



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING

Emmanuel News

January
2023



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

-Hebrews 12:1-2

My dad was one of the biggest basketball fans I've ever met. We had season tickets to the Timberwolves for the first 25 years of the franchise, he picked what college he wanted me to go to based on who won the NCAA tournament the year I was born (it was Duke by the way), and he coached every team that me and my brother played on. One of the biggest lessons I remember him teaching me about the game was about how to play defense. When I was watching my opponent to see what they were going to do, he told me to always look at "the triangle." The triangle went from my opponent's left hip to their right hip, and up to the middle of their chest. He stressed how important this was because other players will try to use everything they can to distract you and fake you out, but if you keep your eyes locked on their core, they will lead you to exactly where they are trying to go.

Focusing on the core, and center of who we are as Christians is what the season of Lent is all about. During these 40 days, we are called to center ourselves around the story of Christ, as he is making his way toward Jerusalem. It is a holy time of prayer and listening, where we can rest in the fact that we are made perfect, spotless, and blameless in the sight of our God exactly as you are, regardless of who the world tells you that you need to be. It is a season where we can reflect on the things that are leading us towards life and life abundant for ourselves and our communities, and what things may be leading us away. It is a time where we can find rest in the forgiveness of a God whose love is unconditional, and where we can leave the ways we may have fallen short behind, at the foot of the cross. It is a time where we can reset and refocus our lives and our minds around the love of God that is still active in the world around us. There are many things in our lives that can distract us from our true identities as children of God, but when we keep our eyes focused on Christ, we will be led toward life, love, and hope for the world.

There is no one right way to participate in this refocusing. God has created each of us uniquely, so each of us may best

recenter ourselves in ways that are unique to us. I have heard that some people are making meals for others who may need them, others are writing letters to people they haven't talked to in a while, other people are giving up social media so that they can free up more time to dive into their faith. I am picking up a spiritual practice that I haven't done in a while, and am listening to music, and reflecting on how one song each day is speaking truth into my life. Regardless of if you have already started doing something for Lent or not, I want to invite you into this recentering. I want to invite you to focus on the core and center that will lead you toward life, love, and hope for yourself and the world around you.

God Bless,
Pastor Josh

LENTEN SCHEDULE
SUNDAYS - 8:45 AM
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS - MARCH 1-29, 7:00 PM
APRIL 6 - SEDER MEAL
APRIL 7 - GOOD FRIDAY AT BALLANTINE UCC
APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY

NEW MEMBER WELCOMING AND BAPTISM

Morgenstern Family



Baptism for the Miller Family (new members as well)



Tari Larson



The Larson Family



Carole Luster



Miller Family



2/8/23 Shepherd Emmanuel

Lutheran Church Council

Present: Pastor Josh Wyman, President Jill Hoffman, Sharon W, Carol K, Dawn P, Greg P, Buckley R, Lindsey R, Wendy S, and Abbey E.

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

January secretary report and both Dec & Jan treasures reports were all approved.

Youth Committee - Wendy and Liz still primarily heading Sunday School. Discussion about a children's fun day.

Pastoral Report

New congregation celebration. 10 new congregation members recognized on 2/26 during church service. Shout out celebration to other past congregants that have not been officially made a member discussed also. ***Caring relationships**

Confirmation update: rewriting the Lord's Prayer as a study guide. Going well.

Lenten mentoring (no confirmation during Lent)

Different music during Lent as an exciting new avenue

Dawn reported on the Jore donation. They were touched and emotional. Women's group created a quilt that they donated to them as well as the money raised by our congregation. ***Caring relationships**

HVAC - no updates (waiting for parts)

Church cross - Ricker will work on replacing it with a new metal cross and electricity (no updates)

Water and plumbing - Phil White tests the water often. Phil met with a plumber and received an estimate to attempt to better control the nitrate levels. The plumber suggests a new pressure tank and filter. The plumber also suggested rearranging the order of those items coming in from the exterior of the church to the

interior to better serve each of their functions. Discussion. Estimate: \$3200 from Williams Plumbing. Buckley and Lindsay will see if there is something else that would work and will try to obtain a second opinion.

Piano tuning - Dawn Sherseth made arrangements to have the piano tuned. Wendel Wilson will tune them 2/9/23.

Officer induction: 2/12/23 during service

Appoint a financial secretary and Director of Youth/Youth ministry team which are both council appointed positions.

Discussion. Abbey E voted back in for the 2023 year as Financial Secretary.

Easter: (Pastor will confirm all times before they are made official) Ash Wednesday - Huntley United Methodist 2/22 at 7pm. Wednesday services throughout Lent here at the church at 7pm. Palm Sunday 4/2. Seder Meal 4/6 at 6:30 here at the church. Good Friday 4/7 usually in Ballentine.

Easter service 4/9. Discussion about 2 services, one on the Green property in Huntley and the other here. Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt to follow the second service. Lilies will be available for memorials again this year -orders to be placed by 4/2. ***Joyful Worship * Loving Service**

Next meeting: MARCH 8TH 6pm

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. God's work always in motion. God's light shining through all of us.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 8:10 hours

Respectfully submitted,

Abbey Emmons, Secretary



Easter Lilies will be available for purchase again this year in honor or memorial of loved ones. Forms will be available to fill out and can be put in the offering trays. Forms will be due by April 2nd. Lillies will be used to decorate for

Easter and then can be taken home after the following week.

The youth will be hosting an Easter brunch and egg hunt after our service on April 9th. Donations encouraged. Please contact Jill Hoffman if you would like to help.

**SPRING FORWARD
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

March 12, 2023



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Items needed for that Auction are beautiful quilts, hand crafted items, theme baskets, jewelry, original art work, and other items that would attract a bidder or a buyer.

Also, tickets to a special event, or dinner out, road trips, kids crafts, tools, travel, pets, movies...what would you like to offer?

Let us see what items you ladies can come up with, for this worthy cause. I have seen some remarkable wall hangings made by the men of our church, and I know there are lots of talents out there.



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA

You all have helped make and contribute items for our own church's bazaar, so I am looking forward to what you can make for the Christikon Auction.

The items need to be delivered by April 12th, and if you bring them to church before that, I will take them in to Billings.

As you know, we have sent some of our youth to the Christikon camp, and they really enjoyed it.

May God bless all of you and keep you happy and healthy.

Dawn P.

Christikon Clip

March, 2023



Information for our Congregations

Christikon is an extension of your congregation's ministry.

Bus Attendants needed for 2022 – Would you or someone you know be willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon? Yes? Please call Kerry in the office at 406-656-1969 or email at secretary@christikon.org for details. It pays a daily rate as well!

Don't miss out on the Early Registration Discount for youth campers: Register by April 1st and save \$25 in any youth session. If you don't have the camp brochure mailed to you, pick one up at the church, or register online.

Adults and families: Watch for the special focus for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, faith formation, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, recreation, folk dancing and much more. Check out camping for adults and families online at www.christikon.org.

Annual Benefit Auction is on April 30th at the Billings Depot. We are looking for items for the auction such as: fishing trip, weekend getaway, dinner out, themed baskets. Have an idea? Let us know! Watch for more details as they become available 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



COMMENTARIES OF THE CHURCH MOUSE

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

March is here and as I type this up, I see that it is snowing outside again. It seems like this winter will never let up. Looking back, I feel responsible for this never ending snow fall. Back in December, I prayed for snow. I wanted to have a white Christmas and wanted snow in the mountains for some good skiing, so I put in a request for snow to the Man upstairs. I think my request was a little open ended, or non-specific, as we have received snow beyond all my expectations. Perhaps it was a slow request day, or just that my request was too vague, but I believe my prayer was answered! I've often heard the Pastor talk about the power of prayer and now I'm a believer. I wonder now if it is too late to cancel that request? I guess we'll just have to ride it out and keep the snow shovel handy until sometime in May.

This month we get to adjust all the clocks in the house, as we spring forward on the 12th. Be sure to adjust your alarm clock when you go to bed Saturday night, so you are in synch with the rest of the clock changers and don't end up missing church on Sunday. I also need to remember to change the batteries in the smoke detectors, as the firemen are adamant about changing out the batteries when we change the clocks, which is great advice. Then on the 20th Spring begins. It will be interesting to see if all of this snow will have melted away by then or

not. Good Friday, which typically is the time that all of the Old Timers say you should plant your potatoes, isn't until April 7th this year. Again, I don't know if we will be able to even find the garden with all of the snow on the ground or that the dirt will have thawed enough to dig a hole or two. Time will tell I guess.

On the 17th we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, where everyone is Irish for the day. I bet my cousin up in Butte will have quite the celebration this year, as the wearing of the green falls on Friday, so things will really be hopping in Butte. I myself am just happy to enjoy a good meal of corned beef and cabbage, forgoing the green beer. Something about that green beer that seems to get me running on the wild side, which is strictly frowned upon by Mrs. T.C. Anyways, Happy St. Patty's Day to you all.

That's about all the time I have for now. Time to shovel the front porch and walk again. Who knew the power of prayer?



See you in Church.

Your Friend in residence at Emanuel.

T. C. Mouse



The youth will be hosting an Easter Brunch April 9th after worship along with an Easter egg hunt. Please let Jill Hoffman know if you are able to make a contribution . We will need: set-up, clean up, fruit, juice, casseroles, egg hunt, etc.



CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Prayers of the Church

Call Dawn Petty, 373-6673 with requests and updates

Lexy Dennison, daughter of Travis and Cassie, a freshman at Shepherd High School, has recently been diagnosed with a tumor on her brain. They don't have a lot of information yet. Please keep Lexy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Paul (Buster) Johnson is presently in the hospital with pneumonia, and needs our prayers. Thank you

Please pray for Josh Beckman, son-in-law of Mark and Maryann Morgenstern, who is in the hospital after being in a snowmobile accident yesterday. He injured his back.

Connie Halverson's sister, Sarah Peterson, has finally been able to return home after a long stay in the hospital. Thank you for keeping Sarah & the family in your prayers during her illness.

Bill Sykes, Kristianne Wilson's brother-in-law, continues to struggle with shortness of breath and dropping oxygen levels with any exertion. He has been hospitalized in Morgantown WV. Please keep him in your prayers.

Community Living:

West Park Village: Inez Oberg

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.

Thank you for your service to our great country!



- 13 Samantha Reynolds
- 13 Buckley Reynolds
- 16 Clinton Byxbe
- 23 Micah Oberg



- 21 Gene & Dianne Lundhagen
- 26 Mark & Maryann Morgenstern
- 30 Rob & Abbey Emmons

LENTEN TRADITIONS

Much like a school year or a company's fiscal year differs from our calendar year, there is also a church year that includes seasons and festivals commemorated by Christians. Because Christmas and Easter are such important festivals for the church, this calendar includes special seasons to prepare for these festivals. The season of preparation for Christmas is called Advent and the season of preparation for Easter is called Lent.

Lent is a forty day season, but Sundays are not counted toward the forty, so this results in the first day of Lent being 46 days before Easter, which is called Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, many Christians gather to receive the Lord's Supper and allow themselves to be marked with ashes on the forehead to remind them of their failure to keep God's commands and that the result is death.

Contrary to many misconceptions, Lent is not intended to be a season of mourning for Jesus' death or a season of misery or despair for Christians. Instead, it is a season where Christians are encouraged to pay special attention to remembering all that Jesus has done for them by becoming human, dying by crucifixion, and rising to life after three days.

Part of this focus includes an emphasis on repentance which means to turn away from the desire for sinful things and toward trusting in Jesus. Another common misconception about Lent is that it is the only time that Christians focus on repentance and remembering Jesus' death. These two things are always focal points in Christianity, but in Lent, they receive special emphasis as they are remembered in preparation to celebrate Easter.

Because of the focus on repentance in Lent, fasting has been a very common practice throughout history. The most intense form of fasting is to refrain from eating or drinking anything except for water for a period of time, but typical Lenten fasting only includes giving up certain types of food or giving up food for certain portions of the day. Historically, the most common type of fasting for Lent has been

to give up meat to various degrees. This could be as simple as giving up beef one day a week or as drastic as eating a basically vegan diet for the entire Lenten season.

In modern times, this fasting has often expressed itself differently. Catholics and Lutherans especially, but many protestants as well, will give up something which they enjoy during the season of Lent, such as chocolate, coffee, sugar, or television. However, this is not intended to be a sacrifice to make up for sins or to earn God's kindness. Instead, giving up a favorite luxury serves as a reminder to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us by dying for sin. Celebrations like Carnival or *Mari Gras* original began as people enjoyed these favorite things one last time before giving them up for Lent.

Other Lenten traditions in the church include giving up more joyful parts of the Divine Service or Mass, such as certain songs or the word "Alleluia." In the past, some churches have even stopped using their organ or other musical instruments for the entire season of Lent.

The intention of Lent and of each of these Lenten traditions is never that they be approached as a requirement to satisfy church rules or as something we do to appease God or make up for our failures, but that they are an exercise which helps Christians to remember their need for a Savior from sin and that Jesus has fulfilled that need by accomplishing everything necessary for the salvation of the world by His life, death, and resurrection.
(Posted by Rev. Jason P. Peterson)



"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

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 Activities_____

Church Involvement_____

Volunteer Activities_____

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."



Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 66
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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 – elcshepherd@gmail.com



EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
JOYFUL † CARING † LOVING