



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

Emmanuel News



A Happy Beginning

There's a way of talking about Easter that makes it sound a bit like a surprise happy ending that brings a scary and suspenseful storyline to its resolution. On one level that's true: Today is a day of joy! Death is defeated! This is the feast of victory of our God.

But if we think of today only as the final chapter in God's story of salvation, we may leave Easter Sunday worship the same way we leave a movie theater after a satisfying film: we take a deep breath, we let out a sigh perhaps, we say, "Well, that was great," and then we go back to our everyday lives. We go back to our grief. We go back to our fear about the future. We go back to a world where evil still seems to win.

Today is something different entirely. Easter is not a momentary interruption in the general order of things, a temporary reprieve from the heaviness of death. Far from wrapping things up or simply undoing the pain of Good Friday, the resurrection of Jesus Christ opens up a whole new way of living. It is not a "sigh" but an earthquake!

"But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them," Luke writes (24:11). It takes time for the full magnitude of the empty tomb to settle in. Like the apostles upon hearing the women's news, we can scarcely imagine what it means for us that God's love is stronger than death, and that every aspect of our life together—indeed, the entire cosmos!—is changed by this good news. That's why the church gives us fifty days to unpack this mystery, not just a single morning.

But one thing is for sure: Easter is not a happy ending so much as it is a new beginning. We who are baptized into Jesus Christ are free to live with death in the rearview mirror, no longer afraid of its power. Alleluia!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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What a beautiful season to reflect and proclaim Luke 24:6-7, "He is not here; he has risen!" In the busyness of this sacred week, we want to pause and let you know that you and your ministry are in our prayers. We are thankful for the countless hours you spend shepherding your people and making a difference in your community.

Thrivent is here to help Christians achieve financial clarity by connecting finances with their faith. We also offer a variety of educational, financial, and generosity resources to guide churches and non-profits, Christian leaders, and the people they serve to make the most of all God has given them. If there is any way we can pray for you, or partner with you, please contact goodsteward@thrivent.com.

Happy Easter,
Your Friends at Thrivent



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We invite you to worship with us Sundays online or in-person.

We are located at 5525 Carey Avenue, Shepherd, MT

Sunday mornings at 10:00am

OR

Or you can join us from anywhere by finding us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/Emmanuel-Lutheran-Church->



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors:

April is here and the weather is improving quickly in the right direction. It's almost safe for me to pack away my long johns and put the snow shovel up. We have rain and snow in the forecast tomorrow, but any snow that falls should be the self-shoveling kind from here on out. We sure could use the moisture, so I'll take what I can get. I spent some time on Saturday cleaning up my asparagus patch, so it will be easier to spot new growth once it starts. Nothing like fresh picked asparagus to dress up dinner and provide some change in the diet.

On the 1st we have April Fools' Day, so I hope you all are kind to one another and keep the pranks safe and down to a minimum. I really don't prank anyone since I know that if you dish it out, you must be ready to receive it. I really don't need that kind of excitement in my life.

Easter is on the 17th this year and I'm hoping that the weather will be nice enough for us to all gather on the hill, below the cross, like we have done in years

past. If the land is wet, then access is an issue, and we must resort to plan B. I guess we will no more when we get a little closer. Note to self: "May want to keep those long johns handy for Easter morning service, as it has been quite brisk the last couple of years."



On the 22nd, we have Earth Day, so I hope we can all do something good for this place we call home. Perhaps a cleanup activity or maybe some planting of trees in some place, even if it is just around the home. I'm always amazed at how hard it is to get a tree to grow in the back yard with constant care and supervision, but out in the forest I see trees that have grown quite well in a rocky out cropping! I guess that is the

difference between my green thumb and God's green thumb.

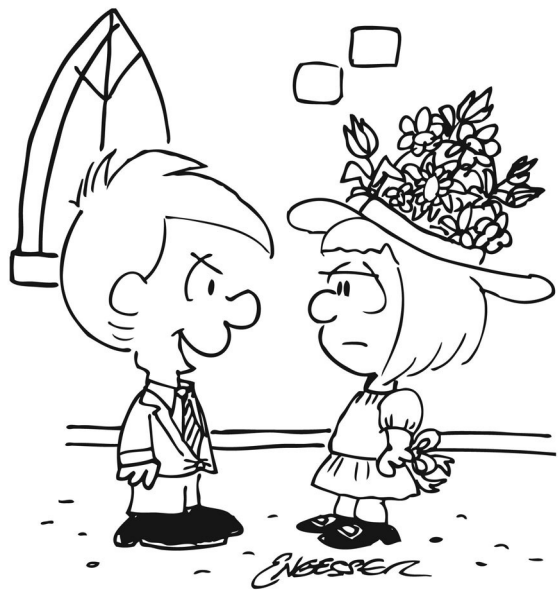
Well, that is all for now. Much to do and so little time. Hope to see you in Church.

Your friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse



"I dyed your scrambled eggs for Easter."



"An Easter bonnet? I thought you were Lady Gaga."

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, March 8, 2022

The Council met on Tuesday evening, March 8, 2022. Lenten services are being held on Wednesday evenings, therefore, our Council met the previous evening.

Vicar Keith opened with devotions: "We must be Peacemakers."

Standing Reports: The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, motion made by Sharon Wolske, seconded by Greg Plath. The Treasurer's report was given by Lindsey Reynolds, in Robin's absence, and she stated that she is joining the Quickbooks and "flock" (Abbey's donation program), which is in progress.

Lindsey signed various documents and monetary reports, as our official treasurer. The report of the Treasurer was approved, motion made by Sharon Wolske, seconded by Dawn Petty. Jill gave the update on the Intern Committee, and our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15th, at 6:30 PM at Dawn's house. The Call Committee did not have anything new to report. The Youth Committee (Jill, Greg and Liz) reported that there will be First Communion instruction classes to be held on March 20th, 27th, and April 3rd, with the actual Communion ceremony to be held on April 10th. Vicar Keith has ordered the Bibles that will be given to that group, but they haven't arrived yet. The Music Committee (Jill and Vicar Keith) have music scheduled through May. Vicar Keith has also ordered the new microphone, which has not arrived yet.

OLD BUSINESS: Arrangements for Lenten and Easter services were set up: March 9th thru April 13th, services will be held at the church on Wednesday evenings and at Dawn's house if there is little attendance. April 10th, Palm Sunday, worship services will be at the church, with distribution of palm branches, and the ceremony of First Communion. The Council also decided to have the Seder (Passover) dinner at the church on Maunday Thursday, as it was customary to hold it in the past, and numerous churches are getting back to having

dinners again for their members. Our Lenten services will be done with the Holden Evening prayer service, and Kirsten, Dawn S. and Melissa will be our cantors. Good Friday services will be held at the Ballantine United Congregational Church. Easter Sunday, we will have sunrise services at 7:00AM in Green's pasture, then there will be a breakfast held at the church, and our regular 10:00AM worship service. There will be an Easter Egg hunt on the church grounds after the 10:00AM worship service. Vicar Keith will be attending a synod pastor retreat at Chico, from April 19th to the 22nd and will need a person to fill in here at our church on April 24th. Confirmation Sunday will be May 1st. There was also a reminder that Vicar

Keith would be on vacation for his graduation, from May 15th through May 21st.

Worship service guidelines, in place since the COVID, will see several changes. The offering plate will be passed through the pews, but there will also be the vase to receive offerings still in the back of the

church. Work is still being done to get the streaming going. A new cleaning service has been obtained, and the person doing the weekly cleaning is Erica Orrison, who will be cleaning Saturday afternoons. The search for a new office assistant has been successful, and that person, Carole Luster, is working with Linda Oberg now to learn what all needs to be done. It was decided to have a coffee hour and treats on a regular basis again after worship services.

NEW BUSINESS: A new member class and induction will be held in min-May. The Council will be postponed for some time, as there are numerous other activities to be taken care of beforehand. Changing the times for Council meetings was discussed, possibly going to Sundays, but it was decided to continue Wednesday evenings for now. It was also suggested to give a generous donation to the ELC Ukrainian Relief. Greg Plath made the motion to send \$1500.00 to the ELC Ukrainian Relief, and also to have the congregation contribute personally to the same Relief, (the Eastern European Crisis Response). A motion to that effect was made by Greg, seconded by Sharon. Motion passed giving to this organization through the church, guarantees that the funds will go the proper place and will be given in honor of all



LOVING SERVICE

God's children, in hope, peace and love. The gathering of youth from various ELC churches, here at our backyard and firepit on Sunday afternoon went over well and there were 18 youth in attendance playing games, roasting hot dogs and marshmallows, and enjoying each other's company.

SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANTS: offering counters:

March 13	Ricker, counter, usher Greg
March 20	Sharon, counter
March 27th	Jill
April 3	Dawn
April 10th	Liz
April 17th	Sharon (count Sunrise service funds , with 10:00 Service)

Our next council meeting will be held on April 5th at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Petty, Secretary

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

We are planning on a Passover (Seder) Dinner at the church on Maunday Thursday, April 14th, at 6:30 PM. There are some "sign-up" sheets in the back of the church on clipboards, and families are invited to attend. We will need an exact count, so we have enough seating at the tables, and the symbolic additions to each setting are in place. There is no charge for the meal, and there is a list of items needed for the menu to include certain foods necessary for the rituals to be carried out, and if some of you can help supply those items, that would be great. The signup sheets will be available for the next several weeks, so you can still plan to take part. Here is some explanation for the Passover: It is more than a festival. It is an elaborate teaching experience, especially for children, intended to call people to their identity as the People of God. By using all the senses, the Passover Seder tells the story of God's grace in history and calls the participants to experience and share in the story as their own story. It is customary to invite guests to share the Seder meal, especially newcomers to the community. The actual Seder meal in most Jewish homes is an elaborate feast, with food, games for children, and plenty of time to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Seder involves everyone present since they all have a Haggadah (Hebrew word for "telling" the printed order of service, reading and feasting.) The "leader" of the service is usually the father or grandfa-

ther of the house, or the leader in the church.... but others have roles as well. The women light the candles, the youth ask the four questions, and search for the hidden Afikomen (a symbolic piece of the Matzoh (unleavened bread), and open the door for Elijah, while the parents tell the story of the exodus, and various others are designated to read or lead certain portions of the service. The Passover becomes more than simply a service or a time; it becomes a way to confess faith in the One who has acted in history, and for Jews, it expresses the hope the He will continue to act in bringing deliverance to all people everywhere. There has been increasing interest among Christians in this ancient festival, due to an increasing sensitivity to cultural and societal problems, and a corresponding desire to learn more about others. plus, an awareness of the importance of the Old Testament scriptures, as Christian scripture., and perhaps even the enjoyment that comes from acknowledging the continuity with a 3,000-year-old community of faith. As a result, there has been an explosion of interest in adapting the Passover Festival to Christianity. Our goal in presenting a Christian adaptation of the Passover is to retain the theological and educational dimensions of the service and respect the faith journeys of the Israelites and Jews across the centuries, preserving their traditions across the centuries

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates



Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates
Prayer request forms are also available at the church.

Please pray for Jake Dirks, Linda Hinkles' grandson, who has been diagnosed with cancer again. He needs our prayers and so does his family.

Bill Vincent's daughter, Jeannette, who has had surgery with worrisome results.

Judy Smelser's sister, Nancy Risse, has suffered a stroke and needs our prayers. We have seen such miracles with prayer and ask that you keep these folks in your supplications.

Also, please keep me informed on changing conditions of those already on our prayer line, also give me the names of people who need our prayers. Thank you Dawn P. 373-6673

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 deployed in the Asian Pacific Fleet, Jacob Wagenaar, Tucker Wilson, Brooke Nebel Bohrer, and Brandon Bohrer. Please keep these soldiers in your prayers that they may return safely home.



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|----------------------|-------------------|
| 01 Barbara Cooper | 11 Derek Reitler |
| 01 Dawn Petty | 17 Rob Emmons |
| 03 Cole Hoffman | 19 Ricker Olson |
| 04 Meagan Malchow | 20 Roseanne Plath |
| 05 Agnes Beddes | 23 Stacy Emerick |
| 08 Brittany McKenney | 29 Gene Lundhagen |
| 09 Peggy McSweyn | |



05 Chuck & LuAnne Super

Christikon Auction In Person and Online



We are so excited to be in Person in 2022! **Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday April 24th at the Billings Depot.** Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

April 22-24 on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Christikonbenefitauction>

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks!

Youth Campers: Our Early Registration Discount has been extended to April 1st! You've got time to get registered!

Christikon is celebrating its 72nd year! Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

How about Work Weekend? Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to www.christikon.org and find your session!

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



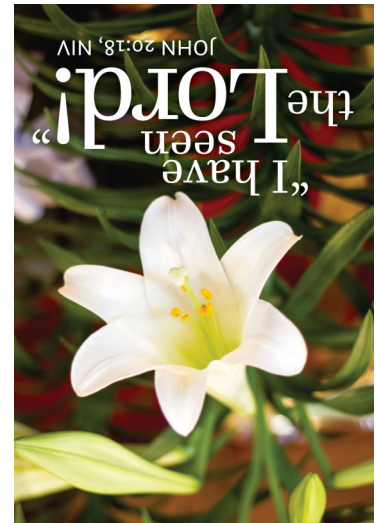
The Easter Lily.

For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life—the spiritual essence of Easter.

Easter morn with lilies fair
Fills the church with perfumes rare,
As their clouds of incense rise,
Sweetest offerings to the skies.
Stately lilies pure and white
Flooding darkness with their light,
Bloom and sorrow drifts away,
On this holy hallow'd day.
Easter Lilies bending low
in the golden afterglow,
Bear a message from the sod
To the heavenly towers of God.

-Louise Lewin Matthews





Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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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 – elcshepherd@gmail.com



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