



# Emmanuel News



## Vicar's Voice



As we begin a new calendar year, we also begin a new liturgical year. We've entered year C of the RCL (Revised Common Lectionary) which means the focus will be on Luke's gospel. Luke's gospel is distinctive in the fact that about one-half of Luke's gospel is composed of material that is found nowhere else. Luke's gospel opens with a unique infancy narrative in the first two chapters and Jesus commences his ministry with an inaugural sermon found in chapter 4 that is recorded nowhere else. Luke also reports five miracle stories and a whopping seventeen parables not told in any of the other gospels. Luke also provides us with the only account of Jesus' ascension. If

we study and pay attention to the materials that are unique to Luke's gospel, we find there are several recurring topics: Women are prominent, Samaritans are mentioned repeatedly, Jerusalem is a frequent setting or focus in the stories, and there is considerable attention given to riches and poverty. Another of the unique stories found in Luke's gospel is that of Jesus' childhood visit to the Jerusalem temple following the Passover festival where he engages in dialogue with the temple elders. When his parents come back looking for Him, he remarks, "you should have known I would be in my Father's house." This text from the second chapter of Luke brings a focus to youth within our own midst and congregations, and how we approach faith formation. There has been much study and research to help us understand and examine how we should approach Faith formation with our youth. The common denominator that comes from the study and research is the importance and need of intergenerational interactions.

One such scholar and researcher in this field is Kenda Creasy Dean. Through the investigative research and data collection of the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), Associate Professor Dean is able to point out and validate what many church leaders, youth ministers, congregational members, and parents have been asking about, struggling with, and trying to overcome. Dean brings quick attention to the fact that most youth leaders, pastors, and volunteers spend a good portion of their available time and energy finding, using, and trying to perfect "programs" when what is really needed is more pastoring. For this paradigm shift to take place, we must begin to move ourselves and our congregations away from being program directors, users, and followers and start seeing ourselves as missionaries or "one who is sent" to the wild, untamed mission fields of youth ministry. Since much of youth ministry is about building relationships, this paradigm shift must also move us into an incarnational ministry rather than relational ministry. This change places God in the flesh into the ministry and helps us to acknowledge that we are to prepare the way for the Lord as John the Baptist did, and point the way to Jesus Christ rather than become his replacement.

The really good news is that we already have the necessary tools to begin developing consequential faith. The first and by far the most important tools are parents. Martin Luther knew and recognized that faith formation began with youth ministry in the home, and that parents would be the best mentors to translate their own Christian faith to their children. Closely following the significance of parents are grandparents and congregational members. By sharing in and being able to tell their own faith experience stories, a common theological language for conversation is created. Adults and youth strengthen and mature in their faith. These transformative actions help aid us in moving towards a model where home is church, in a

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cross-generational faith community. With this comes the formation of authentic, available, and affirming AAA Christians in our homes, congregations, and communities. When Congregations provide opportunities and support for youth to become detached from their own world experience through disorienting cross-cultural mission experiences with others, provide them with the opportunity for reflexivity after feeling God's presence in thin places, and allow them time to live in liminal space to help strengthen their personal transformation, we enable them to teach, converse about, and participate in the God story of the Christian tradition. The Church can then begin to build consequential faith in teens and focus on who Christ is calling them to become on his behalf, not our own.

In the hope and love of Christ Jesus,

Vicar Keith

## ANNUAL CHURCH

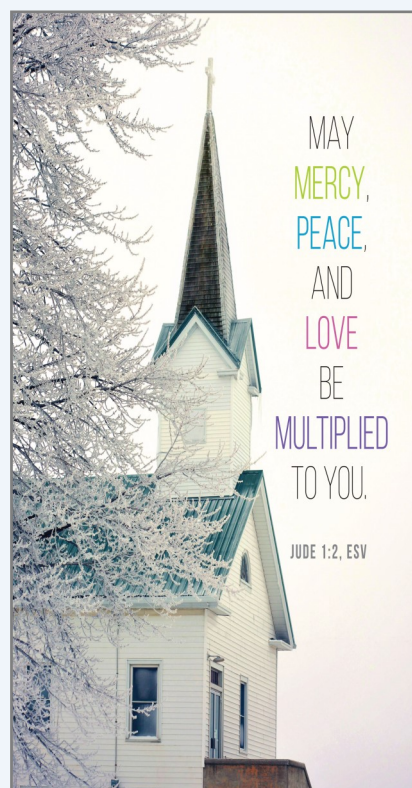
# Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting of Emmanuel Lutheran  
will be January 30, 2022. following worship at 11:00AM

Please submit reports by January 9th to

Jill Hoffman or Linda Oberg.

Thank you in advance for your attendance!



### EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We have had silent auction and bazaar items on display in the church for several weeks, and here are the results of our sale: The Bazaar items at this point have totaled \$1468.00. However, there still are a few payments to come in. The quilt raffle took in \$209.00, and the lucky winner of the raffle is Laurel Noland. The Christmas "outdoor wreaths" brought in \$260.00. This amount is donated to the Sunday School and Youth group to spend on a special outing or trip. The remaining items were packed up for



Women  
of the  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA

another time, perhaps when we finally are able to do our Harvest Dinner, and then they will be on display again.

I want to thank everyone who helped with the sale, and who purchased items.

God bless you all.

Dawn Petty

# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

## Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I can't believe that we are starting another new year, as time seems to fly by at an incredible pace now. Remember when you were young, and summer seemed to last forever? Now time, days and months fly by faster than I can comprehend. I hope you all had a fun, safe and happy New Year with friends and family. The cold weather kind of kept me inside lately and I only venture out to sweep the snow off the front porch. I understand why many of my relatives head south for the winter or at least escape to some sunny beach for some sun and fun.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so some people will have the day off in honor of the man who gave an incredible speech about freedom and equality. I plan to relisten to his speech to remind myself of the pain and struggles that still seem to exist today. All of us need to work harder to come together and understand, respect and love each other.

We still have to deal with the whole Covid mess, but I'm vaccinated and boosted. I figured that I could use all the help that I can get, so I got the

shots as soon as I could. I'm constantly amazed at the people in the medical field who deal with the fall out of Covid on a daily basis. They have all worked tirelessly at their job even when there appears to be no end in sight. I would like to say thank you to all of them for staying the course and working so hard. I hope this year brings an end to the pandemic.



Looks like Mother Nature has been smiling on the ski slopes, so I should get my gear together and plan to hit the slopes. Might as well have some fun with all of the white stuff out there. Since I'm more of a fair-weather mouse, I plan to wait out the deep freeze before hitting the slopes. Perhaps I'll see you out there. Enjoy winter while you can. Spring will be here before we know it.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

**T. C. Mouse**



Food. Food always presents a great opportunity to interact with, be present with, and connect with our Confirmation students. We need volunteers to provide meals for our time together. This can be done individually, or you can team up with others. The meals don't have to be extravagant. Some ideas include, but are not limited to, meat and cheese tray with bread and condiments to make sandwiches, soups are always great, sloppy joes, pulled pork, pretty much anything in a crock pot works well. Other suggestions that have been made include take and bake pizza, or broasted chicken from some of our local restaurants such as Ra-Ra's, The Blue Cat or Mickey's Tavern. Confirmation classes are held at 11:30am following our worship service. Please email or text me with any questions or the dates that work for you.





The Council met on Wednesday evening, December 8th, at 7:00 PM. Vicar Keith gave opening devotions: "Granting your sense of Timing and Granting your sense of Beginnings". Standing reports were presented, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as amended, motion made by Liz, and seconded by Robin.

The Treasurer's Report was approved, Robin is learning the Quickbooks Software. Abbey's donation program "flock" would be joined with that, and it will save time, as it will not be overlapping. The monthly Intern Committee Report was given by Jill, and the meeting will be at Dawn's house on December 15th, 6:30 PM. This meeting is the mid-term evaluation meeting.

Old Business: The Call Committee update was given by Liz. Worship service guidelines were discussed, and Robin motioned, seconded by Liz, to continue the precautions we are presently doing. The Website was discussed. Jim McKenney is helping set it up and working on getting "streaming" going. Evidently, some churches have their own U-tube channel, and this was brought up by Dawn Sherseth. She also reported getting a youth choir started, with practices on Monday evenings. Perhaps an adult choir could be started and perform several times a year. Donations to St. John's Foundation were talked about, and it was decided to have Tom Schlotterback come out to inform our congregation about the needs at St. John's, and the campaign for Resident Care. This will be an item at the annual meeting, and an amount of \$1500.00 will be suggested for our congregation to offer, as there will also be individual contributions. Pastor Darrin Paulson will be out in early January to

make another visit and see how our Vicar Keith is doing. The Bazaar items and Silent Auction will be in place until December 19th and closed at that time.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 30th, following the church worship services. January 9th is the due date for reports, and Linda will help prepare those for the meeting agenda. A report on "Raise the Roof" will need to be made at that time also. We will need to have a slate of officers to be elected for the upcoming year also, and Jill will facilitate that, with the help of Linda, Patty, and Ricker.

The 2022 Budget is being composed by Robin, Patty and Jill. Robin is catching up on loading the budget with the new computer, and a projected income, with expenses, and necessary repairs to be made.

New Business: A date needs to be set for the 1st Communion Class, at the council meeting in January, plus a date for a new member class and induction, possibly in March for those, including a welcoming for new members.

Sunday Service attendants: and offering counters....

- a. December 12th: Ricker
- b. December 19th Liz
- c. December 26th Liz
- d. January 2nd Liz
- e. January 9th Ricker

Our next Council meeting will be held January 12th, at 7:00 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted.

Dawn Petty, Secretary





# Christikon Clips



January, 2022

Information for our Congregations

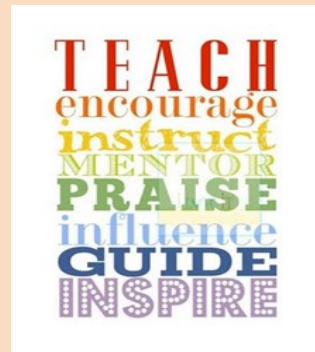
Watch this month for Christikon brochures on opportunities for youth. It's not too early to start thinking about this summer. Youth brochures will be mailed to every young person in grades 4-12 in our congregations this month. Those brochures will detail some very special deals for registering early for camp. We hope to serve even more people from our member congregations in 2022! Early registrations have been very strong so get registered earlier than later!

Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction is scheduled for April 24<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) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)



Feeding Faith formation is not limited just to feeding our physical body. Rather. It includes the importance of feeding our heart, mind, body, and soul. Faith formation includes the weaving of intergenerational faith stories, allowing our youth and adults to grow, mature, transform and deepen their own faith and spirituality. It is good to have multiple voices sharing faith stories with our youth.

Therefore, I would like to extend an invitation to any persons who wish to help with Confirmation in the form of co-teaching or teaching. The curriculum and materials are all pre-planned. We are using "Here We Stand – Confirmation" which comes to us through Augsburg Fortress. This is an opportunity to share gifts and answer what God is calling you to do, and it can be a fun experience in connecting and sharing faith journeys intergenerationally.

Email: [vicarkeithelc@gmail.com](mailto:vicarkeithelc@gmail.com)

Church Office: 406-373-5597



Be on the lookout! We will have several opportunities for growth and education in the months ahead. We will have first communion classes for youth beginning later in January. There will also be a Lutheran Foundations class for anyone interested. Please watch for additional details in the weeks ahead.





We are looking for volunteers to help with a few important tasks.

- ◆ Compiling and printing bulletins and newsletters
- ◆ Coordinating volunteers to usher, prepare and serve communion, and make the communion bread
- ◆ Video recording of Sunday worship service
- ◆ Running the power point presentation during Sunday worship

Please contact Jill Hoffman or Vicar Keith if you are interested. We will also be discussing this issue at our annual meeting.

We appreciate everyone who has assisted with these and other duties in the past and those willing to volunteer to help in the future. Our little white church is held together by the love and passion of its members. Thank you.



We will meet after church January 9th in the downstairs "council" room. Anyone is welcome to attend.

We will be discussing Sunday school, youth group events, the LYC event we are hosting in March, first communion class, etc.



## A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O U    O E O    E E E

J E O O    E E '    U N O    J Q U O U

O E O    N L U O    E    J E O O

N L U O    O E O O    N U E N O U

J E O O    E U    F O

N U E N O U    U N O

O E O O    E E O

F O    E E O

”

RUTH 1:16, NIV

W	A	E	T
B	U	H	O
G	R	L	I
N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV



# CARING RELATIONSHIPS

## Prayers of the Church

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

### **Please include the following in your prayers:**

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 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. UPDATE: The Sherseth's son-in-law, Zak McPherson, (Melissa's husband) has been recovering from his surgeries and is doing well. He is coming home now. Thank you for your prayers. Jordan Siemsen, one of our young acolytes, broke her arm badly above the elbow. She had out-patient surgery to repair it. She came through surgery well and is currently at home healing and recovering. Jordan was concerned about lighting the Advent wreath the following Sunday, and asked the Doctor if she would be able to acolyte. The doctor was confident she would be able to be at church, even if she couldn't actually light the candles. Let us continue to pray for Jordan to recover from her injury. What a blessing she is! Dave Fox, who has been playing in the Sherseth's Blue Grass group as Dave had shoulder surgery. Kinley Weatherford, who has suffered an injury also. He was at a classmate's birthday party and while skating, fell and broke his wrist. He is scheduled for out-patient surgery to repair it. His father, Keith, reports that Kinley is doing well, with limited pain at this time.

### **Community Living:**

**St Johns United:** Inez Oberg

**Minnesota State Prison System:** Rob Larson

### **Local Youth Serving in the military:**

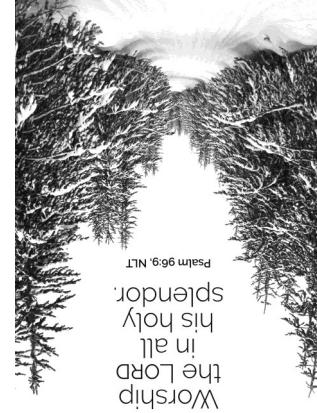
Sergeant Riley Barta deployed to Romania, Dan Johnson deployed to Iraq; Taylor Green, Jacob Wagenaar, Tucker Wilson, Brooke Nebel Bohrer, Brandon Bohrer and Thomas Aigner. Please keep these soldiers in your prayers that they may return safely home.



- 06 Connie Herberg
- 08 Brenda Emerick
- 08 Ashton Christman
- 10 Karen Vanberg
- 12 Vivian Pierce
- 12 Bill Vincent
- 15 Connie Halvorsen
- 23 Jackson Christman
- 26 Seeley Christman
- 31 Willa McSweyn







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](http://elcshepherd.org) – [elcshepherd@gmail.com](mailto:elcshepherd@gmail.com)



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING