



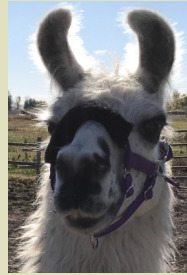
# Emmanuel News



January  
2018



## Christmas Program 2017



**A Llama  
Christmas  
Drama**



**ANNUAL MEETING**

**The Annual Meeting of  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
Church will be held on  
January 28, 2018  
following worship at  
11:15 a.m.**

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

We've come to the beginning of another year. I always find it interesting when January rolls around to walk into the COSTCO store and see all the exercise equipment that has been put on the main isle so you can't avoid looking at it as you walk by on your way to get some of those great muffins. Yes, January is the time for new year resolutions. I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to loose weight. I'm going to do more reading. I'm going to give up bad habits. I'm going to take up new health habits . . . and so the list goes. Unfortunately, not many of us do so well at keeping those resolutions and by the time Lent arrives those new year resolutions are a forgotten memory. I've decided to resolve to not make any resolutions this year.

The beginning of the new year is also a time to do some reflection on the past and perhaps some dreaming about the future. As I've been doing that this past week, I though about one of my favorite authors, Frederick Buechner, and his book *Whistling In The Dark: An ABC Theologized*. He writes in the introduction to the book: "A few years ago I wrote a book called *Wishful thinking: a Theological ABC*, in which I took as many great religious words as happened to occur to me at the time and tried to say something I hoped would be entertaining and useful about what I believed they meant. Since then I have occasionally thought of other words I could have put in if I'd had my wits about me, and they are the ones that fill these pages. I used up almost all of the overtly theological ones the first time around so most of these are just plan words which I've tried to say something more or less theological about."

As I was doing my new year reflections I remembered that he wrote about the word **TODAY** in that book and I'd like to share it with you.

*It is a moment of light surrounded on all sides*



*by darkness and oblivion. In the entire history of the universe, let alone in your own history, there has never been another just like it and there will never be another just like it again. It is the point to which all your yesterdays have been leading since the hour of your birth. It is the point from which all your tomorrows will proceed until the hour of your death. If you were aware of how precious it is, you could hardly live through it. Unless the are aware of how precious it is, you can hardly be said to be living at all.*

*"This is the day which the lord had made," says the 118th Psalm. "Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Or weep and be sad in it for that matter.*

*The point is to see it for what it is because it will be gone before you know it. If you waste it, it is your life that you're wasting. If you look the other way, it may the moment you've been waiting for always that you're missing.*

*All other days have either disappeared into darkness and oblivion or not yet emerged from it. Today is the only day there is.*

May God bless each of you and each of your *Todays* as you journey through this year of our Lord, 2018!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Mark". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored, slightly textured background.



Thank your for all of the Christmas wishes, cards and gifts that we received from you this year. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated. We are fortunate to be a part of this faith community and I am honored to be your Pastor.

Pastor Mark & Maryann

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! Yep, it really is that time of the year again. Where did the time go? Seems like this year flew by faster than a lightning bug in June, or was that a June bug in a lightning storm? I never can keep all of those clever phrases from Grandpa straight. Anyways the year really flew by for me. They say that as you grow older time goes by faster, even though I seem to move slower. How can that be? Another good question to sit and ponder before an afternoon nap. I'm not sure what I will work on this year, as a self improvement resolution. I don't even want to ask Mrs. T.C. for any ideas, as I know she will have a slew of suggestions in mind. Perhaps I will just try to be a better mouse, a kinder mouse, with more patience and maybe offer up more of my time as a volunteer in the community. There is always a need for volunteers around the church, so I'm sure I can stay busy. Anyways, I hope all of you have a very happy New Year.

This month we also celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the 15<sup>th</sup>, which is always an inspiration and good time for reflection. With the crazy news reports going on, I feel that everyone needs to go back and listen to his "I have a dream speech", to get a little perspective on how to live and behave. Speaking of behave, I have half a mind to tell Mother Nature to behave, as we are really getting into some winter weather now. If things get any colder outside, I'm going to have to double up on my union suit, as things are feeling a little drafty. I think the inability to deal with the cold is yet another sign of old age, which I'm having a hard time accepting. On the flip side,

they are talking more snow too, so aside from the back ache that goes along with shoveling, I'm thinking of checking out my ski gear to get ready to hit the slopes. I better get those planks waxed up, so I can fly down the mountain again.

Somehow I feel young when I'm swooshing down the slopes, thinking that old age won't catch up to me! At the end of the day when I'm walking away from the lifts, I realize that the

aches and pains still managed to catch me, no matter how fast I went. Oh well, that's what hot tubs are for, Right?

Enough of my complaining or banter for now. Enjoy the snow and cold in the great outdoors. You can always warm up in Church.

Your faithful friend.

T. C. Mouse



## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**12/13/2017**

Members present: Mark, Randy, Kristianne, Liz, Carol, and Karen

**DEVOTIONS:** Reading from Whistling in the Dark by Frederick Buechner about how he was taking care of a neighbor's sheep and on one of the very cold nights while he was in the barn feeding the animals, he was reminded of the manger and the actual miracle of Christmas.

**SECRETARY:** Approved as written.

**TREASURER:** Add notes to bulletin to communicate what is needed versus what is coming in. Approved as written.

**DEACON:** Received a backpack program donation. Liz is going to check in to a grant for the food pantry. Said there are possible options from ELC out of the World Hunger Funds.

**TRUSTEE:** None present

**PASTOR:** Has been busy with senior meetings, text studies, senior citizen's meetings, Aspen Meadows visit, St Johns worship, and nominating committee meeting. Sunday School program and Christmas Eve service coming up. Annual Meeting will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Lent starts February 14 and Dawn Petty has graciously offered to host the soup services at her house again this year. Pastor is currently working on a theme for the Lenten Services.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Mark, Matt, Kristianne, and Randy met to go over ideas for people to cover the upcoming vacancies on the council. They have made good progress in identifying people willing to have their name on the ballot or slate of nominees at the annual meeting on 1/28.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Randy will move the lockbox for the pantry key as it cannot be on the power pole. Still needing 3 more matching locks for the back-ramp door, the double doors in the sanctuary, and the basement door with the chair lift. Abbey is working on getting these and we will get them installed. Carol is going to check with

Jim Fulton to get a quote for getting the heater installed in the pantry. Will look at in on Sunday with Randy, so she knows what she is having Jim look at. Randy is also going to check the fire extinguishers that we have and make sure we get them up to code. Had a walkthrough with the Helland Agency but tabling conversation until next month so Laurel can present their findings. Wade was not present so unsure what he has determined for the sign board on the door. Will check with him next month. A friend of Dawn's is moving to assisted living and has a refrigerator, chest freezer, and range that she would like to give to us. Kristianne will check the rate for a small storage unit until we have a chance to organize our storage unit or get them to someone who needs them.



## **Council Minutes**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Looking at possibly having a membership orientation/class to go over what is required to be a member of ELC for those that are not sure or for new people interested. More

to come on this at a later date. Maryann changed the sign in the front yard. This sign is falling apart, and we will need to look in to replacing it in the future.

### **Counters/Communion Helpers**

12/17	Karen & Carol
12/24	Liz (AM service)
12/31	Kristianne
01/07/18	Liz

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting is January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary

**"For  
I KNOW  
the plans  
I have for you,"  
declares the LORD,  
"... plans to give you  
HOPE and a  
FUTURE."**

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

A large, stylized orange arrow pointing to the right, positioned at the bottom of the quote.

# LOVING SERVICE

## ANNUAL REPORT

If you have a report for the 2017 Annual Report, please get it to Pastor Mark as soon as possible.

### January 2018



***Freedom in Christ  
Congregation  
at the Men's Prison  
in Deerlodge***

### Christikon Clips

**January, 2018**

*Information for our Congregations*



**Watch this month for Christikon brochures** on opportunities for youth. It's not too early to start thinking about this summer. Youth brochures will be mailed to every young person in grades 4-12 in our congregations this month. Those brochures will detail some very special deals for registering early for camp. We hope to serve even more people from our member congregations in 2018!

**Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction** at the Billings Depot is scheduled for April 29.

Too few of our nation's young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with a community experience that helps open people to the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of good...

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

**CHRISTIKON • 1108 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102**  
406 656-1969 • • [director@christikon.org](mailto:director@christikon.org) •  
[www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

### EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

As we go into the New Year, we look forward to getting together for Bible studies and our usual fund raising projects. We were able to pay the remaining balance of our benevolence pledge (\$2,500.00) for our church for 2017 thanks to the efforts of each of the women at our Harvest Dinner and Bazaar. We are so very grateful for the participation and willingness of each of you to help where needed. The remainders of the Bazaar table have been on display in the dining room, and the proceeds from those items, will go into the Sunday School account, enabling the kids to take a field trip. Thank you for all the help.

Women of the **ELCA**

### Resolve to "be there"

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

—Goran Persson

# 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; 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; Shirley Wittman hospitalized with congestive heart failure; Brad Shersest back at home recovering from heart valve 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 following a horse accident

### 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 Willa McSweyn
- 06 Connie Herberg
- 08 Ashton Christman
- 04 Vivian Pierce
- 23 Jackson Christman
- 26 Seeley Christman



25 Clarence & Agnes Beddes



# January 2018



Sun

Mon

Tue


Wed

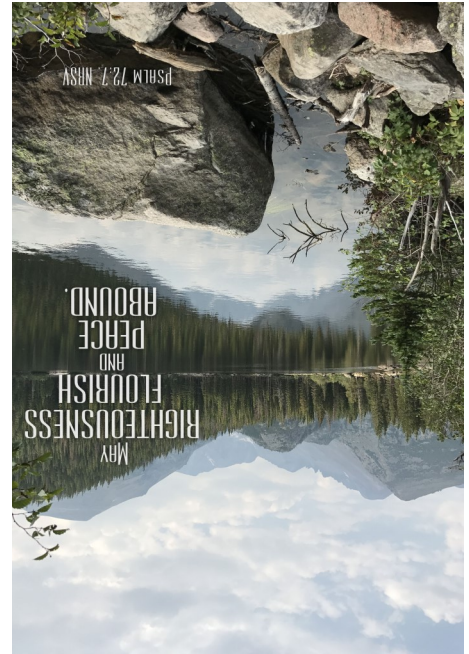
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Fri

Sat



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7 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:20 Youth Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:15 Confirmation	8 <i>7:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H</i>	9 <i>6:30 Book Study</i> <i>7:00 Tumbleweeds 4-H</i>	10 <i>7:00 Church Council</i>	11 	12	13																																																																																																									
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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](http://elcshepherd.org) – [elcshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:elcshepherd@gmail.com)



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING