



Emmanuel News

February
2017



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2017 Officers and Representatives

President	Randy Vanberg
Secretary	Karen Vanberg
Treasurer	Laurel Noland
	Kristianne Wilson
	Carol Kramer
	Liz White
Trustees	Matt Walsh
	Wade Malchow
	Shane Christman
Financial Secretary	Abbey Emmons
Sunday School Leader	Jill Hoffman
Endowment Board	2017 Ricker Olson
	2018 Lauris Byxbe
	2019 Melissa Walsh
	2020 Randy Vanberg
	2021 Rosanne Plath
Christikon Reps	Jeremy and Sari Stahl
Synod Assembly	Liz White, Brianne Malchow
St. John's Rep	Jon & Connie Herberg
Lutheran Center	Ed & Sue Hawthorne

Vote to Provide Housing Allowance

The main piece of Old Business was to discuss the special meeting that was held on November 13, 2017 to decide whether Emmanuel wanted to continue with plans to build a new parsonage or to provide pastors a housing allowance. After discussion, a motion was made that “we abandon the direction to rebuild a parsonage on church property that was determined at our January 2014 Annual meeting and instead begin to include a housing allowance for a pastor/family as an expense in our annual budget.” The motion passed unanimously.

2017 Budget Approved

The 2017 Budget as recommended by the Church Council and printed in the Annual Report was approved



Recognition of Service

Outgoing Church Council members Sharon Wolske and Jim McKenney were recognized and thanked for their years of service on the Council.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

February is the "Love Month". I thought this might be a good time to muse on what the Bible has to say about the topic of love.

I've often said that John 3:16-17 is God's Valentine to the world.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the heart of the Gospel; God's undeserved, unearned, unequivocal and unending love.

Here are a few things Jesus has to say about the love that we are to have in response to God's love for us:

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind;



and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:25-27)

When the lawyer asks Jesus "who is my neighbor?" Jesus tells him the parable of the Good Samaritan. Our neighbors include everyone, even our enemies.

The Apostle Paul further expounds on the Love which Jesus talks about in 1 Corinthians 13; a reading often used at weddings. While it applies to husbands and wives, Paul is talking about the kind of love that Christians are to have for all people. Paul says that love is the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift that God give to all believers. This love is not romantic feelings, but actions. Paul states these "actions" pretty clearly:

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

The kind of love that Jesus calls his disciples to make the hallmark of their lives and that Paul calls us to live by in the power of the Holy Spirit is a daunting task—but it is a task which will bring great blessings not only to us, but to the world in which we live; a world that seems to be dominated by so much anger and hate.

Let us love one another, as God in Jesus as loved us!

Pastor Mark

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Have you seen the two new ranges in the kitchen? And the commercial can opener that will eliminate all the struggles with the small openers for the gallon cans? Wow! Kitchen duty will be much easier from now on! We have needed to replace the electric ranges for a long time, and we have a terrific "barterer", a "wheeler-dealer"....right here in our midst....Super Shopper Bob Wolske! We ladies asked him to check at appliance stores around town for good deals, and he certainly found one! They were both purchased for the total of \$760,00.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

Besides that, he delivered the two ranges, took out the old ones, and installed the new ones! So if any of you folks need to replace something, check with Bob first!

Melissa Walsh told us to check at a restaurant supply house for the commercial can opener, like she uses with her catering, and now we have one of those also. It was time to update our kitchen and make it more efficient. Thank you all for your help, too.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

February is here and it looks to be a rather busy month. On the 2nd, we have Groundhog Day, when my distant cousin basks in the limelight to tell all of us how much more winter to expect. I'm thinking that it may be a pretty tough gig this year, as I don't think he will even be able to exit his hole due to the massive amounts of snow blocking the way! Maybe he can enlist the help of his friend the badger to help him dig out. On Sunday, the 5th, we have the big game to watch. I'm not too excited about either team that will be playing, as my team failed to advance. In fact, I think the most positive yardage that they had in that game was when they ran out of the tunnel at the start of the game! You know, with me being a mouse, I'm kind of predisposed to be a Cheese Head for life. Well, maybe they will do better next year. I do look forward to all of the wacky commercials and the big half time show, and of course all of the snacking that goes with the party.

On the 14th, we have Valentine's Day, so be sure to do something sweet for your one and only. Remember my life lesson, number two. If you forget to recognize your significant other on Valentine's Day, you are in for a very , very long year of trying to make amends. Card, candy, flowers or dinner....just about anything will work and keep you out of the dog house. Funny, how when something goes wrong, they always say "he's in the dog house." I don't know, most of my canine friends seem to have rather nice accommodations. Happy Valentine's Day everyone! I hope Cupid visits you and yours on this special day.



Speaking of a special day, mine is finally here this month, too. Happy Birthday to me! This brings up my life lesson, number one. Don't forget someone's birthday either, as there again, you will be in for a very long year. I plan to celebrate on the ski slopes again this year. I have some new gloves to help keep my paws warm and I'm anxious to try them out. Nothing like a full day of skiing, to make you feel your age! Don't worry, I'll take it easy, as I'd hate to spend the rest of my special day in the emergency room.

Finally, on the 20th, we have President's Day. It is not a holiday or paid time off for me, but a special day just the same. There sure have been some great Presidents in the past, who really made a difference. I heard through the grapevine, that there is an executive order to be signed, changing President's Day to National Twitter Day! I think social media is going to be the biggest downfall of our current Commander in Chief. Open mouth, insert Tweet!

Well, I better go for now. Still have to wax my skis and get all my gear ready. Yippee! Happy Birthday to me! See you in Church..... or maybe even on the slopes.

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C. Mouse

In Residence at Emmanuel



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

01/18/2017

Members present: Kristianne (by phone), Pastor Mark, Karen, Laurel, Sharon, and Carol

DEVOTIONS: Pastor read from Luther's Small Catechism – 500th Anniversary of the catechism Discussed that this would be great to have copies to share with confirmation kids and others interested. Good for parents and others to help teach kids more at home.

SECRETARY: Minutes from December were approved as written

TREASURER: Shared draft of budget worksheet from last month and made a few changes. A housing allowance of \$5000 was built in to the budget which will be implemented in 2017. This \$5000 is about 1/3 of the gross amount our housing plan should offer. Health insurance/pension was also increased. Our Church Women gave \$3000 which went to our Benevolence to the ELCA. Payments to the parking lot loan are still being made and we are a little ahead on the loan. Our expenses have been consistent and giving has increased. Council feels that with the continued increase in offering, this is a very workable budget. A motion to approve the 2017 budget was made. Motion passed. Will be presenting the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting on January 29.

DEACONS: Carol will start sending out copies of our meeting agendas and any handouts we may have to any council members not present for our monthly meetings. We feel that this is a great way to keep everyone up to speed if absent from a meeting.

TRUSTEES: No trustees present at this meeting. We are still in need of getting the locks changed so Abbey can get new keys to those that have one checked out for use of the church.

PASTOR: Has been attending pastor meetings, text studies, senior citizen's group, and funeral services for Gabriel Byram, infant son of Talia & Joshua Byram (grandparents are Chuck

& Luann Super) and Eileen Johnson. Christmas Eve worship went well and had 104 in attendance. Nothing planned for February. Lent starts March 1st. United Methodist in Huntley will be hosting the ecumenical services. Will continue doing Lenten services either at the church or possibly at Dawn's house. Easter is April 16.

OLD BUSINESS: Went over the agenda for the Annual Meeting to make sure no additions were needed. Still working on getting a committee together for a Constitutional review. The food pantry was not included on the annual meeting agenda as the relocation has not happened yet.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob Wolske has ordered 400 gallons of propane. Will be putting insulation in the pantry once the weather permits. The church directory is complete and will be distributed once the new council members are decided at the annual meeting and added to the front of the directory.

Special Thank You to Charlotte and Liz White for their Mission Cornerstone/Loving Service performance of "Jesus Loves Me" last Sunday ~ Charlie sure does have a beautiful voice!



Counters/Communion Helpers

1/22 Karen
1/29 Sharon
2/05 Laurel

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29 after church. Our next council meeting is February 8 @ 7:00pm. Mission Cornerstone update will be our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary



LOVING SERVICE

Christikon Clips

February, 2017

Information for our Congregations



Christikon Youth Camp Brochures have been mailed to every young person in your congregation who are in grades 4-12. The brochures detail some very special possibilities, and some very special deals for registering early for camp, and for bringing a friend to camp as a new camper. Save by registering before March 15. Additional brochures are available from your church office.

Do it online! You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org.

Save the dates: The annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on Sunday, April 30

Too few young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with focused community experience, helping to open people to the deeper realities of the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

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 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102

406 656-1969 • christikon@aol.com • www.christikon.org

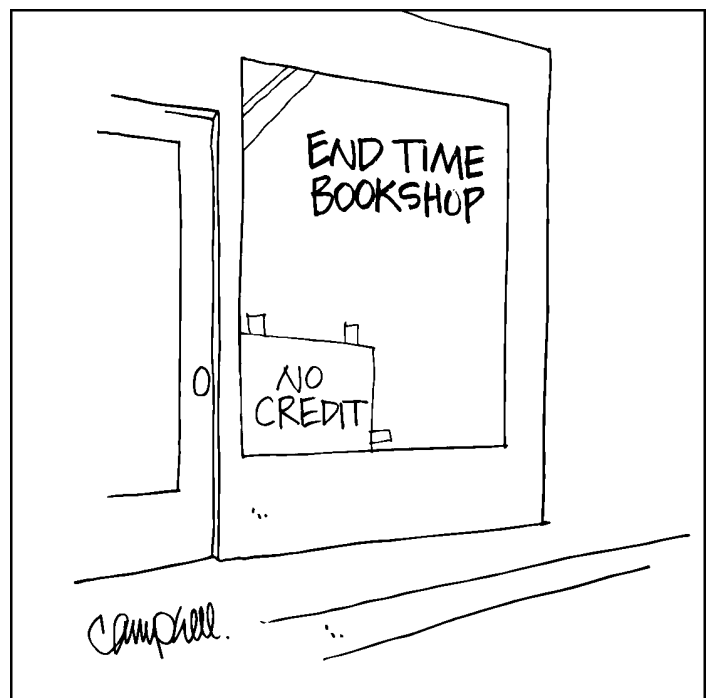
February 2017



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is “no mild, tepid thing,” writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). “It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant.”



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Esther and Bill Green; Eileen Johnson's niece, Jeanie Schyultz, in California on chemotherapy following cancer surgery; Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Roxanne Powell, Linda Hinkle's niece; Clarence Beddes recovering at home and doing much better; June Weber, Dawn Petty's sister in Dallas, Texas, will be having her pacemaker replaced; Lee Borgen, Doreen McKenney's father, had a total knee replacement and is not doing well; Rita Pickard, Jim McKenney's mom whose cancer has returned; Monty Mavity, who is quite ill with cancer; Vivian Pierce, now monitoring heart issues. Her son Rich Pierce has severe back problems; Debra Ruona, cousin of Karen VanBerg, hospitalized with double pneumonia is improving; Lois Sneva. (Connie Herberg's mother) still hospitalized following surgery; Nancy Byxbe.

Children:

Andrew Green, tumors on internal organs.

Friends of the Congregation:

John Barta, cancer; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her accident; Eileen Harbaugh struggling with numerous health issues; Kamrey Leiser has been doing much better, and is back in school after her landslide accident; Spencer Beddes, with kidney problems; Caitlyn Beley, a woman in her 30's with brain cancer; Ali McCarty, daughter of Greg and Vicky McCarty, in rehab following a horse accident; Ted Bahr, age 60, had part of his leg amputated due to a serious infection. He is from Boise, Idaho, and a cousin of Bobbi Smith; Jim Schultz Sr., doing much better, after his surgery to remove the brain tumor; Linda (Paul) Bronson, formerly of Shepherd, recovering from a stroke; Krista Anderson, in hospice care for terminal cancer; Eileen Harbaugh has difficulty walking, problems with her legs, and other difficulties; Roxanne Powell reports that she is now "Cancer free".

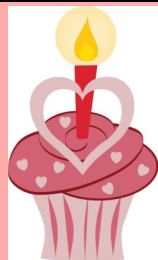
Community Living:

St. John's:

Eva Swenson; Esther Green, *Jensen Cottage*

West Park Village: Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Mavity



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



02/01 Brianne Malchow
02/02 Dawn Sherseth
02/03 Jill Hoffman
02/15 Destin Christman
02/19 Clarence Beddes

02/20 Collin Wilson
02/23 LouAnn Grandpre
02/24 Mark Halvorsen
02/25 Bill Reitler
02/26 Peyton Christman

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FEBRUARY 2017

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Wed

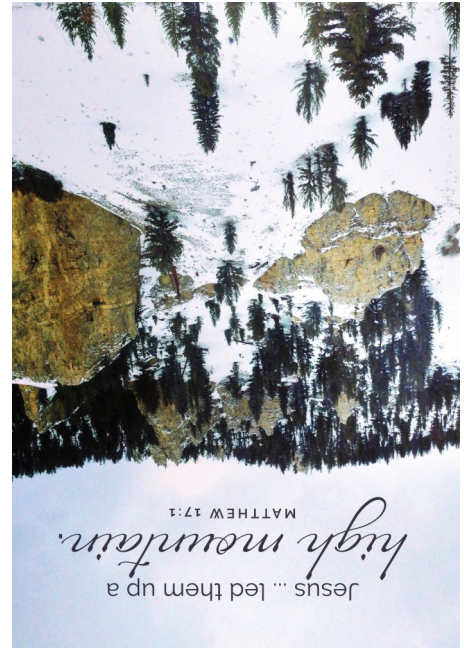
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Address Service Requested

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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 – elcshepherd@gmail.com



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING