



# Emmanuel News

## SEPTEMBER

# 2016



Sunday School begins a new year on September 11<sup>th</sup>. This year we will begin Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. This will

allow more time for teaching and music. The children will join worship when we begin the Holy Communion portion of the service.

This year the children will be learning about the parables of Jesus.

Please sign up your children on either Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> so we will have an idea of how many youth to prepare for.

**SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL!**



Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be participating with over 10,000 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American in sharing God's love for our neighbors by engaging in acts of community service in our local settings.

Following worship on September 11<sup>th</sup> we will gather at the Shepherd Community Center to put a new coat of paint on the building. There may also be the opportunity to do some clean up following the Shepherd Jamboree that will be held the day before.

We will have a barbecue at the park, starting at about 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. There is a sign up sheet to help bring food (meat will be provided).

Come and join us on the 17<sup>th</sup> as we get our hands busy doing God's work in our community.



The blessing of backpacks, students and teachers on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.



The Community Barbecues have been very successful this year. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

For many years now I have subscribed to the periodical called *The Christian Century: Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully*. One of the sections of the magazine is called "Century Marks" and it is made up of small news articles from various sources around the world. I was struck by two of the articles in the current issue. Now, I'm not being political or promoting one candidate over the other, I just ask you to hang in with me while I try to make my point. Here are the two articles:

**LEARNING TO FEAR:** Since the early 2000s, Americans have said in polls that crime has increased since the previous year, despite the fact that the national crime rate is about half of what it was in 1991, the peak year. There were, on average, 20,377 murders per year during the Reagan administration. In 2014 there were 14,249 murders. In the mean-time the population has increased 35 percent, driving the per capita rate of murder way down. The perception that crime is on the increase is likely fed by the media coverage, the entertainment industry, and by political rhetoric that play on peoples fears (*New York Magazine, July 19*).

**TELLING THE TRUTH:** PolitiFact is an independent fact-checking website. Since 2007 it has fact-checked major national politicians at least 50 times. By its measurement, the least truthful political politicians are (in this order): Donald Trump, Michelle Bachman, and Ted



Cruz. The most truthful are (in this order): President Obama, Hillary Clinton, and Jeb Bush. However, Clinton remains in many people's minds one of the most dishonest political figures. One explanation for this disparity is the prevalence of a misogynistic notion that women aren't to be believed, even in the cases of rape (*Mormon Press, July 17*).

My question becomes, *what do we believe?* In an age when anybody can publish "their" truth on the internet to be read by people throughout the world, how do we know what is *truth*, what is *false* and what is *merrily opinion?*

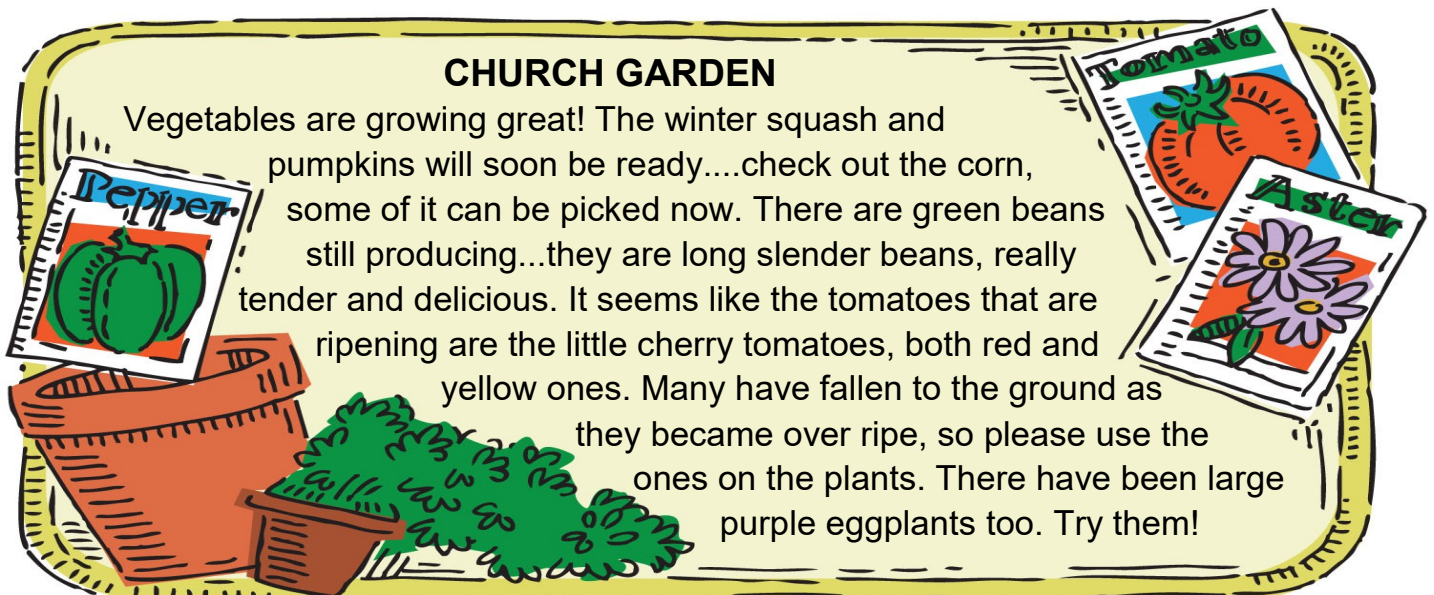
Whether it is opinions about politics or what is the best laundry detergent, we need to be care about what we believe as "gospel truth" and what we also pass on as truth. Is there any "gospel truth" we can believe? Yes, there is the gospel truth of Jesus.

Jesus, through this life, death and resurrection shows us the truth of God's love and forgiveness for each of us. Jesus shows us how we can live new and different lives than the way of the world says we should. Jesus gives us the supreme law—love God and love your neighbor. Practicing that truth keeps us busy, honest and out of trouble. It's not easy, but as followers of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that is what we are called to do. This we can believe!

*Pastor Mark*

## CHURCH GARDEN

Vegetables are growing great! The winter squash and pumpkins will soon be ready....check out the corn, some of it can be picked now. There are green beans still producing...they are long slender beans, really tender and delicious. It seems like the tomatoes that are ripening are the little cherry tomatoes, both red and yellow ones. Many have fallen to the ground as they became over ripe, so please use the ones on the plants. There have been large purple eggplants too. Try them!



# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

September is here and it sure is a busy, busy time. Kids are back to school and have started all the activities associated with it. Seems like our white board calendar is quickly filling up with obligations, practices, games and various events. We will be driving ourselves crazy as we drive the kids to and fro. I had thought of being an Uber driver at first, but my free time, or lack thereof, just won't allow for it.

Labor Day is celebrated on the 5th, so enjoy the day and fire up the barbecue. There should be plenty of tasty goodies to throw on the grill, since it is harvest time in the fields and the local gardens. You know me, I will try to grill just about everything. I hope you will enjoy the last big bang of the summer, relaxing with friends and family. Remember, the first day of fall is on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, so there will be plenty to do on the old "fall" honey-do list. It will be the time to get everything ready for winter, so I know I'll be busy trying to complete my ever expanding list. I wonder what kind of winter Mother Nature has in store for us this year. We sure got off pretty easy last year.

Patriot Day is on the 11<sup>th</sup>, so take a moment to remember those who left us on that fateful day. Seems like it was just yesterday that those towers came down, but it really has been quite a while. I don't know that we are much safer, or the world more sane, since then. But we definitely are more aware.....never forget and never let your guard down!

Grandparents' Day is also on the 11<sup>th</sup>, so here's a shout out to all the Grandmas and Grandpas out

there! Thank you for everything you do! I hope you enjoy your day and get to spend some quality time with grandkids. Nothing brings a smile to my face faster than a bunch of little ones running around, laughing and having a ball.

Also we have the start of Archery hunting season this month. Time for me to dust off the old bow and take it for a walk through the fields, hills and mountains. I have yet to even take aim at something other than a target, but the yearly walks with my bow and quite relaxing and humbling. Maybe this will be the year to harvest something. I'll be sure to let you know how I do.



