



Emmanuel News

March 2017



LENTEN Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship
March 1, 2017
7:00 p.m. @ Huntley United
Methodist Church



Our Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship will be held this year at the home of Dawn Petty. We will begin serving soup at 6:30 p.m. and Worship will

follow at about 7:00 p.m.. Our theme will focus on Martin Luther's Small Catechism as we commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation this year.



We will observe Maundy Thursday — April 13th — with a Seder Meal again this year. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. watch for sign-up sheets at Sunday worship.

We will observe Good Friday — April 14th — with our ecumenical partner congregations at Ballantine United Church of Christ. Time to be announced.



You are invited to the second Annual "Church Shower"
Date: March 19th, 2017 -
Time: 12:00 (following church)
LOC: Our little white church in Shepherd



If you haven't already received your invitation, please let one of us know ASAP. The ladies are all invited!

The focus of the party will be "Feed our People" and the shower gifts will be donations for the church pantry, the Backpack Program, or military baskets.



There is a list of gift ideas at the bottom of the stairs and on the council room door if you need any help. We want all of you ladies to join us for fun and fellowship as well as some silly girl time! Lunch will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz White, Laura vanberg, laurel Noland, or me at any time!

--Abbey Emmons



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

The Season of Lent is upon us. This Season of the Church Year often feels like a very heavy time—what with it's emphasis on repentance, fasting and prayer. One of my favorite theologians, Garrison Keillor (okay not everyone thinks of him as a theologian, but I do) has said that Lent is Lutheran bliss. Yes, we Lutherans have been known to use this Season of the Church Year to grovel in our sins and beat our breasts because we are such miserable and sinful creatures. There is obviously some truth to this assertion, but I think we Lutherans do tend to overdo it at times.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that we are not sinful. Nor am I suggesting that we should do away with repentance, fasting and prayer. I think these are extremely important and helpful spiritual disciplines. I do believe, however, sometimes when we spend our time browbeating ourselves about our sinfulness and wretchedness, we lose the focus of what our repentance, prayer and fasting is really supposed to be about. Lent is not all about us, it is all about God and what God has done for us by becoming a human being in Jesus.

You see, when we focus on ourselves—whether it be how great we are or how bad we are, God tends to get left out of the picture. When we leave God out of the picture and out of our lives, that's when we really begin to have problems!



Lent calls us to return our focus to God in order to see how much we need God and what God has done for us in Jesus.

An old Lenten discipline was to give something up for Lent. I think this was often used as a way to punish oneself for one's sinfulness. Again, this misses the point. The point should be to give up things that make us focus on ourselves and our wants and desires and rather turn our focus to God and God's hopes and dreams for us. Jesus said, "I came that you might have life and have it abundantly." The world tells us that we have abundant life when we have lots of material things. The scriptures teach us that we have abundant life when we have peace, joy, hope and love. Jesus taught us that we have peace, joy, hope and love when we do acts of charity—feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked, helping the poor—I think you get the point.

Lent calls us to focus on God and what God has done—Giving up God's most cherished possession, God's only Son, so that we might have life abundantly; both now and forever.

So, give us something for Lent this year. Give up focusing on ourselves and take up focusing on God and the abundant life that God wants us to have. If we do this, maybe we won't find Lent so heavy after all!

God's Blessings!

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Our ladies received an invitation from Atonement Lutheran WELCA regarding their Spring Luncheon; which reads:

"Women of all ages, Please join us for our Spring Luncheon, Saturday, March 18th, at Atonement, 1290 Sierra Granda Blvd. (up Wicks Lane—past Skyview High School) 11:00 AM to 1:00PM. Our guest speaker will be from Habitat for Humanity. An offering for



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

this organization will be taken. Come! Join us! Eat good food, learn what Habitat for Humanity does for our community,. share in the fellowship...and perhaps win a door prize. Bring a friend!

Okay ladies, let's join themwe can car pool to the event. Let me know who will be able to go, I will pick you up. . . Dawn Petty, 373-6673 .

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I must digress for just a moment.. I had a fantastic day on the slopes last month for my birthday. The weather was nice and sunny, but yet the snow was still in good shape. It sure was great flying down the slopes, wind in my fur and sun on my face. I managed to make it through the whole day without any mishaps and thoroughly enjoyed spending the day with my sons, shredding some snow. Ride up, race down, I was the brown blur of the mountain.

March is here, so we are once again forced to synch up all of the clocks, as we spring forward on the 12th, with the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. I hate to think that I also get to lose an hour of sleep in the deal, but what can you do? Go with the flow and maybe make up for it with a Sunday afternoon nap. I also plan to use the advice of the fire fighters and change the batteries in all of my smoke detectors. Better safe than sorry.

March 1st is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season...so what are you giving up for Lent? I can't decide what to go with out this year....whatever it will be, I start out quite well, and then weaken. We are going to have the soup suppers again this year, at one of the member's home, then have a service and communion after we have eaten....I love the soups (soul food) and the camaraderie with the families. And speaking of food, on the 17th, it's time to roll out the corned beef and cabbage, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It's the only day of the year, when everyone is a wee bit Irish! I think that I'll dye my fur green

this year to show my enthusiasm for the day, and maybe even have a green beer or two. Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone! May the luck of the Irish follow you all year long.

Spring officially arrives on the 20th, so it won't be long now before we can put Old Man Winter to bed for the season. I'm looking forward to everything starting to grow, bud out and green up. At this point, I'm more than ready to turn in my snow shovel for a little time with the rake and lawn mower. Looking forward to mushroom and

asparagus hunting, even though that is still a few months away. Cabin fever has hit me a little harder this year, as I seem to talk to myself a little more than usual. Often Mrs. T.C. will yell from the kitchen, "Who you talking to in there?" as I'm chilling on the couch. I usually tell her to never mind, as it is light-hearted banter between Me, Myself and I. Me tends to argue with Myself and I is a really good listener. No, I'm not crazy, just brutally honest.

Happy March everyone... see you in Church!

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C. Mouse, In Residence at Emmanuel



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

02/08/2017

Members present: Pastor Mark, Randy, Matt, Liz, Laurel, Shane, Karen, and Sharon

DEVOTIONS: The council read through the Ten Commandments – Gifts from God

SECRETARY: Corrected minutes from January were approved as written.

TREASURER: Sharon joined us as she claims that she “didn’t have an opportunity to sit down with Laurel” but we just think she missed us already. We received a \$5000 donation from someone and their request was for the church to use the money to finalize the food pantry. As soon as the weather allows, we will be looking for people to help get this project completed so the pantry can be in its new home. The electric bill was up due to the frigid temps and making sure we didn’t end up with any frozen pipes. Insurance refunds have been received from changes made after MaryAnn resigned from being a pastor and everything was settled. These refunds will go back toward the budget for further health insurance and pension payments going forward.

DEACONS: Our turn at Family Promise went well. Laura Vanberg, Abbey Emmons, and Charlie & Laurel Noland were our representatives. Had a Salvation Army bread delivery last week. Liz had a Backpack program delivery. The response for the backpack program has slowed down a little from our congregation but there are others helping and donating so it is still going well. The 2nd Annual Church Shower will be held after church on March 19th at noon. The theme this year will be the Backpack Program, Food Pantry, and Military Baskets.

TRUSTEES: Matt has been making a list of things that need to be done and here are a few of those items. The pantry (garage) needs roof vents installed, insulation, and doors need to be installed. Looking in to steel roofing. Estimation of \$3000 to get this completed. The playground needs to have the rubber lining put around it and filled in with pebbles which will be a Girl Scouts project by May. Need to clear out the area behind the garage/pantry once weather allows to get the limestone and paper laid down which will also be a Girl Scouts project. The driveway sealing still needs to be completed. The supplies are at the church but we need warm weather. Once the pantry

is moved to the garage, would like to put up shelves in the existing pantry for a supply room area. Would also like to put counter tops in the old council room for a work space. Matt looking in to getting another sign for the pantry as the initial one was in his shop when they had the fire. Going to work on getting some bids to put a new ceiling in the sanctuary. We also need to look in to replacing some of the pipes in the kitchen as many of them are probably the originals.

PASTOR: Has been attending the pastor meetings, text studies, senior citizen meetings, making a few hospital visits, completed the Annual Report, and newsletter. Lenten Services will be Wednesday 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29 at 6 pm at Dawn Petty’s house with soup dinners before the service. Seder Meal will be served on Maundy Thursday 4/13. Easter is April 16th.

OLD BUSINESS: The Constitutional Committee will include Pastor Mark and MaryAnn, Sharon Wolske, Ron Jory, and Kristianne Wilson. Have been looking at ways of lowering the phone bill for the church. Verizon has a plan for a landline that is \$20/month. Pastor will look in to getting this taken care of as this is about \$40/month cheaper than our current option.

NEW BUSINESS: Matt has been selling some of the furniture and beds that we have in the storage unit. Still working on ways to promote our children as they are the future of Emmanuel Lutheran.



Counters/Communion Helpers

2/12 Laurel
2/19 Karen
2/26 Liz
3/05 Liz

The meeting was adjourned with the Evening Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer. Next council meeting is **March 8 @ 8:00pm** – later due to Lenten Service. Mission Cornerstone – Caring Relationships will be presented by Abbey regarding the theme of the upcoming church shower.

Respectfully,

Karen Vanberg, Secretary



LOVING SERVICE



YOUTH MEETING!

ATTN: Children and parents

We will be having a meeting March 12th immediately after church in the basement.

We will be planning the rest of our 2017 year, talking about the National Convention, and reviewing the forms that were e-mailed or given to each of the parents.

This is an important meeting so please plan on attending. We are looking forward to the future and the future is going to be great!

--Abbey Emmons (Melissa Walsh & Jill

March 2017

Special OFFERING

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Well Done!

IN RECOGNITION of a job well done...we would like to "roast" one of our own.... (remember the "roasts" on TV in the past, when someone was honored for their achievements?) Well, kudos to Sharon Wolske, who has just finished 22 years as our Council Treasurer! She was elected to the job in 1994, and said she felt honored and privileged to be the treasurer. She always enjoyed bookkeeping, and felt everybody was receptive to helping her. Even though the job had its ups and downs, Sharon felt like she was accomplishing something. When we were in need of funds, people came through with the necessary monies. Sometimes the bills had to be made in several payments, but people were always ready to help. Sharon is willing to assist the new council, so don't hesitate to ask for advice. Thank you, Sharon, for the example you set. God bless you, dear lady.



"It's titled 'Call for Volunteers.'"

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Esther and Bill Green; Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Clarence Beddes recovering at home; June Weber, Dawn Petty's sister in Dallas, Texas, will be having her pacemaker replaced; Lee Borgen, Doreen McKenney's father, has various health issues following total knee replacement; Rita Pickard, Jim McKenney's mom is back home and has been diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer; Monty Mavity, who is quite ill with cancer; Vivian Pierce, will be getting a pacemaker to resolve various heart issues the first part of March; her son Rich Pierce has been diagnosed with a degenerative brain disease. He has been transferred to a Bozeman facility to be close to his daughters; Debra Ruona; Lois Sneva. (Connie Herberg's mother) has been moved to St. John's for rehab; Nancy Byxbe; Diane Lundhagen recovering from hip surgery; Stacey, the Noland's daughter had a mini-stroke and is recovering at home. Laure Noland's mother at Billings Health and Rehab suffering from congestive heart failure and other issues.

Children:

Andrew Green, tumors on internal organs.



Friends of the Congregation:

Katie Rightmire ALS; John Barta, cancer; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her accident; 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; Krista Anderson, in hospice care for terminal cancer; Eileen Harbaugh has difficulty walking, problems with her legs, and other difficulties; Bobbie Smith's husband, Smitty, age 91, now receiving in-home hospice care; Heather Tranquillo, a good friend of Emilie and Shane Christman for ongoing health issues.

Community Living:

St. John's:

Eva Swenson; Esther Green, *Jensen Cottage*

West Park Village: Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Mavity

Rob Larson, MN



03/13 Stella McCloud

03/16 Clinton Byxby



03/21 Gene & Dainne Lundhagen

03/26 Mark & Maryann Morgenstern

03/30 Rob & Abbey Emmons

IMI



MARCH 2017

Sun

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Wed

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Sat

February 2017							April 2017						
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26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

<p>1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p>7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship @ Huntley United Methodist</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Mid-Week Soup Supper & Worship @ Dawn Petty's 8:00 Church Council</p>
<p>12 <i>Remember! Time Changes this Sunday!</i></p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Youth Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 Mid-Week Soup Supper & Worship @ Dawn Petty's</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 12:00 2nd Annual Church Shower</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 Mid-Week Soup Supper & Worship @ Dawn Petty's</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Sunday School 10:00 Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 Mid-Week Soup Supper & Worship @ Dawn Petty's</p>
			<p>31</p> 



1:00 Cub Scouts



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 – elcshepherd@gmail.com



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING