



Emmanuel

July 2023



“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.”

- John 12:26

St. Oscar Romero was born on August 15th, 1917, and served as Archbishop of El Salvador from 1977 to 1980. His time in office was likely not exactly what many would imagine to be ideal circumstances, but it seemed to be the exact time and place that God had given Romero to the world to lead. El Salvador was in the middle of civil war. The people were surrounded by chaos and violence from all sides. Civilians and innocents were dying, yet many church leaders were too worried about their own safety and protection to say anything.

If this had been a different time in Romero’s life, he may have joined the quiet majority of his fellow clergy members. But something had changed from his “status quo” keeping younger days, and he felt called to speak out for the poor and oppressed. He spoke for those who had been ignored and forgotten in the midst of this conflict, and his sermons became the voice of the people who were looking for peace in their hearts and lives. He was so firm in his call for an end to the violence, and for conversion of all who were participating in the civil war, that he continued to preach even when other Priests who carried a similar message were being killed for what they had to say. And while God used his words to powerfully bring change to the hearts and lives of many during this time, it would eventually be his end as well, as he too would be killed for speaking out against the violence that was all around him.

I’ve been reading, “The Violence of Love” which is a compilation of quotes and short homilies from the Archbishop. There are many quotes that have forced me to set the book down and just think for a while. I wanted to share one that especially struck me as poignant for our time: “We cannot segregate God’s word from the historical reality in which it is proclaimed. It would not then be God’s word. It would be history, it would be a pious book, a Bible that is just a book in our library. It becomes God’s word because it vivifies, enlightens, contrasts, repudiates, praises what is going on today in this society.” St. Oscar Romero.

Sometimes I wish faith was easier than it often seems to be. It seems it would be so much easier if we could simply clock in at 8:45 on Sunday mornings, worship for an hour, and then clock out and get on with the rest of our lives at 9:45. It seems it would be so much easier if we only focused on the parts of our faith that made us comfortable and put us at ease, the things that don’t force us to confront the difficult realities of our hearts and of our world. I feel like our faith would be easier if we could simply sing “Jesus Loves Me” and forget about the words and meaning of “This Little Light of Mine.”

When we see our faith as being a “Sunday morning thing,” we lose the beauty and fullness of life that our God is calling and leading us toward. When we are unwilling to let go of our own comfort, we are sacrificing our own ability to see and experience the fullness of who our God is, and how our God loves in this world. When we read our Bibles, but do not allow the Word to enter our hearts and change our lives, it might as well be any other book on the shelf.

Our faith is a living one. That moves us, that breathes in the world through us, that challenges us and changes us. It calls us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as he leads the world toward peace, love, grace, hope, and joy, though the path to get there will often lead to conflict and discomfort. As we celebrate the Independence of our nation, I think it is a good time to reflect on who we are as a people, and where Christ is leading. How do we let this Word continue to breathe in our world today? In this specific point in history, how can we as a people follow Jesus to live out welcome, safety, acceptance, love, and fullness of life for all people? Where is our God challenging us to stand alongside the poor and the oppressed? Where is God moving us toward? Because while the road toward fullness of life may be more difficult and treacherous than the comfort of Sunday morning faith, it will also lead us toward the fullness of beauty and hope in our world.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

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The summer BBQ's for the community at the church are going well, as we have had 26 people attending the first one, and 30 people this week for the second one. This is a great way to visit with others from the area as we share a meal. There is no charge for anything, and a free will donation can be made if you so desire. Special thanks to our grillmasters for helping us, as Jack Martin did the grilling for the first one, and Quentin McCaffree grilled for the second one. There is a sign up sheet in the church for people to let us know who can help each time. We need



volunteers to do so each week, just let us know who we can count on. If you haven't taken part in the past, come and enjoy the company and the delicious donations

of food that we get from some of the attendees.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR A LOCAL STUDENT

The scholarship is to be awarded to a local student who has a musical background. Funding for this has been sent from the family of Mary Cossitt, who was our pianist for years. Her family asks for it to be used either by someone from our church or from the Shepherd High School. Applications and more information will be available soon.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

July is here and that means we get to celebrate our countries birthday on the 4th. Time to break out the flag and hang it high, fire up the grill and cook up a storm! Then in the evening with our bellies full, we get to kick back and enjoy the light show. I sure love to watch all the big fireworks going off, but the booms and bangs are a little too much for my sensitive ears. I need to remember my ear plugs this year. Happy Birthday USA! Happy 4th of July to all of you. I hope you get to spend some quality time with family and friends. Keep it safe out there and watch over the little ones.



The Church garden is looking good and growing like crazy with all the rain that we have had. My secret asparagus patch has been

keeping me well supplied this spring. I have almost had my fill of asparagus for the year. My evening strolls through the corn field have been quite positive. Knee high by the 4th of July and it looks like we are right on track. Of course, I cannot judge this against my own knee, since I seem to be a little vertically challenged, but I watch the farmer walk through there and

those beautiful green stalks are up to his knees. Let it grow, let it grow. I am looking forward to some tasty corn on the cob in August.

Well, the Church barbeques kicked off last Thursday and there was a stellar turn out for our first cook out. I'm not sure if everyone was just hankering for the famous Emmanuel grilled burger or looking for a little congregational company, but it was wonderful to see all of the people show up. It just goes to show, "If you grill it, they will come"!

Well, all this talk about food has my stomach grumbling. Time for a snack and then maybe a nap. Enough of my rambling for now. See you in Church.

Your faithful friend in residence at Emmanuel.

T. C. Mouse

Balance Sheet	April	May
Checking 1	17736.56	5041.41
ELC Memorial 1	14203.04	11727.23
ELC Youth	5439.78	5440.87
Savings	78122.42	78155.77
Savings Building Fund	29836.92	29839.82

Submitted by Lindsey Reynolds

The next book club is July 10th at 6pm at the feed-lot. Contact Lindsey for more information. We had a great group in June

VBS is July 12-13 from 9-12. The theme is ARMOR OF GOD. There will be lots of fun activities - please share with your family and friends. Contact Wendy Siemsen for more information

Community BBQs have begun, every Thursday from 6-7 Every one is welcome!

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes 06/14/2023

The Church Council met on Wednesday evening, and those present were Jill Hoffman, Carol Kramer, Sharon Wolske, Ricker Olson, Dawn Petty, and Pastor Josh Wyman. Opening Devotions were led by Pastor Josh, with the topic of how God works with resurrection, from Jeremiah 16:7 and 14 – 18. The Secretary's minutes from last month were approved, motion made by Sharon, and seconded by Carol. The Treasurer's Report was discussed regarding various expenses, and also approved, with motions by Carol and Sharon.

Vacation Bible School will be held on July 12th and 13th, from 9:00 AM to 12 noon. Topic for the sessions will be "The Armor of God". Jill and Wendy are in charge of the Youth Committee. Pastor Josh reported on the Synod Assembly, and the Memorial Day Service here at the Cemetery. He also asked for opinions on the new order of the Sunday services, which he also conducts at the Hardin church. He will be taking two weeks of vacation starting June 21st, and has made arrangements for someone to cover each of the Sunday services while he will be gone. John Goodheart will do the service on July 2nd, and Dawn Petty will do the June 25th service.

Old Business: The HVAC has been updated with a new compressor, reported on by Ricker who also told of a new camera being installed in the back of the church. The members helping with the new technology were Ricker, Clint, Abbey, the Reynolds and Brad. The old wooden cross on the front lawn of the church has been replaced with a beautiful new metal one, which was built and installed by Ricker. An update on the chair-lift on the stairs was mentioned by Sharon, who said a new motor had been put in, and it is now working okay. Jill reported on pastor's contract extension, and evaluation, and his contract has been signed. The Hardin church as done the same. We will meet with the Hardin Committee every four months, to get their opinion and feedback on how everything is going there. Lindsey Reynolds has started a Book Club for the women, and we will be meeting to discuss the current book being read, and the next meeting will be on July 10th, up at the Feedlot Restaurant at 6:00PM. The summer BBQ's will be starting again at our church on Thursday evenings from 6:00PM to 7:00PM, beginning on June 15th. The BBQ'S are for the Community, and there is no charge for the meals. They have been very successful each summer, with people looking forward to attending. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church, as we need people to help set-up the dining room, do the grilling, serving, clean-up, etc. We will need to get our monthly newsletter information to the office by the 22nd of each month, to get the newsletter out earlier., hopefully before the 1st of the coming month. Carol offered to help with the newsletters, getting the information on birthdays and anniversaries out early.



NEW BUSINESS: The Community Garden has been planted, and a donation of a variety of plants has been made by a greenhouse in the Shepherd area, and added to every available spot in the garden. We will be looking for someone to take charge of decorating the church, and we will appoint a council representative, and pass around a sign-up sheet for helpers. Carol will talk to MaryAnn Morgenstern to get suggestions from her. Pastor Josh is going to do Old Testament topics, from Genesis on, and then Gospel lessons from Christmas to Easter. We would not be using the "Sundays and Seasons" as we have done previously.

SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANTS: Offering counters: June 18th, Dawn and Tari; June 25th, Jill Hoffman, July 2nd, Carol Kramer; July 9th, Ricker Olson, July 16th, Carol Kramer. Our next council meeting will be August 9th, (we will not have one in July) this change of date was voted on, motion made by Carol Kramer and seconded by Sharon Wolske, and the motion was approved.

Also, discussion was held regarding finding another person to play the piano for services, to give our current pianists some time off.

St. John's concerts for the summer begin on Thursday evenings, starting June 29th. We need to get some pictures of the confirmation classes that took place during the last few years to bring our memorial board up to date. If any of the families for those confirmands has a group photo, please let us know, and we will copy it. Also, the large brush

pile on the fire pit behind the church, was mentioned, as being too large and dangerous to burn...we will check with the fire department as to options: should we just haul the brush and boards away, or could it be burned with someone from the fire department on hand to help? We will contact the fire department.

The meeting adjourned, and was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Petty, acting secretary

We have an opening on church council for a representative position. Contact Jill Hoffman for more information.



Christikon Clips
July 2023



Information for our Congregations
We are grateful for all the hard work that our Work
Weekend crew accomplished!
Great group! Check out the pictures on our facebook

page. Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/Christikon>
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 31-Aug 5) - we
welcome our
speakers Dr. Eric Meyer, Kent Claussen Gubrud and Paul Waldum - Go to
our website for
topics. Mountain Weekend (Aug 4-6) - watch our website for speaker(s)
and topics as
they become available.. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning,
and faith growth
with us. Check out topic details on the website. www.christikon.org
Remember to pray for our staff and campers.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in
Christ -
exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

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CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Prayer request forms are also available at the church.

Evan Wilson, Kristianne Wilson's eldest son who lives with his wife and 2 children in the Denver area, was just diagnosed with colorectal cancer. He will begin a chemotherapy regimen soon. Please pray for him and his family as they face this journey.

Chuck Super has been hospitalized at Billings Clinic when he experienced mild stroke like symptoms at home. He has had a carotid artery stent placed and is undergoing additional tests. LuAnne and family appreciate your prayers.

Chuck Super was transferred to the Rehabilitation Hospital of Montana (west Billings) this week. He is making progress and hopes to return home next week.

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.

Carol Kramer volunteered at our last council meeting to help you review the birthdays and anniversaries, please send her this information before you send out the newsletter this month..

03 Jeremy Stahl
10 Abbey Emmons
11 Carol Bennett
14 Kristianne Wilson
15 Laurel Noland
17 Charlotte Harper
19 Olivia Plath
28 Lynda Newell
29 Mark Morgenstern
29 Kyle Reitler



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




St. John's United

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



FREE • 7PM THURSDAYS
TITLE SPONSOR MISSION RIDGE

JUNE 29 THE CROSSINGS, LAUREL BAND OF DRIFTERS
OPENER: TAMMY BRADLEY STAPLES

JULY 6 SJU CAMPUS THE PACK RATS
OPENER: TOM BLANKENSHIP & JOHN COOKE

JULY 13 SJU CAMPUS JOHN ROBERTS - Y PAN BLANCO
OPENER: CHUCK HOLLAND & JASON MAHONEY

JULY 20 SJU CAMPUS THE CORE
OPENER: ELANA HAYDEN

JULY 27 SJU CAMPUS HELLROARING
OPENER: CORY LEONE JOHNSON

AUGUST 3 WYNDSTONE, HEIGHTS JESSICA EVE
OPENER: ANGIE LANGEIRS & ELISA OLSON

FOOD TRUCKS AVAILABLE
WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC DINNER





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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.”

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EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING