



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

Emmanuel News



“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day. (Genesis 1-6.)

“There was evening and there was morning -- the first day.” God starts the day in the dark. The stroke of midnight chimes and the night is dark as velvet. There is no sign that anything has changed when the clock strikes midnight. In that one second, nothing looks any different, it's still dark. However, with the tick of one second on the clock, a new day has begun. Why did God choose to start the day in the dark? Wouldn't it make more sense if our Lord chose to start the day when the sun comes up?

This is a symbolic example of how God does things in our lives. The Lord gives us a promise of a new day. With that new day He provides another opportunity to believe, pray, and stand in our faith. At the stroke of midnight, nothing changes, nor does it look any different. It is still dark but a new day has begun. This is exactly what faith is all about. You can't see faith, but you have to know that midnight has passed and the sun is on its way. It's a matter of hours before you see the light as dawn glimmers on the horizon. Light breaks forth.

Over the course of the last several weeks our nation has experienced powerful and tragic events that are shaping the course of our future.

George Floyd grew up in Houston, Texas. He played football and basketball through high school and college. A blue collar worker, Floyd was an early contributor to the development of Houston's hip-hop scene and a mentor who was active in his religious community. In later years, he was arrested for drug possession and other offenses; in 2009, he made a plea deal for an armed robbery, serving four years in prison.

In 2014, Floyd moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he lost his job security because of the COVID 19 pandemic. He died after being arrested for allegedly using counterfeit money to buy a pack of cigarettes. An officer knelt on Floyd's neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds. Mr. Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down at the time. He repeatedly told the four officers, “I can't breathe”.

George Floyd was a human being who lived an imperfect life, as we all do. He had tremendous athletic talent, a family who loved him and children who will never give their father another hug or be able to tell him “I love you” again.

(continued page 7)

Dear Friends of St. John's United

St. John's United has decided to cancel the 2020 St. John's Summer Concert Series. Given the current public health circumstance, the safety and well-being of our residents, employees, and guests was of utmost concern in making this decision.

All of the musical artists have been informed of this decision and extended invitation to perform during the 2021 Summer Concert Series. Concert sponsors have also been contacted and offered option of either a sponsorship refund or applying their current sponsorship to support the 2021 Summer Concert Series.

Although disappointed to not offer the gift of music this summer, we joyfully anticipate doing so next summer!

Mara Flynn
Graphic Designer
406-839-0866
www.sjlm.org


St. John's United
SO MUCH LIFE TO LIVE

Christikon Clips

June, 2020

Information for our Congregations



We welcome our summer staff June 7th and the first session this summer will be Pathfinders in July.

Due to the CoVid restrictions we rescheduled the Developmentally Disabled Adult, Confirmation and Sojourner sessions to July and August. We ask for safe travels for all.

Our plan is to have camp ministry this summer and it may look a little different, paralleling the difference in our own lives, focusing on the safety of all.

We look forward to hosting campers this summer and sharing the gift that is Christikon. Please visit our website for current session updates. www.christikon.org.

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Christikon

Needs Masks –Please



We are in need of tie on fabric masks for our summer staff and campers. Our summer staff will be arriving June 7th. The preference is no elastic around the ears please. The more colorful the better! Mark noted that some of the homemade masks are not large enough so if they are available in a variety of sizes, that would be great.

If you can put this out to your seamstresses, we would be very grateful!

We would be happy to pick them up or you can drop them to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd between 9 and 4 Monday thru Thursday or make arrangements with Kerry or Mark by calling the office and leaving a message or emailing us. We are currently working predominately from home and Mark will be heading up to camp for the summer very soon. (406-656-1969)

Thank you for your help!
Blessing and peace.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We certainly have missed getting together for the last few months with our church families, but we are grateful that everyone is still well and healthy, not succumbing to the virus. This is the time of year when we start our Church BBQ's, and it became a routine for our community. The Council will be deciding if and when, we can go ahead with our regular BBQ's. Quite some time ago, when we began the summer BBQ's, we did the cooking outside, the buffet tables were outside, and tables and chairs were set up on the church parking lot, and we ate our meal there. Perhaps that is a way to do it again. The Council will decide which is the best thing to do.

I am looking forward to a fall Garage Sale, and the delayed Christikon Auction, which was cancelled in April and now may be re-scheduled



for September. The Triennial Convention and Gathering for our women of the ELCA has been canceled for this year. It was scheduled from July 16-19, 2020, and is now set for August of next year, August 5-8, 2021.

Our Harvest Dinner will still be held on the 1st Sunday of November, which is November 1st. I hope you are already working on your craft items, needlework, paintings, etc. for our Bazaar. More on this in the next newsletters.

May God continue to keep us well, safe, and active in doing His work. God bless.

Dawn P.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

June is here and the weather is kind of acting like it wants to be summer at last. The grass is growing like crazy now and the outdoor honey do list has grown along with it. Oh well, might as well have something to do with my time instead of sitting around and watching the news channel all day, every day.

We have Flag Day on the 14th, so be sure to remember to display Old Glory proudly from your humble abode. I've taken to flying the flag everyday on the weekend in celebration of not having to work! I guess if I was retired, I'd be flying her every day. No, I'm not close to retirement status, but I do love to dream about it.

Father's Day is the 21st, so I hope you are planning some fun adventure with Dad. It doesn't have to be much, a card, call or visit would suffice. I'm sure most fathers would be happy to sit around talking, sipping a cold one and watching the smoke from the barbeque grill as dinner is

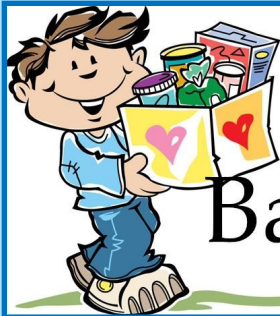
prepared. There's just something about a nice afternoon, a cold one and a barbeque. I wonder if the Church barbeques will launch this summer due to this whole COVID deal?

Also, I have to do a shout out to my better half this month, as we celebrate 29 years of marital bliss together. Happy Anniversary Pooky! You really are one of kind for putting up with all of my quirkiness. Now I've been summoned to help cut down some bush or small tree, so I must go. I think that is the secret to making it this far together. She says jump and I eagerly say "How high and what direction" Enjoy the month everyone.

I hope to see you in church soon.

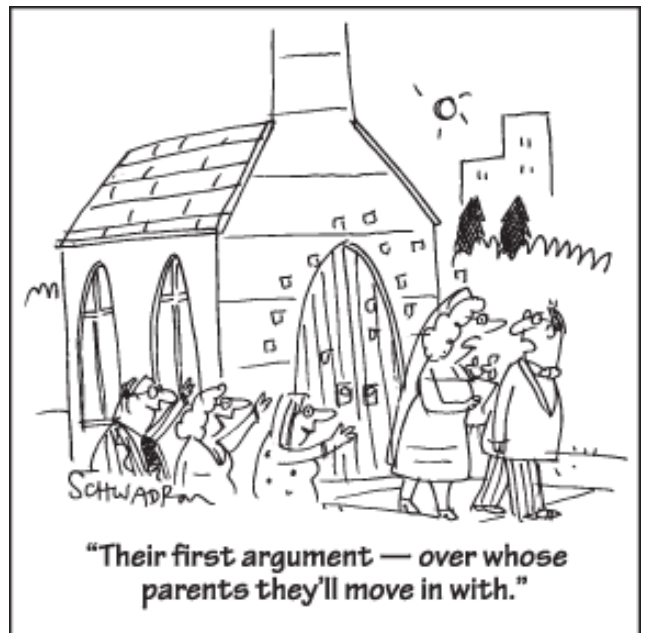
Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse



Food Bank News

We would like to give a big thank you to
Carl Hamilton of Shepherd
for his generous donation of \$400
to the food pantry!



ELC Council Minutes - May 6, 2020

Meeting began at 6:30 via Zoom. Meagan Malchow, Jill Hoffman, Laurel Noland, Scott Green, Linda Oberg, Dawn Sherseth, Robin McCaffree and Patty McVay were in attendance.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Scott made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dawn seconded. Motion passed via roll call unanimously. April income was \$3700.00. Laurel paid the annual insurance.

The Secretary's report that was emailed was accepted. Robin made the motion to accept the Secretary's report. Laurel seconded. Motion passed via roll call unanimously.

The work on the roof has been completed. Prior to a check being issued to Big Sky Exterior Designs the church council will be doing a walk around to make sure things are in order with the roof. Once this is done, Big Sky Exterior will be paid. Then the contract for the east windows will be signed by Meagan and returned to Todd. In addition, the gutters will be installed.

The council discussed the process of what restarting church services would look like. The following were voted on via roll call and approved unanimously.

1. Temperature's would be taken and recorded at the door.
2. Meagan will order a digital thermometer that is non touch.
3. Masks will be worn by all worshipers.
4. Robin McCaffree will supply 25 masks to be given out to congregation members to keep. Discussion that most members probably already have their own masks.
5. The church will be cleaned after each Sunday service, or as soon as the cleaning agency is able to after the church service. Extra cleaning supplies will be on hand/may need to be purchased.
6. Members will come in one door and out another.
7. There will be an usher to help guide/seat people and to help with communion spacing.
8. Masking tape, flags or noodles will be used to mark the pews.
9. Communion will be done at the end of the service, with single serving wine and bread/wafers.
10. Services will begin again based on Phase 2

guidelines from governor Seve Bullock, the ELCA Synod and Bishop Jungling feedback.

11. Lay pastors will need to be contacted and feel ready and safe to perform services. Again, based on feedback from line 10. Dawn Petty has expressed willingness to perform services once we are ready to reopen.

12. The church council will meet again via Zoom on Wednesday May 20th to reexamine when we should reopen.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Meagan Malchow, President



ELC Council Minutes - May 20, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Meagan, Laurel, Ricker, Patty, Dawn, Robin, Jill

Members Absent: Liz, Linda, Scott

Council met with the purpose of discussing the reopening of Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Four documents were shared and discussed with information from the state, county, and Bishop. With Phase 2 starting on June 1, we decided to have June 7 as our first service. It will be an outdoor service, weather permitting. We discussed using an outside lay pastor or asking Dawn Petty to lead the service and all requested Dawn to lead us for our first worship together again. Meagan will contact Dawn.

Other items that will happen before June 7:

- * Meagan will contact the new cleaning service to have the church cleaned before June 7. She will also contact the synod to see if they have a simple service outline.
- * Laurel will contact our insurance company to see if they have any restrictions.
- Dawn Sherseth will work on providing music for the service. Since we are not allowed to have singing, she will bring a wireless speaker home and find music online to use for worship. She will remove hymnals from the pews in case we need to move indoors due to weather.
- * We will use disposable bulletins or the inserts with the scriptures.

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LOVING SERVICE

(continued from page 4)

- * There will be no communion this first Sunday back.
- * Offering will be collected in a container that is not passed.
- * If the weather is bad and we need to move inside, pews will be taped off for social distancing. (We need to get supplies for this.)

Respectfully submitted: Dawn Sherseth

ELC Council Minutes - May 27, 2020

Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:: Dawn Sherseth, Scott Green, Patty McVay, Linda Oberg, Ricker Olsen, and Jill Hoffman

Purpose: Check-in on re-starting services

June 7th will be our first service. It will be an outdoor service, weather permitting. Dawn Petty has agreed to lead us for our first worship together again.

-Meagan will contact the new cleaning service to have the church cleaned before June 7. If the cleaning service cannot occur before June 7th, Jill will organize a small team to clean.

-Meagan will also contact the synod to see if they have a simple service outline. Linda and Jill will assist in putting together a service based on this and our typical service. There will be no communion, offering will be set out for collection and not passed.

-Laurel contacted our insurance company to see if they have any restrictions. They had no specific requirements, they recommend following CDC and other government guidance. (This is updated from an email Laurel shared from GuideOne). Dawn Sherseth reported that identified electrical items have been fixed as well.

-Dawn Sherseth will provide music for the service. Since we are not allowed to have singing, she will bring a wireless speaker (battery operated) from home and find music online to use for worship. She has removed hymnals from the pews

in case we need to move indoors due to weather. Dawn also contacted Daisy and Laura to let them know we did not need their services.

-We will use disposable bulletins and the inserts with the scriptures. It will be ok to take Bulletins home with congregants, but we will not have general reuse. Linda confirmed we do have a supply of the weekly readings in the basement office. Ricker agreed to be the reader.

-Offering will be collected in a container that is not passed. It will need to be heavy enough to withstand the wind. The collection plates are currently stored under the alter to minimize handling.

-We will have the service in the front of the church.

-If the weather is bad and we need to move inside, pews will be taped for social distancing. We will plan to use crape paper and painters tape. Patty has some sanitation supplies to put by the bathroom and the entrances.

-Jill (hopefully with the help of Liz) will draft an announcement. Ricker will post on the website, Dawn will share on FB this week while posting the songs. Patty will share in the email. Possibly send an additional email out as well. The announce will include our protocols to take attendance, temperature screening, bring your own chair, etc..

Please come to the church at 10 am on Saturday June 6th if you can to help with preparations.

Other business:

Council approved the Sherseth family borrowing tables and chairs during the weekend of June 19th.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Jill Hoffman



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Our congregation's financial situation, Meagan Malchow's various health issues, Monty Mavity's battle with cancer. Please keep the Jim and Doreen McKinney family in your prayers as Jim's mother, Rita Pickerd passed away on May 28th. Dawn Beddes, Agnes' daughter-in-law had a total knee replacement done. She was allowed to go home and will spend time with Agnes as she heals. Please pray for the family of Gary Noland (brother of Charlie Noland) who passed away earlier last month after a long illness. Services will be held later this summer.

Friends of the Congregation:

John Mark Owens has stage 4 pancreatic cancer; Glen Ray has Parkinson's and dementia; Dixie Cozzens, Kelly Mack's mother in therapy at Aspen Meadows; Tonya Sullivan; Brittany Reinhardt waiting for a kidney; Lesa Rekdal has cancer. Jon Martin on chemo for fast growing lymphoma; Jacquie Schleder for endurance. Cindy Weber, Dawn Petty's nephew's wife, on chemo for breast cancer. Bob Fritz is home and recuperating from his surgery earlier this month. Please keep Betty Wester in your prayers. She had a heart attack last week, and spent some time in the hospital, and had a stint put in. She has improved, and should be coming back home in a day or two. (Betty is Georgia Wagenman's mother)

Community Living:

West Park Village: Lenora Weist

Tender Nest: Mary Cossitt

Minnesota State Prison System: Rob Larson

Local Youth Serving in the military:

Dan Johnson and Matt Grandpre deployed to Iraq; Taylor Green, Jacob Wagenaar, Tucker Wilson, Brooke Nebel Bohrer, Brandon Bohrer and Thomas Aigner. Please keep these soldiers in your prayers that they may return safely home.



PRAYER MINISTRY

01 Joe Leligdowicz
06 Greg Plath
09 LaDonna Hultgren
11 Michael Grandpre
15 Daisy Eddy
15 Mary Ann Emmons
18 Noah Smelser
19 Dianne Lundhagen
19 Sari Stahl
22 Shane Christman
25 Stacie Grandpre



06 Jeremy & Sari Stahl
12 Brad & Dawn Sherseth
20 Ed & Sue Hawthorne

Mr. Floyd made mistakes. The bible is filled with stories of sinners, who made mistakes, and the lessons we can learn from them. Solomon, the wisest man in the world, had seven hundred wives of royal birth and over three hundred concubines. (1 Kings 11).

The story of the Bible is ultimately one of redemption. In Genesis mankind falls into sin, struggles to adhere to God's instructions through the Old Testament and is finally redeemed through Christ in the New Testament. Yet, in spite of this, most sinners are dismissed as being no more than that-sinful. Their lives and stories are ignored when their situations may speak more clearly to one person's struggles.

George Floyd's life is symbolic of an insidious issue in this great nation of ours, racism.

The first group of African slaves-four men and women-arrived at Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. Planters quickly realized that huge profits could be made from importing enslaved laborers.

Africans could be made to work longer and harder in the fields. They could not easily escape and return home because they were so far from their homeland. In addition, African slaves came from diverse nations and cultures making communication with each other difficult, inhibiting their ability to organize resistance.

Slaves became especially important to the economy of the South with cotton and tobacco plantations. By 1860, the United States divided into "free" and "slave" states. That year, the census included 3,950,540 slaves in America. To put that in today's terms, that is almost half of the population in New York or the entire city of Los Angeles or Chicago.

The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal," the U.S. Constitution determined that enslaved persons would be counted as "three-fifths of all other Persons" for purposes of government representation and taxation. (Article I, Section II, Paragraph III).

Slavery was legal in American until 1865 with the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment. In 1868 the Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed the same rights to all male citizens; the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) made it illegal to deprive any eligible citizen the right to vote, regardless of color.

Despite this, segregation in schools was not illegal until *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. Jim Crow laws enforcing racial segregation were overturned by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

George Floyd's death is not a political issue. It is a human issue. We must stand with our brothers and sisters, be they white, black or brown. "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)

God created man in his image. The scripture does not mention race or color. Every person is created intentionally by God in his own divine image. Therefore, each person is sacred and equally valuable. We as Christians are to reject every form of racism.

Paul wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Our Father's love is available to all. His grace is universal: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

This is a critical moment for leaders and Christians alike to get off of the fence. This is not a political issue. This is a spiritual war. George Floyd was treated with callousness and indifference. He deserved due process. He should have been punished for his crime(s). Instead, he lost his life over a pack of cigarettes and a counterfeit twenty dollar bill.

The genesis of the pain of this nation is not just a moment of loss with George Floyd. There is a systemic injustice that is hundreds of years old.

The pain of generations has led us to this moment. People are saying, "I am tired, I am wounded, I am acknowledging the pain." God created a diverse humanity. He created all spectrums of color.

God wants justice, mercy and equity. Jesus shed his blood to make us equal with Him in heavenly places. That we would be brothers and sisters in Christ. There is no more profound sacrifice than laying down one's life for others.

The gospel of God's reconciling love is the only transforming answer to the challenges we face. The civil rights movement and legislation were essential to improving the lives of those who faced legalized discrimination. Laws cannot change people. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. As Christians, we are on the front lines of this spiritual battle for the soul and the future of our nation.

I ask each and every one of you to use God's light, love, and equity to be a positive influence and good in the midst of darkness, fear and hate.

Every person of every race was created by God in his image. Every single one.

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another," (John 13:34).

I encourage each of you to put our brothers and sisters of all color and race, and the police officers who navigate these most challenging times, in your prayers this week.

Blessings in Christ, Meagan

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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