



Emmanuel

December
2023



Reflection

Epiphany is the season of light. High in the night sky, above the stable where Jesus is born, a star shines brightly. This star is a literal illumination that draws the world to God's love, which has come to earth as a newborn baby. Epiphany is also a light within our own hearts. In this season, we come to know the radical ministry of Jesus and our call to travel by the light that is Jesus. And we are never the same again.

Jesus is not your ordinary teacher. His subversive message turns social order on its head, instructing his students to love their enemies and lift up the poor and lowly. Even more surprising is that Jesus isn't just *preaching* radical hospitality—he's *practicing* it. Jesus' ministry transforms pain and sorrow into blessing. Jesus spends his time at the edges of society, where his followers witness him performing miracles: turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana, healing the sick, and casting out demons.

As we get to know these stories, we too become followers of Jesus. God has shown up and will continue to show up in our lives at unexpected times and in unexpected ways, ready to mold us into the best version of ourselves. When we pray, when we build community, when we journey over mountains and through valleys, we are changed. Together let us sing: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!"



We are PARTY-ING! Christmas Partying!!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church,
Come be with us for this
Christmas celebration. December
23rd, from 5-7 p.m.

We will be having a Pot Luck
Dinner, and Singing all the
favorite Christmas Carols!

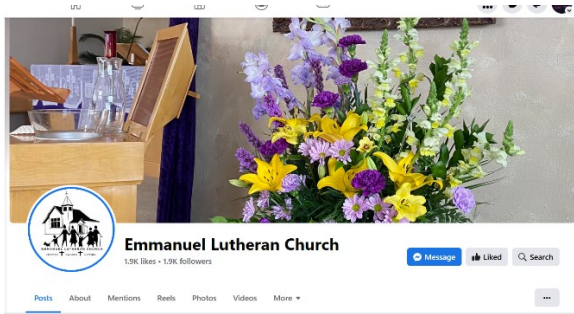
Everyone is Invited! Bring your
family and friends!

Join us Online!

There are now 4 ways to enjoy our 8:45AM Sunday Worship Service. Please be patient as we work out the “bugs”. A special thanks to Kyle Newell, Jim McKinney, and Brad Shersteth for all their help!

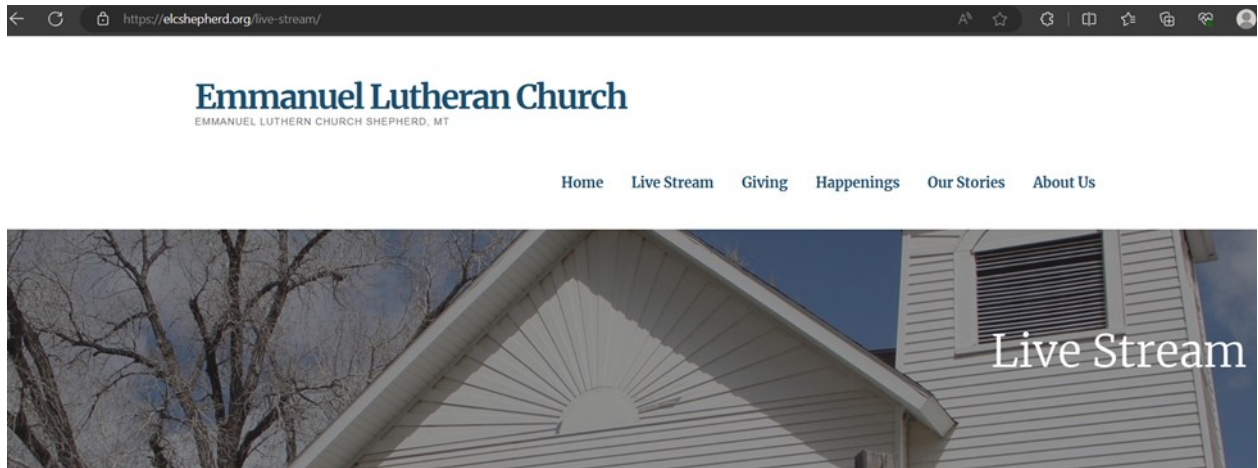
Join us in person at the church.

Join us on Facebook.



Subscribe on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelchurchshep4583>

4. Join us at our website: <https://elcshepherd.org>



Waymakers News!

We have had a great Fall with Waymakers! We have doubled the number of kids attending and are looking forward to having even more this winter! We will be entering into Winter without our awesome Pastor (prayers for a healthy baby) but have found some amazing volunteers to step into his big shoes!

We have discussed reformatting after the Holidays and splitting into smaller groups to help keep all the kids active and excited about our program! We will still hang out, play and have snacks for the first half.

We are still looking for more volunteers! If you have any desire to come spend time with some of our awesome youth in the area, we would love to have you! Volunteering does not mean you need to 'teach' or 'lead' the groups, unless you would like to. We need help with having people watch kids during the free time. We need people to help make snacks in the kitchen or to pick/clean up after them. We need people to play board games, or to help with homework, or just to hang out and visit!

Your presence will make a difference in these kids lives and we want them to know that our Church is a safe and fun place to be! Please reach out with any questions to Lindsey Reynolds, Wendy Siemsen or Samantha Murnin



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

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Here are the results of our Harvest Dinner on November 5th. There were 165 dinners, of which 20 were "take-out" meals, bringing in a total of \$1881.00. The Bazaar/Auction brought in \$3001.00, and the Quilt raffle took in [\\$207.00](#), totaling \$5089.00. There are some Bazaar items remaining on the window ledge by the stained glass window, and a container for the cash for the items you may purchase if you still want to shop.

I am very grateful for all of you people who helped prepare for, and put on, this event. You were all just fantastic workers and helped to make it successful. We usually



serve about 200 dinners, but due to the sporting activities going on in the area, some of the people were attending those events. We had an un-expected helper appear as we started serving: Phil Ehlers just dropped by to be the dishwasher and to entertain the kitchen help, which he did with gusto! Amazing!

A special "thank you" to all those who prepared some of the meal ahead of time, especially the people who made the pies and the dinner rolls. The quilt for the raffle was made by the Pineview Quilters. I am grateful to each and every one of you. You folks make our events successful. God bless you all. Dawn Petty



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.

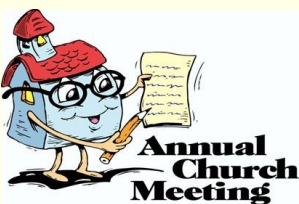
Enjoy the time with family and friends over a big Christmas Day feast. Remember to leave some treats out the night before for Santa, as he works up quite the appetite making his rounds.

Merry Christmas to all.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T C Mouse

T. C. Mouse



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 28th, 2024 after the church service. If you are interested in joining our church council, we have several openings, please contact Jill Hoffman if you are interested. Articles for the annual report are due Friday, January 12th.

11/11/23 Shepherd Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

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

Called to order at 7PM

Agenda presented by Jill. Dawn Petty led and opened with prayer.

Standing reports:

Secretary Report - no amendments. (Motion to accept. Carol/Dawn)

Treasurer Report - discussion. Synod donation, ELCW will assist with the donation amount, Dawn made a motion that the ELCW will pay \$2000

towards the Synod, and the church will match \$2000 from the savings account to meet the budgeted and agreed upon amount by the congregation during our last annual meeting. (Motion to accept. Dawn/Carol)

Pastoral Report - Busy month! Harvest dinner was a very fun event. Waymakers Group has been great, and the numbers are growing weekly. Planning for paternity leave. Pastor Paul Paulson will help, and 5 other Sundays are covered with Melissa Johansen and John Goodheart. Christmas program on the 17th. Maryann Morgenstern and Dawn Petty will also possibly fill in. Music committee. Linda Troyer from Hardin is willing to help pick hymns. Jill Hoffman volunteered to fill in newsletter where Josh normally writes his portion. Bible study plans? Maryann Morgenstern will cover confirmation classes during confirmation classes. Yvonne Kelly will cover the older children during Waymakers. Theresa Morse will cover some pianist duties. She would like to cover one Sunday and then will possibly join in the monthly coverage via the music committee.

Old business:

Technology: we streamed last week's service. We are asking for feedback. We had to upgrade the Verizon account to better the internet. Upgrading that cost a bit more but we will be able to cancel the Century Link and those amounts will pretty much wash. We need one more laptop that will work between the link and the upstairs power point.

Cleaning company quit. We are looking for a cleaning service. Assumption is that it will be 4 hours a week commitment to do a thorough job.

Nominating committee. We have a few congregants that are interested in filling a position or two but would love to have some

more volunteers step up. We will have 4 members leaving. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the current council.

Youth announcements: Waymakers, Dec 17th is the Christmas Program, Dec 16th will be a practice from 10-12am (Saturday).

Baby Shower: Baby Wyman. 11/18

Thanksgiving Baskets: Anges Beddes reported 12 baskets requested so far through the food pantry. Rebecca has already reached out to the school as well for names. Pies left from Harvest Dinner were saved for the baskets. ***Caring relationships**

Ricker asked to further identify "who does what" inside the church. Furnace styles, bulbs, maintenance, water filters, etc. Also requested information about putting all this information in one place such as a binder. Maybe a group meeting about the past maintenance would be helpful.

Thursday Bible Study will take a break while Pastor Josh is on paternity leave.

New Business:

Christmas services: normal Sunday morning service will still occur at 8:45. The council is trying to decide on a time for the candlelight service. Time to be announced later.

Angel tree: we will work with Agnes Beddes again to provide gifts for the area's children in need.

Talked about getting a list to the congregation sooner. If you know a family that could use a hand up this season, please reach out to Abbey or Agnes. ***Loving Service**

December 23rd we are going to do a family night. Singing carols (outside if it is warm enough) and a potluck dinner. More information will be announced. ***Joyful Worship**

No December council meeting. January 10th will be our next meeting where the Annual Meeting will be the focus.

Annual Meeting is the last Sunday of January (1/28) following church. Treats will be provided by the current council.

Counters: 11/12 Dawn & Tari 11/19 Ricker 11/26 Carol 12/3 Dawn 12/10 Carol

Next meeting: January 10th at 7:30

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 8:08



Youth

Our Sunday School and youth schedules for the month of December are listed below

Sunday December 3rd, 10th, 17th

Sunday School, 10:00 - 10:45

Wednesday, December 6th

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00

Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

Wednesday, December 13th

Waymakers, 2:30 - 5:00

Confirmation, 7:30 - 8:30

Saturday, December 16th

Youth Play Practice 10-12

Sunday, December 17th

Youth Play performed during

Church Service 8:45

Wednesday, December 20th

No Wednesday Youth Activities

Saturday December 23rd

Emmanuel Christmas Party 5-7

Wednesday, December 27th

[*No Wednesday Youth Activities*](#)

Wednesday, January 3rd

No Wednesday Youth Activities

Waymakers Spotlight

Jordan Siensen

If you had a female child, what would you name her? Charlie

What is your favorite color? Green

What is your favorite animal? Orangutang

If you had 3 wishes, what would they be? World Peace, Sickness to go away for family, Shoot a really big white tail buck

Who are your favorite younger Waymakers? Carly or Kailey

Who is your favorite sibling? No favorite

Who is your favorite celebrity? Michael Jordan

What is your favorite movie? The Goonies

Who is your best friend? Carly or Kailey

What is your favorite school subject? Writing

What is your favorite candy? Snickers

Who is your favorite older Waymaker? Maycee

What is your favorite food? Crisпитos or Nachos

Christikon Clips



December 2023

As we move into the dark days of winter,

and in the midst of a world weary of brokenness and war, we look yet again towards the promise of the coming Christ child. As the gospel writer proclaims, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."

Shine, Jesus, shine...in our hearts and homes, our community and world.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours from your Christikon family.

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

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Expenses October:	\$8,796.66	Incomce:	\$4,409.64
YTD	\$97,945.16		\$72,387.14

We did not have the income in October to cover our monthly expenses leaving our monthly and Year to date in the negative. We do still have money in our Savings, however, we do not want to deplete that resource. Please continue to remember your church in your charitable giving. Please consider Emmanuel Lutheran Church for your year end offerings in 2023. We invite you to pray for your church, as we would like to enter 2024 in a strong financial position. Thank you for your generous spirit!

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