

Emmanuel News

February
2023



The Emmanuel Lutheran annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday January 29, 2023. The meeting included old business discussing a change to worship assistant helpers, an update on the HVAC project, and a discussion on continuing the Raise the Roof / Ceiling project.

The HVAC contract has been awarded and the equipment is on order, hopefully we can get the new unit installed before the summer heat.

At this time, we will continue our fundraising efforts for the ceiling including the 1st Sunday noisy offering. We will continue to gather ideas

and priorities for the ceiling project including ties to the lighting, ceiling fans, sound system, and flooring.

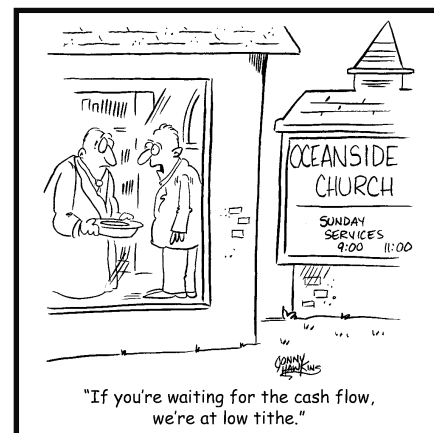
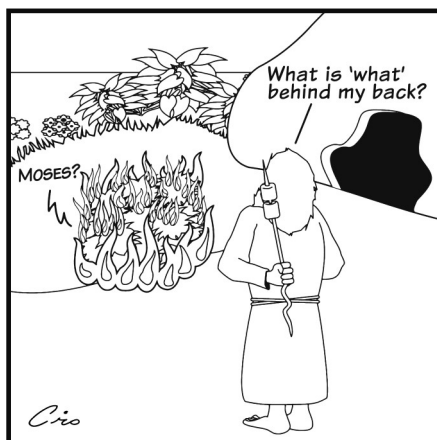
In new business, it was approved to progress a technology upgrade to improve our worship service online streaming.

The annual budget was approved, and officers were elected for 2023.

Liz White and Robin McCaffree were recognized as retiring officers.

We thank everyone who was able to attend and appreciate all of the feedback, questions, and suggestions!!!

Submitted by Jill Hoffman



Contact information for Pastor Josh Wyman : pr.jwyman@gmail.com

Phone number: 406-373-5597

ELC

Women of the Church



As you know, the Lenten season will begin on February 22nd, Ash Wednesday. We will be having mid-week services, and we can begin making plans for that.

We will have our Seder Meal, the Passover Dinner, again this year. We were not able to do that during the COVID Pandemic. That event has always been well attended and it has really been missed.

Palm Sunday will be on April 2nd, and the Passover Dinner on Thursday evening, April 6th.

Then Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 9th.

There will be sign-up sheets at the church, for those who would like to attend the Passover Dinner, who can help, and who can contribute some of the food for the meal. The meal will begin at 6:30PM and will be held in the church basement.

Mark your calendars now, and plan to take part in that evening.

COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

February is here and I celebrate another birthday. It seems the older I get the more forgetful I become. I think I may be losing my mind. A couple weeks ago, I lost the keys to the Ferrari. I searched endlessly around the house for them. I retraced my steps, trying to remember where I may have set them down. Did I lose them outside when I was shoveling mountains of snow? I couldn't find them anywhere. I couldn't even find the spare set of keys, that I had made just in case something like this should happen. I searched for days to find those keys on my own, to no avail. Finally I swallowed my pride and asked Mrs. T.C. for some help. I was sure that she would know exactly where those keys were. "Honey, I lost the keys to the Ferrari, do you happen to know where they are?" She looked at me with this icy cold stare, with a hint of compassion. "T. C. the only thing you have lost is your mind. You don't even own a Ferrari!" Without missing a beat, prior to my shameless retreat I said, "Well that explains why I can't find the keys then." Wow, what an embarrassing situation that was.

On the 2nd we have Groundhog Day, so we will soon find out how much winter we have left. I wonder if my cousin the groundhog ever loses anything. Probably not, as that seems to be a low stress gig. Remember to peak out of your nice warm home on February 2nd. Look for your shadow, which is always with you anyways and then retire to a nap soon after your big appearance. On

the 14th we celebrate Valentine's Day, so I must remember to do something special for Mrs. T.C. Once a very long time ago, I forgot about Valentine's Day and was reminded of my mistake for an entire year, until the time came for me to make up for that mistake. Take it from me, you don't want to go down that path, so please remember your special someone on the 14th.



On the 20th, we have Presidents' Day, which is probably a day off for the banker types and government employees. I think I will take that day off to hit the slopes in honor of my birthday. There is nothing like spending a day with your skis and gravity to make you feel young again. Plus there really isn't too much to remember while skiing. Just point them down hill and go. If something gets in your way, just turn. Easy peasy. As long as I remember to take all of my gear when I'm heading to the slopes, I should be good to go.

Anyways, enough of my babble for now. Enjoy the snow while it's around, as spring will be here before you know it.

See you in Church.

Your Friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T.C. Mouse

Christikon Clips

February, 2023

Information for our Congregations

Christikon Youth Camp Brochures have been mailed to every young person in your congregation who are completing grades 4-12. Save by registering before March 15. Additional brochures are available from your church office.

We are currently **recruiting staff** for the upcoming season. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to christikon.org/ employment for more information and application materials.

Family Adult opportunities can be found at our website. Watch for updated topics and speakers. Register at: <https://christikon.org/registration-adult-family/>

Do it online! You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org

Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on **Sunday, April 30th**. Do you know of an item, service or getaway that would be a great auction item? Please contact the office! Watch for updates on our website.

This past year had its numerous challenges and opportunities for meaningful ministry, and we are thankful for the opportunity. Our plans for the 2023 season are going forward and we are excited to welcome you to Christikon this summer! Watch for updates on our website.

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 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Balance Sheet	November	December
Checking 1	13457.15	26565.44
ELC Memorial 1	13809.29	13893.44
ELC Youth	5142.56	5143.43
Savings	78068.89	78088.01
Savings Building Fund	27653.09	27657.6

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 8:45

FEBRUARY 22ND - ASH WEDNESDAY AT HUNTLEY UMC

MARCH 1-29 WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

APRIL 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 7 GOOD FRIDAY WITH ECUMENCIAL PARTNERS

APRIL 9 EASTER SUNDAY



We will be welcoming new members on February 26th. Please contact Pastor Josh Wyman if you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation.

In 2023 we are making a change to the signup process for worship assistants/helpers. A binder is stored in the back of the church which explains all of the duties. We are requesting that a few congregants sign up for a specific month to take care of the duties. They can either perform the duties or recruit others for the tasks. Please considering signing up to help. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jill Hoffman.



As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

- Luke 9:29-31

Jesus has traveled with his disciples around and beyond the region of Israel. The disciples have seen him heal those who were thought to be past the point of no return. They have seen him cast out demons, and bring people back who were thought to have been lost. They have heard him teach lessons that infuriated those in power, and brought hope to those who had been forgotten. They had traveled thousands of miles together, and while their path may not have been aimless, it didn't seem that they had a clear direction where they were headed.

After the text that we read above however, their direction became clear. As Jesus falls to his hands and knees to pray, with a view of the entire region setting the backdrop, he begins to glow. Illuminating this mountaintop as a star once did for shepherds in a field, Jesus' face begins to change. His clothes, that had been dirtied from the dust kicked up by each step of his ministry on the dirt roads of the land his people had called home, were turned as white as snow as striking, as

lightning crossing a night sky. Two of the greatest figures in the history of the Jewish tradition emerge from the shadows, not to mark this momentous occasion, but to comfort and console. The amazing power and divinity of Christ has been revealed in this moment, but so has his direction. His path will no longer lead from city to city, helping who he can where he can, but his eyes have become fixed on a particular destination and a particular goal. His path is set for Jerusalem, for his death, and for hope for all people.

At the end of the month, we will be flipping the page of the liturgical calendar from "Time after Epiphany" to Lent. The colors in the sanctuary will change from green to purple as we join Jesus in

fixing our eyes on Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. This season of Lent has been observed in many different ways throughout the church's history, most of the time in penitential or remorseful ways. Many people will fast or give something up. Whether that's not eating meat on

Fridays, giving something that has been holding them back in their faith, or letting go of

something meaningful for a season to show reverence and respect to God as the primary focus of their lives. Others will pick something up that will deepen their faith, engaging in more acts of service, participating in Bible reading plans, or devoting themselves to prayer.

My question and invitation to you this month is to ask yourself a question as we look forward to Lent. What fixes my eyes on the cross? What things help me to see the beauty of this good news? When has my faith been the deepest, and what helped me get there? Because those things are what this season is all about. It is about joining Jesus and fixing our eyes on Jerusalem as we walk alongside him in our journey together. It is about preparing our hearts and minds to experience the good news of Easter Sunday in ways that move us to see and experience the world in new ways in the glorious light of the resurrection. My hope and my prayer for you this season of Lent is that whatever you decide to do would open your heart to this unconditional love. That hope would spring forth through however God is leading and calling you to engage. And that our destination, that our paths, that our eyes would point toward Jerusalem, and the Good News that is found there.

God Bless,

Pastor Josh

Council Meeting January 11, 2023 – Minutes – revised

The Church Council met on Wednesday evening, January 11th at 7:00 PM. Present were Jill Hoffman, Liz White, Pastor Josh Wyman. Sharon Wolske, Ricker Olson, Greg Plath, and Dawn Petty. Pastor Josh opened with devotions, and as this is the time after Epiphany, used the following text: Matthew 2: 1 -12.

Our special topic for the evening was the church well water analysis, given by Phil White, who has been taking samples of the water monthly. Phil has a meeting scheduled for January 17th with a plumber, and will come up with a price to update the system. He will get a price to re-plumb the lines and filters, and possibly putting in new equipment. The system will need an anti-syphon valve for the outdoor water faucets, and possibly have the line set on a timer , and adding a blue light with the anti-sulphate valve. Phil said the water tanks on the back of the toilets in the restrooms had a lot of sediment on the bottom, showing that there is much sediment in the water lines. After much discussion, Phil was told to use his own judgement as to what equipment needed to be replaced, besides the faucets .

Standing reports: The Secretary's minutes from the December meeting were moved to be accepted by Greg Plath, seconded by Sharon Wolske, and approved. Greg Plath and Liz White, members of the Youth Committee, gave a brief report. The Music Committee (Jill and Pastor Josh) have the music scheduled through March, and Dawn Sherseth will continue to work with the committee. Pastor Josh reported that there will be a "New Member" week-end, with orientation the previous weekend. Pastor Josh will also continue to use "props" in the Children's sermons, to demonstrate how the text fits into our everyday life. A treasurer's report is pending.

Old Business: Buckley Reynolds is working on the

upgrade for the HVAC system. Liz and Robin will schedule the audit committee for their report before the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee is working on getting people to fill the positions on the Council. Several of our members met with the Hardin church on January 4th, to determine the scheduling for the Lenten season. There were no conflicts, as Hardin will do Tuesday evening services, and Emmanuel will do Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM for Lent. The Seder meal (the Passover Dinner) will be held here on the Thursday of Holy Week.

A class and induction for New Members will be held on February 26th. Ricker reported on the replacement of the wooden cross on the front lawn of the church, as it is deteriorating in the ground. He will

replace it with a metal cross, possibly with a "light" near the base, which will turn on after dark.

New Business: We will be having our annual meeting on January 29th,

immediately following the church service. Our agenda includes working on the Budget, and electing officers. We will discuss having an update in the technology for the church's sound system, Liz made a motion to that effect, seconded by Sharon, and have Kyle discuss the options. Approval to have the piano tuned was also given. Discussion was held regarding replacing the carpets in the church, or going back to hardwood flooring, or shall we wait with that project, and put the "carpet funds" into the "ceiling funds" to get that accomplished? This will be discussed at the annual meeting, to get the opinions of the congregation.

Sunday Service Attendants: Jan. 15 Sharon Wolske, Jan 22 Liz White, Jan. 29 Sharon Wolske, Feb.5th Jill; Feb. 12th Ricker Olson. Our next Council meeting will be on February 8th at 7:00 PM at Emmanuel. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Petty, Secretary



"Scholarship opportunity for current college students and those starting in fall 2023- The ELC Endowment Fund is offering a scholarship to be awarded in early May. Applications are due April 1.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name_____

Address-----

Phone_____

Parents/Guardians Name_____

Parents/Guardians Address_____

Name of post-secondary institution of higher education you are planning to attend or are attending_____

Academic Standing

Current Transcript

Leadership Activi-

ties_____

Church Involve-

ment_____

Volunteer Activi-

ties_____

Three Letters of Recommendation

A Current School faculty member

A member of your church

A person of your choice

In a 500-word essay share your plans for the future. Please take into consideration what Martin Luther said about our baptismal calling; "That we are all called to serve God and our neighbor through our vocation."

Return your application to:

Endowment Committee

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 66

Shepherd, MT 59079

Deadline: April 1, 2023
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<http://webmail.centurylink.net/app/ress/theme/V12/IMG/>

CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Prayers of the Church

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Prayer request forms are also available at the church.

Hope you have a safe and blessed week!

Please include Bill Sykes, Kristianne Wilson's brother in law in your prayers. He has been struggling to gain strength and endurance back following RSV, COVID, pneumonia and pulmonary embolus over the past 3 months. He is on oxygen and under medical care.

Community Living

St Johns United: Inez Oberg

Local Youth Serving in the Military

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 Brianne Malchow
02 Dawn Sherseth
03 Jill Hoffman
08 Scott Green
09 Shaun Emerick
15 Destin Christman
15 Linda Oberg
17 Jim Hinkle



20 Collin Wilson
23 LouAnn Grandpre
23 Rachell Garcia
24 Mark Halvorsen
25 Bill Reitler
26 Peyton Christman



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