



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

Emmanuel News



December
2017



Merry
Christmas!



A Llama Christmas Drama

Sunday December 17 — 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School youth, come be a part of our Christmas Program this year. We will practice during Sunday School time on December 3rd and 12th and will have a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions call Maryann at 698-5811.



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

- December 3 - 1st Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m. Worship
- December 12 - 2nd Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m. Worship
- December 17 - 3rd Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas
program and Worship
- December 24 - 4th Sunday in Advent
10:00 a.m. Worship
8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

During this time of year, Maryann's term of endearment for me changes from "honey" or "lover" to "Scrooge." I must admit, I do get a be a bit "Scroogeish" every year during Advent. I don't like seeing Christmas "stuff" going on sale in the stores immediately after Halloween. I don't like listening to Christmas music in stores beginning November 1st. I get really tired of watching those holiday car ads on the television and the jewelry ads that suggest real love is giving your sweetheart a really big diamond for Christmas. Don't even get me started on those annoying Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman cartoons. Okay, Scrooge it is!

As much as the commercialization of the Christmas season brings out my inner Dickens, I also get a little frustrated when people haul out their "Put Christ back into Christmas" memes and post them all over the social media. I didn't know that Christ had ever left Christmas. Yes, Jesus always has been and always be the reason for the season. (I can do trite clichés too!) Bah humbug!

With all this being said, Advent and Christmas remain beloved seasons of the Church Year for me. My tendency to be Scrooge doesn't really accomplish much other than raising my blood pressure—which doesn't really need any extra help. What's a Pastor Scrooge to do?

My thought this year is to get back to what the Church Year is about. I can't do anything about the commercialization of Christmas. I can do something about my spiritualization of Christmas. Advent is a season of waiting and expectation and preparation. All the secular, commercialized preparation is going full blast around us. We're buying and wrapping and planning trips or getting ready for visitors. In the midst of all that we can do some



preparation of our hearts. What is it we are longing for? What is it we are waiting for? What is it we are hoping for? As Christians we are waiting for the time when God's reign will come in all it's completeness. We are waiting for Jesus to come again. We

are hoping for that time when the dead will be raised and we will be made new and we will be united with our Lord and our loved ones in God's Kingdom forever.

We can focus on God's love and forgiveness that became flesh in the birth of Jesus. While we are waiting for Jesus to come again, the reality is that he is present with us here and now—in bread and wine, in the faces of those in need around us. We can open our hearts to that reality and perhaps they will be filled with peace that the angels sang about at Jesus' birth. I do truly believe that we can have peace and joy and a calmness in the midst of all the whirl, rush and craziness of the secular celebration going on around us.

Perhaps simplifying our celebrations of Christmas can be a help as well. We don't need to spend ourselves into debt. Rather than spending on ourselves, maybe we can share with those who are truly in need. We don't have to look very far to find such people. Truly the greatest gift we can give is ourselves. The gift of friendship, the gift caring, the gift of love is far more valuable and much longer lasting than any material gift.

Well . . . So much for my Scroogeness and my Advent and Christmas ramblings this year. May God fill each of you hearts with peace and joy this Advent and Christmas Season. As for me, I will try not to be Scrooge in your midst.



Pastor Mark

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,
December is here, and the Rudolph song keeps going through my head, so I thought I would put a twist on it for ya....I needed to add a couple of verses, that may work or not, but the ending is right up my alley.....Enjoy.....Merry Christmas everyone. I hope you get what you want from Santa.

T.C. the crazy Church Mouse
Had a very witty mind.
And if you ever met him,
Mild psychosis is what you'd find.

All of the other field mice
Used to laugh and call him names.
They wouldn't let the Church Mouse
Play in all their cheesey games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve,
Santa made a strange request.
"T.C., with your mind of wit,
Won't you ride with me a bit?"

Through the night the pair would travel
Guided by the stars that glisten.
Kept awake by T.C.'s babble,
Even the reindeer seemed to listen.

Better than a double espresso shot.
Spirited by the constant Ho, Ho, Ho!
Santa sure seemed to laugh a lot.
You should have seen those reindeer go.

Then all the field mice loved him,
As they shouted out with glee.

"T.C. the Crazy Church Mouse,
You'll go down in history."

Well, look for me in church...I will be wearing that red suit Santa insisted I use, so you can't miss me. "God bless us....everyone!"

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C.Mouse,

In Residence at Emmanuel



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

11/8/2017

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

SECRETARY: Approved as written.

TREASURER: Offering on Nov 5 was \$2147. Our housing allowance will be increasing by \$5000 next year. We still have about \$750 of the money that was donated for the renovation of the food pantry. Matt & Melissa Walsh made an in-kind donation of \$65 to purchase the remaining insulation needed to finish the pantry and then completed the insulation. Treasurer's report was approved as printed.

DEACONS: Nothing new to report.

TRUSTEES: Realtor box has been hung near the northeast corner of the pantry, so the pantry can be accessed if needed for donations. Wade has been checking on options for the sign board and found some that lock, are weatherproof, and would hold up to 4 regular sheets of paper. Cost for these boards range from \$100-200. Looking at options for fundraising for this project. Wade has a propane heater that hangs from the ceiling and will work great for the pantry. Will be bringing it down to the church to make sure it works well. Needs a thermostat and will check on getting it installed. The trustees will begin to identify facility improvements and repair in a broader long term plan and then find ways to raise funds to accomplish these improvements and repairs.

PASTOR: Bishop's convocation, Aspen Meadows visits, funeral for Craig Wilson, senior and text meetings, joint worship service in Helena with Roman Catholics. Pastor has a friend that is working on his doctrine of ministry (he is also a hospice chaplain) and has a project called We Do Not Lose Heart. They are working with congregations and churches that are at risk. Pastor Mark has agreed to be on the board for this. No Thanksgiving service or Advent services this year as they are not well attended. December 17th is the Christmas program "Llama Christmas Drama." Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year and we will have normal Sunday worship as well as a Candlelight Service at 8 pm. Harvest Dinner, auction, and craft/bake sale went well. Fed 170 people which is less than normal but figuring the weather had a little to do with that. Total for the day was \$4,889.32 in which \$2,741 was the auction,

\$1,548 dinner, \$328 craft/bake sale, \$237 quilt raffle, and \$35 from the rubbish sale.

OLD BUSINESS: Need to finish the wiring and add a breaker box wire for the heater in the pantry. Matt and Melissa completed insulating the attic in the pantry, thank you. Laurel talked to Christian Helland with Helland Agency regarding our insurance. We currently have Guide One through Streeter Brothers which is the same program Helland Agency uses and they only do insurance for churches. Christian said we have some overlapping coverage and believes he would be able to save us some money. One way to help with our rate would be to change our deductible. A motion was made that we change our deductible to \$1000 and the motion carried. Will look in to getting proposals from both Streeter Brothers and Helland

Agency to see who can give us the best rate for Guide One. Kristianne will present the CCRC changes at the congregational meeting on 11/19.

NEW BUSINESS: Annual meeting will be January 28th after church so please plan to attend. Needing 3 voting members to work with Pastor Mark to fill the vacancies on council. Mark, Matt, Kristianne, and Randy will be meeting Monday 11/20 @ 4pm to discuss options and make suggestions for these vacancies. Laurel found a freestanding, wooden flip file display for our Confirmation pictures on the wall in the basement. The display cost is \$500, and a motion was made to spend some of the undesignated memorial money on the display. The motion carried.

Counters/Communion Helpers

11/12 Laurel
11/19 Liz
11/26 Randy
12/03 Kristianne
12/10 Carol

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.
Next council meeting is December 13th at 7 pm.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary



LOVING SERVICE



JOIN OUR BOOK STUDY

Join in a new book Study on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. beginning on January 3rd. We will discuss on chapter a week of Phillip Yancey's book: *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Contact Maryann

for a book and with any questions you may have about his the book study.

E-mail: morgenstern.maryann@gmail.com,
Phone: 698-5811.

November 2017



Lutheran Campus Ministries in Montana

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Our annual Harvest Dinner, Bazaar and Auction was a big success! Special thanks to Pastor Mark and Randy Vanberg who were our auctioneers, and did a fantastic job! Our kitchen crew was so efficient, that there was no delay in serving the meals. Phil Ehlers entertained everyone with his sense of humor while he washed all the dishes. Chuck Super did a superb job of slicing up those delicious roasts, while Sharon and Raedawn prepared the mashed potatoes, gravy and veggies. The ladies serving the food enjoyed visiting with the customers, and made them all feel welcome. Many thanks to the youth and women who waited on the tables, served coffee and lemonade, and those delicious pies. To everyone who helped with the event, a big "Thank You" and "God Bless You All". It couldn't have been handled better!

Here is a breakdown on the total sales. The Auction brought in \$2741.00; the Dinner took in \$1548.00; the Bazaar and Bake Sale took in \$328.00; the quilt raffle totaled \$237.00; and the "Rubbish" table took in \$35.32. Grand total was \$4889.32. Isn't that great?

The quilt raffle winner was Deanna Marsh. The ladies of Emmanuel not only contributed food for the dinner, but made items for sale, worked to help set up for the event, took turns at sharing the jobs for that day, and were gracious hosts to all the people attending our big day. You were

greatly appreciated.

There are some items left from the Bazaar, and they can be found on a table in the basement of the church, along with some house plants, and "rubbish" items. These can be purchased there, and you will find a container to put your check or cash in, and please make out the checks to "Emmanuel Sunday School". Perhaps the young people can take in an outing for their participation. Thank you everyone!

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; Monty Mavity, who is quite ill with cancer; Laura Vanberg's niece, Fawne McCleary who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; Colleen Garberg, mother of Rachelle Garcia; Esther Bengtson has moved back to West Park Village; Agnes Beddes recovering from surgery; Bob Wolske recovering from hip replacement at home; Bud Sherrod, father of Shawna Calentine, recovering from a stroke; Bill Vincent recovering from Achilles tendon surgery; Lauris Byxbe, health problems.



Friends of the Congregation:

Katie Rightmire ALS; Virjean Steadman is recovering from a stroke; Bessie Millard is being treated aggressively for colon cancer; Brian Beddes (son of Agnes & Clarence Beddes) recovering from massive heart attack; Judy Smelser recovering from surgery.

Community Living:

St. John's: Eva Swenson; Esther Green, *Jensen Cottage*

West Park Village: Lenora Weist, Esther Bengtson

Aspen Meadows: Howard Osmundson

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Mavity

Rob Larson, MN

Local Youth Serving in the military: Taylor Green starting training at the Great Lakes Naval Center; Jacob Wagenaar serving in the U.S. Navy; Tucker Johnson and Brooke Nebel serving in the U.S. Air Force.



- 01 Lisa Strecker
- 02 Jim McKenney
- 02 Laura Vanberg
- 04 Emily Stahl
- 05 Sue Hawthorne
- 12 Conor Reitler
- 19 LuAnne Super
- 22 Holly Reitler



- 13 Scott & Durene Green
- 14 Robert & Peggy McSweyn
- 18 Lauris & Nancy Byxbe
- 18 Charles & Laurel Noland
- 28 Randy & Laura Vanberg
- 29 Tom & Roseanne Plath
- 30 Bill & Holly Reitler

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DECEMBER 2017

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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



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