



Emmanuel News



October
2017



HARVEST DINNER, BAZAAR AND AUCTION

November 5th, 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM



The Harvest Dinner and Bazaar was started here at Emmanuel many years ago, when the women's group was still called the "Ladies Aid". It seemed there was often a shortage of funds for various needs around the church, and the women decided to put on a dinner and bazaar. Bazaar items were always hand made, crocheted or knit, and a quilt was sewn for the raffle. A variety of baked goods were also made for sale. For the past 35 years or more, the dinner menu had included the traditional roast beef, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, baked squash, coleslaw, relishes and homemade dinner rolls and pies.

The ladies (now called the ELCW, or Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women) continue to prepare this event each fall as our biggest fundraiser of the year. The monies raised in the past have provided appliances for the church and parsonage, painting, carpet, special needs, and often used to pay for the annual benevolences for the church. The menu is a popular meal, and anticipated by people from neighboring churches and communities, including Billings. Bazaar items, and theme baskets, are still donated by members, plus items for the auction, which is very entertaining.

Please join us on Sunday, November 5th, after the worship service. The dinner is served from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. See you there!



500TH
Anniversary
OF THE REFORMATION

There will be a special worship service commemorating the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation** on **Sunday, October 29th** beginning at 3:00 p.m. The service will be held at American Lutheran Church in Billings and all the area congregations and pastors will be participating. The service will be last one hour and will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. Each congregation is asked to bring treats to share.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

This month we commemorate a really big anniversary. It was 500 years ago on October 31, 1517 that Martin Luther nailed 95 theses or statements for discussion to the door of the Wittenberg Church that set the reformation into motion. As Lutherans we are using the word commemorate rather than celebrate because there are some things about the Protestant Reformation that we don't really want to celebrate. For example, the Reformation created a great deal of animosity between protestants and the Roman Catholic Church that we still haven't fully reconciled to this day. That's not worth celebrating. However, there are many things that are worth commemorating.

Martin Luther's goal when he posted his 95 Theses on the eve of All Saints Day in 1517 was not to create a new church. He simply wanted to correct or reform some abuses that were taking place within the Church. Luther was particularly upset with the practice of selling indulgences. Luther's had revealed to him that God's forgiveness cannot be bought. God's forgiveness is a gift of God's grace given freely to all because of Jesus' death and resurrection. "We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ." Now, that is a truth from the Reformation that is truly worth commemorating!

Of course, there are many other things worth commemorating as well. Luther believed that all people should be able to read and study the Holy Scriptures, not just the priests. This led him to translate the Old and New Testaments from the original Hebrew and Greek into the common language (German, for him) of the people. We have Luther to thank for our being able to read God's word in our language: English.

Likewise, worshipping in a language (Latin) that the common people did not understand did not make much sense. So, Luther translated the



mass into German as well to be used in church's through the German territory. Luther loved music and wrote many hymns using familiar folk tunes and introduced congregational singing as a part of worship.

Martin Luther could find nothing in scripture that would prevent priests (pastors) from being married. He believed that worshipers should be allowed to receive both the bread and the wine of the Lord's Supper. These are just a few of the changes or reforms that Luther set into motion. Many of these reforms were not easily won and Martin Luther's life was often in danger because of what the Pope considered his heretical ideas and practices. Maybe most important, Luther reminded us that the church must always be about the task of reforming, of examining our faith and practices to make sure that they are in harmony with God's word and will.

500TH Anniversary OF THE REFORMATION

So, as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we give thanks for Martin Lutheran and many other reformers for their commitment and witness to the faith. This is also a time for us to recommit ourselves to the witness of God's love for this world as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and to continue the task of reforming the Church.

Pastor Mark



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

“Operator error T.C., operator error!” When I first heard Mrs. T.C. scream these words, I thought that she once again was having issues with the Magic Bullet when trying to make her daily vegetable smoothie. I quickly ran to her aid, figuring to easily fix the problem with the usual “you have to hold the button down” comment. To my surprise, I see her sitting in front of the computer, reading the September newsletter. As I looked over her shoulder at the screen I screeched in horror. My words of wisdom, my cute little poem, was nothing but gibberish! Nothing made sense. All of the lines were mixed up, resembling the ranting’s of a raving lunatic. Oh the shame, of course that lunatic was me. Turns out that in my attempt to make my poem concise and fit the page strategically, made for a copy and paste nightmare when the newsletter was put together. I was certain that anyone who attempted to read this nonsense would think that I broke into the bottle of Mad Dog prior to typing. Well, nothing I could do to fix the problem at this point, so I tried to look at the bright side. You know there always is a bright side. I may have started a new fad, Puzzle Poems. Yep, if you read every other line of the gibberish, then the poem played out as intended. Pretty neat, huh? My failure shows that I’m only Mouse after all.

At last, October is here and fall is quickly approaching. We had a taste of snow, to get us



going on the fall honey due list. There is always so much to do in order to prepare for the impending winter. I wonder what we are in store for this year? I better get the snow shovel and my long johns out of storage now. On the 9th, we celebrate Columbus Day, which is only a paid day off for the government and banker types. Just think is old Christopher had experienced operator error. He may never have discovered America at all. Mrs. T. C. celebrates her birthday this month as well, so I better not mess that up. I need to figure out something special to help her celebrate. She really is a special someone to me and I wouldn't be half the mouse without her.

The end of the month is Halloween on the 31st. What will you and the kids dress up as this year? I saw a couple of neighbor kids playing the other day, dressed up as Superman and Spiderman. They must have been trying out their Halloween costumes ahead of time. Considering my recent blunder, I think that I should dress up as a Court Jester! Perhaps I can make some of the other tricker treaters laugh, while I continue to laugh at myself. Anyways, have fun out there roaming the neighborhoods. Stay safe. Remember to keep a few Snicker Bars in the treat bowl, just in case you see a small furry Court Jester at your door.

See you in Church.
Your Faithful Friend.
T.C. Mouse

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

09/13/2017

Members present: Pastor Mark, Carol, Laurel, Kristianne, Randy, and Karen

DEVOTIONS: Final readings from the Catechism

SECRETARY: Approved as written with noted corrections.

TREASURER: August bills were paid but money was tight this month. First 2 weeks of September are off to a good start. The parking lot loan is down just under \$8300. Motion made and passed to approve treasurer's report.

DEACONS: Nothing new to report.

TRUSTEES: None present.

PASTOR: Has been doing text meetings, senior meetings, and some hospice visits. Summer BBQs went well and were well attended. Attended the PLU corporate board meeting. Pastor Mark's board term is up. Sunday school is underway and has moved to the previous pantry room. God's Work Our Hands day was a success! The non-pantry side of the garage was cleaned and organized, half of the old roofing was removed and new roofing put on, and organization and cleaning was done in the church basement. We got lots of work done and appreciate the help of all that were there. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is 10/31/17. Atonement Lutheran will be hosting a 500th celebration starting with beer & brats at 6 pm September 23 followed by a hymn sing at 7 pm. All are welcome. Continuing education at Bethlehem Church in Billings on 9/26 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm and the topic is "Muslim Threat or Threat to Muslims," a free class on the religion of Islam, taught by Steve Benson, retired Montana pastor. Harvest Dinner is coming up November 5th.



OLD BUSINESS: CCRC is awaiting submission and response back from the Synod regarding the provisions made to our constitution. Trying to find out information about the water rights on the ditch behind the church regarding watering the church lawn. Also going to look in to what happened with the well for the parsonage after it was moved. Laurel is going to check in to pricing for updating the landscape borders on the west and south sides of the church. Kristianne will be adding an article to the newsletter to see if anyone has any interest in helping with relocating the bats or building a bat house. Will need some sort of heating system for the pantry to prevent freezing over the winter. Randy will be looking in to some options for this. Liz was looking in to some options for the discussed disaster relief but the contact she was given has not returned any of her inquiries. Hope to have a report on this at our next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Portico Health, which provides insurance for Mark and Maryann, is going to increase about 6.5% which is about average. Looking at their options so we can keep this cost down as much as possible. Received a letter from the Synod that funds are down and that August was the lowest on record since 2010. Any extra help to the Synod would be appreciated. Going to work on getting the individual confirmation pictures put in to a large album or book rather than having all of them stretched across the wall in the basement.

Counters/Communion Helpers

09/17 Karen
09/24 Carol
10/01 Kristianne
10/08 Laurel

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting is October 11th at 7 pm.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The Biennial Synodical Convention was held September 22nd to the 24th, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Billings. The new format for the convention included having all the business sessions on Friday, and the gathering of women on Saturday, and in that way, all the women could participate in the lectures, workshops and Bible study. Pastor Al Erickson, Director of Adults Saving Kids, presented an inspiring program on Saturday evening, which featured preparing young people, so they will not be exploited and devastated by the "sex" industry.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

He talked about how parents, grandparents, mentors and older youth can be equipped to fend off human traffickers who prey upon our youth. He would come to our area to conduct workshops, and hopefully we can have one of the churches in Billings hold that event, and interested people from the other congregations could attend.

The election of new officers was held on Friday, and the new president is Connie Hausauer from Peace Lutheran Church here in Billings; Vice-President is Mait Board from Helena; Secretary is Sandy Murphy of Cut Bank; Treasurer Valerie Van (continued on next page)

LOVING SERVICE

Pearls Of



WISDOM

Last month we talked about the crocheted items that Pat Radden has made just because she likes to crochet. But who backs these beautiful works of art? It's none other than our Dawn Petty! She has

spent hours and hours putting felt or another material behind all the crocheted items so they will stand out more and make them easier to appreciate against the white walls of the church. As always when Dawn does something, the art is beautifully displayed and easy to see. Thank you Dawn for all the extra time and effort you used to make these crocheted items stand out.

October 2017



Northern Rockies Institute of Theology is a continuing theological education ministry of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

NRIT exists to provide and promote lifelong learning for the people of the Montana Synod (and their neighbors), for the purpose of equipping them in their lives of ministry.

(continued from previous page)



Voast of Turner, and the Stewardship positions were Myrna Mysse of Harlowton; Lin Olson of Clancy; Cheryl Muncy of Chester; Sandy Pipal of Wolf Point; Janet Stocks of Townsend; and Ella Tweten of Glasgow. The Synodical Women's Group continues to purchase Bibles which are given to the women prisoners at the Homeward Bound Retreat, held each spring in April. The 2019 Convention will be held in Great Falls.

Here in Shepherd, the annual Harvest Dinner, Bazaar, etc. will be held on Sunday, November 5th, following the worship service. The dinner will be served from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The women in our work groups will be contacted the latter part of October, as we need to schedule workers, servers, and again, all the women are asked to contribute a food item toward the meal. Thank you all for being so willing to help with this event.



Bats In Our Belfry



Many of us grew up associating images of bats with Halloween and as children they were scary creatures. This image of bats was

reinforced in comic books and movies. As adults we know that bats are helpful mammals and should be a welcome sight and not cause for alarm. Bats are passive, shy mammals and prefer to avoid contact with humans. They are extremely valuable in controlling insect pests. A single little brown bat can consume 1200 mosquitoes in one hour. Because of their beneficial contribution to reducing insect populations conservation efforts have been established to relocate them should they become a in home or buildings.

Before the Council proceeds to purchase and erect bat houses we thought we'd seek any member experience or interest in this project. Maybe we have a chiropterologist amongst us or youngster in 4-H or Scouts who is looking for a project.

Just let pastor or a church trustee, Shane Christman, Wade Malchow or Matt Walsh know of your interest.



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Esther and Bill Green, Bill has returned home; 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; Nancy Byxbe experiencing dizzy spells and having tests done; Laura Vanberg's niece, Fawne McCleary who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; Colleen Garberg, mother of Rachele Garcia in now at Tender Nest Assisted Living; Matt Walsh's friend Danny, who was seriously injured in a car accident; Lois Sneva (mother of Connie Herberg) from Plentywood, at home from the hospital and getting a little stronger; Rose Field (sister of Agnes Beddes) hospitalized; Robert Larson, Dawn Petty's son, in the penitentiary at Rochester, Minnesota, had hip replacement and is in therapy there now; Wesley Barnes (Byxbe's grandson) who was in a car accident has now returned home; Esther Bengtson has moved back to West Park Village; Howard Osmundson at Aspen Meadows for rehab; Brad Shereseth's father recovering from a stroke.



Friends of the Congregation:

Katie Rightmire ALS; 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; Debra Ruona; Georgia Wageman, recovering from open heart surgery recently in Salt Lake City; Ardis Hanson has been moved to the Vista on St. John's campus; Caden Ricky recovering from surgery; Diane Webb, friend of the Christmans, recovering from surgery; Autumn Rightmeier, a 5½ month old "Down's Syndrome" baby of April Rightmeier recovering from surgery; Keith Dove, many health issues; Virjean Steadman is recovering from a stroke; Bessie Millard is being treated aggressively for colon cancer; Mack McBride has back problems; Judy Smelser is scheduled for surgery next week; the family of Eileen Harbaugh as they mourn her death; Brain Beddes (son of Agnes & Clarenes Beddes) recovering from massive heart attack.

Community Living:

St. John's:

Eva Swenson; Esther Green, *Jensen Cottage*

RiverStone Hospice House—St. John's Campus; Esther Bengtson

West Park Village: Lenora Weist,

Parkview Care Center: Bill Green

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Mavity

Rob Larson, MN



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Jennifer Ingram | 21 Carol Kramer |
| 09 Jackson Plath | 24 Ellie Stahl |
| 10 Lauris Byxbe | 28 Nancy Byxbe |
| 10 Louise Nunemaker | 29 Tanner Emmons |
| 12 Brad Sherseth | 30 Esther Bengtson |
| 18 Susan Quanbeck | 30 Heather Plath |
| 20 Durene Green | 31 Hailey Hoffman |
| 20 Robert McSwain | |




- 08 Bill & Esther Green
- 09 Greg & Heather Plath
- 10 Brad & Lisa Strecker
- 18 Howard & Judy Osmundson



OCTOBER 2017

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



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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