



Emmanuel News



September 2019



Shepherd Storm — August 18, 2019



Emmanuel Lutheran Church along with most, if not all of our members suffered damage from the sever hail storm that hit on the evening of August 18th. We lost most of the windows on the west side of the sanctuary as well as the bathroom windows. Several of the basement windows were also damaged. We had some water damage in the basement. He roof has extensive damage. The Food Pantry also suffered damage to the roof and siding. The insurance process is in progress.



Emmanuel's Garage Sale will be held on September 7th from 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Be watching the bulletins for more information.

Special Congregational Meeting Highlights

The Church Council called a special congregational meeting for Sunday, August 24, 2019 to discuss the current financial condition of the congregation. What follows are the highlights of the meeting:

- Liz White opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer
- Pastor Mark announced to the congregation his decision to retire from active ministry effective October 31, 2019. His final Sunday will be October 27th.
- Meagan announced that she has been in contact with the Synod Office and they will be helping us through the Call Process. Carol Kramer agreed to Chair the Call Committee which will be named soon.
- Meagan then addressed the recent storm damage and gave an update. We have received a \$5,000.00 check for initial clean-up expenses. Our deductible is \$1,000.00.
- Jill Hoffman presented our current financial situation and spreadsheet showing our budgets for the last three years. An amended budget was presented for the remainder of 2019. The revised budget—Version 2 was moved and seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

Complete minutes are available upon request.

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

The Seasons are changing! It's hard to believe that school has started up. Fall begins this month and already the evenings are cooling off and it is feeling like football weather.

With fall comes increased activities. There are lots of school activities. At church our Youth Sunday School begins again. We have added a new program on Wednesday nights—Family Fellowship Night (you can read more about that on the Loving Service page of this newsletter). Confirmation Classes will begin again soon.

Last month I quoted the teacher from the book of Ecclesiastes and this month I will do the same. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." The preacher goes on to name some of those seasons: "A time to be born, a time to die" and so forth. I would add a new couplet: *A time to work and a time to retire*. Yes, as you already know, I've discerned that for me it is a time to retire. After 40 plus years of ordained ministry it is time to enter into a new season of my life. At this point, it is too early to start saying goodbyes. It is not that I am trying to deny or avoid saying goodbye, but there is



still more ministry to be done before I lock my office door for the final time on October 31st.

I am looking for some help as Emmanuel and I move through this time of transition. I need some volunteers: someone to take over teaching Confirmation classes until a new pastoral leader is called, someone to prepare bulletin each week, someone to take over publishing the Newsletter each month. Of course, I will train anyone willing to take on these tasks. If you are willing, please let me know.

As we move into this time of transition together I share a favorite prayer from the Service of Morning Prayer:

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading and you love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Have you already made plans with some of the ladies from your church to join us at "Baptized and Set Free" Biennial Convention Gathering in Great Falls? We would love for you to join us. Friday, September 27th if our Montana Synodical Convention, where you are asked to send a Voting Member from your church, and anyone else who would like to take part in this gathering. We will be voting on your new Synodical Board for 2019-2021; voting delegates to the Triennial Convention in Phoenix, Arizona; the Budget and various resolutions, and recipients for the Pool of Living Waters. On Saturday, September 28th, we will be collecting dimes for our Pool of Living Waters, take part in a Bible Study, hear about Women's Health issues, be part of a book discussion on "Sensible Shoes", and take part in



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

a Thankoffering Worship. We have 2 full days of fellowship, eating and hearing the works of the Women of the ELCA. Our featured Convention speaker is Pastor Julia Seymour, who has been serving the Big Timber Lutheran Church since November of 2018, and prior to that, had served 10 years in Alaska. She has written many articles for the Gather magazine, including the 2017 study on the Apostle's Creed.

We will be staying at the Heritage Inn, and will receive a discounted rate if we make our reservation by Sept. 6th. (I plan to attend, we can share the room, and I will drive up there, hopefully with a group of women from Emmanuel. Who will come with me? Let me know the first week of September so I can make the reservations. Thanks, Dawn P.)

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

September is here and with it comes the last three day weekend of the summer. We celebrate Labor Day on Monday the 2nd, so it is only fitting to fire up the grill and have a big family get together. Speaking of grills, we had the last Church Barbeque on Wednesday, August 21st, and once again there was a fantastic turn out. I was sure glad to see corn on the cob as part of the menu. I just can't seem to get enough of those sweet yellow kernels. I'm sure going to miss those weekly community gatherings, even though there is a lot of work that goes into pulling it off. Thanks to all of the volunteers that worked each week to make them a success.

On the 11th we have Patriot day. A day to reflect on the terrible events that transpired eighteen years ago. Although it isn't a national holiday, giving us a day off, it is still a day worthy of honor and reflection. Be sure to remember to fly Old Glory from the front porch in remembrance of all of those that we lost. Hard to believe that so much hate and destruction was cast upon us that day. Someday I need to travel out to New York to visit the memorial that was created.

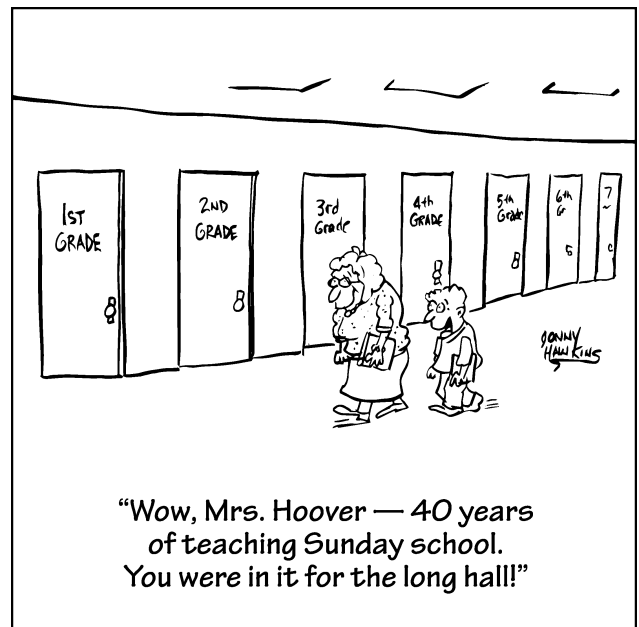
How about that hail storm that we weathered a few weeks ago? Wow! Mother Nature gave us a subtle reminder of who is really in charge that evening. I hunkered down with the family as we listened to the hail stones pound on the Church. Once it was over, I made my rounds to see what had happened and was quite surprised to see all of the damage on the west side of the building. Since the power was out for so long, we were forced to eat cereal for every meal, so I've had my share of Cap'n Crunch. That storm was sure the talk of the town for quite a while.

Well the kids are back to school and eagerly learning new stuff. Now comes the nightly struggle of getting them to complete the homework that they bring home. Often the kids ask me for help and I'm reminded of how much I really don't remember. One of the kids was working on geometry homework and asked me about PI. Of course I immediately said that I'm basically an expert at pie, with apple being my favorite and pecan pie coming in a close second. That comment was immediately followed by a major eye roll from Mrs. T.C., as I guess she understood the question better than me! Oh well, at least I had an answer, instead of I don't know.

Well, enough of my problems for now. There is still much to do around the house and the honey do list. The dog days of summer are almost over, so my time is limited to get everything completed.

See you in Church.

Your Faithful Friend in residence at Emmanuel.
T.C. Mouse.



Church Council Financial Meeting Minutes – 7/7/2019 – Submitted by Secretary: Brenda Emerick

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

All council members were present. Pastor Mark lead us in a prayer.

Jill presented several graphs that she created showing our monthly giving for the past 2 ½ years. She calculated the 12-month rolling average at about \$8,200 per month. Using the recommendation of working with a 5% cushion, this would establish our historical monthly giving at \$7,790 per month – making our annual budget closer to \$90,000 than the \$121,764 we were using for 2019. This calculation leaves us with a shortfall of \$31,764 for 2019. As a stark example of our current financial crisis, Laurel stated that we currently have \$250.00 in our checkbook and we have over \$2,000 due in payroll next week.

