



Emmanuel News



Vicar's Voice

Well, I guess it is true, time flies when you're having fun. It certainly doesn't feel as though it has been three months since I began my internship here at Emmanuel Lutheran. A blink of an eye, and already a quarter of the internship year is in the rearview mirror. We began our journey together on a bright, clear, sunny, hot August Sunday morning. Shorts, T shirts, and flip flops were the proper attire as we gathered for worship in the park.

It seems as though change is the inevitable constant. Once again, we have transitioned from one season to the next. The hot dry summer days, fun in the sun, boating, swimming, fishing, learning to ride that new wakeboard, family barbecues, patio time, baseball season in all its glory, and outdoor living at its best, at least



for those who enjoy the summer season, are done for 2021. The hotter temperatures, with no need to wear long pants or a coat, bring joy, happiness, relief, and an extra bit of energy and vibrance for some people. Others dread these very things. They feel lethargic and wilt under the bright sunny skies and increased temperature. Those heat-dreading folks might hold desperately to the hope of what is to come, longing to return to the days that once were. Fall brings with it change. A time of transition from one season to another, bridging the journey between summer and winter. During that time of transition, we have learned to prepare for what is to come. Fruits, vegetables, and grains have grown, matured, ripened and are ready to be gathered in, harvested, prepared, and stored for the journey through the winter season. As the temperatures begin to cool, the leaves turn colors and

are beautiful for a moment in time. As the trees prepare for a long winter nap, they drop their leaves. Fruits and nuts fall to the earth allowing other creatures to gather them so that they, too, may prepare to survive the season that is ahead. Some cherish and anxiously await that first frost. It signals those cooler temperatures are drawing near. Soon, snow will blanket the ground lending itself to the winter activities of sledding, snowboarding and skiing. Some look forward to wearing that favorite sweater, sitting by the crackling fire, drawing in warmth and comfort. While some thrive in this change and enjoy the colder temperatures and snowy conditions, others can find them to be dreary, restrictive, and depressing.

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Our liturgical seasons within the church are much the same. In that time of transition, we prepare for what is to come. We are currently in the season referred to as the *Time after Pentecost*. It is a long season that spans the summer months of our calendar year. During this season, we have encountered the Gospel of Mark, with the bread of life discourse from the Gospel of John inserted into the middle. Mark's gospel is much about transition and preparation. Jesus' stories, teaching, and ministry are about preparing his disciples for what is to come, to transition into the next season of their lives and faith journeys. A key issue for Mark is the cross. It is a central theme in his writing. Mark, being the shortest of the Gospels, spends the greatest amount of time speaking to Jesus' passion: his rejection, suffering, death on the cross, and subsequent resurrection. Mark includes the prediction of the passion three times (8:31; 9:30-31; 10:32-34). Each of these is followed by Jesus teaching the disciples, who seem to remain blind to his teaching. Mark declares his theology of the cross abruptly in the first sentence of the book. "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the son of God" (1:1 NRSV). This good news is further specified in verse 15 where he says, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." This is the simple, yet profound, truth of his mission statement. The proclamation of Mark's gospel is supported and declared in and by these words. Mark refers to time not as we think of it, as something specific and predictable (*Chronos*), but as something to be perceived/ unpredictable (*Kairos*) What we don't find in Mark's mission statement are directions to get to heaven, a bunch of warm fuzzies, and there are no clear, true answers. Because Mark is focused on a theology of the cross, what we do find is a message of hope and salvation, in the form of safety, peace, and freedom from oppression.

As the liturgical seasons transition from the *Time after Pentecost* into the season of *Advent*, we encounter Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and Christ the King Sunday. Just as with the fall transition from summer into winter, we find that our paramment colors change for a moment in time. These changes go from green to red, to white, turning to blue, signaling the change of season is drawing near. The readings of Mark's gospel will fall silent, and the voice of Luke's gospel will come forth in this new liturgical year. During these transitions and changes, we may experience a plethora of feelings. For some, feelings of discomfort, vulnerability, loss, anxiety, or uncertainty. Others may experience feelings of comfort, strength, courage, confidence, and clarity. It is in times of transition and change throughout our faith journeys that we are able to reflect, listen, and meditate upon who God is calling us to be. It is a time when we are able to make space for newness, renewal, healing, and the accepting of God's unending love and grace, allowing our faith to grow, deepen, and mature. Through Christ Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are then able to extend that same grace and love to our neighbors.

In Christ's love,
Vicar Keith

CHURCH COUNCIL



With our new ELCA constitution, we have term limits for several key positions on the church council that will need to be filled. We ask that you give prayerful consideration to serving our country church as part of the church council.

Please contact Jill Hoffman or any council member for more information..



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

November is here and the weather has certainly changed. Mornings are cooler, with some frost here and there, and the leaves are dropping like flies in the winter time. I try my best to keep up with the leaves piling up, but it seems like a losing battle. Before I even get done with one round, there are more laying on the area that I started at. Oh well, if I don't get them all, the snow will cover them up until spring. On Sunday the 7th Daylight Saving Time Ends, which is funny because I never felt like I was saving any time before, but now the calendar tells me that it is ending. On the bright side, we get to have an extra hour of sleep Saturday night, so I should look bright and bushy tailed at Church Sunday morning. Remember to mess with all of your clocks Saturday night before you go to sleep, setting them back one hour. Also change the battery in the smoke detector, just like the firemen recommend.

On the 11th we have Veterans Day, so be sure to thank all of those that have served, or are serving our country. I've always thought that it should be a paid



holiday for every Veteran out there, but instead the government and banker types usually get the day off. Happy Veterans Day.

Finally, we have Thanksgiving coming up on the 25th and I'm really looking forward to getting together with family and friends for a big feast of turkey and all of the fixings. I really enjoy the endless cold turkey sandwiches afterwards, so I make sure to cook up a pretty big bird. Happy Thanksgiving everyone. I plan to use the day after to work on getting the holiday lights up outside while the weather is still nice. I usually don't turn them on until the 1st of December, but I learned long ago to get this stuff done while the weather is fairly warm. So, as you can tell, I have a lot on my plate this time of year and it isn't all turkey and gravy! I better cut this short and get back to those leaves.

I hope to see you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.
T.C. Mouse

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

As you already know, we have had to postpone the date for our annual Harvest Dinner, until this COVID pandemic decreases but we already have purchased the roasts and they are in a freezer, until we can enjoy getting together for that meal, and can prepare food for that fantastic menu! But, we will have our bazaar, and an auction in December. As to the actual dates, that will be decided at the council meeting this month. We need to find out which Sundays there will be other activities, such as a Christmas program, etc. I have been thinking of setting up the bazaar items in the church basement, and a few people at a time can go down and shop whenever there is activity at the church and those items can remain on display for several weeks. Then we will have the auction immediately following one of the church services on a Sunday. We have quite a number of great items for sale, some handmade, some are purchased, some are antiques.

If you have not already made something for the sale, you still have time to do so. You can do your Christmas shopping right there!

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you.

The Pineview ladies met on Monday, November 1st, at the church to work on quilts and enjoy each other's company. As you know, the ladies make quilts of all sizes, and they are given to various places, such as Riverstone, where babies and children's quilts are needed for the homeless families; to the patients at nursing homes, and assisted living homes, to vets at the VA hospitals and dormitories; to families who have homes that burned, and to others in need, and many are shipped overseas. As you may know, when you heard of the Amtrack derailment in late September, near Joplin, MT., those passengers were taken to the Liberty Community Center, and the quilters from the Bethel Lutheran church up there, grabbed stacks of their quilts and distributed them to those people to keep warm. The quilters were just one of the groups that came to the aid of the passengers in need that night, and it was obvious that "This is Montana, this is neighbors

helping neighbors", and it seems that when there is a need:

"We are God's hands, and feet, and heart."



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

Thanksgiving Baskets

Emmanuel Lutheran & Lions Club

If you are aware of or know of any individuals or families who maybe in need of a meal during Thanksgiving, please submit names to: Agnes Beddes - 406-698-1247



November 20th:

Boxes will be filled and prepared for distribution Saturday afternoon.

November 21st:

Thanksgiving Day food baskets will be set out and distributed for those within our community who face and encounter food insecurity. Distribution will take place outside the Food Pantry between 12:30 and 2:00 PM.

Items needed for Thanksgiving meal baskets that can be donated include the following:

Turkey and /or Turkey breast

potatoes

gravy mixes (packets)

canned vegetables such as corn, beans, carrots, etc.....

Thanksgiving Day specialties: cranberries, stuffing, cool whip, jello, mixed fruit.....

pies: pumpkin, cherry, apple, or any of your choosing

The church will serve as a collection point for these donated items. Feel free to bring them with you on Sunday mornings. Any items donated through the abundance of generosity and remaining unused for Thanksgiving meals will be held and carried forward to serve those in need during the Christmas holiday.

Please contact Agnes Beddes for any additional information. She can be reached at: 406 698-1247



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Parents/Guardians Name _____

Parents/Guardians Address _____

1. Name of post-secondary institution of higher education you are planning to attend or are attending _____

2. Academic Standing

a. Current Transcript

3. Leadership
Activities

4. Church

Involvement _____

5. Volunteer

Activities _____

6. Three Letters of Recommendation

A Current School faculty member

A member of your church

A person of your choice

7. In a 500 word essay share your plans for the future. Please take into consideration what Martin Luther said about our baptismal calling; "That we are all called to serve God and our neighbor through our vocation."

Return your application to:

Endowment Committee

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 66

Shepherd, MT 59079

Deadline: January 10, 2022

Council Meeting, October 13, 2021, 7:00 PM

The Church Council met Wednesday evening, at 7:00 PM. Members present were Greg, Ricker, Linda, Sharon, Liz, Jill, Keith, Abbey and Dawn. Vicar Keith did the opening devotions. The secretary's report was accepted, motion made by Greg, and seconded by Sharon. Copies of the Treasurer's report were passed out, and discussion was held regarding arranging for a new computer, with the help of Kyle Newell, and one will be purchased for \$1250.00. Liz made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and it was seconded by Greg. Robin reported that it will have the QuickBooks software updated.

Jill announced that there will be a meeting of the Intern Committee, to discuss his learning goals and various projects. The Monthly intern meeting will be held on October 27th, at 7 PM, at the home of Dawn Petty

Old Business: Liz gave an update on the Call Committee situation, as of this time, there are 437 open calls across the United States. The Guidelines for worship services were talked about, and Keith has made a few changes. Ricker talked about moving the communion rail for the way we are doing communion services at the present, and Greg, Ricker and Keith will move that rail after our meeting adjourns tonight. Reports on the Youth included the schedule for Sunday School class at 9:00 to 9:45 AM; there will be a confirmation class for students from 7th grade to 10th grade. It was also mentioned that the last three years of classes and those pictures from 2013 to 2019 will need to be displayed on the back wall in the basement.

Youth Gatherings: there will be numerous gatherings, the next collective one will be hosted here at Emmanuel, on March 6th. Dawn Sherseth is working on a youth choir for Emmanuel. The Children's sermon part of the service is going well, and the youth are pleased to take part in it.

Church Maintenance: the hallway lights need to be adjusted, as they are quite dim, and it was suggested to get new lights for the sanctuary, as the lighting is quite dim. It was also suggested to have some pest control, as the flies have been overwhelming each week in the church, and on

the windowsills.

Music: The plan to the end of this year is to have Daisy play on the 1st Sunday of the month, and Laura on the 2nd Sunday, the Sherseth's Blue Grass on the 3rd Sunday, and the 4th (and 5th) Sunday, there is a young woman from the Shepherd area who will fill in. On November 14th, we will have the hand bell choir from Good Shepherd.

New Business: It was suggested to make a donation to "St. John's Foundation Campaign for Resident Care. There will be an informational meeting in January, and we can set a definite amount at our annual meeting in January, as to what amount we can give.

A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Sharon, to postpone our annual Harvest Dinner for now, due to the COVID prevalence, and was passed. Suggestions were made to possibly have a bazaar in December, with both silent auction, and live

auction to display and sell the craft items, and various donations to the event.

Sunday Service Attendants: offering, counter, lock-up, etc. October 17th: Liz will set up and count; October 24th: Jill will set up, etc., October 31st, Ricker will count; November 7th Liz will set up, and November 14th, Sharon will set up. The signup sheets in the back of the church are not being filled out, since they are not being passed around as previously. We need more volunteers to take part.

Our next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, November 10, at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Dawn Petty, Secretary



LOVING SERVICE

Christikon Clips

November 2020

Information for our Congregations



Our summer calendar is set and on our website (christikon.org). If you have questions about the 2022 season or would like to register, give us a call or do so online. It was a powerful summer of ministry this year, and we look forward to welcoming you to camp in the new year.

The 2021 Annual Meeting is Sunday November 14th. We'll tell stories from the summer and share plans for the 2022 season, construction, and much more.

Due to COVID concerns we meet online via the Zoom platform, and will send connection instructions to congregations and Delegates in early November. Because this negates the need for travel, **the meeting will start at 1pm.**

We continue to hold you in prayer as together we navigate these uncertain times. We also trust in, and give thanks for, a God who promises to never let us go, no matter what life throws our way. May God bless you and yours as we move through fall and towards the holiday season and the new year.

Thank you as always for all the ways you support Christikon.

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



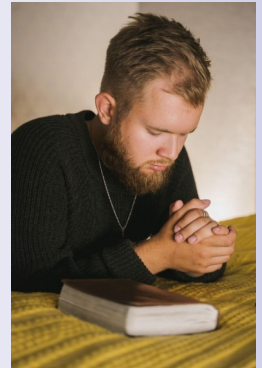
Children's Christmas program will be December 19th. We will be rehearsing and learning some new songs in Sunday School.

Please contact Jill Hoffman or Dawn Sherseth if you would like to participate or get more information.

Freedom in Christ

presents

Prayers for the People



Every Monday we will upload a new Prayers for the People video. If you would like to add someone you know to the prayer list, please email Bea (bea@ficprisonministry.com) or Pastor Rob (pastorrob@ficprisonministry.com) and we will include them in the following week's prayers and keep them on the list until you ask us to remove them. We only use first names for confidentiality.

The videos will appear on our YouTube channel. You can click on the box below to be whisked away to our channel! While there, please click on the subscribe button to receive a notice when a new video is uploaded.

We hope you will join us weekly to pray for our people!

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Financial Scholarship Opportunity

The Endowment Fund Board has announced the availability of scholarships for 2022. To qualify applicants should be members or friends of Emmanuel Lutheran Church seeking financial support for undergraduate education. Applicants should have completed at least one semester of college and maintained a GPA of 3.0. Scholarship applications can be found at www.elcshepherd.org or forms are available in the back of the church sanctuary and on page 5 of the newsletter. Deadline to receive applications is January 10, 2022.

Awards will be made in February, 2022.

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Members & Friends:

Mac (Richard McBride) has been released from the hospital and continues his recovery at home. Courtney Oblander has Covid, and the family is in quarantine. She requests prayers for her son as he is immune compromised. Spencer Beddes is improving after his kidney transplant last spring. He is still very tired; it has been a very slow process for him. Dave Hoffman had an emergency appendectomy and is recovering at home. Tina Hamm's 4 year old grandson, Jacob Clark has COVID. He has a temperature, a cough and sore throat and is under a doctor's care. The family is quarantining. The Sherseth's son-in-law, Zak McPherson (Melissa's husband) is recovering from surgery for ulcerative colitis and will need one additional surgery. Rose Fritz had a heart angioplasty and should be home recuperating. Bob Fritz will have additional tests done on Oct 19th. Please pray for our medical workers and staff at Billings Clinic, St Vincent's and RiverStone Health as they need strength and endurance to continue battling the corona virus. Laura Vanberg's friend, Irene, is doing better but needs prayers for strength to she can go home and be on her own again. Jill Hoffman's friend, Traci is in the hospital in ICU while her husband is taking care of their 3 young children. Sergeant Riley Barta (of Carol Kramer's family) and his Law Enforcement Inf. are being deployed to Romania. Jared Reitler is in the ICU. Abbey Emmons requests prayers for Bekky & Scott (her God Family) for a healthy pregnancy as they have experienced miscarriages. Vivian Pierce fell injuring her head. She has been diagnosed with vertigo. Carol Reiter fell and was taken to the hospital. JJ Lowe, 82, a friend of Dawn Petty's, had a stroke causing paralysis on his left side and is in a nursing home near Austin, TX.

Community Living:

St Johns United: Inez Oberg

Minnesota State Prison System: Rob Larson



Local Youth Serving in the military:

Sergeant Riley Barta deployed to Romania, Dan Johnson 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.



03 Sierra Stahl
07 Raedawn Pasco
09 Daniella Leligdowicz
09 James Malchow
13 Randy Vanberg
22 Charles Noland
22 Sharon Wolske



10 Louis & Rachelle Garcia
11 Jim & Linda Hinckle
27 Mark & Connie Halvorsen



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