Sunday School also starts this month on the 11<sup>th</sup>, be sure and watch for the new time...it will begin at 9:30 AM. Teacher Jill always has such fun things for the kids to do....my youngsters love the craft projects, the stories, music and the treats (every mouse's delight).

My family has really been enjoying the church garden this year, it's so lush and green. They like running up and down the corn stalks and playing hide-and-go seek under the big squash leaves. Did you see the size of those pumpkins? Come check it out! You'll find us out there every sunny day. Well, so long for now...Mrs. T.C. is calling me..."Honey, Do Something!"

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C. Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel





## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 6/8/16**

**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 Kristianne Wilson, Pastor Mark, Liz White, Jim McKenney, Carol Kramer, Laurel Noland, Sharon Wolske, Megan Melchow (proxy for Wade who is out of town)

Pastor started out with a daily devotional reading from *I Want to Live These Days with you: a Year of Daily Devotions* by Dietrich Bonhoefer.

### **Standing Reports**

#### **Treasurer**

Sharon Wolske presented the July financial report which was approved by Jim and seconded by Laurel.

Sharon spoke to the \$15,000 loan that was approved to pay off the remaining work that was done. The loan will start payments on 9/10/16 at \$371 a month, with an interest rate of 4.45%.

Our insurance agent has changed as our prior agent retired. We are gathering information regarding updates to our facility for a new policy with Guide One Insurance through Streeter Bros. This information includes the removal of the parsonage, updated work done on the parking lot and garage, and not needing flood insurance due to the ditch.

Food pantry donation from the outdoor worship tallies \$494.00

#### **Deacons**

Laurel is struggling in getting volunteers for the Family Promise. This past month she had to reach out to Faith E for backup in supplying a meal and an overnight attendee as we did not have enough volunteers.

Carol has mailed out the church information to several members to help expedite updating the church directory.

Liz presented an updated "communion steward" guide to the council for approval. This guide is meant

to update our current practice, include a more accurate description of the job, and hopefully encourage more members to participate. She will bring a revised copy to the next meeting.

Liz brought up a concern from Dawn Petty regarding home bound members not getting a weekly bulletin. Dawn has volunteered to provide a list of members that are homebound to the council. Carol volunteered to take on this task. Liz will add this list to the Deacon duties as a reference for future council members.

#### **Trustees**

July 27<sup>th</sup> work day was successful in moving Bill Green's freezer he donated to the food pantry as well as cleaning up the area next to the garage. Megan Melchow's girl scout troop painted the ramp and swing set. The placement of peat rock and bumpers to come at a later date.

The sealant for the cement was not completed. Matt has been tasked with providing a list of what has been done and what has not been done for September newsletter.

Matt is waiting on the delivery for the doors for the food pantry.

God's work our hands will be September 11<sup>th</sup> focusing on community work with the Shepherd Community Center with an additional work day the 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> for a church work day.

#### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Mark has been attending the senior citizens meetings and community BBQ's. There was a meeting of the area pastors regarding Community services. It was agreed there will no longer be a Thanksgiving service. The council discussed and voted on whether Emmanuel would like to continue them on their own. The council decided to not continue the Thanksgiving service at this time.

Pastor Mark is no longer working as a relief chaplain at St. Vincent Healthcare.

There will be a blessing of the backpacks for students and teachers August 21<sup>st</sup>.

There are not Confirmation students this year due to lack of members of Confirmation age. Next year he will do 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

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# LOVING SERVICE

(Continued from the previous page)

## Old Business

Sharon and Carol have been working on an updated Active member/friend directory which is near completion. We are also using "Shepherd Staff" as an electronic membership data base. This is safer for keeping track of member information and makes querying information easier.

President Kristianne led the discussion regarding the Retreat agenda. Council retreat will be the weekend of September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be on the future of our church, our youth. There will be a brainstorming session the 21<sup>st</sup> of August following services. Families with youth will be invited to bring ideas of how to get youth more active. Liz will summarize the meeting and bring information to the retreat.

## New Business

The council discussed different options for members to be able to give offerings electronically and/or automatically. Jim is looking into a link he can place on our website. Sharon and Laurel are exploring our options for members to have automatic deposits.

Our September council meeting will be cancelled due to all the other church activity going on the second and third week. We will cover several items at our retreat.

Liz will do a Mission Cornerstone update for the congregation on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Counters/Communion Helpers

8/14 Kristianne

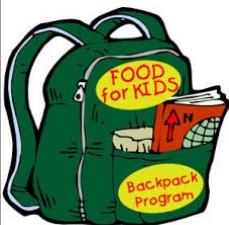
8/21 Liz

8/28 Karen

9/4 Laurel

9/11 Carol

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



Don't forget our **Food for Kid's Backpack Program**. You can bring food items (peanut butter, cheese sticks, etc.) and place them in the grocery cart in the back of the church.

Special OFFERING



**Christikon  
Bible Camp**

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our Annual Harvest Dinner and Bazaar is scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in November, the 6<sup>th</sup>. We will again have an auction, and our usual roast beef dinner, home made pies, etc. We will be raffling off a beautiful quilt again, so watch for that, too. It's not too early to be making your special handmade items, crafts, and canned goods for the bazaar.



This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, so watch for more information on the event.

FIRST  
Communion  
Class

Emmanuel Lutheran will be holding First Communion Classes beginning on September 25<sup>th</sup> and running through October 16<sup>th</sup>. Participants will receive their first communion on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The class may be attended by any youth in Kindergarten through 6th grade. The may criterion is if the parents feel their child is ready to receive communion. Please sign up your child on the table in the back of the church.

# CARING RELATIONSHIPS

## Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates



**Members:** Tracy Kern's step-father in his final days after a long battle with cancer; Ernie Reynolds (and his family) as he approaches the end of life; Esther and Bill Green; Eileen Johnson's niece, Jeanie Schultz, in California on chemotherapy following cancer surgery; Eileen Johnson, at home again, very tired and weak, and a change of medication; Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Phil Garnett (Meagan Malchow's father) who has been placed in hospice care for congestive heart failure and renal failure); Roxanne Powell, Linda Hinkle's niece; Sandy Green, recovering from a broken arm; Barbara Cooper, for her broken ankle to mend—it has been in a cast for two months, and is not healing from surgery; Mary Cossitt, rehabilitating at Eagle Cliff in Billings; Clarence Beddes, waiting for infection to clear up so he can have surgery; Ozz Brensdal, Judy Osmundson's brother hospitalized in Billings following a fall; Russell Osmundson, Judy and Howard's son, in Denver awaiting surgery.

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

**Friends of the Congregation:** Shirley Sept, cancer; Katie Rightmire ALS; John Barta, cancer; Tom Weichel, cancer; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her accident; Hailey Irene Knickerbocker, infant daughter of Kerry Knickerbocker recovering from heart surgery; Eileen Harbaugh struggling with numerous health issues; Wesley Barnes; Lana Richards, acquaintance of Dawn Petty, who is in treatment for cancer; Henry Strecker and his wife, Dit, now moved into Morning Star facility, he has dementia, and she has Alzheimer; Kamrey Leiser, 5th grader from Shepherd, at home with wheelchair after numerous surgeries following a landslide accident; Judy Smelser recovering from a hip replacement; Nicole Hall, with a brain bleed, black eyes, loss of equilibrium, after being robbed and beaten on Hwy. 87; Spencer Beddes, with kidney problems; Joe Welch recovering from surgery; Lisa Strecker diagnosed with cancer; Brittany Reinhardt (Judy Smelser's granddaughter,) had a kidney removed, recovering at home; Georgia Wagenman Clark, scheduled for heart surgery on September 12<sup>th</sup>; Fred Duggan, of Shepherd, scheduled for valve replacement on heart, in two weeks.

### Community Living:

#### St. John's:

Eva Swenson, Esther Green

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

**Yellowstone County Jail:** Chance Mavity,  
Rob Larson, MN



- 13 Chuck Super
- 14 Ron Quanbeck
- 15 Ed Hawthorne
- 17 Kaden Christoferson
- 19 Jackson McCloud
- 21 Linda Hinkle
- 21 Melissa Sherseth



- 03 Joe & Carla Liligdowicz
- 15 Dave & Jill Hoffman







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