



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

Emmanuel News



2018 Sunday School Christmas Program

One Starry Night

The birth of Jesus happened on starry night. The Shepherds, the crowd, the Inn Keeper, the Wise Ones and the Holy Family are all a part of the Christmas Program. The program will be on Sunday December 16 during the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. Come and celebrate the Starry Night Jesus was born with the Sunday School.

The Sunday School will practice during the Sunday School hour on December 2nd and 9th. The Dress Rehearsal will be on Saturday the 15th at 9:00 a.m.



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

December 2 - 1st Sunday in Advent — 10:00 a.m. Worship
December 9 - 2nd Sunday in Advent — 10:00 a.m. Worship
December 16 - 3rd Sunday in Advent — 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program and Worship
December 23 - 4th Sunday in Advent — 10:00 a.m. Worship
December 24 - Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship



Merry  Christmas



Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Luke 21:25-28

We are preparing to enter the Season of Advent this coming Sunday. Advent is the shortest Season on the Church Year and one that we don't always like. It is about preparation and waiting, it is about patience—things that seem to be difficult for us in our society today. We don't like waiting (Christmas items began appearing in stores the day after Halloween) and we are not a patient people.

Advent is also a season of hope. Hope can be a difficult thing when we live in a world that doesn't seem to have much hope. The Gospel lesson for the First Sunday in Advent this year from the Gospel of Luke is from the 21st Chapter of Luke—his little apocalypse. Luke talks about the signs of the end—signs in the moon and the sun



and the stars and all kinds of earthly distress in nature. Jesus says people will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world.

Does that sound a bit like the world we are living in today? I sure think it does. The hurricane and tornado seasons are expanding and becoming more violent and destructive. We have just experienced the terrible fires in California and now, with rain on the way, there is fear about mud slides and flooding. I haven't seen pictures of people fainting in the streets, but there is certainly a feeling of fear and foreboding in the air.

When Jesus was talking with his disciples he said “Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” That is precisely what we are preparing for and waiting for during the Season of Advent. When Christmas Day comes we will celebrate the redemption that has come in the birth of Jesus. We await the coming of the fulfillment of that redemption when Jesus comes again.

And so we prepare and we wait! We will celebrate with joy and with hope because our redemption has come in Jesus!

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

A big thank you to all the ladies who helped make our annual Harvest Dinner a huge success. It was so wonderful to work with each of you, to hear the comments of satisfied customers after eating their fill, to see the competitive reaction of people at the live auction, and the eager buyers at the bazaar tables. Our event took in approximately \$5000.00 for the day, and as you know, those monies are used to fund necessary purchases for our church.

Our church will host the annual spring gathering



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

for the combined Shepherd and Beartooth Cluster ladies after Easter. This event is always inspiring with a featured speaker, good fellowship, individual cluster business sessions to elect officers for the next term, and a tasty lunch. There will be more information on that gathering after the holidays. Also, if you have suggestions for an awesome speaker, let me know.

God bless you all.

Dawn Petty, ELCW President

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

December is here and it's starting to look a lot like Christmas. I spent the warm November days putting up the outside lights and will officially turn them on December 1st. The first time I heard those famous three words, "Ho, Ho, Ho", last week I had a frightening gardening flash back. Yes, I had quite the weed problem in my own little agricultural plot. When I turned to look at the source of these words, I was pleased to see an animated Santa figure instead of Mrs. T.C., who was after me all season long to get rid of those weeds!

On the 7th we remember Pearl Harbor Day. A date that will live in infamy. May we never have to face such destruction again. God bless the USA. I'm sure Mrs. T.C. is reminded of the famous quote out of the movie Tora! Tora! Tora! every time she wakes me early from my afternoon nap. "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." It is better to let a sleeping T.C. Mouse lie.

On the 21st Winter begins, so my positive nature, says bring it on. Let it snow, let it snow. I'm finally ready to enjoy some winter sports again. I'm hoping to make it out skiing a couple times this year. Maybe even get the kids out sledding or building a snowman. Perhaps a whole snow family. Hard to say what to expect, as the Old Farmer's Almanac says one thing and the local weather man says another and then you throw El Nino into the mix and all bets are out the window. I think the best forecast that I can depend on is to stick my own furry head out the window and see what's happening. Works every time.

On the 25th we celebrate Christmas. I hope everyone gets what they want for Christmas this year. In my family we just do a gift name

exchange for the adults, as the whole present thing, shopping and spending becomes too much. Too stressful. This way everyone just worries about one gift and we all can focus on the true reason for the season. Of course the little ones get all excited about gifts under the tree and treasures in their stockings, so we take joy in their enthusiasm. I wonder if there will be a Christmas program at the Church again this year.

I always volunteer to play myself in the manger scene. Yes, you always hear about the bigger animals being present, but rest assured there were a couple mice in the manger to witness that miracle.

Enjoy the time with family and friends over a big Christmas Day feast. Remember to leave some treats out the night before for Santa, as he works up quite the appetite making his rounds. Merry Christmas to all.

Looking forward to the New Year.
Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.



Church Council Meeting Minutes – 11/14/2018

Submitted by Secretary: Brenda Emerick

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by president, Meagan Malchow.

Members Present: Meagan, Brenda, Carol, Laurel, Liz and Pastor Mark

Members Absent: Shane, Wade, Scott, Dawn

Guests Present: Laura Vanberg

Laura Vanberg presented some fund raising ideas to begin raising money to replace the sanctuary ceiling. The council approved all of the suggestions. They will be brought to the annual meeting in January to vote on, if the congregation votes in the Ceiling Repair project.

Pastor led devotions which were centered on how members can show their faith in action through stewardship and service. Pastor went over a couple of graphs and pie charts showing the Montana Synod Designated Giving for 2017, and how much money was spent on various relief ministries, missions, programs to help families in need, campus ministries, as well as Synod staff salaries, and administration.

Meeting Minutes: The October meeting minutes were approved as written with a motion from Carol and a second from Liz.

Treasurer's Report: Laurel provided the October Profit & Loss Statement, along with a YTD P&L statement. For the month of October, we are in the black with net income of \$174.55. Our YTD net income is at \$16,621.00, but this total includes the Memorial Funds and the Food Bank donations. We have \$1,000.00 left to pay on the parking lot loan, which should be paid off by the end of the year. Laura reported that the electrical bills for the church and the garage both doubled this past month. The Food Bank will reimburse the church general fund in December for the Food Bank electrical bills. That should total around \$400.00. The audit is scheduled to take place this Saturday, November 17, 2018. The treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Brenda and a second from Carol.

Deacons Report: Liz will check with Town Pump to verify how we report our total fund-raising dollars at the end of November in order to receive their matching funds. We have already raised over \$3,000, so we will qualify for the \$2,500 in matching funds from Town Pump for the Food Bank. The Harvest dinner brought in close to \$5,000.00 for the lady's group.

Trustees Report: No trustees were in attendance. Meagan reported that she and Wade donated the new ballasts for the altar, and Wade changed them out last weekend. Daryl Mack removed the leaves and tree branches from the yard at a cost of \$150.00. The work day in October was cold and snowy, but the new metal ramp was installed and most of the garden was cleaned out.

Old Business: Meagan stated that the Food Pantry rain gutters were donated by the Green family and have been installed. The Food Pantry received a donation from the Boot Scootin' Britches 4-H Group of 200 pounds of food. The total cost of replacing the Sanctuary ceiling will be between \$16,000 - \$20,000 and includes new fans and lighting. The current ceiling will be covered up, as opposed to tearing it out and then replacing it. This will save on labor, and eliminate concerns about possible asbestos that may be in the ceiling. Liz moved to switch our fund-raising

efforts from the Town Pump Food Pantry Matching Funds fundraiser, to the Ceiling Fundraiser. Laurel seconded the motion and it passed. The fund raising ideas agreed to by the council include the option to buy a ceiling tile at \$25.00

per tile, and/or to fill jars with loose change. Malchows are donating a gumball machine which will be filled with gumballs as we meet our fund-raising milestones. This will offer a visual of our progress, as well as the names on the ceiling tiles. The ceiling project and fund raiser will all be presented at the annual meeting for the approval of the congregation. Members of the Endowment Fund board will present the new Endowment Fund Constitution at the annual meeting. Laurel reported that the Family Promise night for our church occurs once per quarter on a Tuesday night. Our commitment has been reduced to just one night instead of two. Laurel said that the kids and babysitters are there at 5:30 pm while the adults are in class. The adults then come in at 7:30 pm. Meagan reminded everyone that the Eagle Scout project that the council approved last month will be taking place on Saturday, November 17th. Lunch will be served. Anyone volunteering should bring work gloves, shovels and rakes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark attended his regular pastor meetings, text studies, and Sr. Citizens meetings. Confirmation is going well with four 6th graders and four 7th graders attending. Pastor attended our work day on Saturday, October 13th and the spaghetti dinner on the 14th after church, as well as the Endowment Fund Board meeting. He also attended the Bishop's convocation in Helena on Friday, October 26, 2018. He ordered new candles for the Christmas Eve service which will be held at 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

(Continued on page 5)



Council Minutes

LOVING SERVICE

(continued from page 4)

Advent begins on December 2nd, and the children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 16th during church.

New Business: Carol has reached out to three people in the congregation to ask if they would consider becoming a Deacon, as Carol is finishing her term in that role. She will let us know if any of them agree to serve on the council. Evaluations for Pastor Mark had been sent to all of the council members prior to the meeting. They returned them to Meagan and she compiled the responses. These were shared with the council and with Pastor. The evaluation was very favorable and no action was required from the results.

Mission Cornerstone:

Weekly Offering Counters:

11/18/2018 — Liz
11/25/2018 — Laurel
12/02/2018 — Carol
12/09/2018 — Brenda
12/16/2018 — Liz

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm, and ended with The Lord's Prayer.

December 2018



Lutheran Campus Ministries in Montana

Eagle Scout Project



Thank you to Grant Armstrong for the Eagle Scout Project that he constructed on our property. This fire pit is a memorial for Tim Garcia who was very involved with the Cub Scout Pack that our Church Sponsors. The fire pit will be used by Scouts when they are working on their fire safety badge. It is also available for use by the congregation.

Christikon Clips

December 2018

Information for our Congregations



During this holiday season we celebrate the Christikon family, spread across the country and world. Our community continues to grow both in numbers and in faithfulness to our God. Bring your family to Christikon next summer and experience its rich tradition and strength of connection to one another.

Blessings to you and yours this Advent and Christmas.



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Monty Mavity, who is quite ill with cancer; Sharon DeRudder; Gary Noland (Charley Noland's brother) treatment for a tumor on his kidney was unsuccessful; Nancy Byxbe, ongoing medical issues; Warren Peterson, nephew of the Osmund son's having medical issues; Jon Herberg at Windstone Rehab in the Heights; Dara Friesz, Brand & Sandie Gree's daughter diagnosed with cancer; Kathy Bertrand and Lorraine Schleder undergoing treatment for cancer; Tierra Oberg, experiencing complications with her pregnancy; Christine Mitchell (daughter of Patty McVay & Tom Mitchell); Judy Osmundson, recovering from broken hip at Aspen Meadows.

Friends of the Congregation:

Bessie Millard is being treated aggressively for colon cancer; Brady Rink from Huntley (age 8) now recovering at home; Tonya Sullivan, Bill Biehl's daughter, rehabilitating from a horse accident; Agnes Beddes's great-grand-daughter, Jessalyn Fleming, age 3, was injured in a bad car accident and was air-lifted to Denver Children's Hospital; Taylor Happel (whose Mom is a friend of Liz White's) who was in a motorcycle accident; Dawn Petty's Neighbor, Jodi Hendrich now recovering at home; Richard Schüttler (friend of Collin Wilson) with health issues; Colling Wilson's friend Allen Habermann diagnosed with Cyclic Fibrosis; Kerry Martin Farman, Pat Martin's daughter and a former resident of Shepherd, diagnosed with cancer; Kelly Stokes (Cindy Glenwood's friend's son) recovering from a serious accident.

Community Living:

West Park Village: Lenora Wiest, Esther Bengtson

Aspen Meadows: Howard Osmundson, Judy Osmundson

Tender Nest: Mary Cosset

Yellowstone County Jail: Chance Cavity

Rob Larson, MN



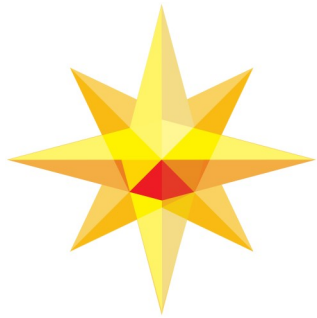
Local Youth Serving in the military: Taylor Green now training at Pensacola, Florida; Jacob Wagener serving in the U.S. Navy; Tucker Johnson and Brooke Nobel serving in the U.S. Air Force.



- 01 Lisa Strecker
- 02 Jim McKenney
- 02 Laura Vanberg
- 05 Sue Hawthorn
- 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





December 2018



Sun

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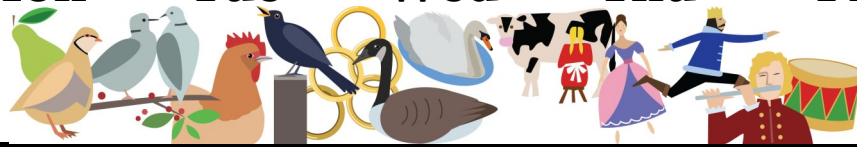
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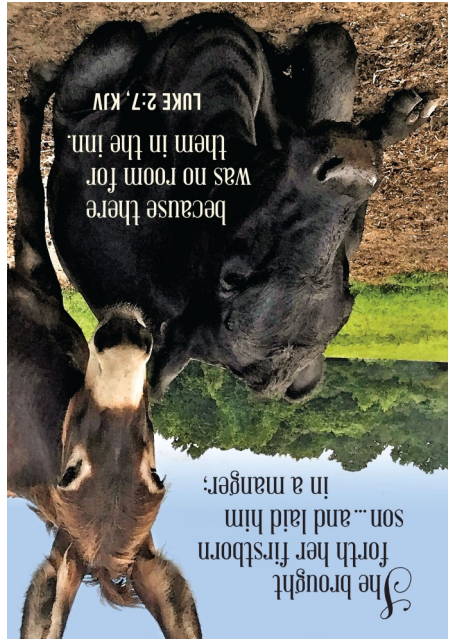
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Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 66
Shepherd, MT 59079
Address Service Requested

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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JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING