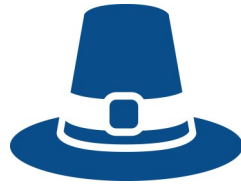




# Emmanuel News



November  
2017



## Special Congregational Meeting

The Church Council has called a Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 19, 2017 immediately following Worship. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on our revised Constitution. Our current constitution and bylaws was last amended in 2001. The churchwide assembly biennially adopts amendments to the Model Constitution, therefore there were numerous amendments to consider to 'bring' ELC's document into compliance with the 2016 required provisions. Given this, the church council decided in November 2016 to adopt the Model Constitution for Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 2016 as a base document and to appoint a Congregational Constitutional Review Committee (CCRC) to review the model document and recommend modifications, where permitted, to fit our local situation and practice.

Pastor Mark Morgenstern, Ron Jore, Sharon Wolske, Maryann Morgenstern and Kristianne Wilson comprised the CCRC. They met on 4 occasions over the spring of 2017 to compare the ELCA Model Constitution with Emmanuel's

current constitution. Their recommendations were discussed and agreed to by the church council at their July and August meetings. Revisions to Emmanuel Lutheran Church's constitution were submitted, reviewed and approved by the Synod Reviewer in early October. The next steps involve a two meeting process, approval at a legally called congregation meeting currently set for November 19 and a subsequent ratification without changes at the next annual meeting, January 2018, date to yet be determined.

(continued on page 3)

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
HARVEST DINNER,  
BAZAAR, RAFFLE  
AND AUCTION  
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5TH 2017  
11:30 - 2:00 P.M.  
ROAST BEEF DINNER  
WITH TRIMMINGS.  
ADULTS: \$8.00  
CHILDREN: 6-12 \$4.00  
CHILDREN: UNDER 6 FREE**

© Gardner-Stanley

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

I begin my pastor's letter this month with a personal note of Thanksgiving. I was quite surprised when Randy Vanberg came forward during announcements on October 8th to give me some gifts from the congregation for Pastor's appreciation month. To be honest I had forgotten all about that. When I got home I was further surprised by the generosity of your gifts! Saying thanks you somehow doesn't seem enough. You are a very gracious people and I am truly blessed to be your pastor. I really believe I'm receiving far more from you that you are receiving from me. I am grateful that Emmanuel Lutheran is where I will be bringing my ministry to a close in the future. Thank you for the privilege of serving you and for your love!



We begin this month of November with All Saints Day and bring it to a close with Christ the King Sunday on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Of course, in between we celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving. I am reminded of Paul's words to the church in Philippi when he writes to them saying:

*<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:4-7



In one sense, I think Paul is saying that our lives as Christians should be characterized by thanksgiving. On All Saints Day we give thanks to God for all those

people of faith who have gone before us and are faithful witnesses to Jesus. It is truly a time to remember and give thanks for those people who have been instrumental in the development of our faith lives. I can think particularly of my parents, grandparents and a couple of very special pastors. I encourage you to take some time now at the beginning of the months to thank God for similar people in your life. If you are fortunate to have some of those people still alive this might be a good time to thank them personally.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> our nation will observe a day of Thanksgiving. This is a national holiday not a religious one. Its original intent was to pause and give thanks to God for the blessings God has bestowed on the nation. Now it seems more an excuse to overindulge in eating, watch football and begin our consumeristic indulgence leading up to Christmas. In many places Thanksgiving worship services have been discontinued or are very poorly attended. Perhaps we need to regain our focus of thanking God for the blessings we have received.

We close out the Church Year with Christ the King Sunday. This festival declares that God is the ultimate authority in our lives and not the rulers of this world. The declaration—"Jesus is Lord of all"—can perhaps get us back on the right track. We have reason to give thanks because in Jesus has made us right with God and we can live our lives confidently in God's love and forgiveness. In everything give thanks! *"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

# Special Congregational Meeting

As background, The *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, like the other governing documents of this church, reflects the theology and polity of this church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbor with good news and share the love of God in the world. Each expression of this church — churchwide, synod, and congregation — is held together in a relationship of interdependence that encourages each to respond to its context. These documents also demonstrate our commitment to seeing ourselves with others as part of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. As such, the *Model Constitution for Congregations* is deeply rooted in Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and the history of this church and its predecessors. The document includes both mandated/required and non-mandated provisions, allowing flexibility to recognize the context of local organizations. Required constitutional provisions are identified with an asterisk \*. Bylaws and continuing resolutions are independent from the constitution, though congregations are encouraged to integrate them into their constitution for clarity. Bylaw provisions follow constitutional provisions to which they apply and continuing resolutions are intended to provide descriptions of operational patterns and practices or of the ongoing responsibilities of committees. Both have unique nomenclature separate from constitutional provisions.

## Summary of Key Changes from the current Emmanuel Lutheran Church Constitution

· Denotes mandated provisions of the 2016 Model Constitution

### Chapter 3- Nature of the Church

· C 3.02 new mandated provision as of 2016. “The church confesses one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and

resolves to serve Christian unity throughout the world.”

· C 3.04 acknowledging role of the Lutheran World Federation

· C 3.05 defining the term Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ( ELCA) and the 3 expressions, congregation, synod and churchwide organization

### Chapter 4 – Statement of Purpose

· C 4.06 explains the interdependency of the 3 expressions of the ELCA

### Chapter 5 – Powers of the Congregation

· C 5.04 defines congregation role of choosing voting members to the Synod Assembly

· C 5.05 outlines the ability of a congregation to have a Mission Endowment Fund operating as per congregations’ bylaws and for the purpose of mission work beyond the operations budget.

### Chapter 6- Church Affiliation

· C 6.03 includes language which allows a congregation to call under special circumstances and with the approval of the Synod bishop, a minister of Word and Sacraments from a church body which the ELCA has established a full communion relationship

· C 6.04 new terminology regarding Ministers of Word and Service—replaces the prior terms of associates in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess

· C 6.05 new language and detailed process to terminate relationship with the ELCA

· C 6.07 new provision should a congregations consider developing an additional site for worship

### Chapter 7- Property Ownership

· C 7.03-05 should a congregation terminate the relationship with the ELCA these provisions detail the property ownership issues and involvement of the synod.

### Chapter 8 – Membership

· C 8.02.e seasonal membership defined and their voting privileges

# Special Congregational Meeting

· C.8.05.d member termination must abide by the ELCA constitutional provisions later defined in 20.4

## Chapter 9- Title Change to Rostered Ministers

Language changes throughout the chapter approved in 2016 - replaced clergy and pastor with ministers of Word and Sacrament

C 9.15 allows an interim pastor to be from a full communion partner of the ELCA if the bishop and the congregation approve

· C 9.21-31 new provisions outline the call and termination process for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

## Chapter 11 - Officers

Addition of a vice president C11.01

Bylaw language integrated to delineate responsibilities of the officers

All officers' terms are 2year with a limit of 2 consecutive terms.

## Chapter 12 - Congregation Council

Move to electing 6 undesignated Council positions. C 12.0. Delineate the role of deacons and trustees in continuing resolutions CR 12.04A2018 and CR 12.05A2018. These positions remain 3 year terms with the ability to serve 2 consecutive terms.

Change the Director of Youth Education, formerly the SS Superintendent, to a Council appointed position. CR12.04B2018

Delineates the Council may enter into contracts up to \$5,000. for non- budgeted items.

Change the Financial Secretary to a Council appointed position. CR12.05B2018

## Chapter 13 - Congregation Committees

Delineate the function of the Executive Committee through a continuing resolution.

Delineate the role of the Audit Committee through a continuing resolution. Committee members are not to be Congregation Council members. The current constitution includes an audit committee which has not been our

current practice. Suggested language includes an external audit every 5 years if indicated

Delineate the functions of a Call Committee through a continuing resolution

Delineate support for youth education and the Director by including a constitution provision for the Youth Ministry Team. Our current constitution outlines a Parish Education Committee which is not current practice.

Mission endowment fund language pending

In general, these changes create greater accountability for the Council, given the appointment of 2 positions which have been historically elected by the congregation- that is the Financial Secretary and the SS Superintendent. The Council will also need to constitute an Audit committee each year.

Chapter 15 – Title change Discipline of Members and Adjudication more detailed and due process language, inclusion of a synod committee if necessary

## Chapter 16 – Amendments

· C 16.04 allows for a one step, single congregational meeting to approve constitutional amendments that bring any section into conformity the Model Constitution of the ELCA ( versus the current two-step process, a congregational meeting to review and approve and subsequent ratification at the next annual congregation meeting)

## Chapter 17- Bylaws

· C 17.02 bylaws may be adopted or amended at a congregation meeting with a quorum present and 2/3 vote (current constitution has a majority vote)

## Chapter 19 – Indemnification new mandated chapter

Chapter 20 – Parish Authorization not a mandated chapter but the CCRC recommends including should in the future our congregation seek to partner with another ELCA congregation.

**Copies of the complete revised Constitution are available on the table in the back of the Church.**

# The Church Mouse

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Wait! Don't go! Come back! I'm sorry about all of my complaining in the heat of the moment. Yes, I agree that "Dog Days" comment was uncalled for. Wow, I really hate to see her go. She never seems to stay very long. Man, I'm really going to miss her this time. Oh Summer, I wish you'd change your mind and stay longer. Well, what's done is done. The only way to quell my sorrows is to bundle up, hunker down and eat something good and warm. Thankfully the annual Harvest Dinner is Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup>, so the Church will be full of activities, the least of which is the roast beef dinner with all of the fixings served up in the basement. I can almost taste it now. Roast beef, mashed taters, gravy, squash and more. Oh yeah, there is pie for desert too. Perhaps a meal of this magnitude is just what I need to get me out of the funk caused by Summer leaving me.

I mustn't forget to adjust the clocks when I go to sleep on the 4<sup>th</sup>, as Daylight Savings Time ends and we all fall back an hour. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep. Personally I wish that we would just leave the clocks alone, as it always takes me a couple weeks to adjust my internal clock to the change. I should get some new batteries for the smoke detectors also, so I can replace those at the same time that I'm messing with the clocks. The firemen are always saying to change out those smoke detector batteries at the same time as the twice a year time change. Makes sense to me, since the smoke detector can't detect anything if the battery is toast.

Then on the 23<sup>rd</sup> we celebrate Thanksgiving and the wonderful meal that goes with it. I kind of had a dry run on eating turkey already, as I was able to hitch a ride last Sunday down to the church in

Huntley for their annual dinner. Wow, what a spread. Turkey, dressing, mashed taters, gravy, green beans and pumpkin pie. I was so stuffed afterwards that they almost had to roll me down stairs to check out the bake sale goodies. With all of this good eating, I should be up to my usual winter weight in no time. I'm looking forward to getting together with all of the kids and relatives, around a table of delectable food and telling some stories. Sure will be nice to get a long weekend away from work too. I hope you all have a happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your time with family and friends.

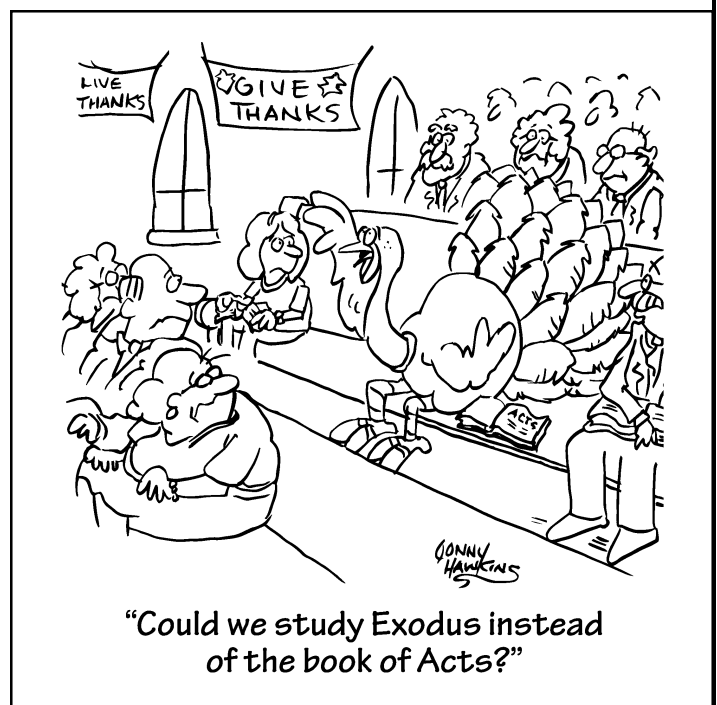


Well, I better go for now. I have to dig out the hat, gloves, scarf, boots and old union suit, now that Summer left me. I know, eventually she'll be back. I'll just have to wait, maybe leave the light on. Maybe go fishing before the water freezes.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend.

T. C. Mouse



## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

**1011/2017**

Members present: Pastor Mark, Laurel, Liz, Wade, Karen, Randy, and Abbey Emmons

**DEVOTIONS:** Reading from Romans 1:8-12 and worksheet about strengthening congregations

Abbey Emmons stopped by the meeting to address a few things about keys and locks for the church. There was a realtor box purchased that she would like to have mounted to the wooden power pole by the north corner of the pantry for food deliveries. The only people with keys to the pantry are Louis & Rachell, Matt, Liz, Pastor Mark, Randy, and Rob & Abbey. If one of these people aren't available, the code can be given out for access to the pantry and then the code to the box can be easily changed. Wade will take care of this. Some groups using the church are forgetting to lock the deadbolts upon leaving so it was requested that if you are ever in the area and have a key, please drive by the church and if you can, please check the doors. Need to have the lock for the ramp door changed so it matches the other locks. Some groups using the church are forgetting to lock the deadbolts upon leaving. Requesting to have a sign board added to the door by the sanctuary doors for notes and updates. Suggested an idea to support the food pantry by putting a note on the board (i.e. "It's Peanut Butter and Jelly month) in hopes to get the groups using the church and anyone else that reads the sign to bring the designated monthly items to the church. Wade has volunteered to construct our new sign board.

**SECRETARY:** Approved as written.

**TREASURER:** We are down to \$7333 on the parking lot loan which is about 1/2 of the original amount. Funds were short for the Portico insurance payment, so funds were borrowed from the youth account and will be paid back. E-Giving YTD \$11,731. Treasurer's report approved as printed.

**DEACONS:** Liz will be doing a Mission Cornerstone regarding the startup of the backpack program again. We now have 20 kids that are requesting these bags. The shopping cart will be put in the back of the sanctuary for donation. Requested items would be things a kid can eat/prepare for themselves. Working with Family Services to see if they will give us any of their excess groceries for the pantry. Usual contact with the Food Bank is no longer there but she is still working with them on donations.

**TRUSTEES:** Still need heat for the pantry and Matt is working on this. Mark and Shane fixed the outlet in the pantry. Shane is going to split the wiring so the pantry common area and the storage area can have separate lighting. Currently all lights are on one switch. Randy

talked to a guy with Billings Insulation regarding the insulation in the ceiling of the pantry and he said it would cost about \$450 which would keep us within our budget of the \$5000 that was donated.

**PASTOR:** Text studies, confirmation started with 3 kids and sounds like a 4<sup>th</sup> will be joining, St Johns Worship on 10/1. Received word that Brianne will no longer be playing for Sunday services. Daisy has agreed to play on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and Christmas Eve and Laura will be playing the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. Thank you both!! There will be an area wide reformation service at American Lutheran Church at 3pm. Billings, Laurel, and Shepherd Lutheran churches are invited and asked to bring cookies/brownies/etc. for the event. If you are attending, you can bring your goodies with you. If you cannot attend but would like to bring treats, please bring them with you to church on Sunday 10/29 and Pastor will make sure they (at least half) make it to the service. Harvest Dinner is November 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Thanksgiving service again this year. Christmas program will be December 17. Will have normal Sunday service on Christmas Eve as well as the evening candlelight service.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Liz talked with some people regarding disaster relief but did not really get in contact with much information. If you are interested in putting together a disaster preparedness kit, contact Liz as she was given some good information and would be happy to share. Review of our special offerings will be done to see about sending some money to the Synod for their disaster relief funds.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Constitutional review committee (CCRC) got a reply from the Synod that indicated approval on the 1<sup>st</sup> try. Will be having a congregational meeting on 11/19 (motion made and carried) to discuss the changes and either approve or disapprove suggested changes. Requires approval of 2/3 of the voting members present so please plan to attend. John Herberg said he will build us some bat houses so we can relocate our little friends from the church belfry. Thank you, John!

### **Counters/Communion Helpers**

10/15 Laurel  
10/22 Wade  
10/29 Karen  
11/05 Liz

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next council meeting is November 8th at 7pm.

Respectfully, Karen Vanberg, Secretary



# LOVING SERVICE

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



### WOMEN

As you know, our annual Harvest Dinner will be held this coming Sunday, November 5th, with the roast beef dinner starting at 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. People have been very generous with bringing in items for the bazaar, rubbish table, auction, and food items for the dinner. We have three work groups which include all the women in the church, and that way, the same people are not always working in the kitchen for various occasions. The groups are rotated, except for our annual dinner, and then all three groups work together to cover this event. In speaking with the group leaders, there has been difficulties in contacting some of the women. Not everyone has access to a computer, or if they do, perhaps they don't check it regularly for messages. Some people have different phone numbers, what with cell phones, etc., or may have had their numbers changed. If this happens to be your situation, please let me know of any new numbers or new e-mail addresses, so we can update our records. You can reach me at my home phone, 373-6673, my cell # 860-2058, or my e-mail address is [dawnpetty6@aol.com](mailto:dawnpetty6@aol.com). Thank you, Dawn Petty

We will have a few more opportunities to contribute our time and/or items later on in November and into December. There will be baskets to be filled for Thanksgiving Dinner, and given out to certain families, plus there will be an "angel" tree in the sanctuary in December with names of children who will need clothing or other items for Christmas. Please help out where needed. Thank you and God bless each and every one of you.

## November 2017



## Emmanuel Lutheran Food Pantry

The Billings Symphony Orchestra and  
Chorale presents



Martin Luther – monk, professor, theologian, pastor, composer, tenor, lute player -- believed “music was next in importance to theology, a living voice of the Gospel, a gift from God to be used in all its fullness in Christian praise and prayer.”

In this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Reformation, come to hear some marvelous choral music created by composers who have been touched and influenced by the Lutheran traditions: from J. S. Bach's cantata on Luther's Easter hymn, “Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands,” to F. Melius Christiansen's take on “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” to other lovely works by contemporary American and Norwegian composers, all sung in the rich acoustic of St. Patrick Co-Cathedral.

Tickets are available online at [www.billingsymphony.org](http://www.billingsymphony.org), or by calling the Billings Symphony office (406 252-3610), or at the concert.



Mark your calendars for December 17<sup>th</sup> as the Sunday School presents their Christmas Program — “A Lama Christmas Drama” at 10:00 a.m.

# 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; Lee Borgen; 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; Laura Vanberg's niece, Fawne McCleary who has been diagnosed with breast cancer; Colleen Garberg, mother of Rachelle Garcia; Lois Sneva (mother of Connie Herberg); Rose Field (sister of Agnes Beddes) hospitalized; Robert Larson, Dawn Petty's son Rob Larson; Esther Bengtson has moved back to West Park Village; Brad Sherseth's father recovering from a stroke; the family of Craig Wilson as they mourn his death; Agnes Beddes recovering from surgery.

### 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; Debra Ruona; Virjean Steadman is recovering from a stroke; Bessie Millard is being treated aggressively for colon cancer; Brian Beddes (son of Agnes & Clarenes Beddes) recovering from massive heart attack; the family of Kurt Kautz, the family of Cody Alderman, Anna and Wesley Barnes' uncle, who was injured in a car accident; the family of David Steiner as they mourn his death; the family of D.P. Ewald as they mourn his death.

### 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



- 03 Sierra Stahl
- 07 Raedawn Pasco
- 09 Daniella Leligdowicz
- 09 James Malchow
- 13 Randy Vanberg
- 14 Jon Herberg
- 14 Shirley Wittman
- 22 Charles Noland
- 22 Sharon Wolske



- 10 Louis & Rachelle Garcia
- 11 Jim & Linda Hinckle
- 27 Mark & Connie Halvorsen





2 Corinthians 9:15  
Thank's  
be to God  
for his  
invaluable  
gift!

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