



Emmanuel

December
2022



The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

-John 1:5

When I was growing up, the weekend after Thanksgiving was a special day in the Wyman household. With our bellies still full from the previous night's feast, we would head down to the basement, and haul the seemingly unending amount of Christmas decorations upstairs. Over the next three days, our house would transform from a normal Minnesota home, to a winter wonderland where every square inch was covered in something relating to Christmas. Boughs of garland hung from every bannister, light up reindeer strewn throughout the front yard, nativity sets in every room, and Christmas trees on every floor. The day after the house was all set up, presents would begin to appear beneath the trees. We weren't allowed to touch the presents, but we could look at them for as long as we wanted. I spent countless hours trying to figure out what could possibly fit into a box of a particular size, wondering what the present would be. The anticipation was overwhelming, and I only had to wait a month.

The Hebrew people who had awaited their coming Messiah had to wait a little longer than a month. It had been hundreds of years since they received the last prophetic word that we have written in the Hebrew Bible. It had been almost 1,000 years since the reign of King David, and the promise that was made to him. And who knows how long it had been since the promises were made to Abraham. These people had waited a long time for their Messiah to come. They may not have known exactly what it would look like, or how it would come, but they had faith that it would in fact come. And eventually, in a little town in Bethlehem, their waiting was finally over.

Our world has been in a season of waiting for a long time too. Waiting for hope, waiting for new life, waiting for togetherness, waiting for a time when all of the brokenness would be gone, and where nothing but the light and love of our God remains. And while our waiting may not quite be over, we are people of promise. We celebrate this Christmas season in the darkest, coldest, hardest part of the year because we are a people who believe that Christ shows up in the most difficult situations. Even if we may not know exactly what it will look like, we know that there is hope on the other side. When things seem hard, and you're not sure how you are going to make it work, look to Mary, the young virgin girl who felt overwhelmed by what she was called to do. We know that even when things seem dark, the light of Christ shines out of a manger. When things aren't going perfectly according to plan, we know that our promised Messiah was born among the animals. We may not know when, or what it will look like, but we have a God who promises to show up. We have a God who will come to us, and meet us where we are, so that we are not alone. We have a God who promises life, and life abundant, even when the brokenness of the world seems to be overwhelming. This is who we are waiting for, this is who is coming, this is who we are celebrating, this is who is here.

LOVING SERVICE

Christikon Clips December



2022 Advent and Christmas Blessings The Light of the World – We anticipate with longing to welcome Christ into our world and our hearts. May we reflect His light to one another and the world so all may know and share in this gracious gift. May you be filled with expectation, rejoicing, peace, and love in Jesus Christ. 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 •

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www.christikon.org

It is time for our annual Sunday School Christ- mas Program!

Children’s Christmas program will be December 18th. Practice starts on November 27th during Sunday School.

Please contact Jill Hoffman or Dawn Sherseith if you would like to participate. We will have a BIRTHDAY



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Angel tree will be "filled" on Sunday December 4th. Please help our Angels with needed gifts. The wrapped gifts should be returned by Sunday December 18th.

We will also be providing Christmas meal baskets, please bring any items to the church by December 11th. If you know of any one in need of gifts or meal baskets, please have them sign up in the Food Pantry by December 2nd. Agnes Beddes can also be contacted.



Christmas Evening Prayer Service

Christmas Eve service will be at 8PM on December 24th. Everyone is welcome.



There will be NO worship service on December 25th

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Here is a report on the results of the Harvest Dinner, Bazaar and Auction, which was held on November 6th. The roast beef dinner was delicious, and special thanks to Melissa Walsh for roasting the meat, and seasoning it so deliciously. The dinner brought in \$1957.00, including the take-out orders and the dining room meals. The live auction, handled by Mark Morgenstern, totaled \$2280.00. Thank you, Mark, for the excellent job you did. The Bazaar brought in \$659.00, and the Quilt Raffle tickets totaled \$203.00. The winner of the quilt raffle was Samantha Reynolds. All in all, the proceeds for the event came to a grand total of \$5099.00! Isn't that terrific?



I want to thank everyone that worked in the kitchen, the people who came on Saturday to help set up the dining room, and the auction and bazaar items that were on display up in the sanctuary.

You helped to make this event a big success! God bless you all....
Gratefully,
Dawn Petty, ELCW President

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

December is here and it's starting to look a lot like Christmas. I spent the warm November days putting up the outside lights and will officially turn them on December 1st. The first time I heard those famous three words, "Ho, Ho, Ho", last week I had a frightening gardening flash back. Yes, I had quite the weed problem in my own little agricultural plot. When I turned to look at the source of these words, I was pleased to see an animated Santa figure instead of Mrs. T.C., who was after me all season long to get rid of those weeds!

On the 7th we remember Pearl Harbor Day. A date that will live in infamy. May we never have to face such destruction again. God bless the USA. I'm sure Mrs. T.C. is reminded of the famous quote out of the movie Tora! Tora! Tora! every time she wakes me early from my afternoon nap. "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." It is better to let a sleeping T.C. Mouse lie.

On the 21st Winter begins, so my positive nature, says bring it on. Let it snow, let it snow. I'm finally ready to enjoy some winter sports again. I'm hoping to make it out skiing a couple times this year. Maybe even get the kids out sledding or building a snowman. Perhaps a whole snow family. Hard to say what to expect, as the Old Farmer's Almanac says one thing and the local weather

man says another and then you throw El Nino into the mix and all bets are out the window. I think the best forecast that I can depend on is to stick my own furry head out the window and see what's happening. Works every time.

On the 25th we celebrate Christmas. I hope everyone gets what they want for Christmas this year. In my family we just do a gift name exchange for the adults, as the whole present thing, shopping and spending becomes too much. Too stressful. This way

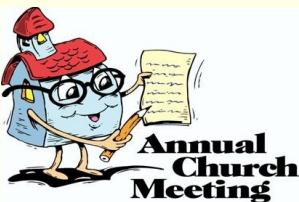
everyone just worries about one gift and we all can focus on the true reason for the season. Of course the little ones get all excited about gifts under the tree and treasures in their stockings, so we take joy in their enthusiasm. I wonder if there will be a Christmas program at the Church again this year. I always volunteer to play myself in the manger scene. Yes, you always hear about the bigger animals being present, but rest assured there were a couple mice in the manger to witness that miracle.

Enjoy the time with family and friends over a big Christmas Day feast. Remember to leave some treats

out the night before for Santa, as he works up quite the appetite making his rounds.

Merry Christmas to all.

Looking forward to the New Year.



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 29th, 2023. Please submit reports by

A special congregational meeting was held on October 30th. The purchase and installation of a new furnace with air conditioning was approved.

We will be welcoming new members on February 19th, please contact Pastor Josh Wyman if you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation.

If you are interested in a 1st Communion class for your children, please contact Pastor Josh. We will put a class together depending on interest.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 29th, 2023. Please submit reports by January 13th.

WANTED - Church Council officers and members. Please consider serving our congregation on our church council. Contact Jill Hoffman or Liz White if you are interested.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Church council minutes – November 9, 2022

The Council met on Wednesday evening, November 9th, with opening devotions by Pastor Josh. Members present were Jill Hoffman, Greg Plath, Sharon Wolske, Lindsey and Buckley Reynolds, Ricker Olson and Pastor Josh Wyman. Pastor Josh's message was based on Philippians 3: 12-21, that Christ has made us his own, claimed us and is calling us.

The Secretary's report was approved, the motion made by Sharon and seconded by Greg. The Treasurer's report was also approved, the motion made by Greg and seconded by Sharon, and the request was made to put our account balances, including the previous month's balances and also the amount in our savings. The motion

was passed. The Youth Committee reported that the youth will be helping with Christmas decorations, the Thanksgiving baskets and the Christmas program. The Music Committee has musicians lined up through March. Pastor Josh gave his report, stating that the confirmation class has begun, as of last Sunday, meeting at 7:00 PM.

Old Business: Buckley Reynolds reported on the heating and cooling system for the church, having met with Klimate Heating & Control, and the cost was approved. The quote was for approximately \$15,000 total, with the furnace at \$5727.00 and the Air conditioning at \$9700.00. It was approved to go ahead with the updates. The Harvest Dinner was successful, and reports are still coming in on the Bazaar, Auction and Dinner items, and it is expected to be between \$4000 and \$5000. Bazaar items will remain on display for another week or two, for people to make purchases. Thank you to all who participated in this event. The Audit Committee, consisting of Liz, Robin, Mandy, and Cindy G. will have their report ready for the annual meeting. Jill will schedule a meeting of the Nominating Committee members (Jill, Liz, Dawn, Robin and Megan) in preparation for the annual meeting also.

Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed by the sponsor, the Lions' Club. on November 20th. At this time, there are about 10 families, requesting the baskets. The Christmas decorating schedule

is tentatively set for November 20th. We will check with Agnes Beddes regarding the Christmas baskets needed, and we will set up the "Angel Tree", with the items needed for the children in those families, so they each can have a "gift" for Christmas.

The Christmas program with the children will be held on December 18th. and the Christmas Eve service will take place on the 24th at 8:00

PM. There will not be a service on Christmas Day. Advent begins on November 27th, and we do not plan to have any midweek services. Pastor Josh has talked with our ecumenical partners, the Huntley Methodist church, etc., regarding Blue Christmas services, and no decision has been made as yet. Our

next meeting with the church at Hardin will be on January 4th, and we will need to plan for the Lenten service schedule, regarding midweek services. Any suggestions from the congregations will be helpful. Perhaps we can do one congregation on a Tuesday night, and the other on a Wednesday night.

New Business: We have been trying to get volunteers to help with each

Sunday's services. Liz has a few ideas regarding that, and we will be working on that. Kristianne Wilson is on the Endowment Committee and has some thoughts on stewardship. The First Communion Class will be held, as we get a count on the numbers needed, and how often it will be held, and the times. A class for new members, and those who will be joining our church, will be held after the holidays, in late January or February. Sunday Service Attendants (offering counters) are Greg Plath for November 13th, Sharon Wolske for November 20th, Dawn Petty for November 27th, Sharon Wolske for December 4th, and Jill Hoffman for December 11th.

Our next Council meeting will be held on ^{December} 13th, at 7:00 PM, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church or another announced site. We will have a Christmas potluck, with Lindsey Reynolds as hostess, with the time and location to be announced. Our annual meeting will be held the last Sunday in January, the 29th. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Dawn Petty, Secretary



Celebrate
THE ORDINATION OF
Keith R. Weatherford



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 2:00 PM
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
1108 24TH ST. WEST
BILLINGS, MT

ROSTERED CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST AND
PROCESS. THE COLOR OF THE DAY IS RED.
PROCESSING CLERGY WILL GATHER IN THE FIRESIDE
ROOM AT 1:30 PM.

SERVICE WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT
GOODSHEPHERDBILLINGS.ORG

RECEPTION FOLLOWING ORDINATION

KEITH WILL SERVE AS THE PASTOR AT ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HELENA, MT





A special thanks to everyone who helped assemble the Thanksgiving baskets and decorate the church for Christmas!



Balances for ELC for the last 2 months submitted by Treasurer, Lindsey Reynolds

Balance Sheet	September	October
Checking 1	\$23,343.75	\$19,295.21
ELC Memorial 1	\$13,890.29	\$13,890.29
ELC Youth	\$5,361.26	\$5,361.26
Savings	\$78,061.45	\$78,268.89
Savings Building		
Fund	\$27,653.09	\$27,653.09

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Connie Herberg's mother passed away on Sunday, November 21, after a long illness in a nursing home near Williston. Please keep Connie & her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Vivian Pierce had requested prayers for her daughter Sherry Main, who was having surgery on her back last Thursday morning. All went well, and Sherry is doing well and they are back home. Thanks to all of you on the prayer list.

Community Living:

St Johns United: Inez Oberg

Local Youth Serving in the military:

Dn Johnson 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.

The ELC Endowment Fund offers scholarships to students going to 2-year, 4-year college or trade schools. Scholarship applications are available at the back of the church. Please return the completed application by 1/15/2023. Even if you've received the scholarship in the past, you can apply again.



02 Laura Vanberg
03 Sierra Stahl
05 Sue Hawthorne
09 Daniella Leligdowicz
09 James Malchow
13 Randy Vanberg
19 LuAnne Super
22 Charles Noland
22 Sharon Wolske
26 Phil Ehlers
29 Milton Marsh



13 Scott & Durene Green
14 Robert & Peggy McSweyn
18 Charles & Laurel Noland
28 Randy & Laura Vanberg
29 Tom & Roseanne Plath
30 Bill & Holly Reitler



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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