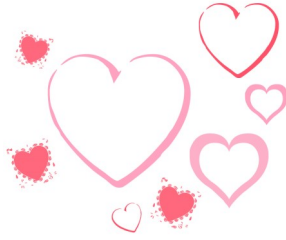




Emmanuel News



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Constitution Ratified

By a unanimous vote the new Constitution was ratified and now goes back to the Synod Office for final approval by the Bishop.

Budget Approved

After discussion, the Budget for 2018 was also unanimously approved.

New Council Members

President	Meagan Malchow
Secretary	Brenda Emerick
Treasurer	Laurel Noland
Deacon	Carol Kramer
Deacon	Liz White
Deacon	Dawn Sherseth
Trustee	Wade Malchow
Trustee	Shane Christman
Trustee	Scott Green

Retiring Council Members

The following who are going off Church Council we recognized and thanked for their service:

Randy Vanberg
Karen Vanberg
Matt Walsh
Kristianne Wilson



Ash Wednesday Worship
February 14, 2018 — 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 this year will focus on the "I AM" statements from the Gospel of John:

Week 1: I AM the Bread of Life (Feb. 21), **Week 2:** I AM the Light of the World (Feb. 28), **Week 3:** I AM the Door (Mar. 7), **Week 4:** I AM the Good Shepherd (Mar. 14), **Week 5:** I AM the Resurrection and the Life (Mar. 21).



March 29, 2018 — 6:30 p.m. watch **Seder Meal** for sign up sheets at worship.



Good Friday Worship
March 30, 2018 — 7:00 p.m.
@ Ballantine United Church of Christ

Please plan to make these worship opportunities a part of your Lenten observance this year.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

The Annual meeting is over. The month of February has begun and we stand at the doorstep of another Lenten Journey. It amazes me how quickly time keeps marching on. I've heard many people say "time goes more quickly the older you get." As I get older, I would certainly validate the truth of this statement.

At our Annual Meeting this year one topic that spurred some discussion was money. Now, thought out my ministry, money has always been a topic that it seems people don't like to talk about "in Church." This is particularly true when it come to talking about giving money to the church. We try to deflect talking about money by using different tactics. We may say "What I give is between me and God—it's nobody else' business." That one's meant to shut down the conversation completely. Our we might say, "You say I should give a percentage of my income—is that my gross income or my net income?" We can argue over the gross or net and never get around to the giving. In my first congregation I got a very clear message the first month I was there that I should never bring up the topic of pledging (they didn't pledge!) or I would be looking for a new church to serve. "If the church needs money, just let us know and we will give what the church needs." Sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't.

I'd like to have a little honest discussion about money and the church. The reality is the church needs money to operate. The other reality is that it is the members who need to give this money, nobody else will. But the truth is, the money we put into the offering plate isn't money we give to the Church, it is money we give to God. Our giving to God (stewardship) is a spiritual discipline. Our giving to God is not a tax, it is not a membership fee, it is not a law or requirement (you must give 10% or else!), but it is a joyful and thankful response to the gifts that God has given us. What has God given to us? The biblical response is everything! All that we have is a gift from God's hand. Our giving is about thankfulness. Our giving is about faith and trust that God will continue to



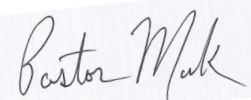
From
the
Pastor

provide for our needs.

The questions is, how much should I give? The Old Testament response was give God a tithe; 10 percent of what we have received. The problem is this gets to be more a legal thing than the spiritual discipline I was just talking about. The reality is, the amount of giving is an individual decision and is different for everyone. I would suggest that everyone needs to make a conscious decision about giving each year. I would also suggest that we try to increase our giving each year. That is were percentage giving is helpful. If you give a percentage of your income and want to increase it each year, your percentage of giving may increase, even though your income may be less and your monetary amount of giving may also be less. (example: last year you had \$10,000 income and you gave 10% or \$1,000. This year your income is \$8,000 and you give 11% you give \$880.00.) The point is to give what feels good for you and your spiritual growth.

Our financial position at Emmanuel is good, but tight. We finished the year in the black. Our problem is that some months, especially in the summer, things get tight and trying to meet our financial obligations becomes difficult at the end of the month. Did you wonder what my little musing about time at the begging of this letter had to do with anything. Time not only seems to move faster, but things also change over time. I did a little research and the price of gasoline when I started seminary, 39 years ago, was \$.56 a gallon. I was giving about \$2.50 a week to God—if I thought I had enough. My giving habits have changed over time and I now feel spiritually good about my giving to God and what I give now outpaces the cost of living or in the case of the congregation, the cost of operating.

I encourage each of you to give some thought to your giving to God and your spiritual growth. Has your giving grown over the past couple of years? Can you grow in your giving? I'm pretty sure this can lead you to a point where you will feel good about your giving to God as well. God's blessings!



Pastor Mark

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,
February is here and I celebrate another birthday. It seems the older I get the more forgetful I become. I think I may be losing my mind. A couple weeks ago, I lost the keys to the Ferrari. I searched endlessly around the house for them. I retraced my steps, trying to remember where I may have set them down. Did I lose them outside when I was shoveling mountains of snow? I couldn't find them anywhere. I couldn't even find the spare set of keys, that I had made just in case something like this should happen. I searched for days to find those keys on my own, to no avail. Finally I swallowed my pride and asked Mrs. T.C. for some help. I was sure that she would know exactly where those keys were. "Honey, I lost the keys to the Ferrari, do you happen to know where they are?" She looked at me with this icy cold stare, with a hint of compassion. "T. C. the only thing you have lost is your mind. You don't even own a Ferrari!" Without missing a beat, prior to my shameless retreat I said, "Well that explains why I can't find the keys then." Wow, what an embarrassing situation that was.

On the 2nd we have Groundhog Day, so we will soon find out how much winter we have left. I wonder if my cousin the groundhog ever loses anything. Probably not, as that seems to be a low stress gig. Remember to peak out of your nice warm home on February 2nd. Look for your shadow, which is always with you anyways and then retire to a nap soon after your big appearance.

On the 14th we celebrate Valentine's Day, so I must remember to do something special for Mrs.

T.C. Once a very long time ago, I forgot about Valentine's Day and was reminded of my mistake for an entire year, until the time came for me to make up for that mistake. Take it from me, you don't want to go down that path, so please remember your special someone on the 14th.

On the 19th, we have Presidents' Day, which is probably a day off for the banker types and government employees. I think I will take that day off to hit the slopes in honor of my birthday. There is nothing like spending a day with your skis and gravity to make you feel young again. Plus there really isn't too much to remember while skiing. Point them downhill and go. If something gets in your way, just turn. Easy peasy. As long as I remember to take all of my gear when I'm heading to the slopes, I should be good to go.

Anyways, enough of my babble for now. Enjoy the snow while it's around, as spring will be here before you know it.

See you in Church.

Your Friend.

T.C. Mouse



*Neither death nor life ...
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from*
THE LOVE OF GOD
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39, ESV

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

01/10/2018

Present: Pastor Mark, Matt, Laurel, Liz, Carol, Wade, Shane, and Kristianne via telephone

Devotions: Sunday morning worship considered devotions for the meeting

Secretary: December report approved as written by Carol, seconded by Wade

Treasure: Laurel spoke to the juggling between accounts that happened throughout the year to keep the budget balanced due to cash flow. There was discussion around being more transparent with the congregation regarding our financial state. More to come at the annual meeting. Treasures report was approved as written.

Deacons: Liz has made inquiries regarding two local grants that she will apply for our food pantry. Liz was also approached with an idea for the summer garage sale. Would we be willing the “sell” tables for families to come and sell their garage sale items during a community garage sale? The council was open to the idea and we will table the discussion until the spring. Kristianne talked with Dawn regarding finding buyers for the items donated so as not to take up room in the storage area. Liz will work with council members to try and get some of the “big ticket” items from the storage unit sold throughout the year on Billings Area Yard sale and Trade Group Facebook page. Kristianne suggested adding this to the list of yearly duties for the council members.

Trustees: Wade will move lock box and hang sign board. Matt stated the propane line to food pantry is complete. Propane is filled and heat is running! Matt will come up with a list of tools that the church needs. Shane will donate ladder for church. Discussed future trustee projects including replacing the roof where moss is growing, rerouting the gutter outside the sanctuary doors so less water will build up, replacing the canopy on the playground, adding

an extension to the handicap chair so it is less hazardous for people walking up and down the steps, and replacing the ceiling in the sanctuary.

Nominating Committee: The committee has found nominees for all vacant positions. The congregation will vote on them at the annual meeting.

Pastor: Has been busy with text studies, senior meetings, hospital visits, and ongoing meetings around the “We do not lose heart” project. He had two funerals this last week. He is working on a theme for Lent which starts 2/14 and completing the annual meeting agenda. He met with area pastors to discuss upcoming

ecumenical gatherings including Ash Wednesday.



Council Minutes

Old business: Randy will hang new fire extinguishers he purchased. Rob and Abbey

purchased new locks for both handicap doors. They are ready to be replaced. Abbey suggested we use memorial money to replace the main sanctuary doors. If not, MaryAnn volunteered to paint the doors. Laurel is back at square one with the flip board for pictures. Charlie has reached out to a vet clinic in WY that has a wall mounted flip board we can get ordering information for. Jim Fulton donated his time to the completion of the heating and wiring for the food pantry. Carol will send him a thank you note. Randy will finish the vents to the service area of the food pantry.

New business: Laurel has not received quotes from either insurance company we are looking at for a comparison. Her recommendation is to remain with Streeter Bros. as they were prompt and knowledgeable. She will get a summary from the agent regarding their quote and recommendations. Laurel will finalize the proposed budget for 2018 before the annual meeting agenda goes out. Carol will donate an accordion rain gutter spout to fix our immediate ice problem in front of the side door to the sanctuary. Shane will fix light switch by stairway

(continued on page 5)

LOVING SERVICE

(Council Minutes — continued from page 4)

in the basement. Council voted to declare \$20,000 of the Pastor's salary for his housing allowance. This motion was made by Wade and seconded by Laurel. There was a good response from the congregation regarding the ad in the Billings Gazette for our Christmas service. Pastor said it was hard to tell if the ad paid off, although there were several new faces at the service. There is talk of having a joint ad for the Easter services as well. Discussion around whether or not the communion helper/assistant needed to be a council member was had. Future discussion will happen regarding the communion roles and possibly reshaping them.

Next meeting will be February 7th @ 7pm.

January 2018

Special
OFFERING



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Communion helpers and counters

01/21/2018 – Pastor Schlotterback and Laurel
01/28/2018 – Kristianne
02/04/2018 – Carol
02/11/2018 – Wade

The meeting was ended with the Lord's prayer.

Minutes submitted by Liz White
(stand in secretary)

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We recently received the January Newsletter for the Montana Synodical Women's Organization, which listed upcoming events for various gatherings around the state. Saturday, January 27th, is the Great Divide Cluster Retreat to be held in Helena at the St. John's Lutheran Church. The theme for the day is "What's Your Story: Telling Stories of Life and Faith."

The Women's Spring Retreat will be held April 20-22nd at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, in Lakeside, Montana. This is an annual event. This year's presenter is Pastor Peggy Paugh-Leuzinger, the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod. She will lead women in study and conversation regarding women from scripture whose lives were poured out for justice, courage and compassion, thereby encouraging women of today to live courageously and confidently. We will need to register by March 31st if we are able to attend. Also, the Shepherd-Beartooth Clusters will be having their



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

annual event in April...that includes our Emmanuel women.

Check out the website for the Women of the ELCA www.womenoftheelca.org. January is Human Trafficking Month, and women want to help put a stop to this. Pastor Al Erickson, of Adults Saving Kids, will be speaking throughout the clusters on this topic. On another topic, February's last weekend is Bold Women's Day. You will see an article about how you can send out certificates to Bold Women in your congregation, or those who meant a lot to you. Then the Fall Gathering will be held in Townsend this year, starting on September 29, 2018. Perhaps we can get a car full of ladies to attend that event, and enjoy the fellowship of women from all over Montana.

The Homeward Bound Retreat each spring at the Women's Prison in Billings will be needing Bibles again, to be given to the prisoners who are soon to be released. We will contribute funds for the purchase of the Bibles, as many of the churches do in our synod. Watch for more information in the next newsletters, as to how we can help.

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 on hospice; 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; Bud Sherrod, father of Shawna Calentine, recovering from a stroke; Bill Vincent recovering from Achilles tendon surgery; Lauris Byxbe, health problems; Brad Sherseth back at home recovering from heart valve surgery; Sharon DeRudder, Brenda Emerick's mother, having various health problems; the family of Harry Garberg (Rachelle Garcia's father) as they mourn his death; Rachelle Garcia; Lynn Douglas (Dawn Petty's Daughter) in Dallas is very sick and being treated for cancer; Willa McSweyn recovering at home following pacemaker surgery.

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; Brady Rink from Huntley (age 8) and his family, Brady at Children's Hospital in Denver being treated for leukemia; Tonya Sullivan, Bill Biehle's daughter, in rehab at Eagle Cliff following a horse accident; the family of Peggy Clark as they mourn her death; the family of Bill and Nancy Chamness as they mourn the death of their son and for their grandson Brady Rink undergoing chemo for leukemia.

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.

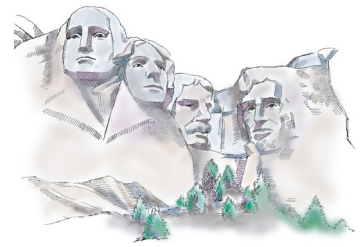


01 Brianne Malchow
02 Dawn Sherseth
03 Jill Hoffman
08 Scott Green
15 Destin Christman
19 Clarence Beddes

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



february 2018



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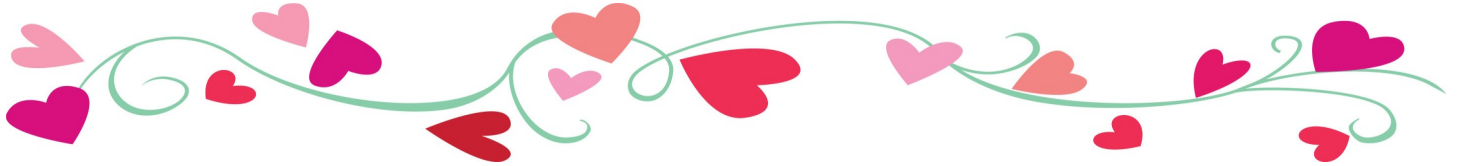
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Address Service Requested

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