



Emmanuel



July 2022



Vicar's Farewell

I guess the old adage of “time flies when you're having fun” is a true and right statement. It was just one year ago that I wrote the following words in a newsletter to our previous congregation in preparation for the next step in the candidacy process: “I will be serving a one-year internship that begins August 1st, 2021, at Emmanuel Lutheran in Shepherd, MT. As a detached intern, I will have an offsite supervisor. That role is being filled by Pr. Darren Paulson from Atonement Lutheran. During the next year I will continue to meet with the ELCA Montana Synod candidacy committee, Pr. Paulson, and my academic advisor working toward fulfilling the requirements for Approval and Ordination into the ELCA.” Writing that letter was a bit emotional, and hard to do. There was, of course, anxious uncertainty of what the internship would look like, and the not knowing of how things would unfold. At the same time, there was joy and excitement at the thought of all the possibilities yet to come. As I departed one congregation, I wrote these words for the newsletter of a new congregation: “I am looking forward to the year ahead. I am deeply grateful for Emmanuel’s commitment and willingness to be involved in my seminary education and journey. I am joyfully anticipating the opportunity for both myself and my family to form new relationships, rekindle old relationships, and the chance for all of us to share our faith journeys with each other. May our experiences become woven together in the faith stories and rich history of Emmanuel Lutheran’s ministry as the little white church in Shepherd.” As the one-year time of internship comes to conclusion, and I prepare to write for another newsletter, I have been thinking about our time together, reflecting on all that has been a vital part of my own faith journey and shaping of a pastoral identity.

In our time together during internship, those of you gathered as Emmanuel Lutheran have led, supported, and re-established several different programs. Together we have trained and established a new group of acolytes, promoted and supported the reestablishment of a youth choir, restarted confirmation classes (regathered and engaged those interrupted by COVID-19), and began including a children sermon during worship. The elected leaders identified the need to have and then locate new Sunday School materials and resources that provide the tools to empower new Sunday School teachers. It was with eager willingness and enthusiasm that we were able to reestablish the youth team committee and aid them in identifying the tools and resources they already have at their disposal to lead and engage in youth activities. One shining example is that this small rural congregation was able to host a Lutheran Youth Collective event for the greater area. We experienced the joy of being able to instruct, interact with, and celebrate with the youth and families of a first communion class. There have been some liturgical changes: Emmanuel supported and transformed as I leaned into and introduced the use of a PowerPoint bulletin during worship, and the board continues to promote the use and upgrade of technology (continued on page 6)

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

The women have been very helpful in planning the annual summertime BBQ's here at our church. The community has been looking forward to getting together, not only for the delicious food, but for the socializing that takes place while we are eating. As you know, there is no charge for the meal. Many of the people bring potluck to contribute to the variety of food we have each time. Hamburgers and hot dogs are grilled, and served along with other hot foods, such as baked beans, potatoes, salads, and dessert. We have had some volunteers that help set up the dining room, serve, and clean up afterwards. We also need some volunteers to do the grilling of the meat each Thursday. Can you help? The helpers need to arrive between 5:00 PM and 5:30PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the church for both helpers in the dining room and people to grill the burgers, and it will be available for you to sign up next time, in the dining room, too.

We have had a good turnout each Thursday, so far, the first Thursday, 36 people came to eat, and the 2nd Thursday, we had 56 people. Fantastic! There are tasty desserts and ice cream to complete your meal...so come and enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact Dawn Petty at 406-373-6673 if you can help setup or grill.

It's
BBO
Time!



Community BBQ!!!!

Thursdays 6PM to 7PM
Starts June 16th through Sept 1st

Emmanuel Lutheran 5515 Carey Ave, Shepherd
(next to the fire station)

Hot dogs and burgers provided. Bring a side to
share if you wish.

Free will donations accepted

Everyone welcome!

Come and join us in fellowship with our
community!

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Pop, boom, bang! The Fourth of July has come and gone, and I can still type, which means that I didn't experience any strange mishaps with the fireworks. It is always amazing to me that one day of the year everyone plays with fire and sets off explosives. Some unfortunate souls don't seem to heed the warnings on the packages and get to spend the night at the hospital. I hope everyone out there played it safe this year.

My Aunt in Texas called me the other day to say she was going to see the Elvis impersonator. That got me crooning like Elvis for a couple days, wandering around the house singing Blue Suede Shoes and Suspicious Minds, doing my best rendition of the hip swinging moves that Elvis was famous for. Of course, Mrs. T. C. witnessed this crazy behavior and just stared at me shaking her head. I think she said, "You have issues." more than once! Of course, my only reply was "Thank you, thank you very much!" in my deep Elvis voice.

Well summer is here big time and I find myself spending the afternoons in front of the fan to stay cool. It's hotter than a firecracker out there. I think it is time for me to head to the lake

for a few days of camping and boating to escape the heat. Time to break out the Jiffy Pop popcorn and a couple cold beverages. It will be a good break from the honey do list.



Speaking of food, I hear that the Church barbecues are back on in a limited fashion this summer. Sure will be nice to see everyone gathering at the Church for some grilled burgers and dogs. I'll be there for sure. Will you? The sign outside of the Church lists the dates and time, which will happen on Thursdays, so I hope to see you join in.

Well I guess that is all I have for now. Time for me to make my rounds and see how the Church garden is coming along. The corn was knee high on the 4th of July, so that is a promising sign as well.

See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

Come join in a time of fellowship, learning, and faith formation.

We will be exploring Daniel Erlander's "BAPTIZED, WE LIVE: Lutheranism as a way of life." An enthusiastic affirmation of the way of teaching, worshipping, and living as Christians, that grew from Luther and the sixteenth-century reformation movement.

We will gather at the church (Emmanuel Lutheran) on Wednesday evenings June 22nd, 29th ; July 6th, 13th, and 20th at 6:00pm for light refreshments with class to begin at 6:30pm and conclude at 7:30pm.

If you are unable to attend all sessions that is ok. The material lends itself to the fact that life happens. I am looking forward to our time together as our faith journeys continue to be woven together. Child care will be available.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING June 8th, 2022

Opening devotions by Jill consisted of a favorite hymn.

Standing Reports: The minutes of the May meeting were approved, motion made by Sharon, seconded by Liz. The Treasurer's report was submitted by Lindsey, and approved, motion made by Liz, seconded by Dawn.

The Intern Committee will be meeting on June 15th. Discussion was held regarding sharing a pastor with Hardin, and that probably would mean a change of time for both our services and Hardin'. Perhaps one would have to be at 8:30 AM, and the other church's at 11:30 AM, allowing time for the pastor to travel between them. This change may not go over well with either congregation. The question is, would this all meet with Synod guidelines. A meeting with the Hardin committee was planned, regarding this, and Liz will call Kristianne to attend. Our council was adamant on the fact that we would like to have Vicar Keith continue to serve us here at Emmanuel, and we need to discuss this more with Pastor Jason. Perhaps there is another church in the area that would be willing to share a pastor with us, and we need to bring this to the synod's attention. The Council pointed out the fact that a few years ago, we couldn't pay our bills, and were broke, but now, we have tripled the regular attendance on Sundays, and have an adequate financial situation.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Youth Committee, with Jill, Greg, and Liz, is doing well. Bibles are being ordered for the 3rd graders, plus Baptismal Bibles to be given to children baptized here, as we will be having a baptism here on June 19th. The Vacation Bible School will be held here on June 27th thru the 29th. The Music Committee, led by Dawn Sherseth, has already scheduled music through October. Dawn has also been asked to do the Youth Choir. An educational adult forum will be held Wednesday evenings, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Laura Vanberg will update the military wall and would like to have comments and new ideas from the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will again have our summer BBQ's for the Community, beginning on Thursday nights, from 6:00 PM to 7:30PM, beginning on June 16th. A sign-up sheet will be passed around for people to help with the grilling, set-up, and clean-up. Dawn Petty can be contacted as to helpers needed, and what food to bring. Ricker will have several new signs made to be posted in the front lawn of the church, and on the main road...he has already priced the new signs, and they will be about \$120.00 each. A motion was made by Liz, seconded by Sharon, to go ahead and have the new signs made. It was also suggested to spray the area around the lawn and garden to get rid of some of the mosquitoes and flies. There will be a sign-up sheet passed around to have helpers lined up to help with the BBQ's. It was decided to order more of the communion cups/wafers, as some people still prefer to use those during our communion services. Greg made a motion to order a box of 50 more, seconded by Sharon. The Community Garden has been planted, and is being watered, with the help of church members, led by Liz White. The tires have been repainted and planted with flowers in them....and is the high light of the community.

SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANTS: (offering counters) June 12th, Dawn Petty; June 19th Sharon Wolske; June 26th, Ricker Olson; July 3rd, Sharon Wolske, and July 10th, Dawn Petty.

Our next Council meeting will be July 13th, here at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, at 7:00 PM. Our Mission Cornerstone is what we have talked about today that raises itself to Joyful Worship, Caring relationships, and /or Loving Service. The meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Petty, Secretary

Hi Ricker:

I will update the council minutes with your note regarding the higher cost of the larger sign & have copied the rest of the council on this email.

Thanks,
Dawn



Christikon Clips

July, 2022

Information for our Congregations



We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work Weekend crew accomplished!

Great group!

Thank you to one and all!

It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults. You can register online at www.christikon.org or call us at the camp office for further information.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. Continuing Education Retreat (July 25-28) and Mountain Weekend (July 29-31) our speaker is Rev. Dr. David Lose. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Check out topic details on the website. www.christikon.org



Greetings from the Shepherd Community Garden!!!

We are excited to share that everything is planted and growing nicely. Thank you to everyone who donated their seeds, plants, and time to make it all happen.

We had an addition of four raised beds this year. Mr James Malchow chose to make them for his Eagle Scout Project. They are beautiful redwood boxes that are spaced for wheelchair accessibility. Soaker hoses and new wood shavings were included giving functionality as well as beauty to our garden. Thank you for all your hard work, James!

We are finalizing our watering system for ease of use and will begin watering sign ups this month. If you have not been by to take a look at God's bounty, please do! God's blessings to you all!

Liz White



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

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.

Vacation Bible School 2022



- 03 Jeremy Stahl
- 10 Abbey Emmons
- 11 Carol Bennett
- 11 Tanner Emerick
- 14 Kristianne Wilson
- 15 Laurel Noland
- 19 Olivia Plath
- 19 Tom Plath
- 23 Doris Hilde Martinson
- 28 Lynda Newell
- 28 Mark Morgenstern
- 29 Kyle Reitler



- 03 LaDonna & Millard Hultgren
- 04 Matt & Stacie Grandpre
- 07 Wade & Meagan Malchow
- 20 Bob & Sharon Wolske

(continued from page 1)

to establish an online presence through the streaming of our weekly worship services. The invitation was extended and accepted, and we therefore used different musicians, who have introduced new styles of music such as a brass ensemble and a bell choir, along with introducing the Holden Evening Prayer Service led by vocal cantors during Lent. All of this was done to enhance the worship experience and aid in providing liturgical continuity of the music for weekly worship services. During our time together, as an intern, I was encouraged to work on ecumenical relationships in the surrounding community. This led me to reach out and reestablish ecumenical relationships in a semi-post-covid world with the United Methodist Church and the UCC congregations in the area. This was first accomplished through the introduction and invitation of a Blue Christmas Service during Advent, something new for all the congregations involved. Following that experience, we reestablished ecumenical services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, providing each congregation the opportunity to host their neighbors. The cumulative result has brought an increased energy to the ministry and mission of the congregation.

All the internship evaluations, projects, and essays have been completed and submitted. The seminary faculty panel review, and the approval interview with the Montana Synod are now in the rearview mirror. With a signed Master of Divinity diploma framed and hanging on the wall of my study, the journey of candidacy is coming to a close. But the journey continues toward something new, something different, something exciting, something Emmanuel Lutheran has helped prepare for and will forever be a part of-- the shaping, forming, and sending of a Pastoral Intern onto First Call and Ordination. Emmanuel Lutheran is a strong, vibrant, faithful community, united in Christ's Love. And while it might be emotional and hard to do, and there is bound to be the anxious uncertainty of what a new call looks like, there is at the same time the joy and excitement of all the ministry opportunities that are yet to come. I now return to the words I began with when I came to Emmanuel as a nervous and excited intern one year ago. "I am looking forward to the year ahead. I am deeply grateful for Emmanuel's commitment and willingness to be involved in my seminary education and journey." It has been a joy to be here at Emmanuel. New relationships have been built, old relationships were rekindled, and faith journeys have been shared with one another. Our experiences have become woven together, forever united, in the faith stories and rich history of Emmanuel Lutheran's ministry as the little white church in Shepherd. Words fall short in trying to express the deep gratitude we as a family feel for the Emmanuel community and all the support you have given our family throughout this journey. For all the continued support, love, kindness, generosity, and prayers, we thank you.

In Christ Love,

Vicar Keith





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.”

elcshepherd.org – elcshepherd@gmail.com



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING