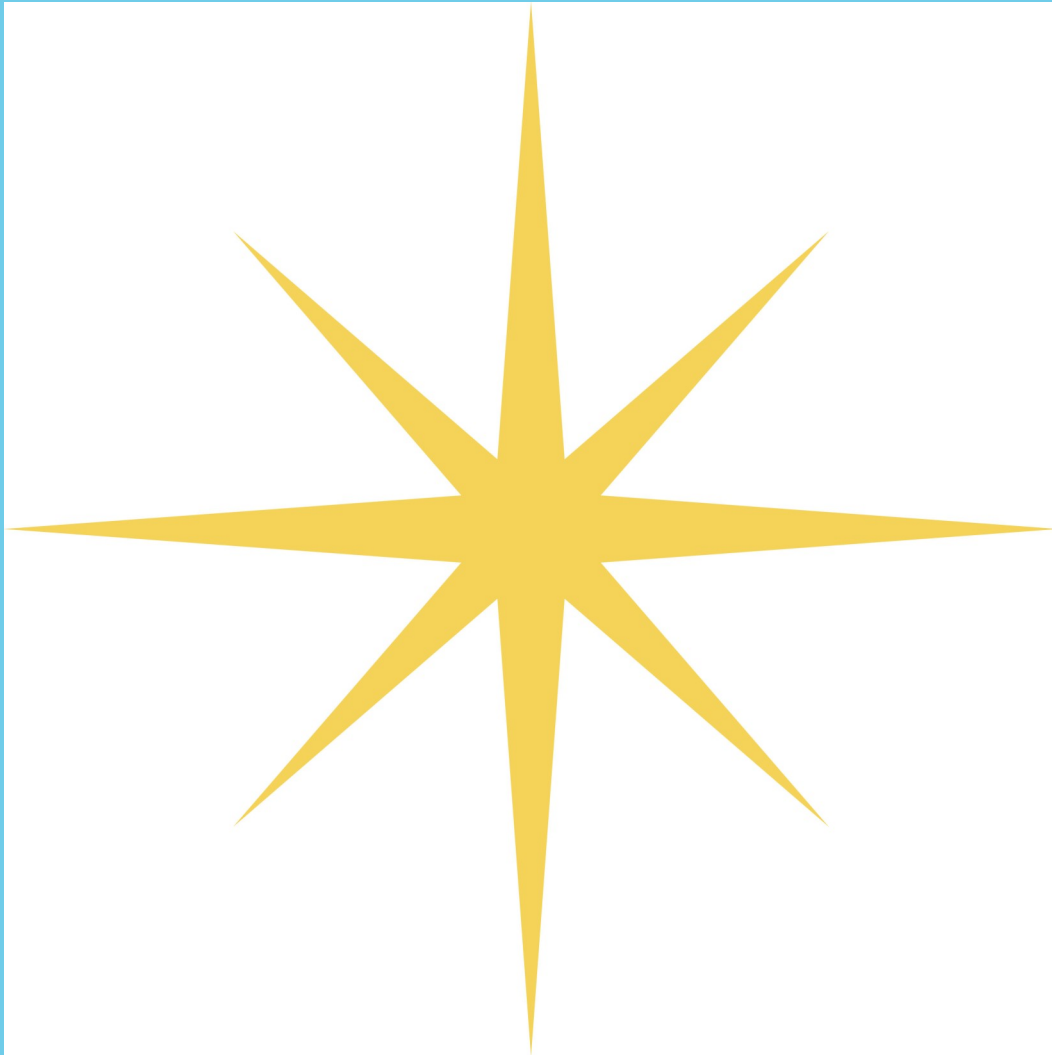




EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

# Emmanuel News



A star appeared, a light, a great Light to lead you to Jesus,  
to peace, to grace, to salvation.

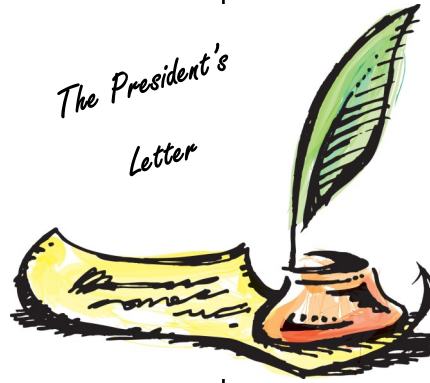
Let the Light lead and guide you through the New Year!

Dear Friends at Emmanuel,

A friend of mine is a very successful nurse and had big plans for her future. After two years she decided she wanted to be a pediatric nurse. She put forth all the effort that she could, meeting with managers to do job shadows and volunteering in the pediatrics department as often as she could. But the Lord is "the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 1:8). Often, we visit about God doing new things, but we don't hear much about when He brings things to an end. It is difficult for us, it may feel like a setback. For months, my friend was so disappointed she would hardly visit.

I told her that when God closes a door, He opens a new one. The reason He closes the door is because he has something better. It takes courage to step through the new door. Sometimes it might mean saying goodbye. Quit looking back on yesterday and beating yourself up, quit bringing failures from the past into today. If one dream ends, have the courage to pursue a new dream. My friend found her passion again and became a Nurse Practitioner. All kinds of doors began to open. Today she is far more successful than she ever could have imagined.

In the Scriptures, Job went through a nine-month period where everything that could possibly go wrong did. He lost his family, his business, his friends, and his health. Job sat in the ashes and said "May the



day I was born be wiped out" (Job 3). When you go through a loss or disappointment, there is nothing more that the enemy would like than to see you give up, become bitter, and to lose enjoyment for life.

Maybe today, your life hasn't turned out the way you thought it would. Perhaps you have gone through some unfair situations and like Job, you're still sitting in the ashes.

Is there something you need to leave behind? Maybe someone has hurt you or perhaps you have a bad attitude. Is there something you've given up on? Don't bring that into 2020. I encourage you to let go of people who are not good for you, bitterness, wrong attitudes and hurt you have held on to. Your life is filled with possibility. Be bold and let go of whatever didn't work out. This is a new day. It's time to say goodbye to failure. Let go of guilt; you're forgiven. God has something better for you. Healing, peace and love. This new year is going to be a fruitful year with many blessings in store for you and your families.

Wishing you all the best in the New Year.

Meagan Malchow

## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Many thanks to all the ladies from the work groups who helped supply meals for many occasions during this past year. It has been a pleasure working with all of you. Perhaps some of you know that the audio system in the church has been updated, with some hand-held microphones, a unit that can be worn by the speaker or pastor, and the whole system improved...Brad



Shereth did the shopping for these items, installed them, and it was paid for by our women's group, the ELCW. The price was \$578.20, and it was covered by proceeds from the Harvest Dinner event. Thank you to Brad, and to our ladies!

At the September, 2019 convention for the Montana Synodical Women's Organization, a continued on page 5

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and that you are ready to embrace the New Year. Yes, 2020 is upon us and I'm sure great things are in store. Did you make any New Year's resolutions for yourself? Once again I'm going to try and eat less cheese, which really is a struggle for me. I also resolved to do more for the community and church. I figure for the free room and board that my family receives at the church, I can at least donate my time in helping out where ever I'm needed. Let me know if there is something that you think I need to be involved in. I really am a Mouse of all trades.

On the 20th we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so I think we all should read again his famous "I have a dream" speech. It seems more important now than ever to come together as a community, as a country, put aside our differences and try to live in harmony. Everyone is special and unique. Together we can accomplish so much more than we can by ourselves.

Well so far, I haven't had to break out the snow shovel very much, which is nice. I plan to take advantage of one of these nice days to take down all of the Christmas decorations and get them packed away. I really don't want to be like my cousin, who just leaves his lights up all year long. He always says that it saves him so much time, just leaving them up, but that is not how I like to roll. Hopefully January will bring us some good snow storms, so the ski hills will be ready for me. I really enjoy hitting the slopes with my kids and feel the wind in my fur, as I race down the hill. Perhaps I will see you on the slopes this year. Look for me on the intermediate ski runs or perhaps in the lodge around lunch time, hanging out by the fireplace.

Well, that is all for now. There is much to do. I need to go through my closet and pull out the clothes that no longer fit or that I don't wear and donate them. I received some nice new shirts for Christmas and I can hardly find the space to hang them up, so it is time to purge the old to make room for the new. Perhaps I should also check out my ski gear and make sure it is ready to go when the big snow storm finally arrives.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse



## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by president, Meagan Malchow.

**Members Present:** Meagan, Liz, Linda, Laurel, Ricker, Brenda, Patty, Dawn, Scott and Jill

Council members brought holiday food to share and Liz presented a devotion to begin the meeting.

The minutes from the November meeting were approved as written.

Laurel had previously e-mailed the November Profit & Loss Statement, as well as the YTD P&L. The memorial account has been paid back in FULL and we ended the month of November with a checkbook balance of \$4,173.38. The fully funded Memorial account balance is now \$12,788.68. We received a matching funds check from an anonymous donor for \$1,650.00, which was specified to go to the general fund. We also raised more than enough for the matching funds grant to the food pantry for \$2,500.00. We have discussed funding an account to have for an emergency fund. Laurel suggested that starting in January, we open an account for that purpose and decide on an amount or percentage that we can set aside monthly. When we are not paying a pastor, we are saving approximately \$6,800.00 monthly. Jill reported that the finance audit committee has been scheduled to meet on January 11, 2020 with the following members: Laurel, Jill, Sharon Wolske, Abbey Emmons, Robin McCaffrey and Cindy Glinwood. Jill and Laurel will work on the 2020 budget to be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The council will determine budgetary proposals for the congregation to vote on. Included may be the option of using \$10,000 of the insurance money for the Food Pantry building to add to the almost \$10,000 already raised for the Raise the Roof campaign to move ahead with completing that project. It would make sense to get that done and then have the new carpet from the hail damage installed in the sanctuary.

**Old Business:** The Call Committee has created a survey form and sent it out via e-mail to the congregation. It has also been in the bulletins the last few Sundays. They are asking the congregation for input on what they want to see with a new Pastor. This will help the committee in their search.

Meagan apologized as she ended up signing all contracts with Big Sky Exterior Designs, instead of just the window contract. The council had previously voted to only sign the window contract to see how the service and quality of their work is before moving forward. Somehow, all of the contracts were presented to Meagan, and she ended up signing them all – siding and roof as

well as windows. She apologized and offered to resign. The council unanimously agreed that we all make mistakes, Meagan is very busy, and Todd has to take some responsibility for putting the contracts in front of her when he knew we were going to wait to sign them. Todd tried to have them returned, but his management would not allow that. There is a 20% penalty for breaking the contract. We agreed to move ahead, and if at any point, we are unhappy with the work, we can break the contract(s) at that time. Scott will act as our Construction Superintendent to communicate with the contractors and make sure everything goes well. (Todd did work hard to obtain an additional \$30,000 from the insurance company to allow us to have the best outcome with the repairs.) Meagan suggested that in the future, if there are any contracts to be signed, the council should require two signatures. That way there is a back-up set of eyes to help insure this type of situation does not reoccur. The windows have now been delayed until mid-January due to the specialty glass that has been ordered.

The World Famous Carpet Barn measured for carpet upstairs and down on 12/10/2019.

Dawn Petty and Sharon Wolske picked out carpet to be installed.

After the discussion at the November meeting around keys and church security, Meagan requested that Abbey check a key out to each council member. They have not yet been dispersed, but should be soon.

**New Business:** Meagan reported that the Food Pantry has invested in a keyless remote locking system. People are able to obtain entry via their fingerprints. There is also a motion sensor activated video surveillance system that sends video to the cloud that is accessible for 30 days. If their new system works well, the council may consider installing it at the church as well. Initial investment is about \$900.

The water pump went out a few weeks ago. Wade met American Drilling at the church and they repaired the pump for \$385.00.

Meagan asked for input on the Lay Pastors we have had. The council agreed that they have all been very good and our attendance has stayed steady.

The Sunday School Christmas program will be December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Brenda suggested that we create a maintenance log so that we can all see at a glance when projects are due, such as replacing furnace filters, etc. Lis volunteered her husband Phil to do a safety audit. We aren't sure when the fire extinguishers were last checked, etc. Phil is a retired fireman so is an ideal candidate to inspect the church from a safety perspective. Brenda will make the logs for approval at the next meeting.



## Council Minutes

# LOVING SERVICE

Continued from page 4

## Pulpit Supply Schedule:

December 22 - John Hanson, LPA (Dawn Petty also volunteered to give communion if John chooses not to come out since this is the Children's Christmas program and no sermon is required)

**December 24 – Christmas Eve – Dawn Petty**

December 29 - Armand Lohof, LPA

January 5 - John Hanson, LPA

January 12 – John Goodheart, LPA

January 19 - Pastor Catherine Card

January 26 – John Goodheart, LPA

February 2 - John Hanson, LPA

February 9 - Armand Lohof, LPA

February 16 - Pastor Catherine Card

February 23 - Armand Lohof, LPA

## Counters:

12/15 - Ricker

12/22 - Meagan

12/29 - Brenda

1/5 - Dawn

After joining in The Lord's Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Emerick, Secretary



We would like to acknowledge the generosity of several individuals who donated, in aggregate, approximately \$400 in meat to the church food pantry. Lindsey and Buckley Reynolds donated two very large coolers of venison and beef and Les Jensen, a long time Shepherd resident, donated two large sacks of venison and beef. Les, while not affiliated with our church, voiced how proud he is that the church provides food to the local community.

Thank you to these and all people who donate!



## ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting of Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be held on January 26, 2020 following worship at 11:15 a.m.**

Continued from page 2

resolution was passed to "emphasize the importance of each unit (church) having a Thankoffering" on at least an annual basis in newsletters, at meetings, gatherings and other events. Remember that Thankofferings are a significant portion of the revenue of the churchwide Women of the ELCA organization. Do you remember the little boxes we had some years ago for our personal contributions to this offering? Perhaps some of our women still have them, but if not, we can use something else. Each unit and cluster is encouraged to have their members make and use their own Thankoffering containers, until we can get some again from churchwide.

The Triennial Gathering is in July, the 16th through the 19th, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona. This is always an uplifting experience, with fantastic speakers. Hopefully some of us will be able to attend this event, and car-pool to Phoenix. When the gathering was in Salt Lake City, we traveled together in a van, also when we went to the one in Spokane. Keep this in mind, and you will be hearing more about it over the next few months.



## Christikon Clips

January, 2020

### 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 2020! Early registrations have been very strong so get registered earlier than later!

**Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction** at the Billings Depot is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.

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 • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) •  
[director@christikon.org](mailto:director@christikon.org) •



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# 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 Osmundson's having medical issues; Kara Friesz, Brad & Sandie Green'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 a broken hip at Aspen Meadows; the family of John Herberg as they mourn his death; the family of Esther Bengtson as they mourn her death.

### Friends of the Congregation:

Bessie Millard is being treated aggressively for colon cancer; 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; Collin Wilson's friend Allen Habermann diagnosed with Cystic 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; Emma Brown, Kristianne Wilson's relative, recovering from surgery.

### Community Living:

**West Park Village:** Lenora Wiest,

**Aspen Meadows:** Judy Osmundson

**Tender Nest:** Mary Cosset

**Yellowstone County Jail:** Chance Cavity

Rob Larson, MN

**Local Youth Serving in the military:** Matt Grandpre (Stacy Smelser's husband) and Taylor Green are also deployed to Iraq. Taylor is to return this next month, but has already had his stay extended four times ... Please keep these men, and their families, in your prayers. May they all return safely back home.



- 01 Willa McSweyn
- 06 Connie Herberg
- 08 Ashton Christman
- 12 Vivian Pierce
- 23 Jackson Christman
- 26 Seeley Christman



# JANUARY



# January 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
5 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	6	7	8 7:00 Church Council	9	10	11
12 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship & Call Committee	13 7:00 Shepherd Pioneers 4-H	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 8:45 Adult S.S. 9:30 Youth S.S. 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship & Annual Meeting	27 9:00 Endowment Committee	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](http://elcshepherd.org) – [elcshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:elcshepherd@gmail.com)



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