Jill then presented some options to be reduced or cut from our budget to get us through the end of 2019. The list of ideas included not sending \$4,000 to the Synod for our Benevolence pledge. Reducing our spending to match 2018 budget for emergency requests (\$500), office/newsletter expenses (\$400), Worship Supplies (\$1,000), and youth education fund (\$1,000). If we end the Janitor contract, we would save a total of \$1,150 for the months of September through December 2019. Laurel stated that our propane tanks are full, so the remaining \$1,500 budgeted for propane will likely not be needed. Pastor stated he will not use the budgeted \$500 for continuing education. Laurel volunteered Charlie to haul our garbage, which would save \$125 for the remainder of the year and \$500 for the 2020 budget.

Pastor stated that he had two music licenses which were usually only used for music at Christmas time. He had already dropped one which saved \$150. He has now also dropped the second license for a savings of \$195 per year.

We discussed buying a programmable thermostat to better regulate the temperature in the church. Pastor stated that he has come into the church to find the thermostat left at 70 degrees overnight – or longer. A long-term goal could be to buy two high efficiency furnaces. That would allow for immediate energy savings, but also enable us to heat only the areas of the church being used. If meetings are happening in the basement, we could only heat downstairs. Currently,

when you turn up the thermostat, the furnace is trying to heat the entire church.

Scott moved to use the remainder in the Memorial Fund to cover payroll and taxes next week, if we don't receive enough in offering and e-giving. Jill seconded the motion and it passed.

The realization is that there is no getting around a reduction in Pastor's salary and benefits package. These budget ideas are a short-term band-aid and will not sustain our current salary commitments. Pastor Mark had previously stated at a council meeting a couple of months ago that he would like to retire by the end of this December. However, if the council would consider bringing Maryann on for the same salary

currently paid to Pastor Mark, the two of them could each work part-time. He would guarantee another three years if this idea was passed by the congregation. Since that time, we have had to face our financial crisis. We realize we had been budgeting to our expenses rather than to our Income – and our current giving levels will not sustain our current expenses.



Pastor said that he has yet another sinus infection, he is tired and just celebrated his 67th birthday in July. He said Maryann would rather he retired, and he would like to spend more weekends with his family who live out of state. For these reasons, along with our financial predicament, Pastor Mark said he will retire at the end of this October. His last sermon will be on October 27, 2019. He is grateful for the wonderful people at Emmanuel and stated that this has been a wonderful experience and a great place to end his career. He would like to continue to worship here after retirement, and the council agreed we would prefer that as well. Pastor Mark will make his retirement announcement at our special congregational meeting on August 25, 2019.

Pastor suggested that we use LPAs for a while to get our budget healthier. It would likely cost \$125 per week to have someone come to do the services. We will have nine Sundays and Christmas Eve to cover upon Pastor Mark's retirement. He said there are several newly retired Pastors in the Billings area. As a council, we cannot pursue scheduling lay pastors until after Pastor Mark makes his announcement. We put on hold the topic of replacement Pastor coverage until after the congregational meeting.

Scott moved to present the revised budget with the
(continued on page 5)

LOVING SERVICE

(continued from page 4)

corrected income at the special congregational meeting. Jill seconded the motion and it passed. Jill will put together the budget cuts/reductions and more accurate income projections for the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting will begin with Pastor making his retirement announcement. Then Meagan will present "how we got here", giving a history of budgeting to expenses vs. income. While our giving has actually increased over the 2 ½ year period we studied, our expenses have also increased at a greater pace. Jill will present the revised budget for the congregation to vote on. We will also present the idea of whether to call a part-time or full-time pastor.

Dawn's band will play at the congregational meeting service on August 25th. Liz will advertise the meeting and special music on Facebook. Meagan committed to calling each of the members to invite them to the meeting.

With a couple of cosmetic changes, the brochure was approved. Dawn will get a quote from Main Street Printers to have 200 color copies printed. Ricker presented a nicely constructed "invitation" that Mandy created. The council liked the concept. We will work on it more and possibly hand it out to folks at the garage sale, Harvest Dinner, etc.

The IT committee will meet next week to get moving on updating our website and digital presence. The committee will invite Jim McKenney as he is the current administrator and knows about our host/url and the Vanco connection.

Finally, Dawn asked if we still plan to push to have Wednesday night youth activities. She said we need to start planning now if we want to get that going when school starts. Her idea was to get the evening planned out so that it would be turn-key for anyone in the congregation to help with it. Meagan said she'd like to simply have a Family Game Night where we could possibly have Potluck and play board games. We will work on finalizing these plans after our congregational meeting. The council was asked to e-mail their ideas for Wednesday night activities to Dawn.

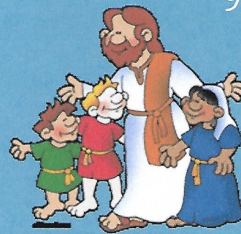


Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Children's Sunday School

Starting Sept 8th

9:30 AM Sunday Mornings
Church Basement
Fellowship Room

Questions? Call Jill 671-3030



Something New! Family Fellowship Night

Each Wednesday we'll gather at 6:00 p.m. for Potluck followed by games and fellowship. Bring something to share for potluck and your favorite game. We need a host family each Wednesday to: **Help with set up** (set out Make Coffee and lemonade). **Help with clean up:** (ensure all garbages have been emptied, Dishes washed and put away—including coffee pots, Heat turned down—if needed, turn off all lights, Doors locked & vacuum if needed). Bring potluck, your favorite games—board or cards—and join in the FUN!

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Our congregation's current financial situation, Meagan Malchow with various health issues; Monty Mavity, cancer; Gary Noland (Charlie Noland's brother) has kidney cancer; Nancy Byxbe undergoing chemotherapy; Warren Peterson, nephew of the Osmundson's having medical issues; Louise Bischke on hospice care; Jim McKinney's sister's grandson, Triton, has a liver pancreas match. He is going through testing now to make sure he is strong enough for surgery; Tom Mitchell with various health issues; Durene Green, being treated for cancer; James Simpson's nephew, John Mark Owens being treated for stage 4 pancreatic cancer; Connie Halvorsen receiving radiation treatments; former pastor Ron Hovic diagnosed with liver and lung cancer; Agnes recovering well from surgery to remove pins in her hip.

Friends of the Congregation:

Bessie Millard being treated colon cancer; Tonya Sullivan, Bill Biehl's daughter, rehabilitating from a horse accident; Richard Schüttler ongoing health issues and Allen Habermann (Cystic Fibrosis) both are friends of Collin Wilson; Kelly Stokes (friend of Cindy Glenwood) recovering from accident; Brittany Reinhardt (daughter of Toni and Rob McCann, the granddaughter of Judy Smelser), waiting for a kidney donation; Ben Spotts, Lesa Rekdal, Shepherd school secretary diagnosed with cancer; Lee Brumley being treated for thyroid cancer; Rosie Neumiller recovering from surgery on her foot and big toe.

Community Living:

West Park Village: Lenora Weist

Minnesota State Prison System: Rob Larson

Local Youth Serving in the military:

Taylor Green (US Navy) is assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln and will be deployed as of April 1st to do a world tour for a year; Jacob Wagenaar (US Navy) is stationed in San Diego on the USS Nimitz and will also be deployed this summer; Tucker Wilson is assigned to Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico, Brooke Nebel Bohrer (US Air Force) and Brandon Bohrer (former US Marines) are stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California. Thomas Aigner US Navy Reserves is home now but looking to go on active duty.



01 Ed Oberg
13 Chuck Super
14 Ron Quanbeck
15 Ed Hawthorne
17 Kaden Christoferson
21 Linda Hinkle
21 Melissa Sherseth

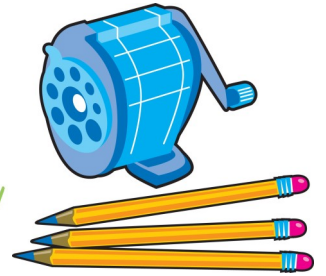
3 Joe & Carla Leligdowicz

15 David & Jill Hoffman





September
2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



<p>1 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>2  4:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 6:00 Family Fellowship Night</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																																	
<p>8 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 BSLW 4-H <i>Grandparents Day</i></p>	<p>9 4:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H</p>	<p>10 7:00 Tumbleweeds 4-H</p>	<p>11  6:00 Family Fellowship Night 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>																																																																																																	
<p>15 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 6:00 Family Fellowship Night</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>																																																																																																	
<p>22 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>23 </p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:00 Family Fellowship Night</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 </p>	<p>28</p>																																																																																																	
<p>29 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">August 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		August 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">October 2019</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		October 2019							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
August 2019																																																																																																							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																	
				1	2	3																																																																																																	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																	
October 2019																																																																																																							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																	
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																	
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																		



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