



Emmanuel News



Vicar's Voice

We have once again changed liturgical seasons. As we transition from the Lenten season into the Easter season, we will also experience a change in our lectionary readings. We will move out of Luke's gospel and experience the gospel of John for the 2nd through 7th Sundays of Easter, as well as for the Day of Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday before we return to the gospel of Luke for the remainder of the Year C lectionary series. The gospel of John is unique in many ways. "Gospel" sources for this gospel lack certainty, and scholars have basic disagreement as to whether the primary author possessed copies of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). This gospel is unique in its literary use of richly poetic and deeply symbolic writing used in the long narratives and speeches we hear from Jesus. The community and audience to which John was writing most likely included both Jewish and Gentile Jesus followers. John includes explanations of Jewish customs, terms, and place names that suggests a Gentile audience with a Jewish orientation, revealing that John is addressing the intra community conflicts between two Jewish communities and is not worried about or focused on evangelism. Rather, the focus is on Jesus making God's love known to his disciples. We are able, therefore, to experience God's unconditional love and unending grace in our world through this community of disciples. It is through this community, and through its reaching out to others and proclaiming the good news, that Jesus' ministry and message of God's love are spread across the globe. These texts from John's gospel that we encountered during the Easter season, a season of newness, of new life, and new beginnings, prepare us for Pentecost Sunday, the giving of the Holy Spirit, and living into who God is calling us to be as his loving disciples

Through the poetry and symbolism of John's gospel, it becomes clear through the Book of Signs what Jesus as God was sent to do. Jesus came to us that we might be set free, that we might find salvation in Christ's reign, and that we find inspiration to sustain our faith. A key focal point in John's Gospel is that of love, not necessarily as an emotion, but as an action. Throughout this text we see Jesus humbly serving others, actions that reveal his love and compassion for those He encounters. Those who experience and act upon this statement of faith and love remain in relationship with Jesus the Christ. Jesus' crucifixion is itself an act that displays the depth and magnitude of God's love for all of humanity. Jesus came and showed us through his signs that it is through him that we have life. In John's Gospel, Jesus tells us who he is and what that means for those who have faith and believe in him.

John's doctrine of theology is that of God becoming human, the incarnation, even though he never speaks of Jesus' birth. John's theology is rooted in an understanding that Jesus the Christ existed as God before coming to an earthly life as Jesus. John employs language that describes Jesus as a ruler, that of Kingship, oneness with God. For me, the pinnacle of John's theology is that of Christ as King. (18: 33-37) The rhetoric of kingdom, kingship, and monarchies are very countercultural for those of us living in the United States. We struggle with the idea of kingship. Most of us have no experience living under the control of an earthly king, living where somebody has absolute control over our lives. We believe that we get to choose what we want and when we want it. That is a freedom that we have, and we feel we are entitled to. This makes the emphasis of Christ as the King an oddity. Our earthly rulers specialize in violence, coercion, military and legislative actions: exercises of raw power. Pax-Americana. As we look at Jesus's Ministry through John's lens, we get to see that Jesus' preference is to work not with those who are powerful and commanding, but instead, with those who the rest of the world views as small and insignificant. This brings a new and radically different definition of king, kingship, rule, reign, and power. Jesus has come to reveal God, and that he is the *Logos, the Word* and self identifies as such.

In Christ love, Vicar Keith



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

We are located at 5525 Carey Avenue, Shepherd, MT

We worship 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-1384081228570577/>



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 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 have to 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 clean up 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



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

A few nice warm days, and I am thinking of gardening already....Our community garden is colorfully waiting for workers to begin seeding and planting veggies there, too. This project does take a great deal of volunteering, but the garden is a "show" place in the area. Perhaps some of you have seedlings you have already started, and could share some for the garden, or maybe you would prefer planting seeds to get vegetables growing. I know there will be some of the men, who will rototill the area, and get the ground loosened up and ready to go. We appreciate all the volunteer help we can get, to get things started, and then we will need volunteers to sign up for watering during the summer, to keep things growing.



Here are some other events to consider....the Synod Assembly is **June 2** to 4th here in Billings, and there are always interesting speakers. Then for the ladies, there is the Synodical Region One Retreat, scheduled for **June 17-19**, and open to all women. The retreat will be held at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, at Lakeside, Montana. If interested in attending, you can obtain more information on registration, costs, lodging, meals and activities by contacting :

Connie Hausauer, President of the Montana/Wyoming SWO, after 6:00 PM daily, at [1-406-248-3610](tel:1-406-248-3610) or at hausauer,connie@gmail.com. You can register beginning **May 15th to June 2nd**

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, [April 5, 2022](#), 7:00 PM

The Church Council met on Tuesday evening, [April 5th](#), at the church. Members present were Jill Hoffman, Liz White, Greg Plath, Vicar Keith, Ricker Olson, Patty McVay, Lindsey Reynolds, Sharon Wolske, Dawn Petty and Robin McCaffree. Opening devotions were given by Dawn Petty. The council minutes from the previous meeting were approved, motion made by Sharon, seconded by Robin, and passed. Members were introduced to the new office assistant Carol Luster, who will be handling mailings, newsletters, bulletins, etc., and she requested keys to the building and the office. Lindsey Reynolds gave the Treasurer's report which showed income to be \$7487.23, expenses \$1107.32, and \$1896.20 for music. Greg moved to accept the report, seconded by Sharon. The treasurer will be joining Quickbooks, and "flock", Abbey's donation program, already in progress.

Jill reported on the Intern Committee: the final evaluation was submitted, the faculty review completed successfully, and [April 29th](#) is the date for the Candidacy Committee to meet. Vicar Keith's graduation will be [May 20th](#). The next monthly intern meeting will be on [May 4th](#), at 6:30 PM, at Dawn's house. Liz and Kristianne gave an update on the Call Committee, and reported they will be meeting as a group before their meeting with Jason Asselstine. There is an option for a part time pastor, who is currently serving the church in Hardin. He is looking to supplement his time, by working with a second church. We would enter into a contractual relationship with him. The committee will meet with Jason, and that agreement will involve both churches having to change their worship times, etc.

The Youth Committee, (Jill, Greg and Liz) has been working with 1st Communion Classes on [March 20th](#) and 27th, [April 3rd](#), and the ceremony of 1st "Communion will be done on [April 10th](#). Vicar Keith would like to have Bibles for the kids, and a motion was made by Greg, seconded by Sharon to purchase them, which have been ordered, but not arrived as yet. The Committee met on [April 4th](#), and planned to have Easter egg stuffing on [April 10th](#), a breakfast on [April 17th](#) along with the congregational breakfast. [May 22nd](#) will be the end of the year, and a Sunday School bowling and pizza event. Vacation Bible School will be held [June 27th](#) thru the 29th, and then future plans to restart Sunday School on [September 25th](#). The Youth Committee's next meeting will be [June 5th](#).

The Music Committee (Jill and Vicar Keith) have music scheduled through May. It was planned to have MSU brass for Easter [Sunday](#).

OLD BUSINESS; A new cleaning service (Erica Orrison) has been hired, as well as the office assistant, Carol Luster. A new member class and induction will be held in May, date to be announced. Plans for Easter, there will be Lenten services at the church from [March 9th](#) to [April 6th](#). palms were ordered for Palm Sunday on [April 10th](#). Maunday Thursday, [April 14th](#), a Seder dinner is planned, and Good Friday services will be at the UCC church in Ballantine. Easter Services on [April 17th](#), will be a sunrise and at 10:00AM. [April 19th](#) to 22nd, are the dates for Vicar Keith to be at the Synod gathering for pastors at Chico. Confirmation Sunday has not been decided as yet. Vicar Keith's vacation is from [May 15th](#) to the 21st, at which time he will be graduating from his internship. Dates for Vacation Bible School have been set for [June 27-29th](#).

Joy Anderson will again be contacted for assistance with the summer garden. Donations of Easter lilies has been requested, and there will be sign up sheets for those memorials in the bulletins.

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NEW BUSINESS: LPA's are needed for [April 24th](#), [May 15th](#) and [May 22nd](#), and the duties may be sermons only.....Darren Paulson will help, and donations for his time will go to St. John's. It was decided to have the summer community BBQ's again (Friends, Family, Fun and Food), starting in mid-June. The military wall in the church needs to be updated, and Laura Vanberg will assist with that. Sunday Service Attendants (offering counters) are [April 10th](#) will be Liz; [April 17th](#) will be Sharon, [April 24th](#) will be Liz, [May 1st](#) will be Ricker, and [May 8th](#) will be Dawn P..

Our next council meeting will be [May 11th](#) at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, at 7:00 PM The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer...

Respectfully submitted;
Dawn Petty , Secretary
Call Committee Update



ELC Endowment Fund

Now that you have completed your taxes for 2021, maybe you need to find a way to have more control over where your wealth goes, instead of straight to the Federal Government . You may want to consider making a donation to the Endowment Fund at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. You can leave a legacy, help others and reduce your tax burden all at once.

Endowment funds are established to fund charitable and nonprofit institutions such as churches. Donations to endowment funds are tax-deductible. Endowed funds differ from other nonprofit donations in that **the total amount of the gift is invested**. Each year, only a portion of the income earned is spent while the remainder is added to the principal for growth. In this respect, an endowment is a perpetual gift.

The ELC Endowment Fund has been used to provide scholarships to college students who are members of the church. Students can apply for and receive funds for every year of their secondary education. This includes trade school and 2-year associates degrees. As the fund grows, we will be able to use the earned income to help with other projects at Emmanuel Lutheran Church as they are identified. You can make your donation through the offering plate by writing in "Endowment Fund" on the memo line of your check.



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates



Please pray for:

Please pray for Vicar Keith's father, Bob Weatherford, who remains in the hospital.

My daughter Sherry Main is recuperating after hip replacement surgery, she is doing well, some days better than others. She is a tough girl and very hard to keep down. I want to thank Agnes, Dawn Beddes and Joe Bruno for all the help they have given us and thank you Dawn.

I am very grateful for all the help from very wonderful friends.

Respectfully,
Vivian Pierce

Please keep me notified of any changing conditions for people on our prayer line, and also give me the names of those who need our prayers. Dawn P.

phone 373-6673.



Community Living:

St Johns United: Inez Oberg, Ardis Hanson

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.

May Birthdays

Scott Ingram	May 4
Lindsey Reynolds	May 15
Bob Wolske	May 21
Dorreen McKenny	May 23
Shae-Breaun Norland	May 24
Milton Kinghorn	May 26
Duck Hultgen	May 29
Joe Leligdowicz	June 1
Louis Garcia	June 2

May Anniversaries

Clinton And Brandon Bixby May 15
Ed and Linda Oberg May 25

Christikon Clips



May 2022

Information for our Congregations

There is still room to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and families/adult sessions, including the **Work Weekend, May 28-31. Families register online.**

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Continuing Education Retreat (July 25-28) and Mountain Weekend (July 29-31) we feature **Dr. David Lose. Watch for topic** details on our website. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Full details can be found on our website www.christikon.org.

We covet your prayers for Christikon's this summer, for our summer and fulltime staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org



Yay! Treats!!

It is so nice to be able to have our fellowship time after church with treats again. With that being said, the church is in need of some supplies. A while ago we had a church shower that brought in so many wonderful supplies. It will be nice to have something like that again, but in the meantime, we will be collecting donations of fellowship supplies for the month of May. If you would like to contribute, bring your items to church and leave them in the designated spot in the back of the church. Thank you so much for helping! Remember to sign up to take a turn at providing treats and fellowship on [Sunday](#) mornings.

Needed items:

- Styrofoam cups for coffee
- Cups for lemonade
- Small paper plates
- Napkins
- Small Kleenex boxes
- Powdered coffee creamer
- Powdered lemonade
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Chips
- Pretzels

Any snacks that can be stored to use in case no one signs up for treats.



ADVERTISEMENT!

Calling all gardeners. I'm looking for a couple of people who would be interested in helping organize and plan the community garden. In years past, it sort of gets piecemealed together and left to a few people to do the majority of the work. I'm hoping these few folks would be willing to help coordinate what needs to be done, delegate tasks, and recruit help.

They can contact me by email or phone.

[406-690-8317](tel:4066908317)

Thank you!

Liz White

End of the school year party for the youth (and parents if they want) will be [May 22](#). Noon to 2 at Town and County bowling alley. Pizza and games. There will be a FB invitation sent via the FB page and we would love a head count. For those not on FB, message Abbey 860.7856.

Acolyte schedule also posted and with summer coming...it's important to still get two or three kids each [Sunday](#).



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 – elcshepherd@gmail.com



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING