



Emmanuel News



WE ALL ARE YOUR CHILDREN

Gracious God, your son Jesus lived a life of welcome. He opened himself to people who were outside the boundaries of acceptability. He sat at the table of scorned tax collectors in spite of their betrayals (Luke 19). He honored the choices of women by acknowledging them as worthy of attention (Luke 7).

In Jesus life, we see that you do not have favorites, God. All are your children. It just takes us time to sort that out for ourselves. All are your beloved ones, no exceptions! Yet we all have experienced exclusion in one way or another. We have failed to create social systems that welcome all. We can hope that someday, we will not always be in mortal combat. Someday, we will grasp, trust and build on your unfailing, unconditional love for all. Someday, we will live in balance with each other, and the creation, seeing in each other the wisdom, and the delicious surprise of your imagination at work, honoring the creation as our home.

For those of us who have labored under systems that give preference to other skin colors, or certain body sizes, or vocational calling, or physical ability, or affectional wiring, healing is a generational aspiration, a hope that someday the playing field will be even.

We will no longer extract to get all we can but nourish and call forth the beauty you offer. Keep this vision alive in us, dear God. You have shown us how, in Jesus. It is in his name we pray. Amen.



St. John's United
SO MUCH LIFE TO LIVE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help comfort an elder at the end of life and become a Vigil Volunteer at St. John's United.

Our next Vigil Volunteer Training on Tuesday, May 4th from 4 -6:30pm. Call 655-7727 or email volunteer@sjlm.org to sign up.



FREEDOM IN CHRIST MINISTRIES

We received a letter from Rev. Rob Nedbalek, the pastor for the inmates at the Deer Lodge State Prison, asking if we could take up an offering again to help the ministries program there as we have done so at one of our church services in the past. He suggested doing so on Pentecost Sunday (May 23), and we will do so. This has been a difficult time for him also as he couldn't meet with the inmates in person, just virtually.

Here is a bit of background info about Pastor Rob. He and his family were members of our church here in Shepherd and lived near here. I remember him driving up to church on his motorcycle, with a bunch of keys hanging on his belt (he worked at Ace Hardware at that time, and possibly got many of the keys that were re-done and tossed away there.) Pastor Dan Hooks, who was our minister in 1992 and 1993, encouraged Rob to go into the seminary to train for the ministry, which Rob did. The family moved to Iowa where he took his training. After he was ordained, he pastored several small churches in the Dakotas for a few years. The Deer Lodge prison was looking for a minister, and somebody who knew Rob recommended him for the position. Our Montana Synodical Bishop appointed Rob, and the family moved to the little town of Deer Lodge, and Rob began his new job. He would ride his motorcycle from home each day to the prison. The inmates loved it and really responded to him. Rob just seemed to "fit in" and he was accepted by them.

We have taken up collections for the prison in the past years, sent Bibles to them, and tried to assist in various ways. The prison welcomes visiting LPA people to speak there, pastors from around the state that will drop in, and anyone who would come to talk and encourage the men who are often depressed, to change their ideals and outlooks with the help of God.

Therefore, what can we do to help, in what way, and how often? During this pandemic, visitations have been cancelled, but once we get back to normal, tours of the prison will again be available, and I am sure Pastor Rob would enjoy visitors from Shepherd.



LOVING SERVICE

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The ELCW has always been directly involved with the Family Promise organization and wanted to participate in the diaper drive that is going on at this time, along with the United Way. Our church has been active in Family Promise since it began quite a few years ago. Therefore, the ELCW has purchased \$150.00 worth of diapers, and hopefully more will be donated by this Sunday at our church. Laurel Noland will be delivering them next week. The combined total for the Diaper Drive is 60,000 and we are doing our share to help reach that goal.

God bless you all.



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Dear Friends and Neighbors:

May is finally here, and I think I can hang up my snow shovel and begin to focus on the spring "honey-do" list. There always seems to be so much to do in spring. Rake up the leftover leaves, prep the weed eater and the lawn mower. Clean out the asparagus patch. Rototill and plant the garden. Prime the pump and check out the sprinklers, fixing those that don't seem to be working after the long winter, when they didn't have anything to do to begin with. Scrape and paint the deck. Wow, that list really is daunting, and that is before Mrs. T.C. starts adding her items to the list. Oh, well, what's a Mouse to do? Can't worry about the list too much, so I'm thinking a quick nap will be in order to give me some drive.

I see that work on the church garden is just beginning. I can hardly wait for the corn to be planted, and as soon as the workers leave the area, I will be over there, digging up those delicious little kernels for a snack. The strawberry plants are just beginning to leaf out, and it will be a month or more before those delicious red berries will be hiding there....what a treat they are! It will be a good to get some fresh goodies for a change.



Lots going on this month, too. On the 1st of the month, it was Kentucky Derby time, and I really like to watch the horses run. I think I would have made a good jockey, considering my size and all, the horse could run away with me! Then on the 9th, it's Mother's Day, and to celebrate, do something special for the Mom in your life. I have to thank Mrs. T.C. for being a fantastic Mom to our kids this whole time. A special thank you to my Mom for all of the good advice and the guidance that she gave me growing up. I know everyone out there has the best Mom in the world, and I feel the same way, too. Then on the 15th, we celebrate Armed Forces Day, and on the 31st, which is Memorial Day, and we have our first three day weekend, as we honor those who paid the ultimate price while serving our country. I always get tears in my eyes when listening to taps being played and thinking about the sacrifices that have been made. I really enjoy the morning ceremony that is held in the field of granite stones behind the church. Often there is a military speaker and someone playing Taps

Of course, that first three day weekend of the summer, is a time for families to get together for a big family feast of grilled everything. So I will try to gather some of the first stalks of asparagus, and hopefully some Morel mushrooms, too. Looking for those mushrooms is a fun adventure for the whole family, a real treasure hunt! Well, you can see I have babbled on enough for the day, and I have a list of work to catch up on, as the Mrs. is really a strict task master. Happy May to everyone. See you in church.

Your Faithful Friend,

T.C.Mouse
In Residence at Emmanuel



Join People Healing People at St Vincent Healthcare

Greetings from Volunteer Services at St Vincent Healthcare!

Help patients, visitors and staff in just 4 hours a week. We're looking for "people" people who are quick to smile and like to visit, help others and have fun! Training and benefits provided. Volunteer opportunities are available in Guest Services - Main Lobby our Gift Shops. Please call us today at 237-3376 or visit our website at www.svh-mt.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Adams, Director of Volunteer & Guest Services.



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, April 14, 2021

President Jill Hoffman opened the meeting. Opening devotions were given by Liz White. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as corrected, motion made by Liz, seconded by Patty. The treasurer's report was given by Robin, and a motion by Sharon, seconded by Liz, was made to approve the report. The Call Committee arranged for a meeting with the intern, who may possibly be appointed to Emmanuel, and the intern came to meet us and view the premises before our Council meeting began. We all were impressed by him and his answers to our questions. He feels that the youth need to be active in various ways in the church and had suggestions as to accomplishing that with the Sunday School. His salary would be approximately \$35,000 for the year of internship, which fee is set by the Synod. He would be available starting in August.

Old Business: Liz reported that she had lay pastors lined up through the month of May. As to the Worship Service Guidelines, Greg made a motion to continue with our current policies and restrictions of wearing masks, social distancing, etc. for at least another month, seconded by Robin. This includes limiting the amount of people gathering in the church basement to 15 at a time. It was also decided to return to the practice of "noisy" collection on the first Sunday of the month, which will be May 2nd, and have the youth help with the collection, but possibly have people hold on to their own jars and pour contents into the big container. A suggestion was made as to reconsidering the plans for the church ceiling, perhaps going with re-placing some of the tiles, and re-painting the ceiling, due to the expense of the estimate for the entire project...perhaps we should look at other options.

Easter Services were well attended at both times, Sunrise Service had 48 people up in the Green's pasture, and the 10:00 AM service in the church had 48 people in attendance....so almost 100 people worshipped with us that day.

There was nothing to report on the Boy Scout project for the church as yet. The Council discussed the idea of the flashing light on the sign, and said that would not be good, as the light would affect and disturb the housing residents across the street, especially during the night hours. The plan for the sign did not really fit in with the image of our "country church" and changing the plans might be helpful. It was also suggested that a simple sign would be good to have at the intersection of Hwy 312 and the Shepherd Rd., and also another simple sign at the junction of the Shep-

herd Rd. and the main street turning into Shepherd. As to the project for landscaping the church grounds, we realize it is too early in the spring to expect those plans to be carried out.

The Website was discussed, and ideas for that will be mentioned to Jim McKinney. An update on getting the re-done louvers back into the bell tower was given by Greg, and he said he had talked to Darrin Donnes, who has the equipment to help get them back into place and is handling that. Regarding the Thermostat and Furnace control issues, Klimate and Heating Control will send someone out to check that, too.

Brenda Emerick, of the Cemetery Board, reported that the cemetery caretaker, Jim Shaules, will mow the church grounds for \$25.00 a time, as he is in the area mowing the cemetery.

Council Appointments were discussed and a leader for the Youth group is needed, with the possibility of a pastor sharing lessons or thoughts with the youth on a 3rd Sunday each month, so the youth would form a personal relationship with the pastor. Dawn Sherseth will help with the music direction. Sharon and Robin are sharing the Treasurer's duties, and that is working well.

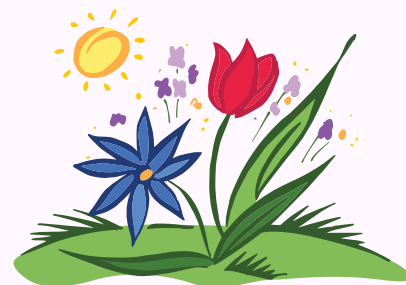
New Business: Laura had suggested updating the church directory and has started with that project. Liz will do a write-up on the Food Pantry, perhaps on the website, also on the garden set-up, and prep. The furnace and thermostat update was tabled for next month, and it may not even need it. The Youth Committee will consist of Liz, Jill and Greg.

Sunday Service Attendants:

April 18th	Sharon Wolske	(Laura music)
April 25th	Ricker Olson	(Sherseth music)
May 2nd	Liz White	(Daisy music)
May 9th	Liz White	(Laura music)

Next Council Meeting May 11th at 7:00 PM
(Via Zoom or at the church)

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.





2021

St. John's United
SUMMER
Concert
SERIES

FREE • 7PM THURSDAYS

JUNE 24 WYNDSTONE BILLINGS HEIGHTS WYLIE & THE WILD WEST		JULY 1ST THE CROSSINGS LAUREL, MT KYLE SHOBE & THE WALK EM BOYS		
JULY 8 "GOOD DAY SUNSHINE" A BEATLES CELEBRATION	JULY 15 DRUM BROTHERS	JULY 22 THE LIL SMOKIES	JULY 29 LANEY LOU & THE BIRD DOGS	AUGUST 5 VICTOR WAINWRIGHT & THE TRAIN

CORNER OF RIMROCK & SHILDI • Fred & Marie Miller Pavilion • CAMPUS OF ST. JOHN'S UNITED

APPROPRIATE COMMENSURATE COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED.

THIS SEASON THERE WILL BE NO ST. JOHN'S BBQ OR CONCERT OPENERS ON TOWN SQUARE.
WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC DINNER.
FOOD TRUCKS AVAILABLE.

Christikon Clips

May, 2021

Information for our Congregations



There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth on-site sessions and families/adult sessions, including the **Work Weekend, May 28-31. Families register online.**

Register online www.christikon.org, or use the forms distributed with the youth brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 26 – 29) and Mountain Weekend (July 30-Aug 1) we feature **Dr. Hans Wiersma and Dr. Aana Marie Vigen.**

Topic details can be found on our website. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website 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

Hello all,

We are ready to rebuild the deck and we need helpers!

Please use the link below to access the sign up sheet.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/120f0fgJw1ntGZSKGWGiFvnou9hWaz6rVZrAp5wn-k48/edit?usp=sharing>

If you are unable to make this form work please give me a call and I can get you signed up.

Kerry 406-656-1969 or 406-670-8894 or email me at secretary@christikon.org.

Please encourage others to sign up for Work Weekend as well! We need skilled and unskilled labor so all are welcome! Thank you for sharing!

Blessings!

*Kerry Ellertson
Administrative Assistant
Christikon
406-656-1969*



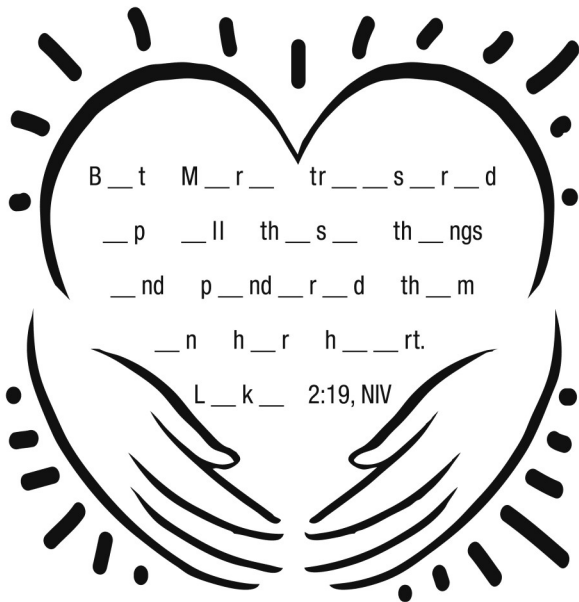


A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

A E I O U Y



Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV



Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

In Luke 11 Jesus taught his disciples to pray:
 “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”

In the puzzle below, find and circle the words from the prayer above. (Note: If a word is in the prayer more than one time, it is used only once in the puzzle.) → ↓

G	K	A	G	A	I	N	S	T	D	T	O
I	U	F	O	R	D	F	A	T	H	E	R
V	D	A	Y	E	A	C	H	S	T	W	W
E	A	I	B	E	N	L	S	C	E	G	S
H	I	O	R	E	S	E	Y	O	M	H	F
O	L	U	K	V	I	A	O	M	P	A	O
U	Y	S	I	E	N	D	U	E	T	L	R
R	B	N	N	R	S	N	R	A	A	L	G
W	R	O	G	Y	S	A	A	L	T	O	I
H	E	T	D	O	B	M	N	S	I	W	V
O	A	W	O	N	O	E	D	O	O	E	E
F	D	E	M	E	I	N	T	O	N	D	B

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Members:

Meagan Malchow's various health issues, Monty Mavity's battle with cancer, Mary Cossitt's grandson Carter Dodson, age 29, has MS. Vivian Pierce is home from the hospital; she's doing better though she is tired and doesn't have much appetite. She is grateful for all your prayers. Her daughter has moved back to Billings to assist her. Susan Swenson Crawford, daughter of the late Frank & Eva Swenson, was diagnosed with breast cancer and had surgery and is undergoing aggressive chemo and radiation. Dawn Sherseth's father, Gene Lundhagen, has been diagnosed with Parkinsons. He has responded favorably to medication and has made great improvements. They are grateful for your prayers. Patty McVay's granddaughter continues to improve. Spencer Beddes is home from the hospital. They will continue to monitor his potassium levels so ensure his new kidney is working properly. He and Mary are glad to be home and are grateful for your prayers.

Friends of the Congregation:

John Mark Owens has stage 4 pancreatic cancer; Glen Ray has Parkinson's and dementia; Tonya Sullivan; Brittany Reinhardt has received a new kidney, Sari Stahl and family, Donna Mullen's sister, Linda Ernst, who has been waiting for a donor for a kidney due to PKD (polycystic kidney disease). Evagene and Jerry Emmett, as Jerry fell and ruptured a disc in his back and had to have surgery. Jerry Emmett is recuperating in a VA nursing facility in St George, Utah. John Clark of Shepherd has both heart and lung issues, and is getting very weak, and needs our prayers. Archie and Barbara Bott, friends of the Sherseth's, need our prayers. They are in their 80's and Barbara is recuperating in a rehab facility due to several strokes. Ardis Hanson, formerly of Shepherd, had several surgeries for throat cancer and is recovering at St Johns. All lymph nodes and thyroid that were removed were malignant, some cancer is still present. She is hopeful the speech therapy will help her to talk again soon. She is currently communicating with pencil and paper.

Community Living:

St Johns United: Inez Oberg

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.

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers



21 Bob Wolske

23 Doreen McKenney

28 Shae-Breaun Nordlund

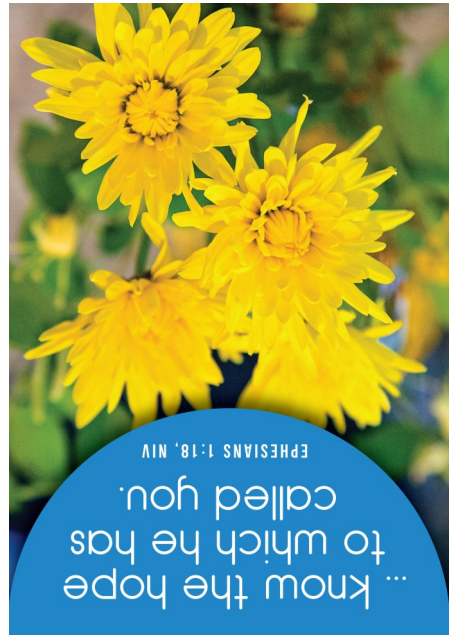
29 Duck Holtgren



15 Clinton & Brandie Byxby

25 Ed & Linda Oberg





Address Service Requested

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

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