



Emmanuel News

May 2017

Things are Happening Outside At Emmanuel Lutheran Church



Meagan Malchow and her Girl Scouts, with the help of the Sunday School, have made a good start at planting the Community Garden this year in a very colorful manor! The Girl Scouts are also fixing up the Playground area with new gravel and a rubberized boarder that is on the way. Also be watching for some interesting mushrooms and other ornaments that will be popping up!



Progress is also being made in getting the garage remodeled for the Food Pantry. Thanks to Matt & Melissa Walsh and all others who will be helping with this task!

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

This month I thought I would share with you the letter in the *Living Lutheran* magazine this month by presiding Bishop, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. I found it very good.

I wonder ...

April 28, 2017

Recently, I heard the Bach cantata. The cantata's text is based on John 3:1-15, which was the Gospel lesson at the service where the cantata was first performed. The image that stuck with me and about which I have been doing a lot of thinking was the story of the fiery serpents sent among the people of Israel in the wilderness.

Both the Gospel lesson for the day and the Bach cantata allude to this. You might remember this tense episode during the Exodus. The people of God had been liberated from crushing oppression in Egypt—the plagues, Passover, walking dry-shod through the sea, manna from heaven and water from the rock! We can only imagine the excitement of those heady days when God set Israel free.

But now the journey had become long and they had to detour around Edom. The people became impatient and angry. They began to murmur. They had murmured before against Moses and Aaron, but now their murmuring was directed at God. It turned out to be the same old laundry list of complaints: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food” (Numbers 21:5).

Now remember, this “miserable food” was manna from heaven. God promised to provide enough for each person each day. They were to collect no more and no less than a day's supply. Some collected more, not trusting that God would be faithful. Some collected less. These were the Lutheran Israelites, who did not believe that God's all sufficient love was for them too.

Enter the snakes. “Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died” (Numbers 21:6). A calamity had befallen the people. In their panic and in their pain they pleaded for deliverance. God rescued Israel, not so

Pastor's
Post



much from poisonous serpents but from Israel's own faithless and poisonous complaints that had appeared long before the snakes did. In that faithlessness, Israel had set itself against God.

Israel's rescue was a restored relationship with their true God, not simply escaping the snakes. God rescued Israel both from themselves and from God's judgment. The symbol of their salvation was a fiery serpent—a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole. The very image of suffering and death was also the image of life and salvation.

This is what Jesus was talking about in his encounter with Nicodemus. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). This is what Bach's cantata sings about: “You know, my God, how painfully I feel the old serpent's sting; sin's poison destroys my body and soul. Help me, so that in faith I choose you, blood-red image of a serpent, that was raised on the cross.” The cross in John's Gospel, like the pole with the bronze serpent, signifies both the poison of death and the life-giving power of God.

I have read Numbers several times and there is no indication that the serpents ever left. The plague of serpents remained an ongoing threat and the raised bronze serpent remained an ongoing reminder of the need to turn to the healing power of God.

And here's what really has me thinking—the word for fiery serpent is “seraphim.” Seraphim. The same angels who, with the cherubim, attend God. Could the fiery serpents be snake-angels that like border collies nip at us when we go our own way? Could the sting of their bite remind us to look to the cross, the death of our death? Could the snake-angels be fiery guardian angels who bring us back to the truth that, left to our own devices, we are helpless and sometimes dangerous and apart from God, that we can do nothing?

Just wondering.

There are copies of the *Living Lutheran* magazine in the back of the church for you to take and read each month. Please help yourself!

Pastor Mark

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

May is here and things are really starting to grow. The hunt is on for fresh wild edibles and I've been harvesting wild asparagus for a couple of weeks now. With all of this rain lately, I expect to start seeing the Morel mushrooms popping up down by the river bottom. What a great adventure it is, to hunt the elusive wild Morel, with the reward being a tasty dish of fried mushrooms for dinner. The downside is having to deal with those pesky ticks that one seems to pick up when walking in the woods. I'll let you know what I find.

Mother's Day is on the 14th, so be sure to send a card to your mother. You know we wouldn't be here at all if it wasn't for our Mothers, not to mention all of the nurturing and care that they provided us in growing up. A 24 by 7 job that often goes unnoticed, and underappreciated, but yet ever so important! Mom deserves a special day off on Mother's Day, surrounded by those she has tirelessly taken care of over the years. Happy Mother's Day, Mom! You are the best! I love you very much.

Our first three day weekend of the summer comes at the end of the month, with Memorial Day on the 29th. It is always an inspirational start to the day attending the Memorial Day service at the cemetery behind the church. A time to reflect on those who paid the ultimate price while serving this great country. I always get tears in my eyes when listening to taps being played and thinking about the sacrifices that have been made. Later in the day, I plan to fire up the old grill and fix up a tasty meal for my family. Perhaps I should do a little grill maintenance prior to this event, as I'm sure it is close to being a fire

hazard at this point, since it hasn't been cleaned in about a year.

I see that work on the church garden has begun. I was walking the other day, making my rounds of the church property, when I stumbled on a curious site. In the grass by the garden spot, I spied a bunch of colorful tires. Blue, red, yellow and green tires strewn about. I thought immediately that there was some kind of horrific clown car crash, expecting to see clown victims laying among the tires. I quickly raced to the scene, knowing that my training in CPR could

perhaps save the life of these poor clown drivers, and I would be a local hero. This headline flashed in my mind: "Local Church Mouse Rescues Clown Crash Victims". Closer inspection of the scene revealed that this wasn't an accident at all, as there were no victims. Just colorful tires that the Girl Scouts had been painting for use in the garden. Whew! What a relief! I was really worried about how I could provide "rescue breaths" on a clown. How could I pinch off that big red nose?

See you in Church.

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



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

04/12/2017

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

DEVOTIONS: Read through Confession & Forgiveness from the Catechism

SECRETARY: February meeting minutes approved as written.

TREASURER: Paid 1st quarter benevolence (\$1000). Still working on getting spreadsheet and information transferred to Laurel's computer. Will start seeing printouts hopefully by next meeting. E-Giving going well and offering has been up a little the past couple months. New water heater was purchased and installed.

DEACONS: The first Youth Sunday went very well. Had great participation from all the youth. GREAT JOB KIDS!! Looking forward to the next youth service.

TRUSTEES: Need to get a pantry work day scheduled. Matt got a bid from the Home Depot (\$2900) for all the supplies needed to complete the pantry. Talked about getting some additional bids from contractors to see what they can do it for. Pastor and Randy will be getting together with the trustees to work out the details.

PASTOR: Has been busy with Pastor meetings, text meetings, Senior Citizen groups, and home communions. Lenten services were well attended (15 avg) and we say a big THANK YOU to Dawn Petty for hosting these services at her home. Attended a Constitutional Committee meeting and had a meeting with area pastors for planning on the upcoming Good Friday service at 7pm in Ballantine. Pastor officiated the memorial service for Andrew Green. The Seder Meal Thursday 4/7 has 52 planning to attend. Still up in the air with Sunrise Service being on Bill Green's pasture. Will communicate by email and word of mouth as soon as it is determined if it will be too muddy. If too muddy, will have Sunrise Service on the lawn at the church. Synod Assembly is June 2-4 in Great Falls. Summer BBQs will start Wednesday, June 14th and go through Wednesday, August 23. Had 100 lbs of burger donated. Will start a sign-up sheet in May for helping cook, clean, serve, etc. Pastor will be gone the week after Easter. Will also be gone May 6/7 for his daughter's graduation. Dawn will be covering in Mark's absence. Praise Band will be doing the music on 4/23. Vanco & Thrivent are

parting ways. There is no action required and the fees will be the same.

OLD BUSINESS: Garage sale for this year will be June 3rd. More details to follow. There will be a sign-up sheet for the garden to sign up for weeding, plowing, planting, etc. Talked about putting strips of carpet between the rows as it allows water through and prevents weeds as they don't grow through the carpet. Kristianne will present Mission Cornerstone on May 7th.

NEW BUSINESS: June 6 through August 29 will be the MT Synod House build in Great Falls. Mission Builders of the ELCA will be heading the build and they are looking for teams of builders/cooks that can come to Great Falls for a week at a time. Will print information in newsletter to see if there is interest to build a team. Looking at the 2nd or 3rd week of July. Would like to bring Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

back to the end of the church service. Decided that this would be a great addition to Youth Sundays so be ready for this May 7 (Blessed be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above. Amen). Also working on a new something to trade out with "Lamb of God" during the church service. It's not going away, it just won't be an every Sunday thing. It is our turn with Family Promise at Peace Lutheran on 4/25 and 4/28. Kristianne will do the dinner on 4/25 but will need 2 people

to stay over. Both dinner and the overnight need to be filled for 4/28.

Counters/Communion Helpers

4/16—Sunrise Laurel,
4/16—Regular Liz
4/23 Wade
4/30 Karen
5/07 Kristianne

The meeting was adjourned with the Evening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting is May 10 at 7pm. Mission Cornerstone – Loving Service will be presented by Kristianne on May 7 regarding the community garden.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary



LOVING SERVICE

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We are looking forward to our next Biennial Convention for the Montana Synodical Women's Organization. It will be held here in Billings, September 22nd to the 24th, 2017, at the Hilton Garden Inn. The theme for this event will be "Behold the New Has Come". Each church unit needs to choose two voting Members, or Delegates for the business sessions. We will again take offerings for purchasing the Bibles for the Women's Prison "Homeward Bound" people (24 women). The "Pool of Living Waters" offering will also be taken at a business session. Watch for more information on this event over the summer months.

A reminder for those planning to attend the Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA. This will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on July 13th through the 16th, 2017. The theme for this convention is "All Anew". This is an opportunity to get together with women from all over the United States, to renew old acquaintances, and make new friends.

Pearls Of



WISDOM

Did you have a chance to make it to the Easter Service on the 16th? Or step into the sanctuary that morning after the Sunrise Service? If you did you must have noticed how beautifully the church was decorated for the special season of Easter. Well this didn't happen by itself. Thank you to the Walsh family (and maybe others that I don't know about). Melissa and Matt and their boys are always there to decorate the church for each season. This is not an easy job; but a job well done. Thank you Walsh's!!



May 2017



Emmanuel Lutheran Youth Ministry

Montana Synod House Build



Congregations of the Montana Synod are encouraged to put together teams to work with the ELCA Mission Builders to build our new Synod Office Building. This will save upwards of 15% of the building costs.

The Church Council is curious if there is any interest in putting together a team from Emmanuel to work for a week. If interested or if you would like more information, talk with Randy Vanberg or Pastor Mark.



Congratulations to our High School and College Graduates!

From Shepherd High School

Chisum Green
Taylor Green
Brianna Malchow

University of Great Falls

Brittany McKenney

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, at home; 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; Lois Sneva. (Connie Herberg's mother) moved to St. John's transitional care; Nancy Byxbe; Avias Schulz, age 19, Dawn's granddaughter in Qatar recovering well from surgery; Laura Vanberg's niece, Fawne McCleary who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; Colleen Garberg, mother of Rachelle Garcia in now at Tender Nest Assisted Living.



Friends of the Congregation:

Katie Rightmire ALS; John Barta, cancer; Kynzee Cooper, continuing to recover from her 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; 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; Debra Ruona; Danny Cimmino, in his 30's, who has cancer; Geeta Allen, a 40 year old woman with brain cancer; Georgia Wageman, recovering from open heart surgery recently in Salt Lake City; the family of Richard Bertrand (son-in-law of Leonard & Jackie Schleder) as they mourn his death; Lori Widhalm of Broadview suffering from brain cancer; Cheri McNeily of Laurel scheduled for surgery for a brain aneurysm.

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



- 14 Lindsey McCloud
- 21 Bob Wolske
- 23 Shae-Breaun Nordlund
- 28 Doreen McKenney
- 28 Craig Wilson



- 15 Clinton & Brandie Byxby
- 25 Ed & Linda Oberg

IMI



MAY 2017

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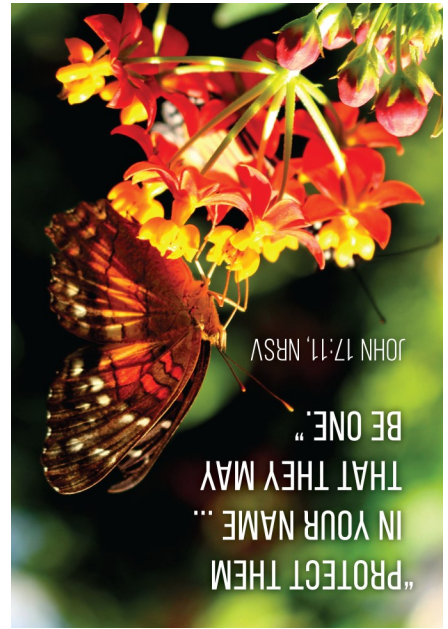
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Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 66
Shepherd, MT 59079
Address Service Requested

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