



# Emmanuel News

April  
2023



*But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."*

*Matthew 28:5-6*

Holy Week is one of my favorite weeks of the year. For years this has been a week where for one reason or another it has always seemed easier for me to connect to my faith. I'm not sure if it is because of the powerful events that I have participated in at the various churches I've been a part of, or the extra Bible reading I've done or Passion Movies I've watched, or if it just something about knowing the Good News that will come on Sunday. Last year I did something I had never done, that was actually incredibly powerful for me. I built a cross.

As a part of a worship service I did at First American in Hardin, I wanted to have a big cross that would be in the sanctuary for the service. Unfortunately, I'm not the most handy guy in the world, and woodworking was always a talent I admired from afar. Luckily, this wasn't the most complicated project in the world, so with a hand saw and some chisels, I got to work.

As I was measuring and doing the calculations for how tall I wanted the cross to be compared to how much wood I had, I thought about how tall and thick the wood would have had to have been to actually be able to support the weight of Christ, and how the cross I was building would have had to have been miniscule in comparison, even though it was over six feet tall. As I was moving the 4x4 around, occasionally a splinter or two would get stuck in my hand, and I realized I had never thought about whether Christ got splinters as he was carrying the cross to the top of the hill, on top of everything else he went through. As my arm started to tire from using the handsaw, I thought about how much work went into constructing a cross that was much bigger than mine, likely with similar tools as they didn't have electric saws back in Jesus's time. And as I hammered the chisel to clear out the space between the two boards, I thought about the hammer and nails that were used in the crucifixion as well.

I wouldn't say it was the happiest Holy Week experience I've been a part of, but it was a truly holy one. The story that we celebrate during this time of year is one that has had such a profound impact not only on me, but on our world, that it was incredibly special to participate in the story in a way that brought it to life in a way I hadn't experienced before. Not only was I thinking through it all in a new way, but my body felt this devotional time, I could smell the wood as the sawdust fell to the floor, and at the end I carried this cross in hopes that it would have an impact on the faith of others.

During this Holy Week/Easter Season, depending on when you are reading this article, I want to invite you to think about what brings your faith to life? How has God uniquely wired you to experience Good News in the world around you, and when have you felt your faith was most alive and tangible? What are some things you've thought about doing to engage in your faith that you haven't done yet? Because as we celebrate new life in the texts we read on Sunday mornings during this time of year, the grass will start to turn green, the chirp of birds in the air will return, the air will become more fresh as new life sprouts all around us. I pray that this could be a time of renewal and encountering new life in the world around you in new and inviting ways that make this story all the more real and all the more holy for you as well.

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Shower

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 @10:30 – Church Basement

If you are reading this - YOU ARE INVITED!

*Our last shindig was in 2019 and it is more than time to party again!*

Bring a friend (or 2!)



Bring a gift for the church! Anything the church would use during the year.

Ziplocks Folgers  
Coffee Saran  
Wrap Tinfoil  
Garbage sacks  
Cleaning products  
Paper products

Bring some FOOD! We are making brunch food casseroles and providing alcohol-free MIMOSAS!

Fruit? Vegies? Rolls? Donuts?

Banana Bread? Whatever makes your heart happy!



QUESTIONS? I know I would have some so please ask one of the party planners - we would love to make you comfortable, and no question is a dumb question!

Abbey, Laura, or Liz! Heck even ask one of the other congregants - most of them have come to one of them in the past! This is fun! A reason to just get to know one another!

Wanna win something - bring a gift for the “fix the church” fund and get entered to win a prize!

Home Depot, Ace  
Walmart, or

Hardware,  
Cash....get creative!



# COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Do you read any books or novels to pass the time? I love to read, as it helps me escape into another world temporarily. Sometimes I feel that I get too involved in the stories that I read and the outcome is often awkward. Recently I was reading *The Last of the Mohicans* and really getting lost in the adventure of the story. Meanwhile, Mrs. T.C. had been busy giving the kids a little shape'em up haircut in the laundry room and happened to leave the clippers out when they all retired for the evening. When I took a break from reading, I saw the hair clippers and had an epiphany of sort. Yep, I grabbed those clippers and shaved off everything, except for a small strip, nose to tail! There I was, standing in a pile of hair, sporting the coolest Mohawk anyone has ever seen. *The Last of T.C. Mouse*. I could hardly wait to show Mrs. T. C. my new hairstyle. Her reaction would be priceless. Me showing up to breakfast, acting like nothing had changed. Kind of like your reaction, when I proclaim. April Fools! A mouse with a Mohawk? I may be crazy, but not that crazy. Tread lightly my friends, as the 1<sup>st</sup> of April is the prankster's holiday. Have some fun with it, but keep it safe.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Easter and get to enjoy Sunrise Service. I guess we will have to play it by ear for now to see where we will be for that. If things don't dry out by then, we won't be able to join at the cross on the hill in Green's pasture. Sure is magical to be out there on the hill, in the cool morning, gathering together to cele-

brate Easter. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! The backup plan is always at the Church, which is closer to the basement snacks afterwards anyways. Happy Easter everybody.

Spring has officially sprung, but looking at all the snow outside, I don't foresee any new growth popping out of the ground in the near future. If we have a wet spring, the asparagus and mushrooms will be up in abundance and the hunt will be on. I'm anxious to don my buckskins and run through the cottonwood trees along the river bottom in search of these treasures! Speaking of trees, don't forget that Arbor Day is April 28<sup>th</sup>. Just think if everyone planted a tree on Arbor Day, the future would be a little bit greener.

Well, that is all for now. Still waiting for the sun to clear the snow off of my porch. If that doesn't happen, I'll be out there with my old friend the snow shovel.



Hope to see you in Church.

Your Friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse

Greetings to our ELC family and friends~~

It has been mentioned that it would be nice if the military board in the sanctuary was brought up to date. That being said, we need your help!! Do you know how to get in touch with these personnel or their families? The names that were listed in the last newsletter are: Dan Johnson, Taylor Green, Jacob Wagenaar, Tucker Wilson, Brooke Nebel Bohrer, and Brandon Bohrer. Any information or leads would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Laura Vanberg (406-694-3222, [vbergs@tctwest.net](mailto:vbergs@tctwest.net)) or Lindsey Reynolds (406-794-6769, [lindseycarroll.realtor@gmail.com](mailto:lindseycarroll.realtor@gmail.com)). Current pictures would especially be appreciated. OR, maybe you know someone who is not currently listed in the newsletter and weekly bulletins. There are also plans to possibly add the names of other Veterans with name plaques. Thank you for your help.

3/8/23

## Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh Wyman, President Jill Hoffman, Dawn Petty, Sharon Wolske, Carol Kramer, Wendy Siemsen, Ricker Olson, Lindsey Reynolds, Buckley Reynolds, and Abbey Emmons

Agenda presented by Jill. Pastor Josh led and opened with devotion.

### Standing reports:

February Secretary Report - no concerns

February Treasurer Report - discussion as to one of the categorized entries dealing with Vanco.  
Approved.

Youth Committee - presented between Wendy & Jill. 'Get Air' appears to be the winner by choice from the kids and the FB site for the next fun day.  
Date to be determined.

Music Committee - presented by Jill. Music schedule set through September. (No blue grass in the summer so Laura and Daisy will be the musicians.)

Pastoral Report - Sunday Lent Service conversation.  
Confirmation discussion with the mentoring between adults and the confirmands. Lots of planning and Pastor is very busy with all of the services (2 per week at each church).

Funeral for Mrs. Green will be 3/18. Further details pending.  
Dawn will speak to the family to see what the church can do to help out. Possibly plan for overflow needed downstairs. Pastor Mark Morgenstern to officiate with Pastor Wyman. \*Loving Service

### Old business:

HVAC - Buckley provided an update from the Klimate Kontrol. All parts are in and will be installed in roughly 10 days. Buckley will coordinate.

Technology update - nothing to update. Kyle Newell is the contact point for that.

Church yard cross update - three large pieces done and still working on construction. What was presented by Ricker via pictures looks amazing!

Water/Plumbing update - plumber came with a 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment. Wanting to know if an RO system would be acceptable. DEQ

would be the contact and Lindsey is working on that.

Easter / Lent planning - Wednesday Lent services throughout the season. Choice to have an outside service here at the church.

