will work on getting those updated. It will be easier to expand congregational involvement in these opportunities to serve with updated guidelines. A new money counter's worksheet was presented and approved to help the counters categorize the money more accurately and communicate the information to the financial secretary.

Pastor briefly reviewed the proposed sexual

misconduct policy provided to Council members last month. There were no questions and a motion to approve he policy passed. He also reviewed the wedding guideline document shared last month. A motion to approve the policy was passed. No progress was made on completion of the membership database this past month and therefore discussion was moved to May meeting.

Council discussed partnering with another church on Vacation Bible School. Berea Baptist church in Shepherd has plans for VBS in late June. We will be coordinating with our Sunday School leader to encourage youth participation and the opportunity for members to help.

New Business: Kristianne reviewed the Council Roles and Responsibilities as outlined in the church bylaws and stressed the importance of these duties. She shared the summary from the church council retreat in Sept 2015 and Council discussed the progress made on specific goals agreed to at that time. (Please see separate article in May newsletter for additional detail).

The date for the annual church garage sale was set for June 11th. The remaining items will then be donated to the fundraiser in Barkemeyer Park in Huntley the following weekend. Pastor shared his concern that we are not consistently locking the door on Saturday afternoon after food pantry hours. Saturdays are hard for the council due to it being a weekend and travel time for some but other solutions were suggested and will be discussed at the next meeting. Sharon is going to talk to Mrs. Dewing across the street to see if she would be willing and an option.

Communion Help/Counters

4/17 Carol, 4/24 Sharon, 5/1 Laurel, and 5/8 Wade

Laurel agreed to provide an update to the congregation in May on our mission cornerstone of Loving Service; the focus will be Vacation Bible School participation.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

God Bless and a shout out to the council for doing a lot of work behind the scenes. This meeting was 2½ hours long and there was a lot of discussion and a lot of God's work being done. Thank you for letting me be a part of the process! It is my pleasure to be a part of such a fantastic group!

Respectfully,
Abbey Emmons (temporary secretary)

LOVING SERVICE

Church Council Reviews Goals

Kristianne reviewed at the April Council meeting the progress made on the goals set by the Council during our planning session in September 2015. We'd agreed to continue to use the mission cornerstones of Loving Service, Caring Relationships and Joyful Worship in our ongoing communication vehicles with the congregation. Each month during the announcement portion of the Sunday service a Council member has spotlighted a current or new ministry opportunity utilizing these cornerstones. Another goal was to make youth/children's participation in our church a high priority. Pastor is occasionally including children's sermons in our Sunday worship and we will be encouraging children of the church/their friends to attend Vacation Bible School in June in partnership with Brea Baptist Church. The planning session identified the need for several policies to be updated or developed, This month we approved a new Sexual Misconduct policy which is patterned after the Montana Synod sample policy. We also adopted a Wedding Guidelines document with includes language consistent with the congregational decision in January 2016 that welcomes weddings of same-gender couples at Emmanuel Lutheran Church as long as state law continues to sanction same-gender marriage. The Council is finalizing an updated Building Use policy that will complement the new volunteer role of Building Coordinator. The Council plans on meeting this fall again for longer range planning.



Our Special offerings for the month of May will be for the Emmanuel Lutheran Youth Program. The offerings will be received on May 1st and May 8th.



Weather permitting, we hope to be able to plant the garden in a few weeks....the nights have been too cool to put plants in, but we could certainly get the garden roto-tilled and seeds in the ground. Do you have a "green thumb"? Like to work outdoors? This is the place for YOU!!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the church, leave your name and number, and you WILL be called!

The Church Gardener



"Frankly, Edna, I think it's more noticeable than your shoes not matching your dress."



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; Ed Thaut at home on hospice care.

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; Kenzie Cooper, injured in a truck accident; 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



05/04 Scott Ingram
05/14 Lindsey McCloud
05/21 Bob Wolske
05/28 Doreen McKenney
05/28 Craig Wilson



05/11 Jim & Linda Hinkle
05/15 Clinton & Brandie Byxbe

may 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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8  HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 8:45 Adult Sunday School 10:00 Worship	9 6:30 Tiger Cub Scouts (Up Stairs) 7:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H	10 6:30 Bear Cub Scouts	11 7:00 Church Council	12 1:30 WELCA 7:00 Shepherd Honor Choir	13	14																																																																																																		
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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,
and community.”



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING