



Emmanuel News



Budget Approved: The proposed \$98,000 budget for 2022 was presented and approved. We will continue with fundraising for the sanctuary ceiling.

New Business: ELC will be adding a paid administrative assistant position to the church staff to take care of administrative duties. ELC will be donating \$1500 to St John's United.

Food Pantry: Food Pantry continues to be self-sustaining and has been blessed with gifts from the whole community. We'll be adding raised beds to the community garden.

Call Committee: On-going effort for finding a pastor, with consideration for part-time, a shared pastor or another intern.

New Council Members

President	Jill Hoffman
Vice President	Liz White
Secretary	Dawn Petty
Treasurer	Lindsey Reynolds
Council Member	Robin McCaffree
Council Member	Greg Plath
Council Member	Meagan Malchow
Council Member	Sharon Wolske
Council Member	Buckley Reynolds
Council Member	Ricker Olson

Retiring Council Members

The following who are going off Church Council were recognized and thanked for their service:

Patty McVay, Ricker Olson, and Linda Oberg

First Communion Instruction



First communion classes for students and their parents will be held March 20th, 27th, April 3rd, and April 10th. Classes will take place during the regularly scheduled Sunday School time at 9:00 AM. The celebration of First Communion with students, families, and the congregation will take place during regular church service on Palm Sunday April 10th at 10:00 AM.

Please talk to Vicar Keith, email him at vicarkeithelc@gmail.com, or call the church office at 406-373-5597 with any questions.

ELC

Women of the Church



Since we are still having to avoid the contagious COVID, and its variants, and not able to take part in our usual gatherings at church, perhaps we can become involved in planting seeds. As you know, we always supply seeds and plants for the Community Garden. It's not too early to get some of those seeds started in containers on our windowsills, etc. at home, and enjoy watching them start to grow. We have always supplied about 40 each of tomato plants, pepper plants, cabbage, squash, etc. So, think about this, ladies, and see what you can do.

Sometimes these seeds are tangible seeds, and then there are the times that God is asking us to plant seeds in

another way....such as simply sitting with someone in the midst of grief or trauma. So is praying in your head...the exchange known only to you and the Creator, whether it is while being surrounded by dozens of people, or while resting your head on your pillow in the bedroom. More often than not, the seeds you plant, can be spoken or written--- notes that encourage people, workshops to inspire, magazines or online articles penned to others to reach deep within. All of these are planted in hopes that tiny seeds will grow into large branches in God's kingdom----the spiritual, faith-filled scaffolding for God's children. We tend to the needs of humanity with generous amounts of prayer, forgiveness, laughter, and compassion. In due season, we harvest our vegetable crops. Throughout our life journey, we reap joy, sorrow, kindness, and delight. We learn to live in rhythm with the natural world God created. We humans make many mistakes, but we have the gift of turning the soil over and planting new seeds. Even the smallest of these seeds may bring forth a mighty thing.

What is God asking you to do? Always and in all ways, we are called to plant seeds. Go ahead...I know you can do it. I believe in you. God does, too.

[from the Gather magazine]



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

February is here and it is time for my cousin Phil to shine. Yep, on the 2nd good old Phil will tell us all how much more winter to expect. It doesn't seem so important this time around as winter thus far has been pretty mild for us. The other day it was 50 degrees outside, which is almost unheard of in January. I started seeing people running around in shorts and flip flops! I say bring on another six weeks of winter and throw in some measurable snow to help with the drought.

On the 14th we have Valentine's Day, so I hope you have a special time planned for your special someone. I know that my better half deserves a great celebration for putting up with me all year long. Happy Valentine's Day Pooky! Happy Valentine's Day to all of you too.

This is also my birthday month and I hope to celebrate my special day with some fun on the slopes. It seems that the older I get the slower I go, for fear of running into something or crashing and injuring my aging body. Sure is

fun to swoosh down the hill, wind in my fur and tears in my eyes. Perhaps I'll see you on the ski hill. Just keep an eye out for the blur of fur.



Finally, on the 21st we celebrate Presidents' Day. I've always been impressed by the kids or adults for that matter, who can recite all the President names in order. Man, I can only remember a few of the important names and a few of the ones that made a name for themselves for all the wrong reasons. Anyways it is another Federal holiday, so the bankers and government types will get a three-day weekend.

Well, I better go for now. I need to check the honey do list and see if there is time for a nap this afternoon. I hope to see you all in church.

Your Faithful Friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

Christikon Clips

February, 2022

Information for our Congregations



Christikon Youth Camp Brochures have been mailed to every young person in your congregation who are completing grades 4-12. Save by registering before March 15. Additional brochures are available from your church office.

We are **recruiting staff** for the upcoming season. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to christikon.org/ employment for more information and application materials.

Family Adult opportunities can be found at our website. Watch for updated topics and speakers.

Register at: <https://christikon.org/registration-adult-family/>

Do it online! You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org

Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on Sunday, April 24th. Watch for updates on our website.

The past year was dominated by pandemic, masks, and uncertainty yet we were thankful for the opportunity to do ministry. We safely held camp sessions, although challenging, all our effort ended up providing a powerful experience for those who attended camp. Our plans for the 2023 season are going forward and we look forward to again welcoming all! Watch for updates on our website.

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 • christikon@aol.com • www.christikon.org



New council member installation and retiring council member recognition will be February 27th during the worship service.



St. John's United

WYNDSTONE

alzheimer's association

DEMENTIA EDUCATION/WEBINAR SERIES

Join us for a free interactive educational series - including a Q&A - from the Alzheimer's Association - MT Chapter.

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 1:00 PM

TUES., FEB. 1

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

TUES., FEB. 15

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

TUES., MARCH 1

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Choose how you learn:

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reserve your spot!
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MOVE IN SPECIAL: SAVE \$1,500!



Mid-week Lenten Services will be held Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm starting on March 9th through April 6th. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. (No soup suppers at this time)

ELC Council Meeting 1/12/2022

Members present were Jill, Liz, Sharon, Robin, Dawn, Linda, and Ricker, and by remote: Patty and Keith.

Keith opened with prayer.

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as corrected, motion made by Sharon, seconded by Liz.

Robin gave the Treasurer's report; \$11,348.00 was deposited; debits were \$8657.00. She explained that on August 6th, the propane was paid, totaling \$750, expenses also included \$425 for the vineyard, and \$1000 for the new computer. Liz motioned to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Sharon.

The Intern Committee report was given by Jill: The mid-point evaluation had been finalized, and the monthly intern meeting for January will be held at Dawn's house, January 19th at 6:30PM. Keith had sent in the mid-point evaluation report. His graduation will be held in May.

Call Committee update stated that we hope to have someone by the time Vicar Keith is finished here. Kristianne has been talking to various people regarding this, and at this point, there isn't anyone available to fill the position, even on a "shared pastor" basis. Could we get another intern? Liz motioned to have this discussion at our annual meeting on January 30th., and it was seconded by Robin.

Old Business:

Vicar Keith and Greg Plath discussed the 1st communion class situation, and it was decided to instruct the youth for three Sundays, and then have their 1st Communion, and we also need to have a "new member class".

Worship service guidelines will remain the same during the COVID pandemic.

Jim McKenney has been working on the Website, updating it, & getting the streaming going. Wi-fi was donated.

Youth Report: Their meeting was held last Sunday and 1st Communion was part of that meeting. It was decided to do more youth events each quarter. Liz will contact Abbey for ideas for fund raisers for the youth.

Music update: plans have been made through May for the music.

Worship service volunteers: We are looking for a volunteer coordinator, and that will also be brought up at the annual meeting, along with more office support helpers.

Donation to St. John's Foundation: Tom Schlotterbach will be speaking with our congregation after services on January 23rd. That is also an agenda item for the annual meeting, asking for individual contributions to the Foundation, along with a suggested donation from our church of \$1500.00.

Annual meeting: this will be held on Jan. 30th following the Worship services, upstairs in the sanctuary. Report items for this meeting are due on Jan. 9th, so Linda can enter them in the annual report of our activities for the past year. Our annual budget will be finalized at the meeting. A slate of officers has been recommended for the coming year.

2022 Budget has been worked on by Robin, Patty and Jill, to be presented at the meeting.

The Christmas decorations were removed on January 2nd, by Liz, the Emmons family, and the Vanbergs.

New Business:

A date needs to be set for a "new member" class and induction, to be set at the annual meeting. We need to hire a new cleaning person, as Lillie Merrit has given notice and is resigning.

We also need to put together duties for "Office Support", help with bulletins and newsletters, suggested youth activities, possibly do QuickBooks online, update Facebook and Website.

Easter services: March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, and we will join Huntley Methodist for those services. Mid-week Lenten services will be observed, and we need to decide on "soup suppers" or simply a worship service., from March 9th to April 13th. April 10th is Palm Sunday, and palms need to be ordered ASAP. April 14 is Maundy Thursday....shall we have our Seder Dinner again this year? April 15th is Good Friday, and services will be held at Ballantine, with that church. April 17th is Easter. Will we do a Sunrise Service again, a Youth sponsored breakfast, and 10:00AM Worship service? We need to check with the Green Family regarding sunrise services in their pasture.

Confirmation Sunday will be held on May 1st.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Petty, Secretary

Vicar Keith's vacation will be May 15th - 21st, his Graduation Day.





There is still time to join the webinars. [Register today!](#)

ELCA colleges and universities are dedicated to providing students with the best education possible, and we are kicking off 2022 with the College Readiness Webinar Series, free webinars to answer any questions families may have about applying to or preparing for college. The series is composed of five different webinars, each focusing on a topic that will move you forward in your college search. The webinars will be offered throughout February.

The first webinar explains how you can get the most out of your visit to a college or university. The second will give you a firsthand look at the admissions process, with advice from admissions directors and tips on how to build a strong application. The third will dive deeper into how to pay for college, giving you tools to learn more about financial aid and how it can help you afford the school of your dreams. The fourth webinar will help you start your college search. The fifth webinar will be offered in Spanish and will provide an overview of the college search process.

Learn more at imaginecolleges.org.



Acolyte Information and Training following Worship February 20th 11:15am



What is an Acolyte?

An **acolyte** is an assistant or follower assisting the celebrant in a religious service or procession. Acolyte, comes from the Greek akolouthos, meaning “server,” “companion,” or “follower”

In the Lutheran traditions, acolytes participate in the worship service by carrying a processional cross or crucifix, the word of God, lighting and extinguishing the altar candles, ringing the church bell to call the congregation to worship, and assist the presiding minister in presenting the Sacraments. The lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus’ coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Before lighting the candles, the acolyte may bow at the altar out of respect. Before the extinguishing of the last altar candles, the acolytes relight their "candle lighter" and then process out into the narthex. This symbolizes that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. It also symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are called to serve. Acolytes in the Lutheran tradition wear robes called albs.

Any students interested in learning more about being an acolyte are invited to attend [Acolyte Training following worship on February 20th](#). Please talk to Vicar Keith, email him at vicarkeithelc@gmail.com or call the church office at 406-373-5597 with any questions.



1- **Cleaning Service** - looking for cleaning service. Prefer licensed and insured. Need approximately 4 hours on Saturdays and occasional additional service.

2 - **Office Support** - Looking for assistance with paper and electronic worship materials, newsletters, social media administration, volunteer coordination, light book keeping and various other tasks.

Please contact Jill Hoffman (406) 671-3030 or Liz White (406) 690-8317 for more information or to express interest.

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Kinley Weatherford fell and broke his wrist while skating and had out-patient surgery to repair it. Please pray for these in-laws and families of Dawn Beddes: Starla Schneider has been readmitted to the hospital with pneumonia. Blackie Schneider, her brother, passed away on December 1st, due to COVID and now she has lost her sister, Dolly Schneider, on December 26th. Carl Guerin, Karen Guerin's father, has fallen, broken his wrist, fractured his ribs and injured his spine, he is in the hospital and now has pneumonia also. He is 93 years old. Vivian Pierce's daughter, Sherry Main, is having back problems and difficulty in walking at times. Matt Barber is out of the hospital and at home, still very weak, and does not have the results of the tests done for the tumors that were removed. JJ has been transferred to an assisted living location, and still has the paralyzed right side of his body, no change there. Pat Michaels requests prayers for Macey Bennett, who has an inoperable brain cancer, and is now in California for some possible treatments other than chemo. Cindy Weber of Dallas, who has been on our prayer line, with that same type of cancer, has also been taking some new treatment. Laura Vanberg had knee replacement surgery. The surgery went well, Laura came home from the hospital and is in a great deal of pain at this point and getting around with a walker.

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.

01 Brianne Malchow

02 Dawn Sherseth

03 Jill Hoffman

08 Scott Green

09 Shaun Emerick

15 Destin Christman

15 Linda Oberg

17 Jim Hinkle



20 Collin Wilson

23 LouAnn Grandpre

23 Rachell Garcia

24 Mark Halvorsen

25 Bill Reitler

26 Peyton Christman



Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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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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