Light breakfast to follow service with an Easter Egg Hunt. Abbey will bring breakfast foods and the youth will coordinate and organize it. \*Joyful worship

### New Business:

Church Shower gathering is set for April 23<sup>rd</sup> following church service. The group has not been able to party since the Covid Crisis so they are excited for this opportunity to share some fellowship. \*Caring relationships

Grape vine update from Ricker. New vines ordered as the grapes growing now are not working out well. Ricker has new ones ordered and will be here. Issues with the clay/hard dirt and the current ones are just not liking it. He is determined to get our communion wine!

Talk to Laura V. or another church member about ordering and organizing communion supplies.

Next meeting: April 12<sup>th</sup> 7PM

Mission Cornerstone: Our council tries to always incorporate our Mission Strategy, even during the meetings. Today we celebrate those missions marked in the notes. This meeting we celebrated \*Joyful Worship, \*Loving Service, and \*Caring Relationships. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" (Psalm 103)

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted,

Abbey Emmons, Secretary



# LOVING SERVICE

## ***HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE***

***APRIL 6 – SEDER MEAL 6:30 PM***

***APRIL 7 – GOOD FRIDAY AT BALLANTINE UCC 7:00 PM***

***APRIL 9 – EASTER SUNDAY 8:45 AM***



## EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Seems like we are always “cooking up” something, and it is time for the Passover Dinner at the church, which will be held on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30PM. So, ladies, we need your help again, as we plan to celebrate a most ancient, colorful, and significant festival. This event, also called the Seder, takes us back to those events that occurred more than three thousand years ago. We recall the Egyptian bondage of the Children of Israel, and their deliverance by God. Through prayer and song, ritual and symbol, custom and ceremony, we look upon ourselves as though we were among those enslaved and then brought forth into freedom. The Seder expresses the need of eternal vigilance in the struggle to preserve and advance the cause of freedom and human dignity. May God grant that the freedom which

prevails here in our beloved land, shall become the blessed lot of all.

The menu for the dinner has several meat choices, both turkey and lamb, baked potato, honeyed carrots, fresh lettuce salad, relishes, unleavened bread (matzoh), strawberries for dessert, hard boiled eggs, and wine (many of these items are symbolic).

There is no charge for the dinner. We just need to have an accurate account of the people attending, so we set the correct number of places for them. Families are welcome. You can sign up to attend, there is a form in the back of the church, or call me at 373-6673, and let me know. The deadline for sign-ups is Wednesday, March 29.

Thank you. Dawn Petty

# 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.

A family friend of Dawn Petty's son, Paul, has been diagnosed with kidney failure and is in the hospital in Qatar. Chasey is a 17 year old girl, and is in serious condition. The doctor's and Chasey's family are still exploring best options for recovery. Please keep Chasey & her family in your thoughts and prayers.

### Community Living

St Johns United: Inez Oberg

Minnesota State Prison System: Rob Larson

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### 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.



01 Barbara Cooper

01 Dawn Petty

03 Cole Hoffman

04 Meagan Malchow

05 Agnes Beddes

08 Brittany McKenney

09 Peggy McSweyn

11 Derek Reitler

17 Rob Emmons

19 Ricker Olson

20 Roseanne Plath

23 Stacy Emerick

29 Gene Lundhagen



05 Chuck & LuAnne Super

# Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online



**Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> 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 28-30 Online

Watch for the link to our auction platform on facebook at [www.facebook.com/Christikon](http://www.facebook.com/Christikon)

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

**Campers:** 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](http://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

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## The Easter Lily.

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

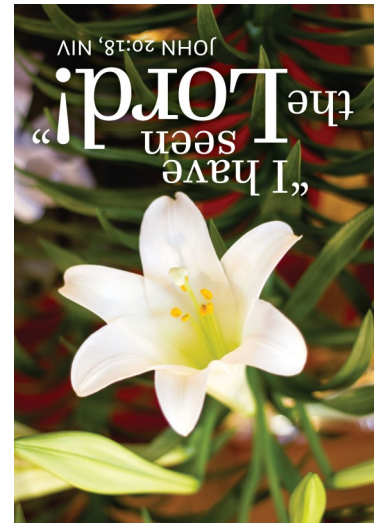
Easter morn with lilies fair  
Fills the church with perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of incense rise,  
Sweetest offerings to the skies.

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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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