



# Emmanuel News



## Vicar's Voice

The season of Advent is about waiting and preparing for the coming of the Lord. We wait for Christ's arrival. Like Mary and Joseph, we anxiously, excitedly, maybe even fearfully, wait for His arrival that took place in a lowly manger in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. We also wait for the arrival



that is yet to occur. We make our way toward Bethlehem in the comfort of the "already" while facing the challenges of the "not yet." Advent is a time to reflect and hear the message of hope. Hope in our present day. Hope that comes to us in knowing that Jesus is present in everything and everywhere. That his word and his promise stand the test of time, enduring forever. When we cry out from the wilderness in prayer,

"Comfort, oh comfort, your people, oh God." The waiting, preparing, and hope that Advent invites us in to assure us that Jesus is present in our joy and in our sorrow. Jesus is present with us when we gather as a faith community. Jesus comes to strengthen our hearts, comfort our souls, equip us, and guide us on our journey. Jesus is present here, now, today. Jesus is with us in the liminal time between the already and the not yet. I pray that each of us finds new hope in the waiting of this Advent season. I pray for the peace, joy, and restoration of all that is broken for the fulfillment of things in Christ Jesus. I pray that our weariness and fatigue of the past two years be removed, lifted from our hearts, transforming us into newness of life, and opening our hearts and minds, making room for the presence of God in our present-day lives.

May you have a hope filled Advent and a Merry Christmas.

In the hope and love of Christ Jesus,

Vicar Keith



# Blue Christmas Evening Prayer Service

Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Shepherd, MT



While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. For anyone experiencing loneliness, sadness and loss, the Christmas season can be difficult. But you are not alone, even those who are not struggling with losses may feel overwhelmed by the preparation and expectations of the Christmas season. Knowing we have all experienced loss, we come together seeking God's healing and space to name our woundedness. Please join us in a simple Evening Prayer Service of song, readings and a reflection of God's hope for us and His presence with us in feeling what we feel.



**All are welcome.**



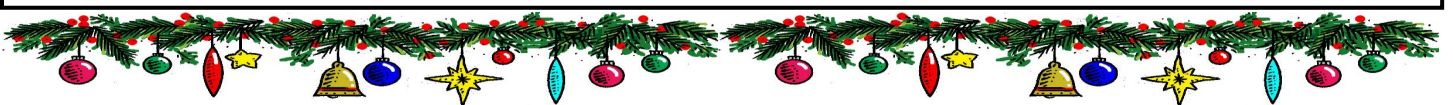
## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Be sure to check out all the Bazaar items displayed at the church, some in the back of the sanctuary where we have placed "silent auction" items, and much more down in the basement dining room. Since we could not have our Harvest Dinner at this time, the council suggested setting up the Bazaar items, so people could do some of their Christmas shopping there. We also have a quilt that is being raffled off, and that is also displayed in the sanctuary. As you will notice, some of the items are priced, but most of them are not. You select your favorites and then make a donation for them. There are several containers on the tables, for you to put in your checks, made out to the ELCW, or cash for your shopping. The Bazaar will be on display through Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, that will be the time that the silent auction items will also go to the highest bidder.



You will also see Christmas wreaths made of fresh juniper and cedar boughs, and you can also make a donation for the one you chose, and those funds will go to the Youth / Sunday School at the church. That way there will be funds available for the kids to take a trip, or do some other "fun" event. Make your checks out to the church Sunday School. There will be a container available by the wreath display for that purpose. There is not a set price for the wreaths, make a free will offering. These are outdoor wreaths, and they will last for months outside. Choose one and take it home with you. If you want a certain color, give me an order, or if they are all sold, let me know that you want one, and I will make more. Enjoy.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**



# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

## Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

December is upon us, but the snow and cold has yet to pay a visit. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining, as I thoroughly enjoy the mild weather and not having to shovel. I know we need the moisture and ground cover, especially on the ski hill, but my birthday ski trip is still a couple months off, so perhaps Mother Nature will wake up to winter by then.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> we have Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, which is a great time to fly the flag from the front porch. One of my fonder memories from my Navy days, was when we sailed the aircraft carrier past the Arizona Memorial for our Hawaii port of call. It was one of the few times that I volunteered to "man the rails", standing at parade dressed in my dress blues along the edge of the flight deck.

Winter officially begins on the 21<sup>st</sup>, which is also the shortest day of the year. I find it kind of disheartening to go to work in the dark and come home in the dark. I guess I long for the summer evenings that seemed to go away far too quickly.

Finally, on the 25<sup>th</sup> we have Christmas. I worked

feverishly on getting lights up for two days in anticipation of December and finally put the power to them on the 1<sup>st</sup>. I plan to run them for the entire month to do my share in supporting the power company. Not to worry, they will go dark again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. I sure hope Santa pays me a visit. I've been a very good mouse and would hate to eat all the milk and cookies by myself.



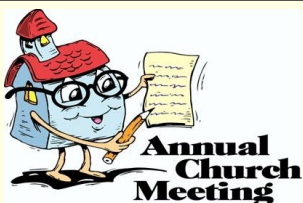
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. I hope you get to spend some great, quality time with family and friends. After last year, I think all of us are reminded how important it is to spend time with those we hold dear.

Well, that is enough for now. So much to do yet and there is less than a month of shopping days before Christmas.

Hope to see you all in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

**T. C. Mouse**



Emmanuel Lutheran's annual church meeting will be Sunday, January 30, 2022 after services.

Reports are due January 9, 2022.



**Choir Start Up**

*All Are Welcome!*

Do you like to sing?

There has been some interest in forming an adult choir again at Emmanuel. If you are interested, please fill out the survey available during church or call Dawn Sherseth. We will pick a song, practice for a couple of weeks and then sing at church. Depending on everyone's schedule, we could do this every couple of months.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 10, 2021

The Council met on Wednesday evening, at 7:00PM. Members present were Jill, Greg, Ricker, Keith, Sharon, Liz, Linda, Dawn, Robin, Patty and Meagan. The Secretary's report was accepted, motion made by Robin and seconded by Sharon. Dawn thanked the Council for the cyclamen plant which was given to her as a thank you for doing services when needed. Robin and Sharon did the Treasurer's report, and an update on the software for Quickbooks. A new computer was purchased, with the assistance of Kyle Newell, for the price of \$1500. A proposal was made to join Quickbooks and "flock" (Abbey's donation program) in January of 2022, which will cost \$480 to \$500 per year. A motion was made by Sharon, seconded by Linda to accept the Treasurer's Report, and motion was carried.

Jill reported on the Intern Committee, and the goals and projects expected by the seminary. The mid-point evaluation is coming up soon. The monthly intern meeting will be held again at the home of Dawn Petty, on November 17th, at 7:00PM. Jill stated that everything is going well.

**Old Business:** Liz and Kristianne gave an update on the Call Committee. Kristianne had contacted the Synod office, and there are no pastors available at this time to fill vacancies. As to worship service guidelines, it was noted that moving the communion rail was helpful for now, and the way communion is being distributed. Our website and Facebook may be updated, too.

**Youth Report:** Dawn Sherseth is recruiting youth supporters, and will be doing a youth choir, consisting of twelve young people at this time. Practices will be held on Monday evenings at the church.

A time for the Christmas Eve service was discussed, and it was decided to try to have the service earlier in the evening. Therefore, at this coming Christmas Eve, the service will be held at 4:00 PM. A motion for this change of time was made by Greg, seconded by Sharon, and motion passed.

The campaign of St. John's Foundation for Resident Care requesting donations, was tabled for now, and will be brought up again at our annual meeting in January. It will be an agenda item, as to source of donations, whether it will be individual contributions or an ELC contribution. It was decided to have either Pastor Darrin Paulson or Tom Schlotterback come out

to explain the needs at St. John's, and perhaps if they came to speak to us after a service in the sanctuary, and we could decide on the amount, possibly \$1500,

**New Business:** We will be needing some new officers in 2022 and the nominating committee was appointed, consisting of Linda, Patty, Ricker, Liz and Jill. Patty and Robin will begin working on the budget development for 2022. The annual meeting will be held on January 30th, immediately following our church service. We will need a volunteer to organize the agenda and reports, and set the due date for them, and should have that volunteer by our next council meeting. Reports should be in by January 9th, and then ready to go out by the 16th of January.

**Sunday Service Attendants and offering counter:**

November 14th will be Sharon; November 21st will be Robin, November 28th will be Ricker. We will plan to have auction items and bazaar tables set up and ready by November 28th,

We also need to have another magazine rack in the back of the church, and special thanks were given for the "alcove" cleaning the Sherseth's performed in the back of the church



We will plan to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday afternoon, November 27th., at 3:00 PM, and would appreciate helpers.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

*Dawn Petty, Secretary*



# LOVING SERVICE

## Christikon Clips

December 2021



### Advent and Christmas Blessings

In the season of Advent, we join together to receive Jesus into our lives. In the traditional Advent wreath we light the first Candle of Hope - hearing the prophecy and filled with expectation of Jesus birth; the second Candle of Peace - prepare the way for peace on earth and goodwill to all; the third Candle of Joy - rejoicing with the shepherds as they heard the message; the fourth Candle of Love - the angels proclaim His coming; the fifth Candle - Christ Candle - receiving Christ as the center of our lives.

May you be filled with expectation, rejoicing, peace, and love in Jesus Christ.

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

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## It is time for our annual Sunday School Christmas Program!

The program will be on December 19 during our regular church service. It is called "A Christmas Rehearsal." It involves all the kids from Sunday School, our Youth Choir and several of our older students. Come and see what happens when the kids come to a rehearsal and the director is missing.

A special thank you to Laura and Randy Vanberg for making our props!



# CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

## ELC Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir at Emmanuel Lutheran is amazing.

We have students from second grade through middle school. I am so thankful for the older kids helping the younger ones learn how to sing in a group. We will be joining the Sunday School Christmas program on December 19. They have expressed interest in continuing after the first of the year so we will be singing for you for the next several months. I am so proud of these kids!

*Dawn Sherseth*





The Good Shepherd Hand Bell Choir from the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd performed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and delighted all who attended services. We are so blessed to have them share their music and hope to have them join us again.

The Good Shepherd Bells typically ring in worship once a month in addition to special festivals and seasons. Many of their ringers learned through “on the job” training.



## Volunteer Opportunities

St. Johns United is searching for hospice volunteers. You can apply at: [www.stjohnsunitied.org](http://www.stjohnsunitied.org) or for more information, contact Raschelle Adams, the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator at 406/655-7785 or email [radams@sjlm.org](mailto:radams@sjlm.org)

And, closer to home.....

Emmanuel Lutheran has several key positions open on the church council due to term limits as stated in the ELCA constitution. Please contact Jill Hoffman or any council member for more information.



## Candlelight SERVICE



Please join us at

Emmanuel Lutheran Church for  
Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021

4:00 PM

### Christmas Hope, Peace and Joy

Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, & love that you sent to us on that first Christmas. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift.

In Jesus' precious name, we pray.

Amen.



# CARING RELATIONSHIPS

## Prayers of the Church

*Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates*

Rose Fritz had a heart angioplasty and is home recuperating. 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. Abbey Emmons requests prayers for Bekky & Scott (her God Family) for a healthy pregnancy as they have experienced miscarriages. Jared Reitler is in the ICU. Vivian Pierce fell injuring her head. She has been diagnosed with vertigo. Cindy Weber, niece of Dawn Petty, who lives in Dallas, and while having the physical to renew her pilot's license, the MRI showed an inoperable growth on her brain. Treatment procedure has not been started, as more testing has yet to be done, and what procedure should be followed. Rose Fritz had surgery on Thursday, to check on angioplasty procedure done a week ago, and to control blood flow to the heart area, she is very weak and tired. Please keep her in your prayers.

### 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.



02 Laura Vanberg  
03 Sierra Stahl  
05 Sue Hawthorne  
09 Daniella Leligdowicz  
09 James Malchow  
13 Randy Vanberg  
19 LuAnne Super  
22 Charles Noland  
22 Sharon Wolske  
26 Phil Ehlers  
29 Milton Marsh



13 Scott & Durene Green  
14 Robert & Peggy McSweyn  
18 Charles & Laurel Noland  
28 Randy & Laura Vanberg  
29 Tom & Roseanne Plath  
30 Bill & Holly Reitler



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.”

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EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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